

Parish Council Report – Orford & Gedgrave

It's been an incredibly tough year for all of us but with the success of the vaccination programme, which is helping to dramatically reduce case rates, there is now a huge amount of light at the end of tunnel. I'm really proud of how every single one of our communities here in Suffolk came together to help each other through coronavirus and Orford is no exception – with a first class community resilience effort, via the Suffolk Advice Line, ensuring those that were isolating got the food and medicines they required.

I've had regular briefings from both Nick Hulme and Ed Garratt, the CEOs of Ipswich Hospital and our local Clinical Commissioning Group, over the last 12-months – and I'm pleased that Covid hospital admissions are now really quite low, enabling a much greater capacity for non-Covid related treatments.

On education, I continue to look at Ofsted reports for my schools on a regular basis. For obvious reasons, I haven't done many visits this year but look forward to catching up with headteachers again shortly.

On Sizewell, I submitted my response to the preliminary stage of the planning application process backing Sizewell C but encouraging EDF to make some significant changes in order to get consent. I'm delighted that they listened to the responses, not just from me but from local councils and local residents and have put forward further changes to reduce the impact on our highways network. My detailed Sizewell C submissions are available at: <https://www.theresecoffey.co.uk/sizewell-c>. I will also be actively contributing to the examination.

As the wider economy springs back into life, our focus is firmly on jobs as well as jobs and as Secretary of State for Work & Pensions, I've been concentrating on how we can help our younger generation get a leg up on the employment ladder. Our fully funded Kickstart programme is helping thousands of 16 to 24-year olds do just that with six-month work placements that not only provide pay but experience, skills and confidence.

Whilst I wasn't able to conduct my usual constituency tour last year, due to the pandemic, the amount of casework I've received over the last 12-months has increased quite considerably. Me and my team having been working hard to respond to people and offer help and assistance to those that need it.

I have held many surgeries by phone over the last year and it is likely that I will continue that process, given the size of the constituency.

Thank you for all that the Parish Council has done this year and I look forward to working with you all again next year.

Dr Thérèse Coffey MP