

Appendix A

FINANCE REPORT FOR ANNUAL PARISH MEETING: 24th April 2023

Income from the last financial year 2022-2023 has been generated by a Precept of £16,100. Other sources of income have been a VAT refund of £3919.39 and interest earned amounted to £83.66. The Parish Council also received a total of £1235 as a cleansing grant from BDC relating to litter picking, and £50 compensation from Santander. Orchard Barns have once again paid £400.00 as the annual fee for use of the VI carpark spaces. Total Income received was £21,788.05.

Expenditure for 2022-2023	
General Admin	£7,694.19
S137 Donations	£2,265
Playground	£471.54
Village Maintenance	£2,779.68
Subscriptions/Training/Publications	£1,251.73
Institute Hire	£144
Village Lighting / maintenance contract	£10,630.86
Insurance	£454.31
Rent	£42
Misc	£681.19
Stationery	£98.07
Dog/litter bins and emptying	£832.54
Emergency planning	£120
Parish costs	£449.02

Speed gun expenses	£59.98
Speed signage	0
VI Carpark	£5,710.48
River Garden Expenses	0
Parish Election Costs	0
Total Expenditure	£33,684.59

On Expenditure the Parish Council used £7694.06 of CIL money for part of the village lighting/maintenance costs and had £3,600 allocated reserves for the Village Institute car park.

The Parish Council made its annual donations to the Parochial Church Council, Suffolk Accident Rescue Service, Dedham Vale and Stour Valley Project, River Stour Trust, Neighbourhood Watch and Suffolk Preservation Society. Donations were also given to Stratford St Mary Fireworks Committee and Community First Responders. Total donations were £2,265.

The accounts for 2022-2023 will shortly be audited via an internal audit and relevant documentation will be issued once complete. All documents once issued, will be available to view on the Stratford St Mary Parish Council website.

This year we have not been in receipt of any new funds via the Community Infrastructure Levy, but the amount of £10,956.72 carried over from 2021-2022 has been used to upgrade the Street Lighting owned by the Parish Council within the village to new LED bulbs at a cost of £7694.06 excluding VAT (VAT has been reclaimed). The remaining CIL money will be used to repaint the lamp posts of all 18 streetlights owned by the Parish Council.

In Januarys meeting this year, the Parish Council agreed to set the precept again for the next financial year (2023/24) at £16,100 and will use money in the Parish Councils reserves to cover any cost increases.

Faye Hall

Parish Clerk

Stratford St Mary Parish Council

County Councillor Report – Georgia Hall

SAMFORD DIVISION ANNUAL REPORT 22/03/2023

April 2022

Violence Against Women and Girls funding announced.

Suffolk County Council has announced £350,000 of funding to support the ambitions set out in the Suffolk Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy 2022. This fund has been provided by Suffolk County Council to support the work of the strategy in preventing violence, supporting victims, pursuing perpetrators and strengthening the system.

The fund is to be launched in partnership with Suffolk Community Foundation. Any organisations wishing to make an application can do so by visiting [Suffolk Community Foundation](#) or contacting them on grants@suffolkcf.org.uk or 01473 602602.

Organisations can make an application for funding for up to £5,000 for pilot projects or up to £50,000 for projects which have already been piloted. These grants are available for up to 3 years.

The Strategy is available to view online at: [Suffolk VAWG Strategy 2022-25](#)

150 miles of new road surfaces in Suffolk

Suffolk Highways begins its programme to resurface and surface dress 150 miles of new roads across 173 different sites across the county this year. The two separate programmes provide new surfaces for vehicles to travel on, with the treatments expected to last between 5 and 20 years; depending on the type of treatment and volumes of vehicles using the roads amongst many other factors.

Road resurfacing is a process where the old surface is either overlaid with a new surface or removed to a certain depth and a new surface is applied, whereas surface dressing is a preventative process that is used to seal and improve the surface of the roads, slowing down the deterioration of the road surface and improving its skid resistance. The rapid speed of this process means that disruption to road users, local businesses and emergency services is minimised. The process involves an application of hot bitumen emulsion, followed by a layer of stone chips. Sites may be patched and prepared in advance of the surface dressing.

Following several trials across the UK, it has been demonstrated that the removal of some road markings can have a positive effect on road safety by reducing vehicle speeds. Therefore, road markings may not always be replaced like for like. This approach also supports the need for Suffolk Highways to reduce its ongoing maintenance liabilities.

As part of the surface dressing process, it is essential that once the road is reopened to traffic, the 20mph speed limit is adhered to, this avoids damage to vehicles and the slow-moving traffic further embeds the chippings. The road is swept at regular intervals to remove any excess chippings.

- First sweep: within 24 hours after completion of the works
- Second sweep: within 7 days after works are completed
- Third sweep (if required): within 14 days of works being completed.

May 2022

Council on course to plant 200,000 trees

Suffolk County Council has planted 198,547 trees across Suffolk in just the last two years (at an average of 272 per day).

Much of this was possible thanks to £400,000 of the council's own Suffolk 2020 Fund, to protect and encourage biodiversity in the county.

