

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT
TO CAMPSEA ASHE, MELTON, PETTISTREE, RENDLESHAM;
UFFORD, AND WICKHAM MARKET PARISH COUNCILS
FEBRUARY 2014

PLUS DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S NOTES
(FOR MELTON, UFFORD, PETTISTREE

SCHOOL BUS

Cllr Rushbrook reported at a recent Rendlesham Parish Council meeting that a school bus had failed to arrive and that children had been stranded. He reported that it was wrong that he should get this sort of service when he paid 170 pounds a term. The Operations Manager, Passenger Transport Suffolk County Council later told me - *The matter was raised by the school and we have identified that the driver read the duty sheet wrongly (he was operating a non-school days timetable in error). Whilst the company sought to present this as mitigation we refused to accept this and took the view that this was operationally within their control (and indeed should have been, there was no excuse in our opinion). A final written warning was issued and an administration charge levied as per our terms and conditions.*

SOME RECENT LOCALITY AND TRANSPORT BUDGET ALLOCATIONS

I have allocated funds (or reserved funds for which I still await written applications) for:

Play equipment for Campsea Ash.

Dropped kerbs at Rendlesham

Clean-ups on rights of way in Melton (Love Lane and Turnpike Lane)

Hardstanding for car park at the back of the Burness Rooms Melton.

THE PIGHTLE WICKHAM MARKET

As I reported recently to Wickham Market Parish Council, I have raised within SCC the desirability of securing legal long term public access to the Pightle, which is a most attractive grassed area near the Church. I now see that a citizen has submitted an application for the area to be registered as a new village green, which is a splendid idea.

CAR PARKING

As I had earlier predicted, the lengthy double yellow lines that I have had put down in Old Maltings Approach Melton in order to reduce the risk of accidents, have had the effect of shifting parked cars onto Melton Road. This in turn has had the entirely foreseeable effect of causing other problems, including increased difficulty for people trying to leave their own drives. In other words, we have a total chaos, which could well get worse when the new residential block in Old Maltings Approach is completed because this block has also been designed with insufficient parking space.

We have an impossible situation, which is not eased by a reluctance of the police to do more than have a quick look once a day - which is entirely understandable because the police have more important things to do than to mount a permanent guard on Old Maltings Approach.

Although the residents of Old Malting Approach are much happier, the businesses there are not, nor are the residents of Melton Road, and nor are the car parkers, of course. To add to my chagrin, I am being forced to spend 6000 pounds on a permanent traffic order from my roads budget, on a measure that is far from satisfactory.

I have asked for professional help to assess the spill-over along Melton Grange Road, but the sad lesson to be drawn from this debacle is to get car parking provision right first time at the planning stage. Parish councils can do their bit by brutally driving this home to SCDC when they consider applications and make their recommendations.

RIGHTS OF WAY

SCC has approved the issue of a right of way from Ferndale Close to Leeks Hill Melton after a long drawn-out process. I am trying to get the surfaces of Love Lane and Turnpike Lane (both Melton) improved. (Rights of Way are just that. There is normally no obligation on anybody, least of all SCC, to keep them to any particular standard.)

Michael Bond