

Pinewood Parish Statement

You may have been aware of several postings on a local social media site which may have given you a mistaken impression of discussions and decisions taken by Pinewood Parish Council in recent weeks.

It is unfortunate when inaccurate statements are made and reported in such a way as to raise concern and anxiety for readers in these difficult times. This is not only disappointing for the Parish Council but it could mislead our parishioners particularly when a number of statements are not made from a position of knowledge about Pinewood Parish Council.

Some statements refer to the setting of the Parish Precept for the coming financial year. It was incorrectly stated that the Parish Council had decided at its meeting on 14th December to raise our portion of the precept. We were at that stage not in possession of all the relevant information needed from Babergh District Council to make such a decision. Contrary to what was reported about the meeting on 14th December, we discussed only the delay in the information being provided to us by Babergh District Council in order to make a decision about the precept and also possible outcomes if funding was lowered. At no point did we agree any increase or set any figures as that was just not possible without the relevant information.

The Parish Council met on 25th January to discuss how we could continue to fund the various projects and services that we currently provide for the parish. It should never be assumed that raising the precept is the default position, this council takes its responsibility very seriously when considering budgetary matters. We are always reluctant to increase the precept as we are very aware that this impacts upon our residents. However we have to factor in raised costs from those from whom we contract services and also the likelihood of our funding being lowered as the number of households able to pay council tax is likely be reduced as a result of the Covid pandemic. This means the Parish Council may well be faced with the challenge, if it is possible, to fund services without impacting our residents.

It was also incorrectly reported that the council has underspent its budget over the last two years. The figures of £15,000 in 2018/19 and £20,000 in 2019/20 which have been quoted are in fact our reserves. These are small amounts for a parish of our size, a fact commented on by the auditor at the annual mandatory audit.

References to the council's bank balances were also misleading; the majority of this sum is in fact the reserves of the Community Hall which have been built up during the 12 years since it was opened. It is certainly not money accumulated from the precept and it is hoped that these reserves will help fund a new car park for the Community Hall without any financial impact to residents.

The decision was taken on 25th January not to increase the parish precept which forms a very small part of the total council tax levy. This was possible because of economies made by the council such as moving this newsletter on-line and so saving printing and distribution costs.

Pinewood Parish Statement

The council tax is made up of contributions to Suffolk County Council, Babergh District Council, Suffolk Police, Suffolk Police and Crime Commissioner and the Parish Council does not have any control over levels raised by other bodies and our precept is a very small proportion of the total amount.

This council wishes to address other comments which have been made about it in recent weeks on social media platforms as these have been not only misleading but as a result may possibly cause harm to its reputation.

A statement was made that this council is made up of 'unelected councillors'. This is disrespectful to the councillors. Members of the council are only unelected in the sense that there have not been enough candidates for the last 3 Parish Council elections to warrant an election. We are all in fact volunteers and unpaid. Though the council does not as yet have its full complement it is important that we are able to have a full and frank exchange of ideas and at the same time it is also important that we have a team who can work together in the public interest.

This council has also been accused of being inward looking and not having its roots grounded in the interests of its electorate.

A great amount of time is spent outside of council meetings in correspondence and meetings with other councils and public bodies on issues that affect and concern our residents. This has in the past included meetings with our MP, The Regional Director of Highways England and other officials of that agency, the leadership team of 'One' Sixth Form College, officials of Suffolk County Council and representatives of developers involved in local building projects.

During the past few years the issues covered have included the proposal for a wind turbine on a site in Belstead Village which would have severely impacted our residents as a result of noise pollution, the developments at Belstead House and Belstead Meadows and the Wolsey Grange Development. We mounted robust objections at the written planning stage and also spoke at the meetings of the Planning Committee when these proposals were discussed and voted upon at both Outline and Reserved Matters stages. Well publicised public meetings have been held on contentious matters as these so that the council can both inform residents of up to date information and so that residents have the opportunity to tell us of their concerns about them.

Pinewood Parish Council has been represented for a number of years on the Hadleigh Police and Parish forum. As a consequence it has been possible to raise issues affecting our residents with the result that the problems of boy racers at Tesco and illegal motor bike use on the bridleway from Bobbits Lane to Bobbits Hole, Wherstead have been made for fixed periods, the Hadleigh SNT priority targets. Some positive outcomes for our residents have been achieved by these measures.

