

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT
TO CAMPSEA ASHE, MELTON, PETTISTREE, RENDLESHAM;
UFFORD, AND WICKHAM MARKET PARISH COUNCILS
DECEMBER 2012

PLUS DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S NOTES
(FOR MELTON; PETTISTREE AND UFFORD)

MORE FROM THE MINISTER

I have read that the Communities Secretary Eric Pickles has vowed to introduce legislation which will make it easier for councils to dismiss their chief executives. It seems that he wants to abolish the current law that requires outside involvement in such cases. Mr Pickles was said to be of the view that councils preferred to offer settlements rather than go through such procedures, which could be expensive. He was quoted in the press as wanting councils to ditch the post in any case. Finally he was reported as believing that pay in local government was too high.

CORPORATE DIRECTOR FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE.

A new Corporate Director for Children and Young People has been appointed by SCC on a salary of £120 000. (Mrs S Cook).

WALBERSWICK PARISH COUNCIL

All but one of the councillors of Walberwick Parish Council recently resigned, leaving the council without a quorum and unable to conduct its business. SCDC used its power under Section 91 of the Local Government Act 1972 (the 1972 Act), to make temporary councillor appointments. (Any order made under s91 must be copied to the Secretary of State.)

In addition, Section 39(4) Representation of the People Act 1983 enables the Council among other things, to direct the holding of an election or meeting and fix the date for it, which will also be done.

FLOODING OF DALLINGHOO ROAD WICKHAM MARKET

There is recurrent flooding outside the school in Wickham Market along Dallinghoo Road. This recurrent flooding causes severe inconvenience to visitors to the school and causes house walls on the other side of the road to be drenched from thrown-up water.

Our highways people have been on the job and have organised some drain clearance work. But because the applicable soak-away may not be sufficient in any case, the optimum solution may be to lay a connecting pipe underneath the school playing fields so as to connect the Dallinghoo drainage system to another that drains into a river.

I am supporting this suggestion, which I think is very sound and

ought to lead to an end to this years-old wretched problem.

STATION HOUSE CAMPSEA ASHE

In addition to the £2000 that I gave from my locality budget, SCC is prepared to grant £40 000 revenue funding subject to certain conditions. SCDC has been approached and asked to contribute a grant too.

MELTON CROSSING NIGHT LIGHTING

Contractors have now taken out over-night the old columns and put in a new single column for the new light. Network rail are being pursued for an explanation of their recent refusal to permit the work.

WICKHAM MARKET RESOURCE CENTRE

I have given almost £2000 from my locality budget to cover the cost of stripping a shower room that is redundant as a result of the out-of-hours service having been pulled out.

LEEK HILL (PRIVATE ROAD) MELTON

I have been approached by a resident of Fernhill Close, Melton, who is concerned about the content of a circular letter written to residents there. By way of background, mothers with prams and small children going to Melton Primary School from the Bury Hill area (including Fernhill Close) use the alleyway between 40 and 42 Fernhill Close and Leeks Hill in order to escape the horrors of Woods Lane. Woods Lane has heavy traffic and only one narrow pavement for most of its length.

Some pupils of Farlingaye use exactly the same route but of course in the opposite direction.

The whole question of “rights” attaching to this alleyway and to Leeks Hill has been simmering for many years. In practice though, pedestrians have been tolerated by the residents of Leeks Hill, which is good because they are spared the very unpleasant and hazardous walk (or even cycle journey) along the greater length of Woods Lane.

It is not entirely clear to me what the purpose of this letter is, but it might be that preparations are in hand to restrict the access to Leeks Hill that people now enjoy. I think that such a move would

be undesirable because people moving from one part of Melton to another would be exposed to the very disagreeable conditions that pertain on Woods Lane.

I am keen that steps are taken to avoid any sort of confrontation, and I have given the papers that I have to SCDC legal department and have asked for a legal opinion with a view to encouraging a solution that is sensible and amicable.

JUST 42 DROP-IN CENTRE
IN ST FELIX CHURCH RENDLESHAM

I am allocating £1317 to provide a pool table, cooking equipment, and projector equipment. The projector equipment will be used at Wickham Market too.

Michael Bond

