

**TO: All members of Council**

**Our reference** CS  
**Your reference** N/A  
**Contact** Claire Skoyles  
**Direct Dial** 01284 757176  
**Email** [claire.skoyles@westsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:claire.skoyles@westsuffolk.gov.uk)

Dear Councillor

**Council - Tuesday 23 February 2021**

Attached are the written responses to the questions/statements raised at the above meeting, as referred to in the minutes.

Yours sincerely

Claire Skoyles  
Democratic Services Officer  
Human Resources, Governance and Regulatory

**Jennifer Eves** • Director (Human Resources, Governance and Regulatory)  
**Tel** 01284 757015 • **Fax** 01284 757110  
**Email** [democratic.services@westsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:democratic.services@westsuffolk.gov.uk)

**West Suffolk**  
Council

This page is intentionally left blank

Mr Frank Stennett

Contact: Cllr John Griffiths  
Leader of West Suffolk Council

Email:  
[john.griffiths@westsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:john.griffiths@westsuffolk.gov.uk)

Date: 3 March 2021

Dear Mr Stennett,

Firstly, I hope this finds you and yours well, and thank you for taking the time to submit your statement and question which were read out to Council last Tuesday evening.

Secondly may I also thank you for, and indeed echo, your statement acknowledging the hard work of our officers and Councillors which they have put into not only this year's budget but the Council's response to, and support of, our communities and businesses while delivering services during the significant continuing COVID challenges.

Hopefully you may have heard my response and answer on Tuesday, but I also said that I would be writing to you to confirm this.

Your question was whether the Overview and Scrutiny Committee can be commissioned to investigate residents' parking, parking charges and market traders' fees. As I answered on the night, parking charges were indeed considered, developed, and recommended by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. As I also clarified, the Council has since confirmed that it has not only deferred, but continues to defer, the implementation of these 'new' charges and will keep this position under review.

The subject of markets is, as I understand it, already on the forward workplan of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and, as always, we are looking forward to any conclusions and recommendations they may reach. Moreover, the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee was present in the 'virtual' Council Chamber on the evening and would be aware of your statement and question.

Perhaps needless to say the Council, with all its partners, is very much focussing its attention on how best to continue to respond to COVID but also how to best successfully plot and support the swiftest possible recovery, especially now that we have the Government's roadmap. This will of course include the future of our town centres.

John Griffiths  
Leader West Suffolk Council

I hope the above is helpful, and thank you again for your question, concerns, and suggestions,

With best wishes,

Councillor John Griffiths MBE  
**Leader of West Suffolk Council**

## **Council: 23 February 2021 - written responses to questions/statements**

### **Item 5: Leader's Statement: Question from Councillor Paul Hopfensperger to Councillor John Griffiths:**

Whether anything was being done by West Suffolk Council to highlight to Government the issues, challenges and difficulties faced by small businesses following the UK's exit from the European Union.

#### **Response from Councillor Griffiths:**

This response has already been circulated separately by Councillor Griffiths.

### **Item 6: Public Participation: Statement/Question from Frank Stennett, member of the public to Councillor John Griffiths:**

Response from Councillor John Griffiths:

The correspondence sent to Mr Stennett by Councillor Griffiths is attached separately.

### **Item 8: Budget and Council Tax Setting 2021 to 2022 and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2021 to 2025: Question from Councillor Paul Hopfensperger to Councillor Peter Stevens, Portfolio Holder for Operations, following referral by Councillor Sarah Broughton:**

Using West Suffolk Council, Suffolk County Council and Havebury as an example of different bodies cutting their own areas of land in the St Olaves ward, Cllr Hopfensperger asked whether there was some way of rationalising the grass cutting undertaken by various partners across the district as he felt this would be more cost effective than the present arrangements.

**Response from Councillor Peter Stevens:**

West Suffolk Council, as well as maintaining its green spaces, also maintains the County Council's highway verges (at least those which fall within 30 mph zones in West Suffolk). The County Council commissions the District Council to cut the highway verges via a service level agreement (SLA). Throughout West Suffolk there is a multitude of different housing providers who are ultimately responsible for the maintenance of green spaces in the public realm. West Suffolk has previously submitted a bid to Havebury Housing to maintain its green spaces but they chose to appoint a private contractor to undertake the work. We remain open to discussing options with Havebury Housing but ultimately they are an autonomous organisation which is free to choose who maintains its grounds.