

STUSTON PARISH MEETING

20 October 2022

Report from the Parish Clerk

Use of allocated Community Infrastructure Levy – update on projects selected at the Parish Meeting held on 28 April 2022

I contacted the District Council and an officer confirmed that all projects would be eligible for our allocated CIL funding

1. Large marquee/party tent

The Stuston Social Committee discussed this proposal after the meeting. They had concerns about storage space and insurance implications for the householder, safe erection and problems if the tent got wet. It would have to be removed from The Common at the end of an event but could not be stored damp. They concluded that they would not get sufficient use from it and it would not represent value for money. They suggested that two smaller gazebos could be more useful, be easier to erect, dismantle and store and not need to be covered by insurance.

2. New parish notice board and footpath map

We hope to be able to purchase locally. I will provide an update at the meeting.

3. Replacement of village gateway signs

We hope to be able to purchase locally. I will provide an update at the meeting.

4. Additional electronic speed sign for Old Bury Road

I need to identify sites that meet Highways requirements and submit a formal request. I have not been able to prioritise this yet due to health issues, uncertainties over the cost of a defibrillator and wanting to clarify the financial implications of improving access into Diss.

5. Defibrillator

The Laurie family are willing for this to be attached to an external wall on the Place Farm site. I have sought alternative providers and will provide an update at the meeting.

6. Replacement mirror for those crossing the B1077 from School Lane

A much higher-grade mirror is required. Alternatives are being sought.

7. Platinum Jubilee plaque for Coronation Oak

Representatives from the Social Committee have been trying to source a supplier.

Planning and Licensing 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. **Place Farm Old Bury Road Stuston Diss Suffolk IP21 4AD**

Application No: DC/22/03873 | Received: Wed 03 Aug 2022 | Validated: Wed 03 Aug 2022 | Status: Decided

This related to construction of a winter irrigation reservoir on land between the A143 and the railway line. I sought advice that indicated that there was no additional flooding risk to the village, so registered 'No objection' on behalf of Stuston Parish Meeting.

2. **Place Farm Old Bury Road Stuston Diss Suffolk IP21 4AD**

Application No: DC/22/03711 | Received: Mon 25 Jul 2022 | Validated: Tue 26 Jul 2022 | Status: Granted

This related to a request to amend the conditions following approval of DC/22/00247 dated 16/03/2022 - Change of use and conversion of redundant farm building to B8 (Storage and Distribution E(c) & E(g) (i) Use). The request was to vary condition number 10 (Restriction of Approved Uses) to retain existing use classes but add E(a) Display or retail sale of goods, other than Hot Food and E(c)i and E(c)liii other appropriate services in a commercial, business or service locality.

After consulting members of the planning committee I gave a 'neutral' response on behalf of Stuston Parish Meeting, stating, 'Stuston Parish Meeting has no objection in principle but this is on the proviso that the issues noted in the decision notice for the initial application DC/22/00247 continue to apply. Our particular concerns remain the need to restrict large vehicles to entering and exiting the site via the A143 and enforceable restriction on hours of operation and noise and light pollution'.

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

Application No: DC/22/03273 | Received: Tue 28 Jun 2022 | Validated: Fri 08 Jul 2022 | Status: Refused

This was an application for Outline Planning Permission for the erection of two 4-bed houses on land currently occupied by three log cabins used for holiday lets. I registered a neutral response on the basis that the nature of this part of Stuston has significantly changed following the development of the BP garage site and the proximity to the A140/A143 roundabout. I sought assurances that the two semi-detached properties adjacent to the site would not suffer overlooking and that work would be done to improve road safety in the area. I also questioned the impact of the loss of three 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.

4. Licensing application

A resident brought a local licensing application to my attention. I contacted Mid Suffolk Licensing Team and an officer informed me that there is no statutory duty to inform Parish Meetings or Parish Councils. They have a duty to post the application on their website and in a local newspaper, on one occasion. The District Councillor should also have been informed but he was not. The applicant is obliged to post a notice but these do not have to meet the same visibility standards that we are accustomed to with planning applications. The notices are A4 size and a bright mid blue. The concerns of neighbouring residents were allayed following their conversation with the applicant. The Licensing Team have also given assurance that any proposal to expand the very small enterprise would require a new application. An interesting learning exercise and worth us all looking out for bright blue A4 notices appearing.

Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan

I provided an interim update in the September edition of Parish News. The Mid Suffolk Local Walking and Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) – along with the Council's wider Sustainable Travel Vision – is now published.

Roger and I attended a meeting hosted by Eye Town Council on 27 September, to hear about the Sustainable Travel Plan for our area and share ideas. 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. A member of the audience was a keen cyclist who commuted from Eye to Diss for work. He asked why a scheme between Eye and Stuston had not been included and mentioned that the B1077 was an ideal route. He stated that frequent mention had been made of making this road one way between the A140 and Stuston. He also mentioned how dangerous the section of the road from the A140/143 roundabout into Diss was. This was noted and gives wider support to the Stuston to Diss route.

Prior to the meeting, I had completed a CIL Funding Enquiry Form to commence the process for bidding for District CIL and subsequently received the following response from a Council Infrastructure Officer:

‘When it comes to Highways CIL applications we would look for Suffolk County Council Highways to jointly complete the application form with yourselves. Highways would be required to complete the project design, organise the funding package, works tender process and provide most of the information to complete the application document. I believe Highways are aware of this in relation to CIL funding.’

Cllr Fleming is now planning to arrange a meeting in Stuston with relevant officers from both Councils to determine requirements in more detail.

The Sustainable Travel Officer has stated that the national government technical guidance suggests that schemes that have been identified as a ‘medium term’ ambition should aim to be delivered within 5 years,

so we hope that working with partners will enable us to progress the Stuston to Diss scheme within this timescale.

Visit to Stuston by the Rural Coffee Caravan

The caravan was due to visit on Saturday 16 May 2020 but this was cancelled due to lockdown and not re-arranged. We had planned for the caravan to be sited on the green near to the village pump and Jeremy Laurie had given permission for this, provided that any rubbish was removed from the area immediately afterwards. We intended to invite residents from Thrandeston to join us to enjoy coffee and cake at tables and chairs set up next to the caravan (provided by the Rural Coffee Caravan organisers). Whilst there residents could hear about benefits, changing energy suppliers, grants for insulation etc. I have now been in contact with them again and they are happy to rearrange. This could become a regular event if well received. We are thinking about a dates in late spring, to improve our chances of warmer weather but perhaps we could meet in the church if it is very cold or raining. I would appreciate the views of residents about possible days and dates. We chose a Saturday before but Annette, the organiser, has asked if we would consider another day.

Outstanding repairs on the B1077 between Diss Golf Club and the bridge

A resident raised serious concerns about the condition of the road between Diss Golf Club and the bridge at both the last Parish Meeting and the Annual Parish Meeting. Highways undertook some repairs but left a large area with a big drop at the edge of the road. Heavy Goods Vehicles and buses use this section of the road and a cyclist has fallen off their bicycle on at least two occasions due to the proximity of large vehicles. It is also very difficult for pedestrians negotiate that section of the road safely. We have sent further photographs to Cllr. Fleming to illustrate the problem and she continues to pursue with Highways.

Other issues

1. A qualified electrician has replaced the light in the telephone box/Book Swap
2. Eye Town Council invited the Chair and Parish Clerk to attend the Proclamation of King Charles III on Sunday 11 September.