
January 2019 Borough Councillor report for

Hawstead Parish Council

Local issues

Planning application DC/18/1066/CLE lawful development certificate for continued use as a residential dwelling at the Pavilion, Church Road, Hawstead. At the request of the Parish Council Clerk for information regarding the above, I can confirm that the investigation is live and still in very much progress. I will forward updates as and when they are available.

Planning application DC/18/2110/TPO Fell 15 no. Sycamores at Little Owl, The Pound, Hawstead. No objection was made by the Parish Council regarding this application, this decision was echoed by St Edmundsbury and then reversed by the Tree Officer. I intervened on behalf of the applicant in support of the Parish Councils decision. Subsequently the St Edmundsbury Delegation Panel have referred the application to the Development and Control Committee for a final decision.

Prospective candidates for the new West Suffolk Wards will be announced shortly.

Borough

A report to St Edmundsbury Overview and Scrutiny Committee reveals a £109,477 fall in income from car parking in Bury St Edmunds last year. Although long stay parking is stable, short stay has been impacted by unusual weather and road works. Plans to develop potential new sites for car parking, which would see an extra 485 spaces, have been put on hold for the moment but will be kept under review, should work on increasing footfall reverse the trend.

Town center 'boy racer' ban plan. A report to St Edmundsbury Overview and Scrutiny reveals plans to extend a public space protection order (PSPO) to cover nuisance caused by gatherings of drivers 'showing' their vehicles in Bury St Edmunds town Centre.

Council tax rise for extra Police. Police and Crime Commissioner has proposed a 10% increase in council tax to help fund 29 extra Police officers across Suffolk.

£35,000 for energy pilot. Finances are now in place for the £770,000 project to pilot schemes for generating energy, reducing carbon emissions, unlocking growth and providing income. Cllr Susan Glossop is quoted.

Featuring the 2018 report on the new development to be built in Western Way in Bury St Edmunds. The leisure Centre in Beeton's Way is set to relocate to the nearby site of St Edmundsbury Borough Council Depot as part of the scheme.

The owner of Cycle King, which traded on Angel Hill until a fire ripped through it on September 27th 2017, submitted an application to St Edmundsbury Borough Council to build a new store at the site as well as three one-bedroom flats and one two-bedroom flat. But the council's Development Control Committee deferred the plans after the owner of a neighbouring pub and restaurant, which was also forced to close for four months following the fire, raised concerns at the meeting.

In Bury St Edmunds there are now around 20 people sleeping rough in the town, down by five since September and across West Suffolk numbers have fallen from 36 to 22. A number of charity-run projects have been tackling the problem and the council has triggered their emergency plans to put homeless people into temporary accommodation over winter.

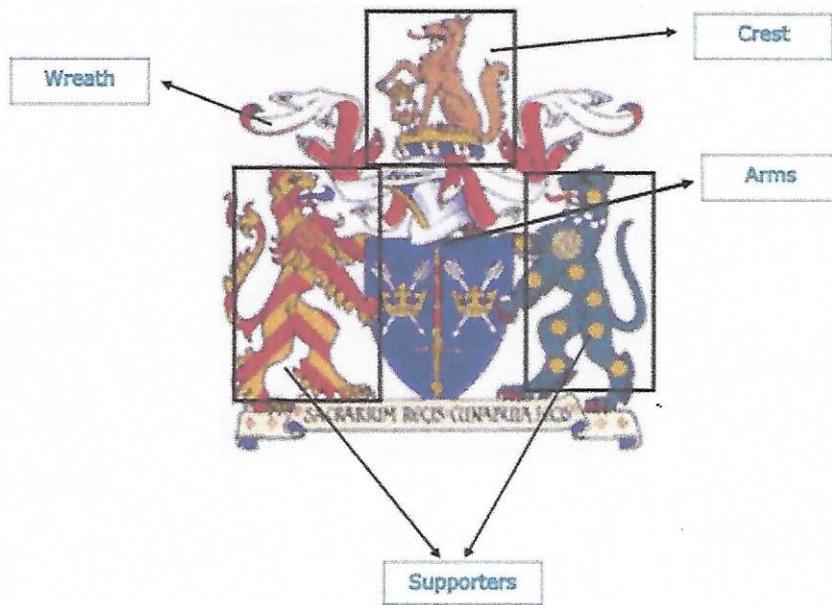
According to figures from the charity Crisis, Britain is facing record levels of homelessness with more than 170,000 families at risk.

Council leader asked to back People's vote. Dozens of campaigners descended on a St Edmundsbury council meeting to seek support for a 'People's Vote' on the Brexit deal.

One in three youngsters failing to get half an hour of exercise a day. The latest Sport England Active Lives survey puts Forest Heath at the bottom of the county's districts with 44% of children aged 5 to 16 years failing to get at least 30 minutes a day of exercise; and St Edmundsbury at the top, with 29%.

Coat of Arms for the new West Suffolk Council. Options have been discussed by the Shadow Council, with the former West Suffolk County Council coat of arms, possibly being adopted. The existing St Edmundsbury and former SCC Coat of Arms are pictured below.

St Edmundsbury Coat of Arms: (with component parts highlighted)



Representations of the former West Suffolk County Council Coat of Arms (including Motto):



Mike Chester

Borough Councillor for Hawstead-Whepstead-Rede-Chedburgh-Chevington