In one year, 198,547 average adult trees could absorb the equivalent CO2 emitted by:

- 8,845,898 miles travelled in a typical petrol car
- 903 typical household gas boilers running for a year
- 199 Suffolk residents each year

The planting includes 12 miles of new mixed native species hedgerows across 15 county farm holdings, delivering new wildlife habitat, ecological corridors and enhanced landscapes.

The council worked with many partners to make the tree planting a success, including The Woodland Trust, Suffolk Tree Warden Network, county farm tenants, landowners, local authorities and communities, and contractor Giles Landscapes.

June 2022

Extra funding agreed by Cabinet to fund new SEND places

Funding for second phase of £45 million five-year project agreed by Cabinet.

Suffolk County Council's Cabinet has today agreed an additional £15.9million to complete the funding for the creation of at least 879 specialist places for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities.

This money marks the second phase of a £45million five-year project to deliver specialist provision for SEND students in Suffolk. These places include units attached to mainstream schools and three new special schools.

So far, 500 new places have opened across the county, with another 325 due to open between September 2022 and September 2024 under phase 1. The additional money will enable the completion of phase 2 of the project, and the creation of between 54 to 72 new places, depending on design and planning.

The new SEND places support the growing number of children and young people in Suffolk who need specialist help at school. Between September 2021 and May 2022 there have been 1,333 referrals for specialist placements for children currently in mainstream schools.

Plans for new SEND places under phase 3 will come before Cabinet from September. The newly-approved £15.9million includes £6million to complete phase 2, £4.6million to cover overspend and a grant from the Department for Education of £5.3million.

The special schools include Castle EAST, a new communication and interaction school in north Suffolk; a new social, emotional and mental health school in west Suffolk named Sir Peter Hall; and a communication and interaction school in south Suffolk, Woodbridge Road Academy.

July 2022

New routes added as Suffolk County Council issues updated HGV map

A new map for hauliers plotting routes for journeys across Suffolk has been drawn up.

The Suffolk County Council Lorry Route Plan now incorporates new developments and roads, schemes such as Air Quality Management Areas, and changes in road safety on lorry routes.

Changes to the map include utilising new by-passes and link roads at Beccles, Eye and Haverhill to divert traffic away from town centres, and downgrading of routes at Leiston and Stowlangtoft. The new edition also features, for the first time, routes in Ipswich.

The map, compiled following a three-month consultation with all parish and town councils in Suffolk, was last updated in 2011 although a minor review was held in 2017.

While hauliers are not compelled to use the routes it does help them identify the best roads for their journey. It also discourages them from taking routes that can cause disruption, road safety concerns and environmental concerns to local communities.

[Read more about the review and view the new map here](#)

August 2022

Council to boost electric vehicle charging across Suffolk

The council submitted a bid of £1,362,000 to the Department for Transport, as part of the Local EV Infrastructure (LEVI) pilot scheme.

Suffolk's residents and visitors will see further improvements to the county's electric vehicle (EV) charging network, following Suffolk County Council's successful bid to fund more charging points.

With additional contributions such as commercial funding, the project will see a total investment of around £2.75m.

The new LEVI funding will allow the council to develop the county's EV charging network by:

- PV solar power and battery storage upgrades to approximately 10 existing sites
- Installing community EV charging, PV solar power and battery storage at over 30 further sites in urban and rural areas
- Identifying key commercial sites for 7kW, rapid and ultra-rapid chargers, which will benefit the local community

Suffolk County Council has led the way in electric vehicle charging, following the launch of Plug In Suffolk in 2019. It was the UK's first 'fully open' public EV fast charging network and has seen other local authorities around the country follow that model.

Plug In Suffolk has now installed 100 charging points around the county, with an emphasis on installations in rural locations and supporting households without off-street charging capabilities.

September 2022

Suffolk Roadsafe Partnership rolls out ANPR devices to target speeding motorists

Speeding motorists are to be targeted with a mobile number plate recognition system to be rolled out across Suffolk.

Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) will be rotated around sites where there is a problem with speeding or rat-running on roads with a 20 or 30mph speed limit.

The devices, 10 in total, will display the speeds of drivers to them as they approach, encouraging them to slow down.

If they continue to ignore the speed limit the ANPR camera will take a picture of them and record the date, time, speed, vehicle registration and a photo of the vehicle.

In certain cases, persistent offenders will be reported to Suffolk Constabulary and, while no one will be prosecuted as a direct result of the devices, they may be visited by a police officer who will speak to them about their driving.

The information shared with the police may also influence the deployment of speed enforcement vans to problem areas.

This project is part of the Suffolk Roadsafe Partnership between Suffolk County Council and Suffolk Constabulary.

Suffolk County Council provided £400,000 from the 2020 Fund to support a two-year trial.

A grant of £30,000 has also been awarded by the Road Safety Trust to evaluate the project and establish whether the camera scheme is effective in reducing speeding.

October 2022

Next round of new SEND places agreed by Cabinet

The Council's Cabinet has this afternoon agreed a new wave of funding to continue its programme to provide places for children and young people with SEND.

