

Paul Gadd County Councillor Update

Saffron Walden Town Council 5/10/23

[Items in italics are left over from previous updates]

1. Education

- a. *[On my call in May 2023, ECC confirmed that they will exercise the option to acquire the school site behind Tesco which is part of the Linden Homes land. Their legal function seems to be under a lot of resourcing pressure at the moment, so I've chased to check that they are exercising the option in good time.][I will chase again later in the month for an update.]* Update 5/10/23 – ECC Education have confirmed that there are on track to exercise the option well in advance of the 12 February 2024 deadline, and are intending to do so.
- b. *[I've now spoken with Essex education regarding the shortage of nursery places locally, and they recognise that there is a real issue which needs addressing, and they intend to do so. They have been contacted by a possible new nursery provider and I am also talking to Cllr Coote in his capacity at the Bell Nursery; he is talking to Essex.] [ECC were going to contact me once they had updated figures at the end of July – I've chased.]* Cllr Coote and I had a call with Essex Education in September; they said that they had no s.106 money for Saffron Walden, but it was apparent from the conversation that they weren't aware of recent house-building contributions, so we sent them the latest UDC housing trajectory list and some sample s.106 agreements showing that they do provide for Early Years Contributions, and asked them to update their records. I have chased and am waiting for an update

2. Council Matters:

- a. ECC are about to launch a consultation on their waste strategy. The last one seems to have largely failed, having adopted relatively low recycling targets and then missed them, and having been centred around one large plant designed to produce combustible waste which is now being demolished. I haven't yet looked at the new draft strategy. The Independent group at ECC are proposing a motion to ask ECC to focus on recycling rather than incineration / waste from energy;
- b. On the recycling centres, ECC regard their bookings trial as a success, even though it doesn't help Saffron Walden. They are preparing to go out to consultation with a view to making it permanent;
- c. ECC are very keen on the Government's current devolution plans for Essex, and are pushing ahead with proposals

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. My 18 potholes have gone in – some have been repaired, and most have orange lines, but not necessarily anything more