

David Ruffley
from David Ruffley
MP for Stowmarket

THE STOWMARKET Express

Delivered to homes in Stowmarket, Needham Market and the villages

SUFFOLK'S HEALTH CRISIS

What is going on? local MP David Ruffley 'speaks out'

The state of Suffolk's health service has led Bury St Edmunds MP David Ruffley to hold a crisis meeting.

Local clergy and members of the public have met with David Ruffley at Christ Church, Moreton Hall, Bury St Edmunds to discuss cuts to services in our area.

The latest figures obtained by David show that Health Trusts in Suffolk are to end the 2005/06 financial year with a **deficit approaching £50 million.**

David said: "The health service in Suffolk is facing a full-on crisis. Beds are being cut and vital

facilities are scheduled to close. My meeting with local clergy highlighted the very real concern, felt across Suffolk, that the NHS in Suffolk will face cutbacks of services.

"Mental Health facilities are threatened and trusts have been threatened with fines for failing to balance their books! This is money that could otherwise be spent on patient care.

"It is simply scandalous that we will only be receiving 82 percent of the national average funding per head of the population in 2006/07.

"I will continue to fight for a better deal for Suffolk health care."

David Ruffley MP makes a point at the meeting



David with West Suffolk MP Richard Spring speaking at the the recent meeting in Moreton Hall, Bury St Edmunds

THE FACTS ABOUT THE NHS CRISIS Shock Cuts in Suffolk

- + Closure of 55 Beds at the West Suffolk Hospital
- + Closing the Old Fox House
- + Closure of 80 beds and one theatre at the Ipswich Hospital
- + Closure of the Hayward Day Hospital

Pictures courtesy of the Bury Free Press

Standing up for Stowmarket – www.davidruffleymp.com

The Thin Blue Line

Bury MP David Ruffley, demanded a high level meeting with Hazel Blears, Minister of State at the Home Office, to discuss London's changes to Suffolk's police force.

Ministers are forcing Suffolk Constabulary to merge with the poorly performing forces in Cambridgeshire and Norfolk.

David said: "This is bad news. I and others have long argued that these mergers

will be incredibly expensive, disruptive and not necessarily deliver savings.

"London Ministers are forcing these reforms through against the advice of a report carried out by their own department.

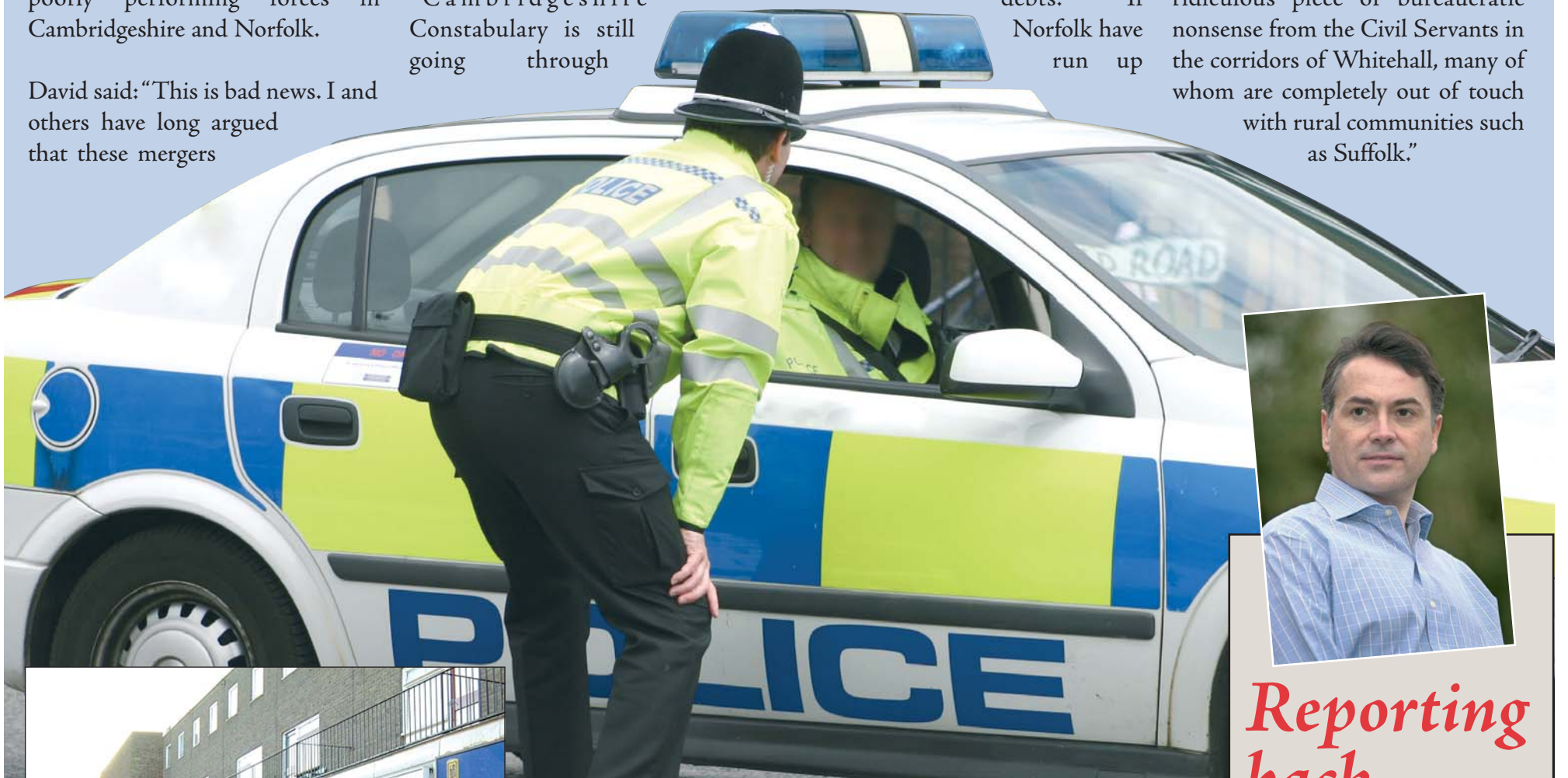
"Cambridgeshire Constabulary is still going through

