

County Councillor's report to Lavenham Parish Council meeting on Thursday 3rd March 2022

20mph scheme Lavenham

Having so far heard nothing since the report to the cabinet member went in for decision a month ago, I have today asked the cabinet member when he is likely to decide on this.

Bus Recovery Grant for Covid set to end

Having seen reports that the government is about to axe its Bus Recovery Grant, I have asked the council how it will affect buses in Suffolk. The grants have been allowing the County Council to keep subsidy going to those rural buses that they haven't already withdrawn subsidy from. The scheme (to compensate operators for loss of passengers due to Covid restrictions) was due to expire on 1st April. The government has recently agreed new one off payments that will bring the subsidy up to the summer holidays. Hadleigh Community Transport, which operates some services around Lavenham, is one of the operators that has been benefiting. You will recall my last report mentioned that Government funding for "Bus Back Better" was being halved.

Full Council Budget Meeting

County Councillors met on the 17th of February to debate and vote on the Council's budget for 2022-23. My political group highlighted the need to invest more in adult social care, as well as an innovative project to reduce the energy bills of those most vulnerable, considering the current energy and cost of living crisis. Both ideas were rejected by the Conservatives, but our Group will continue to champion more investment into our social care and green technology. For more information on Suffolk GLI's Budget amendment, visit:

[https://committeeminutes.suffolk.gov.uk/DocSetPage.aspx?MeetingTitle=\(17-02-2022\),%20County%20Council](https://committeeminutes.suffolk.gov.uk/DocSetPage.aspx?MeetingTitle=(17-02-2022),%20County%20Council)

Warmer Homes Suffolk

Suffolk residents who are struggling to keep their homes warm can contact a new project, named 'Warm Homes Suffolk', which offers funding and free advice. The project can offer expert advice on reducing energy bills, energy usage and identify benefits that residents may be entitled to, to help keep their homes warm. Visit: www.warmhomessuffolk.org.

ROBERT LINDSAY
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