

County Councillor Robert Lindsay's Report for Lavenham Parich Council meeting on 1st April 2021

Unsuitable for HGVs

I have asked what can be done about the sign on Church Street to deter lorries from turning left onto Bridge Street Road. The options are to remove completely, to raise it from 1.2m to 2.3m height, or to move it a few metres south and place it on the edge of the pavement. There is vegetation in the private garden there that may obscure it from view.

Water Street redesign

I and Cllr O'Mahoney had an initial meeting with the lead engineer on this, and were introduced to the designer who would be the project manager and were able to run through our requirements. They will come back to us with options.

Group motion on carer's database receives unanimous support

On March 18th my political group proposed a motion designed to improve the county's support offer for carers. The motion will see the Council working with Suffolk Family Carers to create a register for carers, who will be offered increased support including advice, signposting to key services, and the option to be consulted on key policies affecting carers. The motion received unanimous support from the Council.

Automatic number plate recognition camera project (ANPR)

Suffolk County Council is working with the police to run a 2-year ANPR camera trial in speeding hot spots across the county. The cameras will be used to help detect and deter speeding offences that have been highlighted in towns and villages. An ANPR camera will be installed at a site where it has been identified by a parish council, with support from their county councillor, that there is a problem with speeding and/or rat-running on roads with a 20 or 30mph speed limit. The devices will be moved between sites and will remain in situ for up to one week per site.

Freeport East bid successful

A combined bid from Suffolk and north Essex for a designated freeport has been approved by the Government. Freeport East will have sites at Felixstowe, Harwich and Stowmarket. Freeports had been tried and abandoned by the David Cameron government as ineffective. They allow businesses to import goods without paying duties until the goods are exported again. There are big claims for job and wealth creation although evidence is slight as to whether the jobs would be simply shifting from elsewhere in the county or country.

Quiet Lanes scheme launched

The County has announced new support for the Quiet Lanes scheme, which will cover over 300 miles of lanes in Suffolk. As mentioned before, Quiet Lanes is a nationally recognised designation for narrow, rural roads which can be shared with walkers, horse riders, cyclists and other road users. It encourages drivers to take their time when they see the Quiet Lanes sign, to allow for all road users to travel with greater safety. The initiative has another 50 proposed lanes going through planning for April 2021. A new website allowing residents to find the Quiet Lanes near them will be available in May.

SCC plants 100,000 trees in five months

100,000 trees have been planted in the five months since Suffolk County Council committed £228,000 from its Suffolk 2020 Fund to protect biodiversity. The council has been working closely with the farm tenants, The Woodland Trust, Giles Landscapes, The Suffolk Tree Warden Initiative and local communities to ensure that a total of 102,586 saplings have been distributed and planted in the best possible places available over this last winter.