

Report for Lavenham PC 7.3.19

Citizens Advice reprieve

The NHS in the form of Clinical Commissioning Groups in Suffolk has come forward to match fund the county's cut grant of £184,000 for 2019/20. But the full cut is still going ahead next year and it is not clear whether the CCGs will renew their funding. I voted against the council's budget at the last full council meeting in February mainly because of this cut to CAB.

New opt in policy for school travel

For pupils eligible for free school travel from September 2019, parents must now opt in to confirm their child has a seat on the bus from March 1st to the end of May. Under the former school travel policy, the seat was reserved automatically, even if pupils did not show up.

Weight restriction – signage on High Street

After several complaints about this sign on High Street which I have forwarded to Highways, they tell me that they will make the "7.2 tonne" sign smaller and cut out the blue background. I'll try to share with you the final design, and have also asked about setting it further back from the highway.

Worn road markings on A1141

A resident raised with me the half-painted bus stop sign on the High Street. Highways tell me they are repainting the "longitudinal" lines on the A1141 in the next few weeks and then after that, in the new financial year, will be reinstating any other marks such as those indicating bus stops.

Suffolk fails its Special Needs inspection again

Two years after failing its inspection, Suffolk County Council special needs service has again been found wanting and has failed to improve its service quickly enough, according to Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission. The core problem seems to be a lack of communication and coordination between education and health care bosses and with parents. Parents are having to go to multiple authorities and are waiting too long to get the new version of "Statements" - (EHCs) "Education, Health and Social Care plans" for their children, particularly for autism

where there is a backlog of referrals which the inspector says places vulnerable families at risk of reaching “crisis point”. The agreed £45m investment on extra places in Suffolk over the next five years should help. But ensuring children with special needs are identified early on and offered the right help from birth to 25 is still the main issue.