The £3million agreement marks the start of Phase 3 of the Capital Programme to create three additional specialist units providing 42 additional places for students with special educational needs and disabilities. This follows Phase 1 of the programme which created 825 new places across Suffolk and Phase 2, which was signed off in June 2022, and will create up to 73 new places.

So far, £45million has been allocated by Suffolk County Council to deliver the new places for Phase 1 and Phase 2 - £15million of which has been provided by the Department for Education.

In addition, Cabinet also agreed to support the Department for Education's High Needs Provision Capital Funding (HNPCF) for 2023/24 of £7million to be spent on the development of units attached to mainstream schools to support students with social, emotional and mental health problems and speech, language and communication needs. This will create up to 168 new spaces, and is an addition to previous funding agreed from the Department for Education in 2022/23 for up to 78 new places.

The third item signed off today was Cabinet's support for the application for funding for two free schools from the Department for Education. One of these will be in east Suffolk and support children with severe learning difficulties and the second will be built in Sudbury for those with autistic spectrum disorder and complex social, emotional and mental health problems. If the bids are successful, both schools will teach children and young people from across Suffolk.

In total, Suffolk will deliver up to 1,317 new places for children and young people with SEND by 2025/26.

The next step for Phase 3 is for schools across Suffolk to express an interest in having a specialist unit and, following these expressions of interest, the most suitable sites will be chosen. This programme for improved provision is informed by the SEND Sufficiency Plan 2022-25.

New special schools opened in Suffolk include Castle EAST, a communication and interaction school in north Suffolk; a social, emotional and mental health school in west Suffolk named Sir Peter Hall; and a communication and interaction school in south Suffolk, Woodbridge Road Academy.

November 2022

£2.5 million saved on energy costs as LED streetlight project nears completion

A project with the aim of replacing all 43,400 streetlights across Suffolk with sustainable, longer-lasting, and cost-saving LED bulbs nears completion.

It has saved more than £2.5 million pounds so far.

The change to LED streetlights supports Suffolk County Council's aim to reduce carbon, light pollution, and bring down ongoing maintenance costs for the council, all whilst providing the best value to residents.

It was expected that the council would reduce costs by around 76%, however, the target was exceeded, with 77.64% savings made to date.

In June 2021, Bouygues Energies and Services were announced as the partner to deliver the project to upgrade 43,400 Suffolk streetlights with new, reduced energy LED lanterns. The total number of upgraded streetlights is currently at 40,692 excluding any of the Ipswich Borough Council, or Town/Parish council owned streetlights. There are approximately 1,700 upgrades outstanding, which includes any remaining heritage lantern upgrades. It is hoped that around 1200 of the remaining lanterns will be completed by the end of the year.

Prior to the commencement of the project, Suffolk Highways contacted towns and parishes to provide them with the opportunity to have their parish-council owned

street-lighting upgraded at the same time. All heritage-style lanterns are also being upgraded as part of the project.

The upgrade of the lighting system will include a further rollout of SCC's central management system which will allow lights to be switched on or off and dim individual or groups of lights.

This smart technology will increase the control the council has over its power consumption which will further reduce costs. The system will also automatically flag any lights that are not working which reduces the need for night-time inspections.

December 2022

Historic half a billion pound devolution deal hands Suffolk regeneration and skills powers to level up

A landmark devolution deal, which puts money and power over building, regeneration and skills into the hands of leaders in Suffolk will be signed today.

Suffolk will be devolved power over their Adult Education budget, so they can shape provision in a way that best suits the needs of the local community and will receive immediate support to build new affordable homes on brownfield sites, as well as more capital funding to improve energy efficiency in houses.

The deal will also see Suffolk County Council handed control over a £480 million investment fund – this will be guaranteed for the next thirty years. This will enable the county to drive growth and plan for the long-term with certainty as it looks to level up and unlock its full economic potential.

Suffolk will also get a directly elected leader of the council. This not only provides a single person who is accountable to the people of Suffolk but gives the county a local champion who can attract investment and be a stronger voice in discussions with central government.

The Levelling Up Secretary will today attend a ceremony in Bury St Edmunds with Cllr

Matthew Hicks to officially sign the deal. Michael Gove will also visit Norfolk to sign a devolution agreement with Norfolk County Council, which will transfer further money and power out of Whitehall. The deals follow Cornwall Council who just last week signed their own devolution deal with the government, unlocking powers and long-term funding of £360 million.

The deal also sets out the government's plans to devolve more power to Suffolk County Council through:

- Investment: It will bring decades of funding worth £480 million to improve the lives of Suffolk's residents and spend on their local priorities.
- Housing: The deal will provide £5.8 million to regenerate brownfield land into beautiful, affordable homes and drive economic growth across the area; Suffolk will also receive greater compulsory purchase powers.
- Education: The agreement devolves the Adult Education Budget so they can shape provision in a way that best suits the needs of residents and the local Suffolk economy.
- Transport: An integrated transport settlement starting in 2024/25, to support the area to improve key transport infrastructure priorities.
- The Environment: The new deal will help Suffolk deliver on its ambitions to be the country's greenest county with £3 million to improve energy efficiency in homes.

