

## **DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT FOR WICKHAMBROOK PARISH COUNCIL MEETING ON 19<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2026**

### **COUNTY COUNCIL ELECTIONS**

The Government has been forced to reinstate the cancelled County Council elections for Suffolk. These will take place on 7<sup>th</sup> May 2026.

### **PLANNING**

Wickhambrook is always a busy parish when it comes to planning and I recently held a teams meeting with the planning officer and her line manager handling the application for 43 mixed use dwellings off Bunters Road in Wickhambrook. I wanted to urge the planning team to pay particular attention to the village's concerns regarding flooding, the vehicle access and the increased traffic, particularly during the construction period. Once the statutory consultation has closed, the officers will review all the submissions and have agreed to meet on site with myself and the lead Parish Councillor to see for themselves the site and discuss concerns. Please contact the Parish Council with any concerns you may have.

A number of applications have recently gone to Appeal. This process can be lengthy but it does enable the applicant and the planning authority to test their understanding of the law.

The Council has been consulted by Anglian Water over plans to install a SPA pipeline from Bar Hill in Cambridge to Rede in Suffolk. This will impact part of the village of Wickhambrook. This is the first stage in another lengthy process and at this point in time, it is the environmental impact that is being considered. This particular consultation does have meaning. Often this type of consultation is simply a procedure because the project is considered a National Infrastructure Project. No one can object to these because the Government has decided they are essential to the well-being of the nation. However, this application is for a pipeline to carry potable water and bizarrely, drinking water is not considered a National Infrastructure Project. Therefore, the Council can decide to refuse planning permission. Any concerns should be raised with the Parish Council in the first instance.

### **WEST SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL**

The Council will meet in person on 24<sup>th</sup> February to set the budget for the next financial year.

The delivery of new bins for the changes to recycling in the UK is scheduled for April. This will allow for the collection of food waste and enable households to recycle more items in their own bins. These changes result from a change in legislation and are not because of the whim of the District Council!

Cllr Sarah Pugh  
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