

West Suffolk District Councillor  
Report  
for  
Dalham Parish Council  
September 2023



- Very little to report from West Suffolk Council. At a recent meeting of the WSC Cabinet, the question of policies from the new administration was raised, new policies will follow.
- This obviously impacts on my ability as your Ward Councillor to keep you informed.
- The next full meeting of WSC is September 26<sup>th</sup>, I'm hopeful of a full agenda and active debate. Updates will follow when available.

**New leisure centre and public services hub (The Western Way Development)**

- One agenda item will be the Western Way Development (WWD), a major infrastructure project to benefit Bury St Edmunds and the surrounding area. Originally budgeted £140 million which was gradually whittled down following changes to the proposals. The 1<sup>st</sup> phase costing £65 million, had, subject to the previously agreed financial tests still being met, had been approved by the then West Suffolk Council (pre-May 2023). The former NHS supply building in Oldings Road has been purchased by West Suffolk Council and planning permission granted. This would form the backbone of the WWD with the intention of retaining the main frame to incorporate a new leisure centre as Phase one with a public service hub to follow as phase 2. The project has cost West Suffolk Council £2.4 million so far, the existing leisure centre in Beetons Way, built in the 1970's, needs major expenditure which would essentially still be a short-term fix.
- After proposals changed, the 1<sup>st</sup> phase of the hub was budgeted at £75 million, with a new £40 million leisure centre, West Suffolk's branch of Suffolk Archives, and potentially office space and a preschool.
- On Friday September 8th, West Suffolk Council, now led by a coalition, announced that the WWD looks set to be 'paused' to look at alternatives.

To re-iterate updates will follow. I will be attending the meeting of the West Suffolk Cabinet 19<sup>th</sup> September, this combined with the meeting of Council on September 26<sup>th</sup> should hopefully provide a wealth of information, a report will follow.

- As part of my role as the West Suffolk Council representative to the Suffolk Police and crime Panel (PCP), I will be attending the National PCP Conference Warwick in November. Once again updates will follow.

*Mike Chester*

**West Suffolk**  
Council

District Councillor for the Chedburgh and Chevington Ward