

# Occold Parish Council 8.3.2010

## County Councillor Report

### **Broadband Update**

Last months Haughley parish meeting had a presentation from District and County council officers regarding the possibility of funding from E.E.R.A for improved internet access. Many residents have contacted me frustrated at the poor Broadband provision in our area. This evidence is backed up in the digital Britain report (2009) that identified Suffolk as having “significant broadband problems” given that more and more agencies conduct increasing amounts of their business online poor access will put our area at a substantial disadvantage. To bid for this funding we need to encourage as many people as possible to log on to the Erebus website to give evidence to enable our bid for the funding the best chance to bring to reality a better broadband service.

The website address is <http://www.erebusonline.org.uk/>

### **Local Government Review**

The old chestnut of reorganising Suffolk’s governance has taken yet another twist, The secretary of state has sent a communication that states that a Suffolk Unitary should be put on hold until a convention can take place to achieve unity between existing district and county councils as to the make up of any new unitary authority or authorities.

Both Norwich and Exeter are being allowed to form unitary councils with rural Devon and rural Norfolk as second single tier local government in each of those counties.

This all seems to be political code for saying the whole thing is heading for the long grass. Given the inordinate amount of time and money we have all spent on this it all seems an incredible waste, with the only progress being made is Mid Suffolk working closer with Babergh District Council something we started over 3 years ago with out any interference from the government or boundary committee.

### **Budget Setting**

Last weeks full council meeting enshrined Suffolk County Councils budget for next year.

The budget contained few surprises apart from a large number of £100 k + salaries.

Few of the forecast cuts are evident in the budget book, Suffolk County Council had a 5.5% settlement his year from central government compared with Mid Suffolks of .5% these figures might help explain the different approach from both councils.

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