

District Councillor's Report to Bildeston Parish Council Meeting

Monday 13th May 2024

Car Parking

At the last Parish Council, I gave a detailed explanation of the Council's decision to end free car parking into context.

However, the decision has been 'called-in,' by the Oversight and Scrutiny Committee who have asked for further reports on the feasibility of a first hour free and more detail on the possible economic impact of charging. A final decision will be made at the next Cabinet meeting.

Anglia Water Main Project , Bury St Edmunds to Colchester

The project is now on schedule given the improvement in the weather having fallen behind during February and March due to the frequent rain.

Ipswich Road, Nedging is planned for a weekend closure from 31st May 20:00 until 06:00 on the 3rd June with a contingency weekend of 7th June 20:00 until 10th June 6.00am, if needed.

Scrap Metal Dealers

One of the Council's statutory duties is to regulate scrap metal dealers under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act of 2013. This was enacted to crack down on metal thieves, that dealers kept up-to-date records of who they purchased from to ensure they only bought from legitimate sources. This covers not only companies with yards but individuals who collect from residents. They all must be licensed. A collector cannot store metal at a site. If someone comes to your door, ask to see their licence and this should also be displayed on their vehicle. The Council has tightened up its regulations and will be conducting more spot checks,

Simplified Recycling

Currently councils all over the country have different recycling policies. Central Government has decided to align waste and recycling services in an attempt to increase recycling rates that have stalled . It has mandated that all councils should establish a weekly food waste collection and include glass in its dry recycling service by or before 31st March 2026. Given that there will be a huge demand for vehicles and containers the Council will need to make early procurements. Householders will be supplied with a five-litre caddy for their kitchens and they will empty that into a bin that is about a tenth of the size of a normal blue bin. We are also going to be encouraging more composting. So that householders can minimise the amount of food waste.

The intention is that the vehicles will be powered by HVO fuel, and we hope to get some electric vehicles. Waste will probably go to West Suffolk's transfer station and to Ransome's Park and

then onto an AD plant. These decisions will be made by the Suffolk Waste Partnership which County and all the districts and councils are members of.

Last week the Government announced that councils will be allowed to collect plastic, metal, glass, paper, and card in one bin in all circumstances. Food and garden waste will also be allowed to be put in the same bin. However, if that was to happen it would increase contamination of the waste and drive up recycling costs. The Government had established a £295 million New Burdens funding in England and Wales to pay for Local Authorities' vehicles and containers but we are challenging our share of that funding as we do not believe it will be sufficient to purchase the right number of vehicles. A decision on whether to proceed with purchases now will be made at the June Council meeting.