

Report for Lavenham PC 5 Oct 2017

Water Street weight restriction – still no firm date

I've escalated this to Jane Storey deputy leader (highways cabinet member James Finch is no longer in post as he is unwell) and head of highways customer service.

Bears Lane development – access

I cornered the head of highways development management about this in person and he indicated that the solution the parish council had proposed using the current pedestrian lane might be possible. He was immovable on the issue of sorting the junction of Bears Lane with Church Street. I await a full response.

Lego Club at Lavenham library

I have agreed to provide £100 to the library from my locality fund to help start-up this club.

Cutting of free school buses and post 16 travel subsidy

The proposal to cut school buses – initially due for consultation at the start of this week – has been sent back to cabinet for reconsideration after I and members of my group called it in to scrutiny committee. Scrutiny voted 7 to 4 to send it back to cabinet for a rethink rather than allow the consultation to go ahead. Several Conservative councillors on the committee expressed the view that the “pre-consultation” had not been adequate and that terms of the proposed consultation were unclear. My view is that there is nothing wrong with genuine consultations but they need to be asking the right, open questions, not be tick boxing exercises designed to get a pre-ordained answer.

Cabinet committees

I have been appointed to the Care, Wellbeing and Health committee – one of the four new cabinet committees. I attend my first one next week. I hope it will be an opportunity to inject some joined up thinking into the council, pointing out the need for a commitment to invest in walking and cycling and traffic calming.

Robert Lindsay
County councillor