Pinewood Parish Statement

This council has been represented at meetings to discuss the noise levels caused by the concrete surface on the A14 and discussions about the chaos caused by closures to the Orwell Bridge and was in early discussions with SCC as to measures which could be taken to amend the decision making regarding closure of the bridge in high winds. New criteria for closure will be in operation later this year and work is already underway for this to take place.

This council has taken SCC to task over the footpath closure at the back of the Bridge School. We are being kept informed of the initial discussions on the proposed significant changes to the Copdock Mill Interchange and will be part of the local consultations hopefully in the Spring. We have continued to work through lockdown and recently a meeting was held between representatives of this council and those of SCC to address issues raised by the closure of Footpath 6, both in the short term and for the future. The purpose of taking part in these meetings is always to further the interests of our residents. We have always been open to receive the concerns of our residents and done our best to act upon their concerns. It is not always possible however to achieve the outcome that we and our residents would wish. We therefore refute the statement that we are inward looking and the implication that our roots are not grounded in the needs of our electorate.

Closer to home, Pinewood Parish Council has purchased a SID device to monitor speeding in the parish because of concerns about excess speed, we have purchased and renewed dog bins, bus shelters have been painted, shrubs and overhanging trees have been trimmed and a defibrillator has been purchased. This would have already been put in position at the Community Hall were it not for the Covid situation. Great efforts have been made to solve the parking problems in the parish caused by vehicle users not resident in the parish and as a result Parking Enforcement measures are now in place. A new initiative is now also being explored. Residents are kept informed of issues we are tackling via our newsletter.

Whenever appropriate or necessary we involve and seek the assistance of our District and County Councillors.

Problems which residents sometimes assume are within our remit to solve are often the responsibility of Babergh District Council or Suffolk County Council and although we do our best to raise issues it is not always within our power to solve them. Examples are recent comments about bin collections. Pinewood Parish Council is not responsible for refuse collections, it is the responsibility of Babergh District Council. An online complaint usually results in a quick reply. This council is also not responsible for drain clearance and the use of gully suckers or street lighting and other highway issues, these matters are the responsibility of Suffolk County Council.

We hope the explanations contained in this statement have eased residents' concerns, which may have been raised by misleading statements by others, as to the working of their council.

Our meetings are open to the public so why not join one and see what we are doing. Meetings are currently being held via 'Zoom' check the web-site for meetings dates and see contact details for the parish clerk who will be happy to give you the link to each meeting. ⁴ BC

Pinewood Parish Information



Households across Pinewood will soon be asked to take part in Census 2021.

The census is a once-in-a-decade survey that gives us the most accurate estimate of all the people and households in England and Wales. It has been carried out every decade since 1801, with the exception of 1941.

It will be the first run predominantly online, with households receiving a letter with a unique access code, allowing them to complete the questionnaire on their computers, phones or tablets.

"A successful census will ensure everyone from local government to charities can put services and funding in the places where they are most needed," Iain Bell, deputy national statistician at the Office for National Statistics, said.

"This could mean things like doctors' surgeries, schools and new transport routes. That's why it is so important everyone takes part and we have made it easier for people to do so online on any device, with help and paper questionnaires for those that need them." Census day will be on March 21, but households across the country will receive letters with online codes allowing them to take part from early March.

The census will include questions about your sex, age, work, health, education, household size and ethnicity. And, for the first time, there will be a question asking people whether they have served in the armed forces, as well as voluntary questions for those aged 16 and over on sexual orientation and gender identity.

Results will be available within 12 months, although personal records will be locked away for 100 years, kept safe for future generations.

For more information, visit www.census.gov.uk

Pinewood Parish Information

<u>Closure of footpath from Wilson/Wilding Road to</u> Bridge School

A representative of the Parish Council was invited to meet with representatives of Suffolk County Council from the Rights of Way and Access Team and Concertus on 5th January to clarify the status of the closure measures imposed on Footpath 6 between Sprites lane and Wilson Road. There had been correspondence between Pinewood Parish Council and Suffolk County Council since August of last year and we had not been reassured by the answers we had received.