changes and up until March of 2005 it was forced to work with the Home Office to reform its management structure! These problems are so acute that it led our Chief Constable in Suffolk to brand them the 'Billy no mates' of policing.

"Then Norfolk Constabulary has debts. If Norfolk have run up

huge debts, Suffolk council tax payers should not be left to pick up the tab!

"This merger could lead to Suffolk taxpayers paying for second rate services as officers are forced to police crime hot spots such as Peterborough. It is yet another ridiculous piece of bureaucratic nonsense from the Civil Servants in the corridors of Whitehall, many of whom are completely out of touch with rural communities such as Suffolk."



Reporting back...

David's latest online survey reveals huge opposition to regionalisation

An online survey by our local MP via his website www.tellmeaboutstowmarket.com revealed:

- 95.9% of people support David Ruffley's campaign to keep Suffolk's police and fire services based in Suffolk.
- 95.4% would rather see Suffolk Constabulary retained in its current form.
- 94% think regionalisation will lead to a loss of the local knowledge our emergency services have.



ABOVE AND BELOW: David is backing plans that could see the welcome redevelopment of Stowmarket high street.

Building a better Stowmarket

Local MP, David Ruffley, has said that exciting times lie ahead for Stowmarket and has welcomed reports that Mid Suffolk District Council is currently investigating the possibilities for regenerating the town centre.

David Ruffley is keen to support moves to redevelop the town centre and see local people get the retail offer they deserve.

David said: "There are exciting times ahead for the people of Stowmarket. Parts of Ipswich Street are not in keeping with the historic core of the town and we

need proposals that will deliver change. There are currently few opportunities for new retailers to come to Stowmarket and this needs to be addressed.

"More and more businesses are showing an interest in coming to the town. In the first quarter of 2005 Stowmarket was the 22nd most searched town on the commercial property website www.Suffolk-Property.com, now it is the 8th. We must take advantage of this interest and ensure that Stowmarket gets the town centre its residents deserve and businesses seek."

Stowmarket's Environment: We're in this together

David Ruffley is a strong supporter of green issues and ensures that the vast amount of paper waste from his Westminster and Suffolk Constituency Offices is recycled.

David has campaigned for increased recycling locally and was delighted when Mid Suffolk District Council came 9th out of 398 local authorities for straight recycling.

This year David pressed for greater recycling of the vast amount of waste produced over the festive season. David recycled his Christmas cards with managers and staff at the local Tesco store as part of the Woodland Trust initiative aiming to recycle 60 million Christmas cards across England.

Our MP said: "Dealing with green issues responsibly is a big challenge facing Suffolk today. This isn't about national politics, it is about each and every one of us doing our bit to improve the environment and



RECYCLING FACTS

In 2006 Mid Suffolk are running at 31% recycling.

3000 properties are currently being put onto Mid Suffolk's Twin-Bins scheme and the last 6000 will go onto it in the summer of 2006.

Your local Household Recycling Centre is on Old Bury Road, Stowmarket, Suffolk, IP14 1JQ.

quality of life for future generations.

