

Paul Gadd County Councillor Update

Saffron Walden Town Council 11/7/22

1. Childrens Mental Health motion at ECC Full Council meeting 10 May 2022:
 - a. As you know, Cllr Foley and I proposed the motion regarding the mental health issues affecting young people particularly. Everyone expressed support but a Conservative amendment was passed removing any references to extra financial support or to calling on the Government for proper funding, so that removed much of the teeth – there will at least be a review of services;
 - b. However, 2 months on from that meeting the working party has still not been set up; I'm trying to get it set up as soon as possible.
2. ECC Full Council meeting 12 July 2022:
 - a. The next ECC Full Council meeting is 12 July 2022 and I've been asked to propose a motion opposing ECC's waste strategy;
 - b. By way of background, ECC's waste disposal strategy for the last 15 years has been based around turning waste into fuel at one huge central plant in Basildon (total contract price in the order of £1bn over 25 years) and then burning it. The plant has been a fiasco and is now being demolished. In the meantime, ECC recycling levels have stood virtually still, and are still below where UDC was in 2008; their waste strategy has actually now lapsed and they don't even have a current recycling target (the last one was 60% recycling by 2020, but in 2020/21 their recycling levels were below 50%);
 - c. The motion requests ECC to adopt a new waste strategy which prioritises reuse and recycling, moves away from burning waste and looks at smaller, more decentralised schemes.
3. Ukraine:
 - a. ECC have apparently now started making the £350 payments to hosts so residents should be receiving them but let me know if anyone is having problems. The £200 to refugees administered by UDC seems to have been working fine for some while.
4. Matters for Planning and Transport:
 - a. Matters concerning: Flooding and drainage issues; highways and planning are separately reported to the Planning and Transport Committee.