



Walking routes were valued and the scheme could create a walking route to the north to Heath Road to the village picnic-wood, convenience store, post office, take-away meal restaurants and hairdresser; and to the south: the pub, village hall and recreation field with a young children's play area, football pitch and BMX track.

Traffic calming on the road outside the site was supported, as well as open space on the site and ecology areas which could all be delivered.

The redevelopment, however, would have to be fully supported by the Parish Council and acknowledged in the forthcoming West Suffolk Local Plan.

*From David Barker, Planning Advisor*

### **West Suffolk Local Plan**

As we understand the situation, the current consultation by West Suffolk on approved development sites explicitly excludes Lower Farm Piggery because other sites are considered to be more suitable and sustainable.

*"Troston is designated as a type B village with only a limited range of service and facilities. In type B villages there are no-site allocations and only small scale infill developments of five homes or less within the designated housing settlement boundary will be permitted".*

This conclusion is based on the updated Sustainable Settlement Study of May'22:

- The village has no primary school or early years provision, no GP Surgery, and no Library.
- The convenience stores and Post Office are considered not to be in Troston's settlement boundary but part of RAF Honington. These facilities are not regarded as being within easy walking or cycling on secure paths for residents of Troston.
- The bus service was viewed as not providing a commutable service to residents.
- The development would mean more cars travelling through the village.
- It was believed the village hall did not offer a sufficient range of facilities and leisure activities.
- Although Ixworth might be considered as within 5 km it is categorised as a key service centre not a town.
- Replacing derelict, what some may regard as unsightly, sometimes smelly buildings is no longer regarded a reason for giving permission to develop.

We believe a fairly big gesture on the part of Troston Farms would be needed to make a serious impact on the current thinking of the planning department. For us, that gesture would be to turn the whole of the current meadow into some kind of accessible nature reserve, to be managed either by Suffolk Wildlife Trust or the Parish Council. That might just be enough to make the planning department rethink its current view?

*From Roger Anderson and Graeme Norris*



The council although supportive of the proposed development, has reservations about the consultation process and the possibility of upgrading the category of the village to an A. Simon Brown, our West Suffolk Councillor, has agreed to seek informal discussions with colleagues in West Suffolk to ask if there are any grounds to grant an exception for the piggery site proposal.

*From Sue Rose, Chairman Parish Council*

Well, I'm not holding my breath (but may need to hold my nose?) - the village has been talking to Planning and Environmental Officers for years about the periodic smell and desired redevelopment of the piggery site. I believe the motive behind the Local Plan is to speed-up the decision making process by delegating more decisions to Local Government Officers - and so reducing the number proposals going to the (elected) Councillors' Development Committee for discussion - and their judgement on a scheme's specific merits. By simplifying decisions in advance to: are they Type A or B? Yes or No? makes the Officers' lives easier...

*From Doug Walker*

### **Spiralling Farm Costs**

The government may have announced measures to help with the increased costs in its food strategy for England in June, saying it was "backing farmers" with a pledge to increase domestic food supply. Indeed, the likes of Rees-Mogg, Minister of Brexit Opportunities, may say Brexit is offering great opportunities.

Announcements and pledges, however, are just words. Spiralling costs and labour shortages over the last year are forcing farmers to contemplate significant changes, with others going out of business.

"Our costs, like everybody else's, have gone through the roof. Fertiliser this year has trebled in price, red diesel has doubled in price which is a great deal more than what road diesel has gone up".

"With the current climate, cost of living, loss of BPS [basic payment scheme] and more environmental pressure, I'd be very surprised if we didn't see more and more farmers say, 'I've had enough' - expect to see abandoned farm buildings."

*From Mark Weeks, NFU Chairman*

### **Church News**

Work in the church is coming along well. The water has been connected, most of the tower carpentry works have been completed and the first fix electrics and plumbing are completed.

Thanks to Mr Grant Vicat from Ixworth, along with some help from James Moffat, the organ has been almost completely dismantled piece by piece, ready to be taken away to be rebuilt in another church. The removal of the organ will enable the kitchen space to be created.

Services:

Please see the Facebook page, which is posted every Saturday, for all the services and “what’s on” in the Blackbourne team.

Troston continues to host a short Morning Prayer service at 9am on the 4th Friday of the month, despite the works that are taking place in the church.

*From Jane Harland*

### **Village Hall**

Our Village Hall has been busy with celebration parties, meetings, coffee mornings, pilates and dance classes. We have a well equipped kitchen - plus indoor bowls and traditional garden games for you to hire.

Perhaps you are interested in setting up a new group? To discuss hall availability and costs do look at our website. For all enquiries and bookings, please contact me: [sandsbishop@icloud.com](mailto:sandsbishop@icloud.com)

*From Sue Bishop*

### **Resignation**

As your MP, Defra Minister Jo Churchill, would like you know she resigned her post (6th July) in protest against the UK Prime Minister, Boris Johnson. She had been a Health Minister during the pandemic and worked collectively with others to deliver care to the vulnerable and drive solutions to the challenges facing the NHS.

