

## **County Councillor's Report to Brettenham Parish Council. Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2016**

**I am sorry not to be able to come this evening.**

### **Devolution community engagement.**

The Community engagement exercise for the Suffolk/Norfolk devolution deal officially closed on 23<sup>rd</sup> August. However it is still possible to express your opinion directly to Suffolk County Council prior to a decision on the matter by councillors in early November.

Over 2500 submissions have been made as part of the consultation by people completing the online survey. Ipsos-Mori has also been carrying out more than 6000 phone surveys across the two counties to ensure decision makers have a representative sample of views. To my mind the way in which the questions were framed in the on line survey was unsound, and led people to express a positive view. Furthermore, it has become apparent that the proportion of the population that has spontaneously responded is low, and that only a small proportion of them say that they understand the issues involved.

I did not vote for the deal last time around, and, unless I feel that there is overwhelming real support for the proposals from the public, or something unexpected comes to light, will not do so in November.

I am happy to discuss this further with anyone who would like to contact me.

### **A level and GCSE results.**

In August we received preliminary A level and GCSE results for Suffolk students.

As far as GCSE's were concerned more of Suffolk's 16 year olds achieved expected levels of GCSE attainment in English and maths this year.

Provisional results collated in Suffolk suggest a 4% rise in the number of students reaching the threshold in English and maths (currently a C grade or above). Self-reported statistics from Suffolk schools show 63% have achieved the threshold in English and maths compared with 59% of these schools achieving this in 2015.

The results also saw a significant improvement for disadvantaged pupils – these are looked after children and pupils eligible for free school meals.

The overall pass-rate for A-levels has also continued to rise.

Almost 3000 pupils were entered in Suffolk, although yet to be verified the figures show that 98.5% of pupils achieved A\*- E, in comparison to 98% in 2015. 76% of pupils achieved A\*- C, in comparison to 77% in 2015. A lower figure here reflects results across the country. Early indications show that our academic average points per entry at 32.9 is above the

national average figure and an improvement on last year, although direct comparisons are difficult due to a change in the Government's score system.

**Brettenham**

Officers have approved a payment from my locality budget to contribute to your Village Review in October.

Since I know that it is a matter of concern in the village, for good reason, I have forwarded to your Clerk a copy of the latest position paper on Broadband matters.

Jenny Antill  
September 2016