

A report for Groton Parish Council meeting on 7th July 2021

From James Finch – County Councillor for the Stour Valley

Tel: 01206 263649 Mobile 07545 423796 Email: james.finch@suffolk.gov.uk

➤ **COVID 19 infection rates over June**

THERE ARE SIGNIFICANT INCREASES IN INFECTION IN SOUTH SUFFOLK including the very local area of Nayland Leavenheath and Boxford for the first time in 10 weeks. In the 7 days up to June 29 there have been **433 new cases of COVID-19 in Suffolk** – this has trebled in the last 3 weeks. Locally in the area of my Division, there were 13 cases up to the seven day period ending 29th June in the local Middle Super Output Area (MSOA) of 18 villages. It is because of these rises that the easing of Lockdown has been postponed across the country. I urge all those of you who are travelling locally and mixing with more people for work and / or pleasure to take a Rapid Flow Test twice per week. The good news is despite this increase of infections there are relatively few needing to enter hospital because many have now been vaccinated.

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Read More about testing and how you can get your test: <https://yes2test.co.uk/>. Regular testing is seen as key in controlling the spread of the virus as the UK's vaccination programme continues. Shops, pubs, and indoor leisure businesses such as gyms re-opened in England on Monday April 12 under the government's roadmap to recovery from lockdown, and in Suffolk bosses are being asked to sign up to the Yes2Test scheme which asks them to commit to workforce testing.

➤ **Independent review of aspects of Suffolk's Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) services to be carried out by experts from Lincolnshire.**

In recent weeks, there have been calls from some parents and carers of children with SEND - known as the Campaign for Change (SEND Suffolk) - for an audit of the council's compliance with the legal requirements set out for the service.

Suffolk County Council has considered this request, It has been announced that a multi-agency team from Lincolnshire will carry out an independent review into special educational needs and disability (SEND) provision. This review will be carried out by a senior professional with no links to, or direct involvement with, Suffolk's provision and will focus on the processes, communication protocols and family-facing elements of SEND services within Suffolk County Council. The review will focus on the processes, communication protocols and family-facing elements of SEND services within Suffolk County Council. It will not look at specific cases or the provision given to specific children. The review will look at:

- The effective flow of cases
- Communication with young people and families
- Processes for dealing with incoming enquiries from young people and families in a timely manner
- A focus on the family-facing elements of the service
- The allocation of provision and, where appropriate, placement in a timely way for children

The review started at the end of June and will be completed within six weeks. The report, with any recommendations, will be published on Suffolk County Council's website, shared with those who contributed to it and also scrutinised, in public, by the council's Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Committee.

The review team from Lincolnshire will consist of two senior officers from Lincolnshire County Council, performance analysts and the chair of the county's parent carer network.

➤ **State-of-the-art vehicles join Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service's fleet**

On May 20th, it was announced that Suffolk Fire and Rescue had unveiled three new vehicles, packed with the latest technology, to support firefighters at emergency incidents.

The Command Support Vehicles will typically be used as a hub at large, complex incidents, from which officers can manage operations and work with other emergency services.

Some of the new features on the vehicles include:

- Dedicated WiFi, enabling officers at the scene to quickly stream and share data, images, footage and plans with colleagues who are based remotely, for example at the Combined Fire Control Room
- LCD display built into the side of the vehicle, allowing officers to share content with other agencies attending an incident, such as live drone footage and plans
- Latest communications and computer technology with access to live information, weather reports, data on substances and chemicals, and direct contact with other agencies and services

Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service has invested £360,000 in the new units, which replace the three existing Command Support Vehicles.

➤ Virtual Fostering and Adoption Sessions for the Stour Valley



Since the incidence of COVID 19 sadly the demand for this service has increased significantly. Therefore, those who would like to join one of the following events please email for the log in codes:-

The Foster Carer recruitment Event is held the 1st Wednesday of every month, and the Adoption Event is the 1st Thursday. all 7:00pm in your home.

To book a place please email Claire.Gwatkin@suffolk.gov.uk. She will then send instructions on how to join the virtual meeting. As always, our team will be happy to answer any questions you have about fostering or adoption! They normally will have a foster carer or adoptive parent available to help you too at these events. For more details to find out more refer to the website - <https://www.fosterandadopt.suffolk.gov.uk>

Please continue to spread the word..

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➤ My Priorities

Education - Supporting Vulnerable People - Jobs and Growth - Localism and the Stour Valley - Building on Suffolk's Strength all underpinned by strong financial management and low council tax.

A report for Groton Parish Council meeting on 7th July 2021

From James Finch – County Councillor for the Stour Valley

Tel: 01206 263649 Mobile 07545 423796 Email: james.finch@suffolk.gov.uk

➤ **COVID 19 infection rates over June**

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