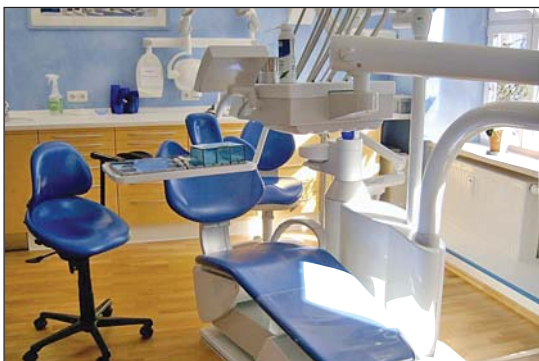
"The fantastic achievement of Mid Suffolk in coming in the top ten of the recycling league table was an amazing result not only for Councillors and District Officers but also for our local residents who have shown unstinting support for the recycling scheme.

ABOVE: David recycling Christmas cards at Tesco as part of the Woodland Trust's scheme.

"We're all in this together. We need to recognise that we have a shared responsibility to act. All of us together – Government, business, families and individuals – must play our part if we are to tackle the environmental issues that are so important to our future."

Local MP supports calls for Stowmarket NHS dental practice

Stowmarket MP David Ruffley has supported the calls of 1200 Stowmarket residents who signed a petition calling for the reintroduction of an NHS dental practice to Stowmarket.



round trip to find an NHS dentist is completely unacceptable.

"I have taken this matter up with the Health Secretary, Patricia Hewitt, and demanded to know what action she is

People living in our town currently face a 30 mile round trip to find an NHS dentist taking on new NHS patients.

taking to rectify the matter.

"I will continue to fight for our fair share of NHS funding for free dentistry."

David said: "To ask someone to make a 30 mile

Stowmarket's MP promoted to Shadow Minister for Welfare Reform

Our MP, David Ruffley, has been promoted by David Cameron, new leader of the Opposition, to become the Shadow Minister for Welfare Reform in Work and Pensions.

David said: "I am delighted to be working in an area where we are developing new ideas on social justice, fairness and help for those in need.

"Welfare reform will be a key part of coming up with the solutions to the problems that modern Britain faces."

DAVID'S KEY FACTS:

- David was first elected to represent us in Stowmarket in 1997.
- He has been a leading member of the Treasury Select Committee.
- He served as a Treasury Whip in 2004 and 2005.
- His appointment as Shadow Minister for Welfare Reform represents a major promotion into David Cameron's Front Bench team.
- Social Justice is David's key responsibility.



Ruffley officially opens Norton Pre-School

David said: "I was delighted to officially open the new Norton Pre-School building. I have supported their search for new premises and their fundraising campaign from the outset.

"I greatly admire the perseverance with which the School has pursued this project – it has been a real community effort and extremely successful. It was particularly generous of Robert Honeywood to offer the School the land on which to build their new premises.

"It is great that the local children will now have a purpose built permanent building in the village."



Extra £2 million bill for A14 Rookery Crossroads

Delays to the Rookery Crossroads Scheme on the A14 could cost taxpayers £2million. And it was not finished on time.

Will the big works to start at the Haughley Bends go the same way?

David Ruffley MP has demanded answers over the delays and spiralling costs from national Highways Agency boss, Archie Robertson.

David said: "The opening of the Rookery Crossroads was a very welcome day. I had been campaigning for these vital road safety improvements since my election in 1997. But, the taxpayers have every right to question the delays to this project and the spiralling costs that resulted.

"I have written to Archie Robertson, Chief Executive of the Highways

Agency, asking for an explanation for why the project was completed six months late and reportedly £2 million over budget. I have also sought his assurance that everything will be done to ensure future projects on our County's main trunk road, such as the proposed improvements to the Haughley Bends, will be better managed and arrive on time and at their projected cost.

"These improvements were vital to road safety but when a project is completed six months late and well over budget questions have to be asked of those in charge."

"With me, my constituents come first. If you ever feel you need my help, please do get in touch. I'll do what I can to assist you and your family."

David Ruffley

WHY NOT CUT THIS OUT AND PUT IT BY YOUR PHONE?

Here to Help Your Community

David hopes you'll find these numbers useful

POLICE

Bury, Mildenhall & Brandon Stowmarket
01284 774100
01473 613500

WEST SUFFOLK HOSPITAL

SWITCHBOARD A & E
01284 713000
01284 713333

ELECTRICITY EDF

0800 7838838

GAS TRANSCO

0800 111 999

ANGLIAN WATER

0345 145 145

ST EDMUNDSBURY BOROUGH COUNCIL

SWITCHBOARD EMERGENCIES
01284 763233
01284 763252

MID SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL

SWITCHBOARD EMERGENCIES
01449 720711
01449 675899

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

01473 583000

SUFFOLK FIRE SERVICE 01473 588888

DAVID RUFFLEY MP 01359 244199

Standing up for Suffolk – www.davidruffleymp.com

Need to contact Stowmarket's MP?



**Write to:
David Ruffley MP
House of Commons
London SW1A 0AA**

**Or ring David's Suffolk office on:
01359 244 199**

Email: info@telldavidruffley.com