

County Councillor's report to Lavenham Parish Council meeting on Thursday 13th January 2022

20mph Scheme Lavenham

Comments on the report and the police response from both me and the Parish Council have now been submitted and the report will go forward to a senior Highways officer and the cabinet member for transport to decide on. If approved, details about the exact extent of the 20mph (which we have already made clear we want to cover a larger area than the officer initially proposed) will be discussed with the Highways engineer assigned to the project.

Gas works EV installation works.

At the request of your Chairman I asked Highways network assurance for the road closure not to be delayed. They tell me that the works and road closure are now definitively booked for 7 March to 14 March. Although schools had raised an objection about school routes being blocked at that time, and asked for the dates to be moved (delaying the EV installation) highways have stuck to the original timetable.

Cabinet Meeting

The Cabinet met on the 7th December and voted unanimously to approve additional investment in highway drainage and footway infrastructure. £10m has been approved to replace broken pipes, as well as new installations, and £10m has been approved to increase the maintenance of selected footways. The Cabinet also voted to approve Suffolk County Council's new Housing Joint Venture. The Council wish to enter a contractual agreement with a private developer, aiming to deliver up to 3,000 new homes across Suffolk, using former county farm land near Mildenhall and Lowestoft.

Scrutiny Meeting on SEND Report

The Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Committee met to discuss the damning SEND report, which outlined the various failings of the local service in dealing with children with special needs and disabilities. A new report from the SEND services was presented, which included the progress of improving the service. This included extended training, newly appointed managerial posts, and new accountability structures to help deal with the issues outlined in the previous report.

Significant Investment in Firefighting Equipment

Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service has recently added to its lifesaving kit. A significant investment has enabled improved digital radios, smoke hoods and smoke curtains to be provided to every crew in the county.

This equipment can be used in a range of incidents, with it already proving invaluable in Lowestoft, when two occupants were rescued after a kitchen fire. Although crews are ready to attend emergencies with this new kit, it's important that every home has its own lifesaving equipment – smoke alarms, which should be fitted and tested regularly.

For more information, visit: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/council-news/show/significant-investment-in-firefighting-equipment-secures-safer-future-for-suffolk>

Free Bus and Taxi Services for All Travelling for a Vaccination

Stuart Keeble, the Director of Public Health at Suffolk County Council, expanded the 'Vaxi Taxi' service to all members of the public. The original campaign was for those who were strictly eligible for free public transport, but the Council has opened up the offer to anyone who needs it, in order to get to their appointment for a first, second or booster vaccination.

R LINDSAY

JANUARY 2022