

POSLINGFORD PARISH COUNCIL – 20 MARCH 2024

Report from district councillors: Nick Clarke, Karen Richardson and Marion Rushbrook

Firstly, we would like to pay tribute to Mary Evans and say how sad it was to hear of her death in January. She was a great councillor at Borough and County Council. She made a difference to our town and villages and was a shining example of a fair person, always ready to listen and offer solutions. She will be greatly missed.

Elections for a Police and Crime Commissioner will be held on Thursday 2 May 2024.

As a council, West Suffolk Council (WSC) are not allowed to do anything in the pre-election period that may influence the outcome of the election. This year, the pre-election period (which was previously referred to as 'purdah') will start on Thursday 21 March when the election notice is published.

During this time, normal work goes on. However, they should avoid involving any election candidates within publicity and avoid giving the impression that they are supporting or favouring one political party's views over another.

They are also expected to avoid expressing views about things that may be controversial or lead people to vote in certain ways. So, for example, they should avoid responding to new consultations, or hosting public forums, where it may provoke local controversy. They may continue to carry on non-controversial campaigns, or express views they already have an agreed position on, but they shouldn't start new campaigns or consultations during this time.

In addition, candidates, political parties and associations will not be allowed to use council resources for campaigning or election purposes.

Locality Budget

We have now spent our locality budget for this financial year. The deadline for spending the funds was this week, this is earlier than usual due to the above elections. The next round of funding will be available early May.

Debt Awareness Week – 18 to 24 March

Let's talk about something that affects a lot of us – debt.

Whether it's credit cards, overdrafts, payday loans or buy now pay later, debt is easy to wander into, but harder to wander out of. And there's a good chance that the person you last chatted to has some kind of debt story to share. It's important to remember that people from all walks of life have faced their debt challenges head-on and come out the other side – and so can you.

As part of Debt Awareness Week, West Suffolk Council have teamed up with our financial wellbeing provider, Salary Finance, who has put together seven tips to help get you started on the road to becoming debt free.

[Home \(salaryfinance.com\)](https://salaryfinance.com)

Consultation (*closes at 23.59 this evening*)

Housing, homelessness reduction and rough sleeping strategy consultation

Audience: Residents, businesses, stakeholders, parish and town councils, community groups.

Open: 6 February 2024 to 20 March 2024

West Suffolk Council is inviting people to give their insight and input into the development of our new Housing, Homelessness Reduction and Rough Sleeping Strategy and action plan.

The council adopted its new [Strategic priorities](#) in December 2023 including the delivery of affordable, available and decent homes.

Through this consultation and engagement, we want to help more people better afford a place to live, improve living conditions and reduce homelessness.

We are asking people for their views on a number of actions which could then shape our new Housing, Homelessness Reduction and Rough Sleeping Strategy.

The consultation runs from 6 February to 20 March at 11.59pm. Take part by completing the online survey [SmartSurvey - West Suffolk Council Housing, Homelessness Reduction and Rough Sleeping Strategy](#)