The deal is now subject to local consultation, a council resolution to change their governance model so that electors directly elect the council leader, and elements, such as the transfer of new powers, require parliamentary approval to secondary legislation. The deal envisages the election of a directly elected leader in May 2024. Subject to the passing of the relevant measures in the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill, Suffolk and Norfolk would call the directly elected person the "elected leader" of the County Council.

Proposed agreement for a devolution deal between the government and Suffolk County Council ([gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk))

January 2023

Council to protect frontline services and increase funding in budget proposal

Adult care services and children's services will receive £47m more funding as part of Suffolk County Council's £685m budget proposals, published today.

Adult care services and children's services will receive £47m more funding as part of Suffolk County Council's £685m budget proposals, published today.

Despite an incredibly challenging economic climate, the council has been able to produce a balanced budget. This will protect the services that people rely on the most and continue to care for the most vulnerable, which accounts for 75% of the whole budget.

Adult care services will have £34m more in their budget, and children's services will have a further £13m. This will help with the extra expense needed to meet the huge increase in demands for services, as well as higher costs due to inflation.

The budget-setting has been achieved with input from the council's partners, officers, departments and notably, Suffolk residents. Over 2,600 local people contributed to an online survey and focus groups, asking where they would spend more money, spend less money, and their views on Council Tax.

The top service areas where people wanted to spend more, were social care services for adults and children.

Some of the service areas where people also said they wanted to see more money spent, will receive additional funding:

- £700,000 for SEND services to support new recruitment, which is on top of the £1.1m invested this year
- £500,000 for Highways: to use environmentally friendly weed treatments, and stop using glyphosate which can damage wildlife
- £110,000 for tree management: to support the 'right tree right place' policy, having an appropriate inspection regime and supporting the resulting tree management requirements.
- £45,000 for Citizens Advice: to support work during cost of living challenges

A budget gap for next year - the difference between what money is available and what needs to be spent - had already been identified, resulting in savings of £15.5m for next year.

Under the proposals, the council's budget would increase by 9.6% (from £625.3m to £685.3). Additional funds would come from a total 3.99% increase in Council Tax, and an increase in funds from the Government for adult and children's social care.

Regarding Council Tax, the proposed 3.99% increase would be made up of a 1.99% increase in general Council Tax and a 2.00% increase dedicated to funding adult care.

This means costs for a household would look like:

- Band B property: £22.32 per week (85 pence per week increase from 2022-23) (Band B properties are the most common in Suffolk)
- Band D property: £28.70 per week (£1.10 pence per week increase from 2022-23)

Read [papers for the SCC Scrutiny meeting on 10 January 2023 here](#).

February 2023

New highways services arriving in Suffolk as multi-million-pound contract awarded

Milestone Infrastructure, part of M Group Services, has been awarded Suffolk's new highways services contract, which will begin on 1 October 2023.

Following an extensive procurement exercise, Suffolk County Council has confirmed Milestone will be its new contract partner for up to 20 years. The new partnership, which is worth in the region of £800 million - £1 billion, will be delivering highway projects and improvements across Suffolk, including but not limited to maintaining roads, pavements and rights of way, drainage, hedge trimming, construction of new road schemes, snow-clearing and gritting.

When searching for its new highways partner, the county council worked with leading industry analysts to understand the different types of arrangements that other local authorities have in place, to look at which specialist providers are in the marketplace, and to find out what aspects of contract agreement may work best for Suffolk.

The council wanted the new contract to focus on delivering greater social value, utilising local skills and talent, giving young people the opportunity to work in the

sector as well as building on the council's commitment to carbon reduction and protecting the environment.

A rigorous procurement exercise was carried out over many months, with various stages of discussions with service providers, to evolve their solutions to meet the various contractual requirements and deliver an effective and efficient highway service for Suffolk. Final submissions were evaluated and extensively moderated before the final winning contract was awarded.

Brett Vale Annual Parish Meetings 2023 Babergh District Councillor's Report

Rather than providing an annual report, summarising the contents of my monthly reports for the last year, I thought it would be good to review the past four years as we approach the district council elections in May. We published our End of Term report – 'What have we done for you 2019-22' – in December. This provides a very informative summary of our key achievements in an easy-to-read visual format. It can be found at: Babergh District Council - What have we done for you, 2019 - 2022 report (bmsdchosting.net)

I would like to take the opportunity to talk about what I think have been the highlights of the past four years.

It has been a very different and unusual term, characterised by the changes in the way we work that were imposed by Covid but which have now been embedded in agile and flexible work patterns. This has been supported by the recently opened new office floorplate. Our officers rose to the challenge of Covid magnificently to support our businesses, communities and vulnerable residents, including the homeless and rough-sleepers.

