

Stradbroke Parish Council 8 February 2021

I note that Richard Bacon MP has expressed his frustration at his inability to get answers to his questions about the lack of Vaccination Centres in the South Norfolk Constituency. In fact, there are no Vaccination Centres in the Waveney Valley (from Diss/Eye to Beccles and Bungay). I have used the opportunity at the two Zoom Meetings with the Suffolk CCGs to try and find out the reasons, but none has been given. I suspect it is because Vaccine supplies, at the moment, are limited but because the NHS is a top down organisation the local NHS are not allowed to disclose the information. I have raised the matter with the Suffolk local MP but there has been no answer.

Despite the frustrations the actual process at the centres in Suffolk that are open is being performed with considerable efficiency.

As the Parish Council knows the provision of education through our schools is directly funded by Central Government. Accountability is via a Commissioner based in Cambridge.

In this Division both primary and secondary schools provide outstanding education BUT the difference per pupil funding for Primary and Secondary of Suffolk with Norfolk and the English Average is quite disturbing:

2021-22 Suffolk:	£4,456.61	Norfolk: £4,623.71	Secondary Suffolk: £5,645.31	Norfolk:£5,683.89
2020-21	£4,106.53	£4,285.34	£5,215.78	£5,256.99
2019-20	£3,909.60	£4,126.92	£5,014.62	£5,063.76
2018-19	£3,841.05	£4,114.73	£4,927.68	£4,967.95

So, the difference with Norfolk is noticeable but on an English scale for Primary Schools Suffolk is 108th (Norfolk is 48th) and for Secondary Suffolk is 114th (Norfolk is 106th). This is out of about 150 authorities.

I know that Tim Passmore makes the same point about Central Government funding for the Police Service in Suffolk compared with Norfolk and certainly nationally.

This coming Thursday by Zoom Suffolk CC will Debate and Fix the Council Tax for 2021-22. I expect an increase of about 4.99%. There will be contribution from Reserves.

On wider issues I do detect a weakening in the determination of Suffolk CC to defend the best interest of residents in such issues of Sizewell C and the latest proposals from National Grid to increase Electricity Pylons from Norwich to Bramford and then across South Suffolk to Twinstead.

I am afraid that discussions to improve safety on the road at the Deperhaugh have not progressed, but it is still on the Agenda.

Recent intense rainfall has resulted in many incidents of flooding in the Division. Many of the places have had long standing flooding problems which have not been fixed. Anti-Flooding protection will be increased as a result of SCC Revenue Budget proposals.

Guy McGregor, Suffolk County Councillor, Hoxne & Eye Division 6 February 2021.

PS Indications are that the local elections will take place this May.