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# NEWS

Road would serve proposed 90-home development off A143 and A1088

## Access road for new houses set for 'yes'

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Plans for an access road to serve a future housing development in Ixworth will come under scrutiny at St Edmundsbury Borough Council's development control committee meeting on Thursday.

Persimmon Homes wants to build the road on land to the south of the A1088 and Crown Lane, to serve the proposed 90-home development on the site.

Planning officers had intended to bring both the access road and residential development applications to committee at the same

time, however Persimmon says it needs the access road application to be decided now for 'operational reasons'.

The proposed road would include access to a planned school on the site, on agricultural land west of the A143 and south of the A1088.

Ixworth and Ixworth Thorpe Parish Council objected on the grounds the application is not in line with the Crown Lane Masterplan adopted in 2010, while residents of neighbouring properties were concerned about a feared re-opening of Walsham Road, the proximity of the access road to existing homes, pollution, noise and privacy.

They are also concerned about a proposed access

through Crown Lane and its impact on safety and the graveyard.

The adopted masterplan envisaged a fifth arm of the roundabout to the north-west of the site would be constructed for site access, however highway safety grounds scuppered that plan.

Instead, a 'ghost island' junction on to the A1088 was proposed.

It met strong opposition from residents, parish, borough and county councillors, but was approved on appeal in 2016.

A report to next week's development control committee confirmed Walsham Road - which was closed 30 years ago when Ixworth bypass was created -

would not become a through road again.

Suffolk Highways has said the indicative road layout is not detailed enough for it to give a full response, while the county archaeology team said there was a high potential for the discovery of heritage assets on the site - it has recommended a programme of archaeological work.

There are also concerns about the loss of trees screening the site from the A143.

The scheme has been recommended for approval, subject to conditions.

The report concluded: "The construction of the access road will bring about significant benefits in relation to the additional dwellings."

The donations that Great Barton CEVC Primary School children gave to Sunday Suppers



## School organises advent project for Sunday Suppers

Great Barton CEVC Primary School organised an advent project this Christmas. The school worked with Sunday Suppers who feed and fund raise for the homeless. The school's project this year saw the children, take a part in a Christmas story to read, get involved with a chosen activity and have a chance to give to those less fortunate. Every school day in December they had a special reflection and collection time at the end of their collective worship. During this time, any child that had brought in a donation was invited to come up to the front and put them in a special gift box.

## Collision

## Motorcyclist dies in crash

A motorcyclist has died following a collision on Christmas Day on the A11 at Barton Mills.

On Tuesday, just before 5.30pm, a blue Kawasaki motorcycle travelling southbound on the A11 collided with the central

reservation at the junction with Newmarket Road.

Emergency services attended and the motorcycle rider, a man aged in his 20s, was taken to Addenbrooke's Hospital in a critical condition, and died on Boxing Day.

The road was closed until 10pm for an investigation.

Officers want to hear from any witnesses or anyone who may have dashcam footage of the A11 carriageway just prior to the collision. Call 101, quoting incident number 219 of Tuesday, December 25.

## Housing

## Slight drop in property prices

House prices in St Edmundsbury dropped by 3.1 per cent in October, contributing to a one per cent fall over the last 12 months.

The latest data from the Office of National Statistics shows that the average property in the area sold for £279,287 - compared to the UK average of £231,095.

Across the East of England, property prices have risen by 2.1 per cent in the last year, to £294,548.

The region underperformed compared to the UK as a whole, which saw the average property value increase by 2.7 per cent.

The data comes from the House Price Index, which the ONS compiles using house sale information from the Land Registry, and the equivalent bodies in Scotland and Northern Ireland.

The average homeowner in St Edmundsbury has seen their property's value increase by about £82,000 in the last five years.

See page 5 for West Suffolk's housing strategy.