As we emerged from Covid, our Economic Development team put together a very comprehensive and successful Economic Recovery Plan, covering town centre regeneration, business support and skills development. I have to say, for me this has been one of the best things this council has done in my time as a councillor. It didn't just include things that our councils have done on our own, but, crucially, it also linked with wider county initiatives from the Suffolk Public Sector Leaders' Group and the New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership.

Over the past four years we have built or bought about 180 new council houses across the district and our Housing Revenue Account 30 Year Business Plan commits us to further increases in our stock to help meet the affordable housing requirements of the emerging Joint Local Plan.

Talking of the JLP, the part 1 modifications required by the inspectors have been completed and are now out for consultation. Part 1, containing the development control policies, including important social, economic and environmental objectives, will be ready for council to adopt towards the end of the summer. Meanwhile, work requested by the inspectors for part 2, addressing spatial strategy matters and site allocations, has started.

Whilst frustrating, the additional time that the JLP is taking is not unusual and doesn't affect the validity of our current local plan due to the good delivery of housing over recent years, giving us a 7.13 year land supply – which means we meet the statutory housing requirement of at least 5 years. This is being confirmed by our success in defending appeals: in 2021/22, we had 35 appeals decided

– about average – and only two of them were allowed, making us the fourth best council in the country at defending appeals.

Our Carbon Reduction Management Plan and Biodiversity Action Plan are starting to deliver a real impact on improving the environment. Moving from diesel to Hydro-treated Vegetable Oil for our vehicle fleet and the installation of solar panels on our leisure centres and on carports in their car parks are now delivering significant reductions in the carbon emissions of the two councils as well as generating a substantial proportion of the electricity used by the leisure centres. We have completed a ground-breaking Tree Canopy Survey so that we now know where to target new tree and hedgerow planting for maximum benefit. The survey has quantified the environmental benefits provided by trees, including carbon capture, carbon sequestration, stormwater reduction and pollution removal. The data is all publicly available online in ward-by-ward web maps.

I just want to list several other highlights – it is by no means an exhaustive list, but it does represent the breadth of what we have been able to do:

- Virtual High Street, Innovation Labs, Innovate Local, and the Innovate to Elevate programmes, two innovation awards events, and business events and competitions for school children and young adults entering the workforce
- Cultural, Heritage and Visitor Economy Strategy
- New customer access points, digital improvements, with a new website imminent, and digital skills sessions for residents
- Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan
- Hadleigh commercial workspace project
- The new Hadleigh swimming pool
- Refurbishment of the Kingfisher leisure centre in Sudbury
- Communities and Wellbeing Strategies
- The new combined in-house public realm service
- Our support for Gainsborough's House and St. Peters in Sudbury
- The many community grants and Community Infrastructure Levy grants we have made for projects and groups across the district
- Cost of Living Action Plan

In addition to awards we won in 2019, 2020 and 2021, we have already won two this year: silver for the Tree Canopy survey at the Public Sector Transformation awards and gold for our Wellbeing Support Programme at the Smarter Working Lives awards. It really does help with staff morale when we win national awards and for councillors it is great to know that we are being recognised by others in the country, so we must be doing something right for our residents.

All in all, a very busy term which has delivered a huge amount for our residents. But, of course, there are still some unresolved issues that the new council and cabinet will have to address, the most important being:

- The perennial struggle with balancing the budget each year
- The further development of our partnership with Mid Suffolk
- Building services and our programme of repairs and energy-saving retrofitting for our council houses.

The new council term will, I am sure, see a significant change in the membership of the council. These are still difficult times, although, as you have heard, we have had many achievements that have helped our businesses and communities. All the new councillors will have to grapple with the ongoing challenge of how to deliver services with continuing pressures on funding and costs, but they will inherit a council that is in good shape to meet that challenge. However, we must remain responsible and credible and not make promises that are impossible to deliver, or which may impair our ability to deliver, or, indeed, waste money.

John Ward
Babergh District Councillor
Brett Vale
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Stratford St Mary Primary School Report

Report to the Parish Council April 2023

It has been another busy year for the school community.

- In May 2022, the school received its Ofsted report, which is available to view on the school website, it retained its grading of 'Good'.
- Through the hard work and commitment of Mrs Martin and the Eco-councilors, the school achieved the Eco - Schools 'Green Flag' award in July 2022. We have continued to work on Eco projects throughout this academic year and we are committed to retaining our Green Flag status.
- In September 2023, there were 95 children on the school roll and this includes some children of Ukrainian families who are living nearby. The school community welcomed these children (and their families) with open arms and they have settled well into school life. The children have been working hard to learn the English language and we have been working hard to learn some Ukrainian too. We were very grateful for the grant which enabled us to purchase Ipads to support these children and their learning.
- Miss Jones and the Junior Road Safety Officers have continued to work on Road Safety projects and this has very recently included taking part in the local speed watch. They achieved a Gold Award for their hard work and commitment and they were also awarded a Modeshift Bronze award. This committee regularly organise walk to school weeks (to try and limit the number of cars near the school), send letters and reminders about parking considerately and safely when dropping and picking children up from school and they also support teaching the younger children about road safety.