It seems that though the closure notice is for 24 hours a day to give the contractor flexibility in its use 7 days a week, if there are no safety implications then the public are able to use it at certain points in the day.

"In the case of Footpath 6, because the school use is at limited times of the day, and for much of the time the path is available to use, the County Council takes the view the public use should not be prevented during the times the path is safe to use." If this had been made explicitly clear at the beginning then we would have been spared a good deal of trouble.

It is not expected that there will be an increased use of the footpath by the school and the point was made that the footpath has always been used as access for school grounds maintenance. This use though has never been a problem for residents using the footpath.

At the time of the meeting the footpath was in an acceptable condition but this will be monitored by TMO and if it needs to be strengthened then it will be done to a standard suitable for public use. The Rights of Way and Access team will be expected to be consulted on the specification.

I expressed the council's concern that the greater traffic use of this footpath could set a precedent for the future. As you may know planning permission has been given for housing developments on the Belstead House and Belstead Meadows sites and we have not been convinced by the assurances we have had from Babergh District Council regarding access to the Belstead Meadows development.

I was assured that the current use of Footpath 6 would not be a reason to permit vehicular access in the future.

I asked if the building works were on schedule to finish on time .

Concertus are confident that they should be completed by the expiry of the closure order on 5th March. There will be a new access route to the school from Sprites Lane and it is hoped that it will be possible to open the footpath before then, maybe sometime in February depending on the weather.

If there is any slippage in the programme, Concertus has been asked to let everyone know.

I hope this will give those of you who wish to use the footpath the confidence to use it in the knowledge that you are within your rights to do so.

BC



Newsletter availability

This newsletter is currently only available electronically and will also be posted on the Parish web site at <u>www.pinewood.onesuffolk.net/</u> for all residents to read as required. Click on this link <u>dixge@btinternet.com</u> to register for a copy that will drop directly into your inbox when it becomes available. Don't forget to tell your Friends, Relations and Neighbours residing in Pinewood to join up, we only require an email address (nothing else) to add them to the list. GD

Local Traffic Information

Orwell Bridge new speed limits during high winds

Highways England are carrying out upgrades to the Orwell Bridge in Ipswich. We are installing new electronic signs showing changeable speed limits so that traffic can travel over the bridge at lower speeds safely even during high winds, meaning that we keep the bridge open more often during storms.

Start date 25 January 2021- End date March 2021- Cost £1.7m Million

We will be installing new electronic signs on the bridge which will display changeable driver speed limits. The maximum speed limit shown will be lower when it is windy. This will allow traffic to still use the bridge even during strong winds.

The signs will display a maximum driver speed limit of 60mph for winds speeds of up to 45mph, or a 40mph driver speed limit if wind speeds of between 45mph to 60mph are forecast. The bridge will be closed if wind speeds of 60mph or above predicted due to the safety risk to motorists.

There will also be speed cameras installed on the bridge to enforce the maximum speed limits displayed on the electronic speed signs.

Once complete, Orwell Bridge will be able to remain open to drivers more often during storms, and that will mean less congestion in town due to bridge closures.

To safely install these new signs and cameras, we will need to close the bridge to traffic or have reduced traffic lanes open over the bridge at key stages during our roadworks. The work will take seven weeks, subject to weather conditions.

We only close the bridge for safety reasons when it is essential, and for as short a time as possible. However, we recognise that closing the bridge causes disruption to the town.

A year-long study was made on the aerodynamic properties of the Orwell Bridge, to identify potential steps that we can take to keep the Orwell Bridge open to traffic during high winds. The report was carried out on our behalf by City University of London and they used the latest computer technology designed to test vehicle stability specifically on the Orwell Bridge. The bridge was split into 15 million 'cells' for the study and 36,000 tests were run. They assessed the accident risks for different types of vehicles and wind directions.

The aerodynamic study concluded that the current wind limit of 60mph for closing the bridge is correct for safety, but that reducing the traffic speed limit down from 60mph during high winds means that the bridge can remain safely open when the wind is at certain speeds.

The findings were theoretical and needed to be validated using a wind tunnel. Wind tunnel testing was carried out during 2020. These tests mean that we now understand better how winds of different speeds and directions can affect the safety of traffic on the bridge. You can read about the study.

