



NEWS West Suffolk & Bury St Edmunds Labour Parties



BE CAREFUL WHEN YOU FALL ILL

Across the county slashed funding and difficulty recruiting has left our NHS struggling to cope. We are facing a national stranglehold on care but the effects are most keenly felt at local level.

While local Tory MP Matt Hancock hasn't been responsible for the NHS for very long, he has consistently shown little interest in his residents' concerns.

LABOUR WILL MAKE SURE LOCAL VOICES ARE HEARD

If you are fit and healthy you may well ask: what's the problem? But, because they are underfunded, A&E departments can't cope so that some GP practices (like Haverhill) have to cancel all their regular, booked appointments to deal with clinically urgent patients. How many more winters can our NHS survive under Tory rule?

Tories love the idea that the NHS will manage itself but they do this by ignoring the experiences of NHS staff and the people they serve. Labour will do everything it can to represent you locally to make sure that no-one can ignore you. As councillors we will use every meeting we have to hold Tory Councillors to account and speak up for you. Labour won't keep quiet to avoid rocking the boat: we will speak truth to those in power.

REMEMBER NHS DENTISTS?

Once upon a time, adults and children were able to access free dental care through their NHS dentist.

But today, of the 11 dental practices in Bury St Edmunds:

- zero accept new, adult NHS patients
- 1 will accept new children (under the age of 18)

In Newmarket, of their 6 dental practices:

- just 1 accepts new, adult NHS patients
- 2 accept new children.

The best off appears to be Haverhill where 3 out of 4 dental practices accept new child patients but, again, only 1 accepts new adults.

So, with nearly 75% of children and over 50% of adults in the UK suffering tooth decay, many end up in hospital with serious pain and complications due to this chronic lack of NHS dentists, adding to the burden on our services. We need serious investment of resources—not words—into the NHS to ensure that we can all get the health, and dental, care we need, free at the point of use.



ROADS UNDER REVIEW AS THE WHEELS COME OFF THE “MEND AND MAKE DO” APPROACH TO RURAL ROADS

If you drive I'm sure it will come as no surprise to you that Suffolk's roads and pavements are continuing to get worse. You may have heard about extra money being announced to fix the nation's roads, but did you know that a large part of this money won't appear before 2020? And what happens in the meantime?



One of our members measuring the depth of Tory cuts

Although Tory nervousness about the ever multiplying potholes and complaints prompted a highways review this summer, it's unclear what, if anything, will come of it.

Conservative Cllr. Mary Evans, responsible for Highways, Transport and Rural Affairs, herself commented: "I know there is not enough money to do everything we want to do as quickly as we wish."

So where does that leave those using Suffolk's crowded main and rural roads? Again, not enough effort or resources are being put into finding solutions or making the best investments to tackle these problems.

I'll be thinking about Mary Evans' words the next time I drive over a pothole or trip up on the pavement. But, with Labour councillors, we'll hold the Tories to account and make sure the right decisions are made and the right solutions found.

WE DESERVE BETTER THAN THIS...

Housing is at crisis levels all over the country and West Suffolk is no exception.

- £908 = average monthly rent West Suffolk
- £258,000 = average cost of buying a house
- £59,000 = salary you need for an 80% mortgage
- £52,000 = amount needed for a 20% deposit

Nothing is being done to contain either rents or house prices and, more shockingly, the figures for affordable housing being built over the past 3 years are:

St Edmundsbury

- just 89 affordable per year; and
- only 3 social rent housing

Forest Heath

- only 23 affordable per year; and
- 0 social rent housing

Our Tory councillors need to start seriously considering the needs of the local population. We need housing we can afford. We know that those using foodbanks are not just the homeless or the unemployed. Many are those who just can't make ends meet. Elected Labour Councillors will make sure we achieve the changes we need and deserve.



WEST SUFFOLK LABOUR - WORKING FOR YOU