- At Christmas, we used Stratford St Mary church to perform our nativity and also to perform our carol service. The latter included singing part of a traditional Christmas carol in Ukrainian. The older children also sang at the annual Christmas lunch in the parish rooms.
- More recently, we have welcomed visitors to the school to tell the story of Joseph and his amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat and sing some of the songs from the musical. We are hoping that some of our children and their families can join in with the Joseph event taking place in the church, at the end of April.
- School trips are still going ahead, despite rising costs. However, we subsidise these where possible. We are grateful for the financial support of the Fireworks committee and the School PTA who have enabled us to make these trips possible. Trips have included visiting London and visiting a theatre and further trips to the seaside and a residential trip for our older children have been arranged.
- The school website www.stratfordstmaryprimary.co.uk has a wealth of information and in particular the News page details more of the learning and events which have taken place. Please feel free to visit these pages.

Langham Hall Estate Report

31st March 2023

Dear Fay and Bill,

RE: Permissive Access on Langham Hall Estate

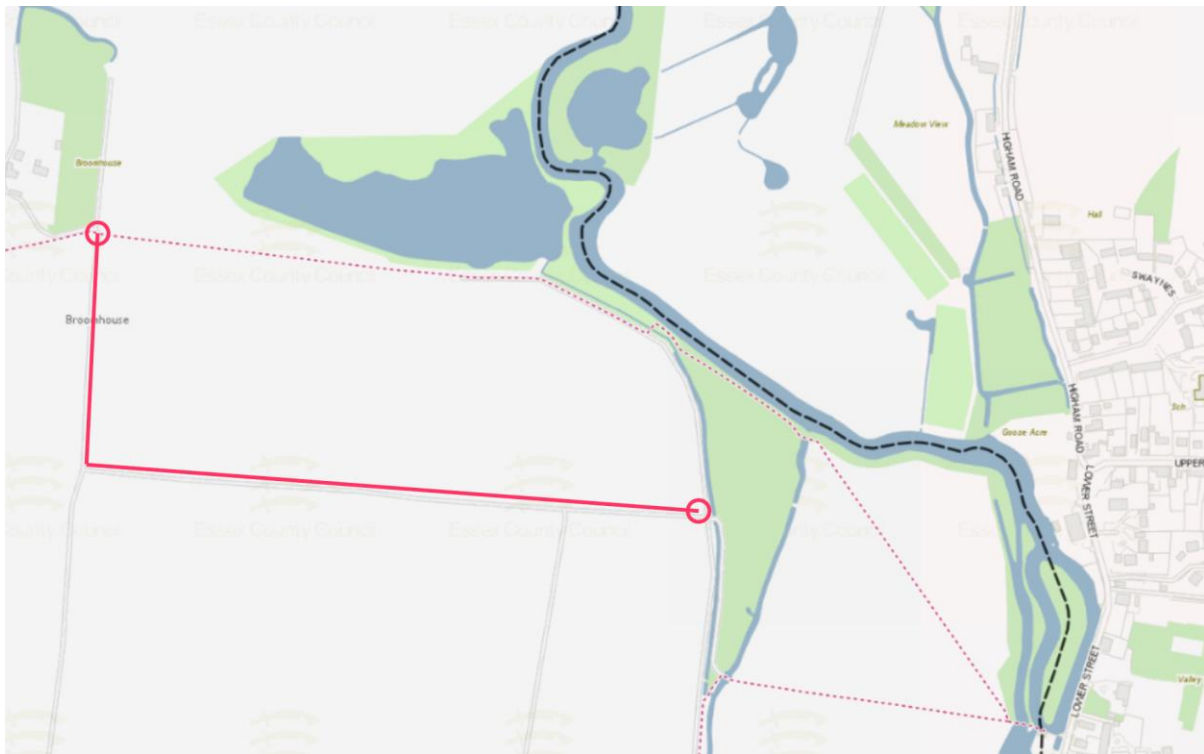
As agreed in March I am happy to grant permissive pedestrian access for residents and others along the farm tracks highlighted in red on the map below. On occasions it may be necessary to withdraw that access (for example for maintenance or if we are running a shoot in that area; if we have large farm vehicles running up and down it as we do during harvest or when taking the hay in) and I'd like to reserve the right to do so at any time. As you may be aware the tracks cut through our arable cropping so I would ask that all dogs are kept at heel and/or on a lead when on the Estate.

I will check the access by the gate at the fisherman's car park and ensure there is pedestrian access to the side of it. I am undecided as to whether to erect signs, but i think we will probably do so before the summer.

Thank you to the Parish Council for bringing the matter to my attention and for working with me to agree an arrangement that works for all parties concerned. As mentioned at the last meeting in March I am happy for residents to contact me direct should they have questions about any aspect of the Estate and/or the arrangements that are in place for access along tracks we have earmarked for permissive access.

Your sincerely

Charlie Warburton



Stratford St Mary Community First Responders

Co-ordinators report

The group has continued to provide cover on the Essex and Suffolk border throughout the year.