A road safety audit was also carried out to confirm that the new signs do not pose any safety issues.



Local Traffic Information

Orwell Bridge new speed limits during high winds (Ct'd) Road closures

We plan to complete this work over 7 weeks from Monday 25 January to Friday 12 March, subject to weather conditions.

We will be working between the hours of 9pm to 5am throughout the week. Some lanes of the road will be closed during our work.

However, for safety purposes, we will need to close the A14 road eastbound from junction 55 to junction 58 overnight from 9pm to 5am for 5 nights, starting from Monday 1 March to Friday 5 March.

We will need to close the A14 road westbound from junction 58 to junction 55 overnight from 9pm to 5am for 5 nights, starting from Monday 8 March to Friday 12 March

Diversions

Monday 1 March to Friday 5 March (9pm to 5am)

Eastbound traffic will be diverted from the A14 at junction 55, exiting onto the A1214 / Yarmouth Road / Chevallier Street / Valley Road / Colchester Road / Woodbridge Road / Main Road before exiting onto the A12. Following the A12 before re-joining the A14 at junction 58. See map below

Monday 8 March to Friday 12 March (9pm to 5am):

Westbound traffic will be diverted from A14 at junction 58 onto the A12, following this before exiting onto the A1214 / Main Road, continuing to the A1214 / Woodbridge Road / Colchester Road / Valley Road / Chevallier Street / Yarmouth Road before re-joining the A14 at junction 55. See map below

We will be encouraging long-distance traffic to take alternative routes to avoid congestion around our roadworks and ensure there are shorter delays to local journeys. To do this, we will use signs to give the most suitable diversion around the roadworks.

Please follow the official diversions set out below

The diversion routes will need to be used during the full road closures only. Please use the official diversion routes as shown below.



Local Traffic Information

Highways Improvement Timetable For "WOLSEY GRANGE 1"

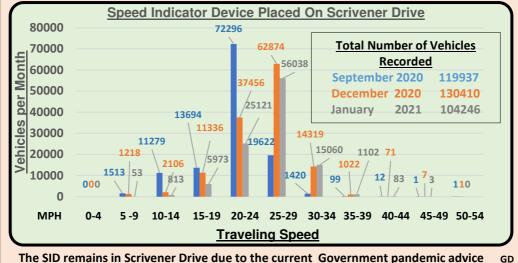
Target timescales for all works is set out below, due to complete end of December 2021 Works on part of A1071/A1214/Poplar Lane junction (including new traffic lighting scheme, construction of new traffic islands and re-shaping existing islands and the diverting of major underground services) – April 12th – July 4th, 2021 Poplar Lane road widening – Works to start April 2021 Employment junction off A1214 – July 19th – November 10th 2021 (prior to this, temporary

roads and footpaths will be installed)

Work on the A1071/Hadleigh Road/ Beagle roundabout improvements - end Dec 2021

Speed Indicator Device

Many of you have seen the Speed Indicator Device that is positioned on a rotational system and sited upon three roads around Pinewood that have been identified by residents as having vehicles consistently speeding along them. Sadly, as you can see from the graph below SID is identifying many vehicles travelling over the speed limit along Scrivener Drive. The percentage of speeds recorded at this site does not fill laid down criteria to carry out enforcement. Speeding in Pinewood Parish remains of great concern to both the Police, Parish Council and many residents. The graph below represents speeds recorded along Scrivener Drive



The SID remains in Scrivener Drive due to the current Government pandemic advice

Civil Parking Enforcement

A patrol location visit is recorded when a Civil Enforcement Officer (CEO) registers their presence in a street using their handheld terminal device. The visit may have been part of the CEO's assigned route for the day or in response to a report from a member of the public. If a vehicle is parked in contravention of the restrictions a Penalty Charge Notice (PCN) can be issued. 8 Tickets were issued in December 2020 IBC

Local Policing Information

Help us keep our Communities safe

Police advice on a variety of subjects can be accessed via www.suffolk.police.uk/advice

To report something, or to otherwise contact Police, use the link www.suffolk.police.uk/contact-us

Only call 999 in emergencies or if an immediate police response is required - Call 101 for all other issues