“Recent events have shown integrity, competence, and judgment are all essential to the role of Prime Minister, while a jocular self-serving approach is bound to have its limitations”.

“Our beloved country is facing an uncertain future and strong headwinds, a clear, self-less vision is needed. The country and party deserve better”.

*From the Office of Jo Churchill MP*

### **Deserving Better?**

The Government’s much promised “levelling up” agenda is flawed. Their recent white paper is too focused on urban regions and does not properly account for the pressures facing smaller rural towns and villages - effectively ignoring 12 million people. But rural areas tend to be safe Conservative seats?

Despite being home to a fifth of the population and with a larger total population than London or the South East, when evaluating all the metrics in the white paper, England’s ‘hidden regions’ like Suffolk have a greater need to be levelled up than any other part of the country. West Suffolk has received little extra funding.

The research by Pragmatix Advisory for the Rural Services Network, which represents rural councils, warns that the Government does not account for



disadvantage in rural economies, often linked to limited local employment prospects, poor wage levels, restricted access to further education, poor transport services, stretched GP coverage, high house prices relative to local earnings or percentage of premises with super-fast broadband.

*From Graham Biggs, Chief Executive of RSN*

### **Extra SEND Funding**

Despite limited budgets, I am pleased to say Suffolk County Council has agreed an additional £15.9million to complete the funding for the creation of at least 879 specialist places for children and young people with special educational needs.

“I have had the privilege of visiting some of these new units and seeing first-hand the significant difference they make to children and young people and their families. It is vital that we continue to increase not only the numbers of places we offer, but also the mix of help and support we offer so we can continue to meet the varied need of lots of young people.”

*From Rachel Hood, SCC Cabinet Member for Education*

### **Covid has Not Gone Away**

As a retired doctor, I believe scrapping free lateral flow testing is a dangerous step. We need to keep testing and taking precautions to protect our families and vulnerable neighbours.

Many scientists and 75% of senior NHS staff don't agree with the government that the covid pandemic is all but over. Crucial data from the Office of National Statistics surveys tell us that currently in the UK around 1 in 20 people are infected and 150 die from covid-19 each day. Such high levels of infection are a recipe for new and more harmful variants to emerge.

To imagine that wishful thinking can end the pandemic is both delusional and dangerous, and puts many more lives at risk. This is not 'learning to live with covid' but learning to die with it. As usual, the burden will fall heaviest on the most vulnerable and disadvantaged within society. Write to your MP.

*From Dr John Puntis*

### **RAF Honington**

RAF Honington Families' Day will be 28th July and will take place on the sports pitches outside of the wire. Whilst we do not see a big security issue we are being very cautious that it is not widely advertised. Local people only - so Troston, please feel you are warmly invited!

Dogs, however, are not allowed at the event as it will be held on the sports field. If you wish to attend, please contact Rob Williams at [rgcw423@gmail.com](mailto:rgcw423@gmail.com) with the following details: Name, Address, Number of Adults, Number of Children and Email.

*From Sqn Ldr Mark Fixter*

## **Scout Group**

Beavers have been learning about Parkinson's disease and how they can help raise money to find a much needed cure. They really enjoyed bell ringing at Bardwell church, climbing the spiral staircase and ringing the bells. The Beavers are also learning about cycle safety - with some amazing accessories donated by the RAF! A camp in mid-June joining two other local colonies was also great fun!

The Cubs have also been learning about cycle safety, ready for a ride later in the term. A hike around Ixworth learning about the history. They enjoyed supporting the Thetford Jubilee fun run. A trip around Banham zoo spotting the animals.

Scouts have been on the climbing wall, and having practice with archery, and air rifles! And joining Cubs on their Ixworth hike! They helped a local couple with car parking at their wedding reception and they were all amazing at getting the cars where they needed to be.

If you are interested in helping, or your child getting involved please do get in touch with me 07972 598691. We are holding our AGM on Saturday, 16 July at 12 noon, till 2.30pm at the RAF Station church. Hot dogs and cakes will be available.

*From Jan Neary*

## **Lyme Disease**

Please take care when wandering around Knettishall Heath this summer as I contracted Lyme disease through a tick bite that was unbeknown to me at the time!

I was wearing shorts and got bitten on my thigh! Luckily, I came out in a bulls-eye rash around the site of the bite - which is a clear indicator of the disease and has enabled me to get early antibiotic treatment through my GP. I currently feel very tired with a constant headache!

*From David Stothard*

## **Newsletter**

A number of villagers say they prefer to read the Newsletter on the village facebook page or website - some they don't bother to read the paper copy pushed through their letterbox! Many contributors now prefer their own social media channels.

From now on, the Parish Council thought the Newsletter should continue to be available online to save money and distribution effort. As an experiment, a limited number of paper copies will be available from The Bull and Jackdaw.

## **Next Meeting?**

The next Parish Council Meeting is scheduled for Monday 5th September at 19.00 in the Village Hall. Please tell me about items you would like to add to the Agenda: 01379 898 733 or email [trostonpc@outlook.com](mailto:trostonpc@outlook.com)

*From Vicki Gay, Clerk to the Council*