In 2018 the cover was an average of 36 hours a month, 2019 48 hours, 2020 80 hours and 2021 128 hours. In 2022 the average was 106 hours. We are expecting this to increase in 2023 as we have more responders.

The responders were alerted to go on 40 calls and actually attended 37 patients. This is down on the previous year.

We have managed to recruit a forth responder who lives in Higham. This now means there are four responders attached to the group. Nathan is still pairing up with other responders until he has gained experience. We have another 2 trainee responders waiting to do their training.

The finances remain in a healthy state with just over £5000 in the accounts. The group was very busy during the year fund raising to purchase a new second set of equipment. We managed to raise over £4000 and bought the new second kit. As of this morning the second kit is active so we have call signs 7285 and 5182. This cost around £4000 but we still have to buy new uniforms for the responders.

The group continues to train monthly in Stratford st Mary. This training is important and it keeps the responders updated on techniques, re-enforces skills and gives us new skills. Recently we did our annual assessments on life support.

It is worth mentioning again that if help is needed the public must call 999, the ambulance service will then contact the responders, if they feel it is within our remit. The trust continues to be under a lot of pressure and all calls have to be prioritised, this means there are sometimes long waits for patients. Initially the call centre will probably give a worst case of timing. If a responder is with you they will continue to monitor the patient and if somebody deteriorates, they will update control and talk to a clinician to see if the priority can be changed. We know in times of crisis people are worried, anxious and can panic. Direct calls to responders from the public should not be made.

The group now maintains three defibrillators in Stratford st Mary, Langham and Dedham, these are all checked on a monthly basis.

Finally I want to share a call I attended last year in Langham. I got sent to a gentleman in his 40's who was in cardiac arrest, his heart had stopped and he was not breathing, basically he was dead. The gentleman's wife had carried out CPR until we arrived. A local manager and myself arrived at the same time and took over life support. Shortly afterwards two crews arrived and the Essex air ambulance. We continued to work on the gentle man and were successful in getting his heart working again and getting him to breath unaided. Obviously he was still very ill and would need specialist treatment. He was airlifted to Basildon where he under went heart surgery. I saw the gentleman's father a few months ago and he was pleased to let me know that his son had fully recovered and had been signed off by the doctor.

An outcome like this makes it all worthwhile. Because of the generosity and support of this Parish Council, this family still has a husband and a father and a son.

Thank you..

Peter Dawson

Stratford St Mary Community Trust

Formerly The Stratford St Mary Welfare Trust Incorporating: The Cloth Charity Estate and The Lettice Dykes Foundation

Annual Report - April 2023

The Trust has experienced another challenging year with its ageing property continuing to require significant maintenance investment, notwithstanding these demands on its resources, the Trust retains the capability and the commitment to provide modest grants to help parish residents, with five grants being made this year, to assist residents in temporary need of financial assistance.

Such grants can be considered to assist parish residents who are in "need, hardship or distress or who need funding to assist with access to education*, retraining or redeployment.

Although trying to make themselves aware of situations in which Trust intervention might be appropriate, Trustees recognise that there will be instances of such need of which they have no knowledge. For this reason, we ask that anyone living, working or playing in our Parish who becomes

aware of someone within the Stratford St Mary community who might warrant assistance from the trust, pass the relevant information to the trustees, for consideration.

The trust has a direct e-mail address, trust@stratford-st-mary.org, which can be used for this purpose or for general communication.

All information passed to the trust or to individual trustees will be treated in strictest confidence.

At the time this report is issued, the Board of the Stratford St Mary Community Trust consists of the following individuals, all of whom are resident in the parish:

Name	Status	Role
Shaun Baker	Managing Trustee (<i>co-opted</i>)	Trustee
Roger Barrel	Managing Trustee (<i>co-opted</i>)	Financial Officer
David Isaac	Holding Trustee (<i>co-opted</i>)	Trustee
Brian Such	Holding Trustee (<i>SSMPC Nominated</i>)	Chairperson
Norman Woodard	Managing Trustee (<i>SSMPC Nominated</i>)	Trustee

However, time passes and trustees inevitably age along with everyone else. As a result the Board of Trustees is concerned to ensure its successful continuity and we therefore invite any resident of Stratford St Mary who might be, interested in and willing to, serve their community as a Trustee to contact the Trust with a view to meeting for an informal discussion about what might be required. This would be without any obligation or expectation of outcome.

Board of Trustees.

- *In respect of grants for educational purposes, attention is also drawn to the activity of the Dedham Educational Foundation whose area of remit includes Stratford St Mary and from where financial grants are available to assist attendance at Secondary Schools, Sixth Form Colleges, Universities & Colleges of Further Education. For details, please contact the Clerk to the Foundation, Mrs. Claire Arculus on 07752201441 or at dedhamefclerk@gmail.com*

e-mail: trust@stratford-st-mary.org Charity number: 213046 Registered address Stratford St Mary Community Trust C/o 1, Spanbies Road Stratford St Mary, Suffolk, Co7 6YH Telephone: 01206 323 728 Correspondence address Stratford St Mary Community Trust C/o The Side Cottage, Lower Street Stratford St Mary, Suffolk, Co7 6JS Telephone: 01206 323 091 Telephone: 01206 323 091

Stratford St Mary Chapel Report

Presentation to SSM Annual Parish Council meeting 2023

The Chapel is a mainstream Church which sets out to cater for all the family.

