



Thedwastre North January 2021



Visit suffolk.gov.uk/coronavirus for health advice, service changes, business support and schools' guidance.

Current infection rates are increasing and we all need to be careful

I probably was not the only person who said 'good riddance' to 2020 when the clock struck midnight on 31st December.

Suffolk's current COVID infection rates, local hotspots and pressure on hospitals are still giving cause for concern and why we, along with many other areas of the country are now in Tier 4.

Congratulations to all at Woolpit Health Centre for getting the first batch of Covid-19 vaccinations done mid-December.

There is a wealth of information on the internet – not just to find out the current infection rates but also advice on what the Tier 4 restrictions really mean, how to get the message out to others and sources of funding for those who might need some help.

Information on current rate of infections - among the most of the local newspaper websites will give this information but Radio Suffolk seem to have this news daily on the breakfast show.

Information on Tier 4 restrictions – the Covid-19 app has this but it can also be accessed via <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/tier-4-stay-at-home>

There is a group called the 'message cascaders' which can be signed up to. Be a Message Cascader and help to Keep Suffolk Safe – to share with your family,

friends, colleagues and wider networks! Sign up by sending an email to message.cascaders@suffolk.gov.uk. You will get regular updates and A4 posters that can be distributed. I print them and then put them up on my fence for people to read as they walk past. I'm on a popular route to the school and the Health Centre.

The helplines are all still open - the Home, But Not Alone free phoneline, which supports vulnerable people in our communities who may be struggling with the impact of Coronavirus, can help access emergency support such as food and medicine deliveries and befriending schemes. The telephone number is freephone **0800 876 6926** and is staffed from 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday.

Also available is the Suffolk Advice and Support Service phoneline (**0800 068 3131**) which helps those with debt, benefits, employment, or housing worries.

There are grants available from the Suffolk Community Foundation for help with heating costs and other costs. Look at their website www.suffolkcf.org.uk for more information - telephone [01473 602602](tel:01473602602) or email: info@suffolkcf.org.uk

Primary School application deadline approaches

Parents and carers have until Friday 15 January 2021 to submit an application to secure their child's place at a Primary, Infant, Junior or Middle school for September 2021. Applications should be made for children born between 1 September 2016 and 31 August 2017 who are due to start primary school from September 2021.

An application for a full-time school place must be made even if a child is already attending a nursery class in an infant or primary school, a pre-school or a children's centre next to a school site.

Before making a school application, parents and carers need to consider how they will get their child to and from school. School Travel eligibility is based on a child attending the nearest suitable school that would have had a place available. This might not be the catchment area school. To find out more about SCC's school travel policy please visit www.suffolkonboard.com/schooltravel.

Council budget proposals

These gained little publicity when they were announced just before Christmas. There was an item on the radio and the EADT carried the story on Dec 22nd – announcing a 4% increase on our bills for 2021/22. The council's scrutiny committee will consider the budget and make any recommendations on January 7 before it goes to Cabinet on January 26. It will then go for full council decision on February 11. The agenda for the Scrutiny Committee Budget Meeting 7 January 2021 meeting along with a link to the papers can be found on the SCC website (council & democracy and then committees). At the time of writing committee services have not yet published the link to the remote meeting but I have been assured that it will be published soon.

Jane Storey

4th January 2021