

Date: 30/7/22

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For information on local support during the Cost-of-Living Crisis, visit:

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19/suffolk-advice-and-support-service/>

Latest SCC COVID information is available here: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19/>

For information on supporting Ukrainian refugees in Suffolk, email: [refugeesupport@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:refugeesupport@suffolk.gov.uk)

### **Full Council July: Conservatives Reject our Motion for a Cost-of-Living Emergency**

Our Group submitted a motion asking the Council to declare a cost-of-living emergency. With energy price caps set to rise in Autumn and the rising inflation, we are very concerned that the Government and Suffolk County Council are not doing enough to prepare local communities for a tough winter.

Our motion called for this Government to cut VAT on insulation material to encourage uptake. The motion also called for Suffolk County Council to lead a Retrofit Taskforce in Suffolk, alongside District and Borough Councils, to help train and coordinate our local workforce in installing solar panels, air source heat pumps, and insulation.

The Administration rejected our motion, believing that this Government and the Council is currently doing enough to protect those most vulnerable. We oppose this position, knowing that more has to be done to reduce our demand for energy, and protect those in fuel poverty.

To view our motion in full, visit our website: <https://suffolkqli.wordpress.com/blog/>

### **Pop up Library at Shotley on Monday afternoons - planned closure**

I have recently been informed that due to a deficit of £400,000 this year Suffolk Libraries are looking to make cuts and one of the proposed is the Pop up Library at Shotley. This will save about £8,500 a year.

The Libraries are indirectly funded by Suffolk County Council and I am making enquiries to the Cabinet member Bobby Bennett, and the head of Suffolk Libraries and attempting to reverse this decision at least until additional funding can be found.

People from Shotley are also getting together to try to form a Friends of Shotley Library as similar groups have saved such libraries in other areas in the past. This is in the early stages at present though but I will give further details when I have them.

## **Shotley Peninsula Cycling Campaign**

Had their AGM last month which I attended. They are organising a publicity ride on the Bridleway from Holbrook towards Wherstead and back again on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> September at 10.00, if you would like to join the ride please contact Cathy Crouch [cathycrouch51@gmail.com](mailto:cathycrouch51@gmail.com) so that she knows likely numbers and for insurance purposes.

We are trying to get Highways to improve that particular Bridleway (especially the section beside Cutlers Wood) as well as opening up more safe routes for cycling on the Peninsula (particularly up Freston Hill).

## **Thermal Cameras for Net Zero**

The Suffolk Climate Change Partnership is supporting local groups and parish councils. Loss of heat from a home contributes to high energy bills. With good insulation, people will see their energy costs reduce.

Thermal imaging cameras are being used as part of the new proposal. These cameras help detect where homes are losing the most heat. The Partnership aims to loan out these cameras to parish councils and those who are interested.

Our Group strongly supports this. If you would like to register your interest in the project, complete the short form linked below: <https://forms.office.com/r/gSypak2ae8>

## **SCC Carers Strategy – Unpaid Carers Opinions Wanted**

Suffolk's Health and Wellbeing are working towards a new All Age Carers Strategy, to help ensure carers get the support they need. There are estimated to be 98,000 unpaid carers in Suffolk. This strategy will be aimed at those who provide unpaid care, including young carers transitioning to adulthood.

A consultation on the draft strategy has been launched and if you want to contribute here is the link. Deadline is 15<sup>th</sup> August. [www.suffolk.gov.uk/CarerStrategy](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/CarerStrategy)

## **Petition for in-house Suffolk Highways maintenance contract: Still need signatures!**

We need 3,675 signatures to bring this to debate at the Council. Please sign here (ensure you make your name public, or it won't count!):

[https://www.petitions.net/for\\_suffolk\\_county\\_council\\_to\\_develop\\_an\\_in-house\\_bid\\_for\\_suffolk\\_highways\\_maintenance](https://www.petitions.net/for_suffolk_county_council_to_develop_an_in-house_bid_for_suffolk_highways_maintenance)

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**Website** - [Suffolk Green, Liberal Democrat and Independent Group – The GLI Group at Suffolk County Council \(suffolkgli.wordpress.com\)](#)

**Simon Harley**

**Suffolk County Councillor for Peninsula Division**