So at our Sunday morning services we have a creche and 2 children and young people's groups which you would equate to Sunday School. These take place during our main service.

During the week and on Sunday evenings we run various Bible teaching and discussion groups for adults on Zoom and at the Chapel.

We have a Mums & Tots group on Wednesday morning's during term time while on Friday evenings we have a children's group known as "Sparks" which caters for Children aged 7 – 11 years old. This group comprises around 30 children most of which come from the village.

We also continue the Youth club ("Ignition" later on Friday evenings. It is the only Youth Club operating in the immediate area and is therefore patronised by young people from villages around such as East Bergholt as well as SSM.

I should also mention that we have installed a Defibrillator on the front exterior of the Chapel for the use of the village.

Village Institute Report

Chairman's Report 2023

Last year was the first full year that the hall was open for hire since the Covid outbreak and I am pleased to report that our bookings were back to pre Covid levels.

Our financial position is good and in 2022 our income exceeded our expenditure by £4,192.15, partly helped by Babergh DC grant of £2,667.

Our current 3 year electricity tariff with British Gas expires May 2023 and we have renewed with them although our costs will be considerably higher than our existing rates. Before agreeing to renew with British Gas, I consulted alternative suppliers and independent brokers and was advised that no-one could improve on the terms quoted by British Gas.

We continue to carry out improvements to the hall facilities and have recently bought a new oven and refrigerator to replace the old ones in the kitchen. We have also had the 8 electric heaters in the main hall upgraded by a local electrician.

We continue to review Constitution and have had joint meetings with the Parish Council and I am confident that we will soon reach a agreement on a revised document which will clarify the responsibilities between the two organisations.

Many thanks go to all our committee members for their support throughout the year and to our 100 Club members who contributed £500 towards our income 2022.

W.Davies
Chairman



Life

Stratford St Mary Suffolk

Report to the Annual Parish Meeting 2023

Monday 24th April 2023

Venue The Parish Room

VillageLife (VL) was created as a means of encouraging community activity in our Parish and from its formation in 2013 to the start of lockdown in 2020, it did, we believe, have some modest success in doing so. The then new organization was founded to focus, not on fundraising but on the generation of an ongoing sense of community in our Parish although occasional fund raising for particular purposes was not excluded.

Over the following years, VL staged 2 Village Gatherings at Stratford Hills, a Mediaeval Fayre and HMQ90 at the school, The Village Open Day (2017), the annual Quintuple (pub-games) Challenge at the Swan, the 'Christmas Light-up' at the millennium garden and various social events including traditional country dancing evenings, Race Nights and periodic 'Stories by the Fire' evenings; The Interruption of the lockdown years has however taken its toll and the VillageLife Periodic Report for 2021/22 identified the need for new blood and invited approaches from interested parties

The Jubilee 2022 Group, responsible for organizing the very successful Jubilee events in Stratford St Mary, subsequently expressed interest in merging with VillageLife and over two meetings, held in July and September 2023, VillageLife was revived with decision being taken to go forward under the VillageLife banner, adopting its objectives, using the name and logo, taking over the bank account and the accumulated events equipment.

The £675.00 raised in donations at functions during the Jubilee weekend, have been deposited in the VillageLife account to contribute to the provision of funds to underwrite future events.

With the organizational formalities agreed, the group moved swiftly on to planning and organising an events programme for the coming year, with dedicated sub-groups being formed to undertake planning and organization, as required.

Several very successful Quiz Nights have been held at The Institute Hall with the proceeds from one being donated to the Ukraine relief fund.

The announcement of the Coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla has, of course provided a particular point of focus for VillageLife and a programme of community events has been arranged for the Coronation weekend (see Quartet magazine and a notice delivered to households.

A Village Ball, originally planned for 2020 but prevented by the lockdown, has been rearranged at the Talbooth Restaurant for Friday 26th May. The take-up of tickets has been very encouraging and the evening promises to be a great success. Just a few tickets remain unsold, so don't miss out.

Looking forward, the VillageLife group has been considering a variety of ideas for activities for the autumn and the lead-up to Christmas. Future events have not yet been finalised, but may include further quiz nights, a race night, Christmas tree festival (to be held in the church) and village Christmas wreath/ advent window competition. Ideas or suggestions generated by the village community are always welcome.

The dedicated event groups operating under the VillageLife banner, each meet as required for the success of their particular event with the wider group meeting periodically to plan the overall programme and ensure that the individual event groups are supported. Meeting dates are posted in the Quartet magazine and can be obtained by enquiry to the VillageLife e-mail address at the end of this report.

VillageLife has no exclusive membership list, if you Live or work in the Parish you are part of VillageLife. If you have ideas for future community activities why not get in touch, come to a meeting and see what VillageLife can do to help bring them to fruition.

