

Report for Lavenham PC 5.12.19

Robert Lindsay, Suffolk County Councillor

Impact of general election moratorium

The election moratorium started on 6 November, and consequently a number of decisions and meetings at Suffolk County Council have been delayed.

Budget scrutiny has been delayed from December to January. The long-awaited children's centre consultation will need to wait until the new year. We still don't have any information about when exactly this consultation will be ready. Similarly, the council will not be able to publish the first draft of the Ipswich Northern Bypass business case until after the election.

Finally, the Council has made the decision to postpone any meetings of the Climate Emergency Policy Development Panel until the new year.

Plans for civil parking enforcement across Suffolk

I know Lavenham has been looking forward to the transfer of parking enforcement from police to district council for some time. Civil parking enforcement is expected to be rolled out across Suffolk from 31 January 2020. Currently Ipswich Borough Council is already responsible for parking enforcement, however across the rest of the county it is the police who are responsible.

Under the new plans, West Suffolk Council and East Suffolk Council will take on the responsibility of parking enforcement in their own areas. IBC and WSC will also cover the Mid-Suffolk and Babergh area on an agreed operational split: WSC will operate in the northern two-thirds of Mid Suffolk and the western half of Babergh, and IBC will operate in the remaining areas.

A consistent approach is being planned, to ensure that fines are the same across the whole county

Rights of Way Improvement Plan published

Suffolk County Council's Rights of Way Improvement Plan (2020-30) was agreed by the Cabinet on 6 November.

The delivery plan focuses on four key areas: managing green access infrastructure; improving green access infrastructure; promoting green access; and developing healthy and sustainable communities.

Measures proposed by the plan include creating a digital map of the county's footpaths and bridleways and a new system to prioritise maintenance of highly-used routes. The plan also focuses on sustainable travel choices and the health benefits of walking and cycling.

Lavenham Walk

I have asked for a meeting with Andrew Reid over this but it looks unlikely until the new year, given the election moratorium.