

# STUSTON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

**23 May 2023**

## Report from the Parish Clerk

## Use of allocated Community Infrastructure Levy

Amount of funding available

Following detailed liaison with the District Council Infrastructure Team, I have established that the amount allocated to Stuston is £6483.06. They have clarified that higher amounts listed as potential sums were in error and related to confusion over multiple applications for the Alverstone site.

1. Additional electronic speed sign for Old Bury Road

Following concerns raised by residents and monitoring of speed by the Road Safety Camera Team, a second Speed Indicator Device has been purchased. Cllr. Burn kindly agreed to pay for this from his Locality Award. Suffolk Highways have approved 2 sites for mounting the device but new posts are required. They have reported that their contractors have until 21 July to supply and fit the posts. Three residents have volunteered to manage the device.

<b>Charge to CIL</b>	<b>£550.00</b>
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2. New parish notice board

### Awaiting supply and fitting

<b>Charge to CIL</b>	<b>£1386.00</b>
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### 3. Community Defibrillator Project

Following the majority view, this will be sited on the outside of the telephone box. The device and cabinet have been purchased and are due to be fitted by an electrician on 6 June. The project cost includes supply, fitting, training for residents, Volunteer Emergency Telephone System, full insurance and replacement items for 4 years. Three residents have volunteered to manage the project

<b>Charge to CIL</b>	<b>£2940.00</b>
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4. Dog waste bin

A site on the corner of Old Bury Road and the B1077 has been agreed by the District Council. Delivery of the bin and post is due soon.

<b>Charge to CIL</b>	<b>£225.60</b>
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5. Replacement mirror for those crossing the B1077 from School Lane

A volunteer is needed to investigate this further.

<b>Total spent or committed from CIL allocation</b>	<b>£5101.60</b>
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<b>Funding remaining</b>	<b><u>£1381.46</u></b>
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The next priority item identified by residents was a replacement village sign for the one that rotted.

## **Planning Applications**

All applications and decisions in Stuston are shown on the Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Council website. Some are related to minor variations in conditions for already approved applications or are on behalf of individual householders, seeking listed building consent for repairs or permission for extensions/conversion of garages for domestic use. I have detailed those with potentially wider implications below:

1. **Land Adjacent Osiers Old Bury Road Stuston IP21 4AJ**

The land owner applied for Outline Planning Permission for the erection of two 4-bed houses on land currently occupied by three log cabins used for holiday lets. The planning authority rejected the application on grounds of unsustainable location, loss of tourism and economic benefit and impact on amenity of future residents. The applicant lodged an appeal with the Secretary of State. Our previous comments are made available to the Secretary of State and I did not add to these. The Secretary of State dismissed the appeal.

2. **Land north of Old Bury Road**

The District Council refused the last application for planning permission to build a 4 bed house on the site. The applicant lodged an appeal. Our previous comments were available to the Secretary of State and we submitted a further response referring to concerns about flooding and sustainability of the location. The Secretary of State dismissed the appeal.

## **Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan**

There has been no change to the previously reported status i.e. the Sustainable Travel Officer for Mid Suffolk and Babergh District Councils confirmed that the Stuston to Diss link was a medium priority and it was clearly shown on the map of schemes displayed. We have Cllr. Fleming to thank for her support in getting us this far. The plan is being utilised internally to seek funding opportunities through the planning application process and Community Infrastructure Levy and by partners at Suffolk County Council Highways, who will look to progress schemes.

## **Further liaison with Suffolk Highways**

Following Cllr. Fleming's visit to Stuston with a Suffolk Highways Engineer, I have also had an on-site meeting with him and exchanged several emails.

**Condition of B1077 between the Golf Club and the bridge over the River Waveney**

Whilst this remains a serious concern to residents, the problems do not meet the criteria for urgent action. I have been asked to remind residents to use the Suffolk Highways Reporting Tool if they notice any further deterioration on this stretch of road or elsewhere. The Highways Engineer explained that Highways investigate reports but if they do not meet criteria at that time, they will be closed.

## Request for Pedestrian Signs on the north side of the B1077 before School Lane and on Old Bury Road

He stated that the Council take a cautious approach to such requests, as if all requests were supported and signs installed, most, if not all parishes and villages would have them. This would devalue the sign and motorists would just view this as another sign littering the highway. He is however prepared to consider a sign on the north side of School Lane if we felt it was a priority but this would be a cost to Stuston Parish Meeting. Regarding Old Bury Road, we are waiting to see the impact of the new Speed Indicator Device.

## Status of Church Lane

The Highways Engineer has again contacted the Highway Records Department regarding the status of Church Lane and has promised to chase them again. He believes that they will need to access their archives.

## Extension of speed limit on Old Bury Road

This was suggested by a resident to slow vehicles as they approach Stuston from Thrandeston. Unfortunately, the Highways Engineer has advised that a Traffic Regulation Order is required and this costs in the region of £7,000. He reported that their experience shows that extensions of speed limits typically increase the speeds in the village due to increasing driver frustration. Any extension would need to meet Suffolk County Councils speed limit policy. Bearing in mind that Stuston Parish Meeting would need to meet the cost of the Traffic Regulation Order, I have not pursued this at this stage.

## **Book Swap**

Pamela Scott and Wendy Thomson agreed to take over the management of the library in the telephone box. Thank you to Dick Pass and Jayne Dear for all their hard work setting this up and managing it for several years.

Philip Gerrie  
23 May 2023