

Paul Gadd County Councillor Update

Saffron Walden Town Council 4/12/23

[Items in italics are left over from previous updates]

1. Locality Fund:
 - a. All monies have now been allotted for this year. I have just applied for £1,000 for Saffron Screen to install digital screens, which is the final monies I had available
2. Education
 - a. Manor Oak education land – I have chased again, and ECC Education have confirmed that they have not yet exercised the option but are on course to do
 - b. I've given you a number of updates on the lack of early years provision in Uttlesford generally and Saffron Walden in particular and my conversations with ECC Education. Cllr Coote and I had another conversation with the ECC early years officer a few weeks ago, and they have now found some of the s.106 monies that we pointed them to. They are still struggling for a site. We have therefore raised with them the possibility of using the Manor Oak site for early years if a separate school site will be provided through the draft Local Plan. I've got another call with ECC Education this week, and Cllr Coote is following up with UDC
3. Council Matters:
 - a. A boundary review for the Essex County Council divisions is in progress. As I think you know, Uttlesford will move from 4 to 5 divisions. The Boundary Commission have just produced their consultation report, which is available at <https://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/essex>. Wendens Ambo was due to move but it is now proposed that it will remain as part of Saffron Walden division.
 - b. Finances remain under huge pressure and ECC are consulting on potential cuts. I, and members of the Independent group on ECC, are proposing a motion at the next Full Council meeting, on 12 December, to write to central Government calling on them to fund local authorities properly, as for example Hampshire and Kent CCs have publicly done in the last year.
4. Highways
 - a. Dealt with separately through Planning and Transport Committee, but just to let everyone know that I have another 18 pothole allocation for the division (!), so please let me know if there are any bad ones – as ever, a what.three.words location and at least one photo please.
5. RAAC: I don't have any further update re long term plans