Suffolk Police has various news platforms as well as security advice on many topics to ensure the public can keep safe and up to date with information and appeals, Social media sources include Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Vimeo and of course the main force website at <u>www.suffolk.police.uk/news</u>

Your local Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) and Community Engagement Officers (CEO) also have their own local social media accounts, keeping the information local and more relevant to where you live. www.suffolk.police.uk/your-area

Suffolk Police has a comprehensive section for security advice under its First Principle section www.suffolk.police.uk/advice

Reporting a crime

There are a number of ways to report crimes to Suffolk Police via the Website www.suffolk.police.uk/contact-us/report-something

If you have a crime number you can also get updates on an existing crime at <u>www.suffolk.police.uk/contact-us/existing-report-update</u>

Crimestoppers

Contact the independent charity Crimestoppers 100% anonymously on 0800 555 111, or via their online form: <u>www.crimestoppers-uk.org</u>

Police Connect

Police Connect is a messaging service connecting you to the very latest policing news for your area via e-mail, text or phone. There is no charge for this service - all messages you receive are free.

www.norfolk.police.uk/services/police-connect

For a copy of the Suffolk Police Newsletter follow this link www.suffolk.police.uk/your-area/snt-newsletters

¹¹ **GD**

Local Policing Information

Burglaries and other crimes

In the last few months several burglaries have taken place in the Pinewood area. Police have been very proactive by visiting affected areas, trying to get to the bottom of these upsetting crimes which are very upsetting for the householders affected.

Please remain alert in your area, if you see anything suspicious, call 999 to inform the Police.

Most burglaries are committed by opportunist thieves who will search a neighbourhood for homes that look empty or dark, with access to back gardens. They also look out for windows that have been left open and unlocked doors.

For further information and guidance on keeping safe in your home you can gain further information from <u>www.suffolk.police.uk</u> When you click onto the site, go to the ADVICE tab where you can find help and guidance on protecting your property. Guidance covers such areas as your Home, Property fraud, Fuel oil Theft, Sheds & Outbuildings, French Windows/Patio doors, and Replacing Doors. The aforementioned subjects give in depth guidance on how we can further protect ourselves.

GD





Coronavirus Pandemic

We all know we continue to live in difficult and uncertain times and as a result of this, Government guidance continually changes to reflect the current trends of Coronavirus. It is important that we all continue to follow Government and health expert's advice to keep ourselves, others, and most importantly, keeping our Emergency Services safe. Everybody has a part to play by following the guidance and doing the right thing. It is clear that in order to protect everyone by further slowing down the transmission of this virus we have no choice but to continue to protect ourselves and others. Please continue to keep an eye out for your elderly or vulnerable neighbours. Social distancing does not mean that we cannot make phone calls, we can keep in contact with friends and families by many ways such as using Skype, Zoom, Facetime, Twitter, Instagram along with all manner of Social Media or a simple phone call.

INFORMATIVE LINKS FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

www.111.nhs.uk/covid-19 or www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/

<u>Stay at Home Advice:</u> www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance

Employment and Financial Support: www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/coronavirus-covid-19-uk-governmentresponse

> Mental Health Support: www.mentalhealth.org.uk/coronavirus

Suffolk Coronavirus Advice & Support Service: www.suffolk.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19/suffolk-advice-and-support-service

To find out about your current Local Area Restrictions please follow the link below www.gov.uk/find-coronavirus-local-restrictions?

Babergh Area

Daily Covid Update for the IP8 – Sproughton, Washbrook & Hintlesham area Insert your own postcode for up to date information www.coronavirus.data.gov.uk/search?postcode=IP

GD

NHS

A S HM Government

Covid-19 vaccine Vaccine Market After your Covid-19 vaccination, you still need to follow the rules

Find out more at nhs.uk/CovidVaccine

Pinewood Council Information			
Name	Position	Email Address	
Mr A Rust	Chair	pinewoodpc@ntlworld.com	
Mrs B Calver	Vice Chair	pinewoodpc@ntlworld.com	
Mrs J Preston	Councillor	pinewoodpc@ntlworld.com	
Mr N Smith	Councillor	pinewoodpc@ntlworld.com	
Mr R Manning	Councillor	manningrobert@hotmail.co.uk	
Mr G Dix	Councillor	dixge@btinternet.com	
Mrs J Moore	Councillor	julie.rosie66@gmail.com	
A. N. Other	Councillor	Could this be you!	
A. N. Other	Councillor	Could this be you!	
Mrs S Peartree	Parish Clerk	pinewoodpc@ntlworld.com	
Mr C Hudson	Suffolk County Councillor	christopher.hudson@suffolk.gov.uk	
Mr Zac Norman	Babergh District Councillor	zachary.norman@babergh.gov.uk	
Mr Ric Hardacre	Babergh District Councillor	Richard.Hardacre@babergh.gov.uk GD	

