

Paul Gadd County Councillor Update

Saffron Walden Town Council 13/2/23

1. ECC Matters:

- a. We've got an ECC Full Council meeting on 9/2/23 at which the main item of business will be the budget. This year, councils who provide social care are permitted to increase their council tax precept by up to 5%, and I gather that the vast majority are proposing to adopt the maximum increase (compared obviously with inflation at around 11%). ECC are proposing an increase of 3.5%, which will inevitably lead to a further diminution in services;
- b. You will probably have seen that ECC have announced a new booking system at their Recycling Centres with effect from 13 March 2023. From that date, residents will only be able to use the HWRC if they have booked a 15 minute slot not later than the previous day. The proposal follows a trial in Rayleigh which was positively received for reducing congestion and queuing. It did however also lead to a 13% decrease in waste being taken for recycling, and it's not clear where that waste has instead gone – presumably either fly tipping, bonfires or left for the district councils to collect. I've received more complaints about this than almost any other subject on the basis that there isn't any problem at the Saffron Walden HWRC and it will just make residents' lives more difficult. I've asked ECC to halt the introduction of the new system and in the meantime R4U have set up an on-line survey to get a better feel for Uttlesford residents' views – see [ECC Recycling Centre Access Survey \(google.com\)](#)

2. Matters for Planning and Transport:

- a. Matters concerning: Flooding and drainage issues; highways and planning are separately reported to the Planning and Transport Committee.