

Paul Gadd County Councillor Update

Saffron Walden Town Council 12/2/24

*[Items in italics are left over from previous updates]*

1. Education

a. ECC have now published their 10 year forecast for future school provision. Essentially it says that there is no need for any school place expansion in this part of Uttlesford, either at secondary or primary school level (although a new primary school may be required to the south-east of Saffron Walden if the draft Local Plan allocation goes ahead, and presumably also some expansion of SWCHS would also be necessary). The forecast is clearly very dependent on birthrate assumptions, and birthrates have been relatively low, counter-balancing the housing increases. I've forwarded a copy of the Plan to Georgia in case anyone would like a copy;

2. Council Matters:

a. On finances, ECC are proposing to increase council tax by the maximum permitted 5.99%, which is above the current rate of inflation, but behind inflation for the last 12 months, and their own inflationary costs and increased service demands, so there will be further reductions in service in the forthcoming year.

3. Flooding and drainage issues:

a. Usually dealt with through Planning and Transport, but as a few people have asked, just to let Council know about the South Road flooding which has been ongoing for some while. As you know, Openreach finally took their pipe out of the ECC drainage pipe. ECC have mended their pipe but now need to clear their pipe of obstructions. They have been twice but each time people were parked over the drains – on the second occasion, people had even moved the bollards that ECC had put out to keep the drains clear! They are now therefore having to apply for a road closure order and should be coming back in the last week of February