

Occold Parish Council 12.9.2011

County Councillor Report

Brome Household Waste Site

Last week saw the reopening of the Brome Household Waste Site, as previously reported this facility is reopening as a private enterprise run by "Bolton" and will be expecting payment only for non recyclable items, but items including grass clippings will be free to drop. The deal struck with the new operator I believe is a good one; however my only reservation is Bolton's may not be able to make it pay, and have to introduce further charges in the near future.

Suffolk Better Broadband Programme

As reported to your last meeting the "Choose Suffolk" to BDUK for central government funding has proved unsuccessful in the first round; however our bid has been approved second time around, the County Council is to be the accountable body, for administering the funding of up to 40 million pounds. All focus will now go into working up the procurement process and making sure that yet again our rural areas don't get left behind.

Libraries

A consultation asking users of Suffolk's mobile library service how they think savings could be made has been launched. The six week consultation will give people an opportunity to tell Suffolk County Council what they value in the service as well as make suggestions on how to save public money.

Suffolk County Council currently spends £600,000 a year providing the service for around 7,000 customers. This equates to £7.70 per customer visit as opposed to £2.51 in Suffolk's 44 built libraries.

Six mobile libraries (plus a backup in case of breakdowns) make 630 stops fortnightly in 361 communities across the whole of Suffolk - predominantly in rural and isolated areas but also in areas with or near to library buildings.

The consultation on the mobile libraries runs from Monday 5 September to Friday 14 October. There is an information pack which contains:

- A pre-publication copy of the consultation document and questionnaire
- Information about your mobile library stops.

If you would like further information about the consultation, or would like to discuss the specifics relating to your parish, please contact Paul Howarth on 01502 405337, or email library.consultation@suffolk.gov.uk or give me a call if you have any thoughts on the proposal to move from fortnightly provision to monthly visits.

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