

I note that Wickhambrook has now submitted the Neighbourhood Plan for consultation and I hope that I will be invited to sit on the next Local Plan Working Group which will consider it as well as start the next Local Plan.

Waste collection services have been changed for commercial customers to improve recycling results and there are similar changes coming for residential customers. This will result in more bins I'm afraid but does not apply to residents until 2026. You will have a bin for food waste and two recycling bins – one for paper/card and the other for glass/plastics I believe, though it isn't all finalised yet.

The Council continues to offer support in Easter, Christmas and Summer holiday times to families who are struggling to manage, with activity programmes for children and food distribution and the Parish Clerk will have the details but it is also on the Council website.

With changes to the law making it more difficult to evict a tenant expected to come into force later this year, private landlords may not be aware that the Council also offers a no-fee lettings service and guaranteed rent to private sector landlords and lettings agents with properties to let. The service also includes a deposit bond for up to six weeks' worth of rent and free regular property inspections to give landlords peace of mind that their property is being managed and looked after.

The aim is to support a successful tenancy which forms a wider part of the council's efforts to prevent and reduce homelessness. Through this they will also be helping our communities, and the delivery of our strategies for reducing homelessness and rough sleeping.

From our point of view the national changes present landlords and letting agents with another very good reason to look at how working with us can benefit them and their tenants.

Support from West Suffolk Council is at [www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/housing/privatehousing/wslp.cfm](http://www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/housing/privatehousing/wslp.cfm)

In truth, to the outside world, the Council appears to be working as normal but behind the façade, there is a huge change coming and it will be here before you know it.

As always, you can contact me at West Suffolk Council. I usually attend Parish Council meetings as well though sometimes it can be very brief when I have more than one meeting an evening.