

Good evening,

My name is Andy Drummond

I'm the Newmarket & Red Lodge division, Suffolk County Councillor which covers half of Newmarket - that being the North ward and half of East ward. My colleague Councillor Rachel Hood covers the rest, being West ward and the other half of East ward. I also cover five other parishes: Red Lodge, Kentford, Moulton, here - Dalham and Herringswell.

In addition, I'm on West Suffolk District Council representing Newmarket West ward. On West Suffolk District Council, I'm portfolio holder for Regulatory and the Environment. I'm also on Newmarket town council - which is where it started for me back in 2003.

On county I'm a member of the development and regulation committee - a kind of planning committee - not for housing - that's the remit of West Suffolk - but for development that county has the powers to determine such as public rights of way, schools, and mineral extraction.

This year I chair the county wide committee of portfolio holders with responsibility for the environment.

Hopefully you are aware that Suffolk County and all the Districts and Burroughs within have declared a climate emergency and intend to be carbon neutral by 2030. The purpose of the committee is to coordinate the emissions measurements so that they can all be added together in a tangible way - and be sure that we are on target to meet our goal.

I try to attend all the town and parish meetings that occur in my division - it can be complicated because they are sometimes on the same night.

At the parish meetings I usually give a verbal report. A written monthly parish newsletter that covers Suffolk is sent to your members electronically. I take questions and feedback anything I can't answer on the night to the parish clerk.

I'm contactable on: **Andy.Drummond@Suffolk.gov.uk** if you have any issues pertaining to county which could include:

- Roads and transport
- Care and support for adults
- Children, families, and learning
- Fire and rescue services
- Trading standards
- Waste recycling
- Culture, heritage, and leisure

County councillors have two types of locality budget - one that's non-specific and another for Highways issues.

Since first becoming a county councillor in January 2020 and almost immediately being thrown into lockdown it's great to have an opportunity to report in person on the projects that I have supported in Dalham:

I've contributed to the new village sign.

I've contributed £500 towards village hall improvements.

I've looked at traffic calming in the Stores Hill area – this is an ongoing project.

An issue that affects Suffolk is Sunnica.

Suffolk County Council have objected, as has our MP – Matt Hancock.

This scheme will be determined by the planning inspectorate because it's a national infrastructure project.

There is currently a hold up in the processing of the application because an upgrade to the Burwell substation connection to the grid is necessary to accommodate the scheme. Sunnica had to respond to the questions asked by noon on 28<sup>th</sup> April – the response would feed into the examining authority's decisions in setting out a revised timescale.

At West Suffolk where I am portfolio holder for Regulatory, I currently have a consultation running – to find it go to [www.westsuffolk.gov.uk](http://www.westsuffolk.gov.uk) and type “taxi consultation” in the search bar.

It runs until 18<sup>th</sup> May and in summary this is what we are looking to do:

Merge Zone A (formerly Forest Heath) with Zone B (formerly St Edmundsbury) – but this cannot be reversed – then stand down the requirement for new Hackney Taxi licenses to be Wheelchair Access Vehicles (WAVs) because Zone B already has more than it needs and the rebalance on average meets national needs.

Additionally (until year 2025) extend the life of taxis to a maximum fifteen years so that the existing WAVs don’t fall off the fleet.

It would be wrong not to mention Covid.

Suffolk County Council and West Suffolk District council have both offered support over the last two years that in my opinion has been superb.

And also wrong not to mention Ukraine.

At a Suffolk County Council meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> March we voted for a motion to condemn the war in Ukraine and support refugees arriving in Suffolk.

Annual Parish Meetings are always a good way of getting a feel for what’s going well and what’s not – contentious issues draw big crowds whereas small crowds indicate satisfaction!

I look forward to listening this evening to find out what issues are of concern to residents.

Thank you.

Does anybody have any questions?

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2022