Pinewood Parish Council – Contact Details

Postal Address: Pinewood Community Hall, Laburnum Close, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP8 3SL Contact the Parish Clerk via Post, email or calling 01473 692690 and leave a message

Pinewood Parish Council Meeting Dates 2021

Meetings usually take place at the Pinewood Community Hall starting at 19.30hrs and normally take place on the second Monday of each Month.

Future Parish Council meetings are planned to take place on the following dates: 8th March 12th April

Due to the Coronavirus Pandemic all Parish Council Meetings continue to be held via Zoom, if you are interested in joining the meeting contact the Parish Clerk for instructions.

Contact Details for the Newsletter

To contact the Parish Newsletter please email <u>dixge@btinternet.com</u>

Pinewood Events & News

Do you have some local news for Pinewood Residents or a Charity Event to advertise, If so contact us with your feature. Use the Email above for submissions remembering that this newsletter is normally sent out bi-monthly. GD

News and reports from non-political and parish organisations are particularly welcome, contentious issues or articles promoting personal causes should be avoided – the Editor reserves the right not to print and to edit items submitted for publication. The views expressed in the newsletter are not necessarily those of the Parish Council or Editor, and no liability can be accepted for any errors or omissions. Corrections will be published should they occur. This newsletter is published bi-monthly by:

Pinewood Parish Council, Laburnum Close, Ipswich, Suffolk IP8 3SL

GD

Useful Contact Numbers			
Name	Useful Contact Phone Numbers	Email/Web/Twitter Address	
Police – Fire - Ambulance	999 - Emergencies	101 - Non Emergency Calls	
Hadleigh Police Direct Hadleigh Police Email	01473 613500	www.suffolk.police.uk snt.hadleigh@suffolk.pnn.police.uk	
Police Connect – Website	Sign up on the Site	www.suffolk.police.uk	
Ask The Police	None	www.askthe.police.uk/	
Suffolk SAFEkey	08444 121802	www.suffolk.safekey.org.uk	
Anglian Water	0345 791 9155	www.anglianwater.co.uk	
Emergency Trades Persons	0333 0146 190	www.checkatrade.com	
Ipswich Hospital	01473 712233	www.esneft.nhs.uk/	
NHS Urgent Health Calls	111 Emergency	<u>www.111.nhs.uk/</u>	
Pinewood Doctors Surgery	01473 682614	www.derbyroadpractice.co.uk	
Pinewood Parish Council Pinewood Parish Website	01473 692690	pinewoodpc@ntlworld.com www.pinewood.onesuffolk.net	
Babergh District Council	0300 1234 000	www.babergh.gov.uk	
Suffolk County Council	0345 606 607	www.suffolk.gov.uk	
Ipswich Borough Council	01473 432000	www.ipswich.gov.uk	
Suffolk Trading Standards	0345 404 0506	www.suffolk.gov.uk/tradingstandards	
Suffolk One	01473 556600	www.suffolkone.ac.uk	
Age UK – Website	0800 169 2081	www.ageuk.org.uk	
Suffolk Meals on Wheels	01473 749927	www.aspectliving.org.uk	
British Gas - Emergency	0800 111 999	www.britishgas.co.uk	
Electricity – Emergency	105	www.ukpowernetworks.co.uk	
Report Road Defects	Report on line	www.suffolk.gov.uk	
British Telecom Cust Service	0870 062 6712	www.bt.com/help/home/faults/	
Ips Household Waste Centre April- September 9am to 5pm October – March 9am to 4pm	You must book a time slot on line. Take paperwork with you	www.suffolk.gov.uk/planning-waste- and-environment/waste-and- recycling/book-a-recycling-centre- time-slot/ GD	