

District Council Report for Stansfield Parish Council meeting on 14th May 2025.

My apologies that I cannot attend this evening's meeting but I am on annual leave this week.

Locality Budget

The Locality Budget for 25/26 has yet to be advised but if you have any urgent projects, I am able to refer them to the Locality Officer, who is keeping a running list for me. We should soon here what this year's figure is but at the time of writing, I was still in the dark.

Devolution

The Council in West Suffolk, as all the District Councils in Suffolk, continues to focus much time on presenting outline proposals for what the Devolved Council should look like. Initial comments have been submitted and the Government replied last week, encouraging the Council to continue to work up more detailed proposals. The District Councils in Suffolk favour an East and a West Unitary Authority. The County favours a single Unitary Authority. Final proposals have to be submitted by 26th September and the Government have said we should hear back as to which is successful in early January 2026.

Whilst County elections have been postponed for a year at present, District Council elections which are due in 2027, are unlikely to be held. Instead, it is expected that 2027 is when the Unitary Authority elections will take place. It is expected that the Mayor of Norfolk and Suffolk will be elected in May 2026 and expressions of interest in standing as Mayor are encouraged from any resident.

The Local Plan will be adopted in July 2025 having passed the inspection. The process of writing the next plan will begin in the Autumn!

Sarah Pugh
Cllr for Whepstead and Wickhambrook