

Paul Gadd County Councillor Update

Saffron Walden Town Council 10/1/22

1. Locality Fund (£10,000):
  - a. As I said in December 2021, I've submitted or am intending to submit applications relating to Saffron Walden for £3,000; two of these, for projects at The Gibson Library and Saffron Walden Museum, have been approved, and I'm waiting for the third application to be able to submit it;
  - b. I've otherwise largely allocated the money now, but may have some left.
2. Healthcare:
  - a. We had a Health Overview Policy and Scrutiny Committee briefing in December on the Government's proposal to abolish Clinical Commissioning Groups and replace them with Integrated Care Systems; as far as I can see, in Essex the ICSs will largely replicate the areas covered by the CCGs, but there will be fewer of them with each covering much bigger areas. I asked whether there is any potential to impact on Saffron Walden Division access to Cambridge hospitals or any other direct implications for us, and they thought not, but I'll keep it under review;
  - b. The date for implementation of the new system has slipped from 1 April to 1 July 2022;
  - c. The Government's Social Care proposals will almost certainly put a large amount of extra costs onto county councils, both in administration and in extra funding, and it is expected that central Government will not cover all of the additional costs. ECC are waiting to see to what extent they will be hit, and how that will affect existing services.
3. Matters for Planning and Transport:
  - a. Matters concerning: Flooding and drainage issues; highways and planning are separately reported to the Planning and Transport Committee;
  - b. I'm cautiously optimistic that drainage and flooding issues in Saffron Walden are slowly improving!