
July 2021 District Councillor report

for

Depden Parish Council

In my role as Vice-Chair of West Suffolk District Council I recently had the honour of cutting the ribbon to open the new Friendly Bench in Brandon, a community led initiative involving Brandon in Bloom and supported by the lottery fund. Obviously, Depden and Brandon are very different places demographically, but both share a strong community spirit and a desire to make use of and showcase the big outdoors. Please see the attached leaflet for further information.



Parking charges increase in West Suffolk for first time in five years - The new charges come into effect from today (Monday 5th July). Cllr Peter Stevens, Cllr Susan Glossop and Cllr Sarah Broughton are quoted.

Playgroup 'proves' how important it is for children to be together - A plea has been made for parents to support a Chedburgh village playgroup that is "important" for adults' and children's wellbeing. Little Teacups has recently received a grant of £450 from West Suffolk Council, which Mrs Nichols said, "It will make a big difference in keeping it going".

West Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust (WSFT) is launching the first phase of engagement for its proposed hospital site and is inviting members of the local community to share their views. Please see the attached leaflet for further information.

West Suffolk Civil Parking Enforcement Monthly Update Period: June 2021

The purpose of this report is to provide monthly information about parking patrols and enforcement across West Suffolk including the Babergh Mid Suffolk areas that we patrol on their behalf. Patrols are undertaken by teams based in three operational centres at Bury, Newmarket and Stowmarket (for Babergh Mid Suffolk). Civil Parking Enforcement in West Suffolk commenced on 6 April 2020 with the general backing of the public and businesses. Parking enforcement on-street had previously been the responsibility of the Police who can now prioritise their resources to more important tasks. Full report attached.

I have received a letter (header below), the letter is attached. In order to help shape my response, I value your views

Dear Councillor,

Please find attached a letter regarding the proposed reforms to the planning system.

Yours sincerely,

Steve Reed OBE MP

Member of Parliament for Croydon North

Shadow Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government



West Suffolk Parish and Town Forum – 14 July 2021 presented via Microsoft Teams.

Please see attached your invitation to the Parish and Town Forum with the amended agenda which will be held on 14th July 2021 via Microsoft Teams. Please note we will be utilising technology to its fullest and recording the meeting to allow for those who could not attend to catch up.

To confirm your attendance please email families.communities@westsuffolk.gov.uk, upon confirmation the Microsoft Teams meeting link will be sent through to you.

Kind Regards,

The Families and Communities Team.

Apologies for so many attachments

Mike Chester

District Councillor for the Chedburgh and Chevington Ward

Vice-Chair of West Suffolk District Council



7th July 2021

Dear Councillor,

Re: Planning reforms

The Government has published highly controversial proposals to reform the planning system. One aspect that has raised particular concern is the proposal to remove local residents' right to object to individual planning applications in their own neighbourhood if the area is zoned for growth or renewal.

Last month, the House of Commons called on the Government to protect residents' rights to retain a voice over planning applications, recognizing that the best way to get necessary new homes built is to support communities, councils and developers to work in partnership.

I include below a copy of the motion passed by the House of Commons with support from MPs of all political parties. I urge you to ask your council to pass the same motion so we can show widespread support for the principle of protecting residents' right to a say over individual planning applications in their own area. Many local people have already expressed anger that this long-established democratic right is under threat.

This House believes planning works best when developers and the local community work together to shape local areas and deliver necessary new homes; and therefore calls on the Government to protect the right of communities to object to individual planning applications.

Please let me know if you intend to ask your council to support the motion. I would also welcome other views you may have on the proposed planning reforms and your ideas for how we can best protect the voice of local people and their elected councillors over planning decisions.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Steve Reed".

Steve Reed MP
Shadow Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government

West Suffolk Civil Parking Enforcement Monthly Update

Period: June 2021

Introduction

The purpose of this report is to provide monthly information about parking patrols and enforcement across West Suffolk including the Babergh Mid Suffolk areas that we patrol on their behalf. Patrols are undertaken by teams based in three operational centres at Bury, Newmarket and Stowmarket (for Babergh Mid Suffolk).

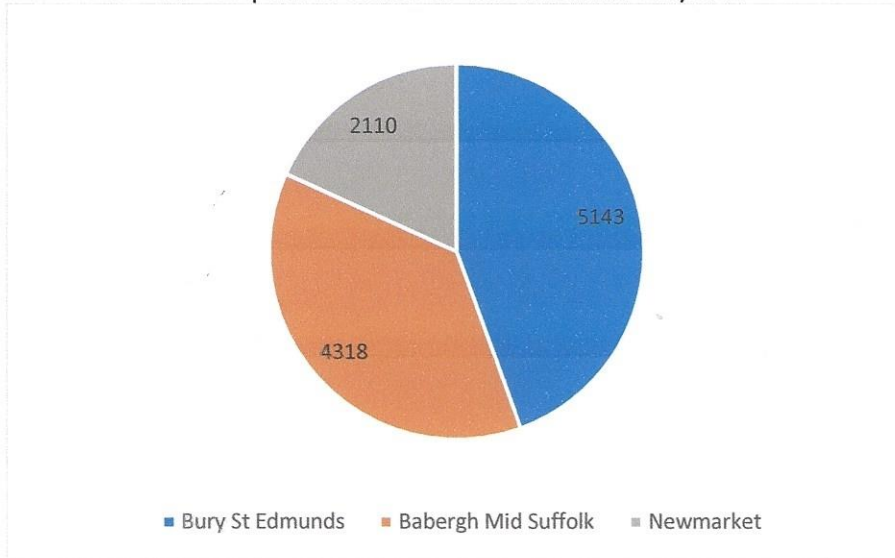
Civil Parking Enforcement in West Suffolk commenced on 6 April 2020 with the general backing of the public and businesses. Parking enforcement on-street had previously been the responsibility of the Police who can now prioritise their resources to more important tasks.

