

District Councillor's Annual Report 2024

Indy Wijenayaka – Withersfield Ward Councillor

It's been a Year of the West Suffolk Working Partnership (Labour, Independent, Liberal Democrat and Green Coalition) in administration of West Suffolk Council. Over the year we have –

- Passed our annual budget at the full council meeting (20th February). This budget will enable West Suffolk Council to deliver for our residents whilst keeping our increase to Council Tax and other charges low as practically possible - [Positive budget invests in West Suffolk's future, improves services and keeps charges low](#)
- Created and approved our Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) ([Appendix B \(westsuffolk.gov.uk\)](#)) This ensure we delivery for our communities whilst maintaining a stable financial position.
- Created our Strategic Priorities ([West Suffolk Council's Strategic Priorities 2024-28](#)) which is backed up by our Annual budget and our MTFS and signposts our intentions to deliver –
 - Affordable, available and decent homes;
 - Sustainable growth;
 - Environmental resilience and;
 - Thriving communities
- Core to our Strategic Priorities are the values of the Council and we will deliver our Priorities through our values of –
 - Collaboration;
 - Fairness and Inclusivity;
 - Championing local places;
 - Innovation;
 - Practicality and;
 - Financially astute decision making

As it's been my first year as a councillor, and I feel really privileged to have been elected, and I'd like to thank the Withersfield Parish Council for all their support, and help, and I'm hoping for 24/25 we can develop some really important initiatives like;

- Cross Parish Environmental and Climate Change Working Group
 - This could cover various issues from nature and wildlife, local landowners and farmers getting involved in nature conservation.
 - Purchase of a Thermal camera for the ward to help households identify areas of heat loss, I'm proposing to use some of my localities budget and contributions from some of the other parishes to purchase a Thermal Camera for the Ward - [FLIR ONE Edge Pro | Teledyne FLIR](#) Great Thurlow, Little Thurlow and Great Wratting are interested
- Increased collaboration with the Villages Traffic Working Group, Cowlinge may look to join.

- As I'm also the Portfolio Holder for Growth I'd like to explore our rural economy and look at ways to improve and take advantage of what our area can offer
- Please do start thinking about any funding you might need from my very limited locality budget for 24/25 (playground is on the to do list)
- We had the Police and Crime Commissioner election recently, please do encourage all residents to register to vote in the next election.