In managing the expectations of our residents, Members are reminded that:-

1. CPE powers are enshrined in law (Highways Act 1980, Traffic Management Act 2004 and Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984)
2. In its capacity as the Highway Authority, Suffolk County Council delegates CPE enforcement functions to us in West Suffolk and parts of Babergh and Mid Suffolk through an Agency Agreement (set-out in [CPE frequently asked questions](#) on our website).
3. The Agency Agreement clearly sets out the functions and service levels we have to comply with and provide.
4. We enforce the lines and signs that are on the street. Any discretion in doing so is severely limited – a vehicle is either parked on the street legally or it is parked illegally and subject to a penalty charge notice if caught.
5. Changes to the lines and signs are the responsibility of the Highway Authority through a [Traffic Regulation Order \(TRO\)](#) procedure defined in the legislation which is a relatively lengthy and expensive process.
6. Our website contains a lot of useful Information on CPE, including:-
 - [Appeals procedure](#)
 - [Reporting parking problems and infringements](#)
 - [Information on resident parking zones including requests for new schemes](#)
 - [Information on parking and no waiting restrictions](#)
 - [Information on pavement and verge parking](#)

Patrol Visits

Total number of patrol visits in the month: 11,571



Stowmarket Team

Location	No of Visits	PCN's Issued
Sudbury	2026	456
Stowmarket	1822	249
Lavenham	116	8
Eye	84	11
Onehouse	31	0
Acton	3	0
Great Waldingfield	4	1
Great Cornard	57	3
Bures St Mary	27	1
Long Melford	129	10
Debenham	14	1
Elmswell	5	0

Bury St Edmunds Team

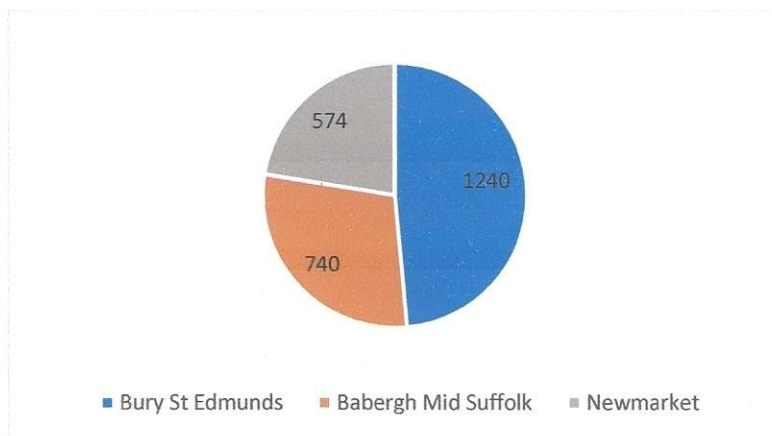
Location	No of Visits	PCN's Issued
Bury St Edmunds	5106	1218
Hundon	4	1
Great Whelnetham	2	0
Nowton Country Park	18	17
Hardwick Heath Country Park	12	4
West Stow Country Park	1	0

Newmarket Team

Location	No of Visits	PCN's Issued
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Haverhill	769	171
Clare	38	1
Newmarket	1069	330
Mildenhall	199	59
Brandon	6	1
Exning	13	2
Cavendish	7	0
Clare Country Park	5	8
Brandon Country Park	4	2

Total number of PCNs issued this month: 2554



PCNs issued at £70* rate:	1187
PCNs issued at £50* rate:	1368
PCNs issued on-street	1817
PCNs issued off-street (car parks)	738
PCNs paid	2120
PCNs paid at discount	1847

**there are two different fine rates depending on the seriousness of contravention*

PCNs appealed by informal challenge

Informal Challenges received	413 (16.16 % of PCNs issued)
Challenges accepted	83 (20.10 % of challenges received)
Challenges rejected	330 (79.90 % of challenges received)

Enforcement Agents

We now have an arrangement with Anglia Revenues Partnership (ARP) to act on our behalf to enforce and recover any outstanding Penalty Charge Notice that are registered as debts and remain unpaid. May 2021 was our first full month of sending PCNs cases over to them. ARP will recover outstanding debt within the Anglia region.

ARP

PCN Cases sent to up ARP June 2021	721
PCN Cases Paid (up to 30th June) via ARP	79
PCN Cases with a payment plan arrangement with ARP.	70

Dukes

Dukes are a national debt collection and enforcement company that will recover all PCN registered debts which remain unpaid. Recovery of these debts will take place outside of the Anglia region which will span the whole of the UK.

PCN Cases sent to Dukes	106
PCN Cases Paid via Dukes (up to May 2021)	14
PCN Cases with a payment plan arrangement with Dukes	2