

Report for Lavenham PC 4.4.19

Water Street scheme – site meeting

Cllr O'Mahoney and I had a useful meeting with the highways engineer over this. Any public objections or comments on the scheme must go to George Firth George.firth@suffolk.gov.uk at Suffolk Legal by July 16th. A decision will then be made about whether to make the scheme permanent. I asked that he arrange monitoring of the scheme since he already has data from before it was put in place. Residents I have spoken to seem unanimous that there are fewer lorries and that traffic is calmer so my view at the moment is that broadly the scheme has worked and needs only minor tweaks. I have been approached by a fellow councillor wanting to copy parts of the scheme for their area, particularly the creation of a false pavement using those thin bollards

Once the scheme is made permanent there are options to improve the appearance of it, particularly the yellow plastic bollards with the arrow signs on at the ends of each build out, which are probably the most aesthetically inappropriate parts. Black metal hoops are available but this is not something that Highways will pay for.

As you know the large weight restriction sign on Church Street has been replaced by a smaller one at my request. The "road layout changed" sign will be taken down shortly as it only has to be up for 3 months.

The row of thin black plastic bollards on the East end of Water Street are important for the safety of pedestrians. We asked that a replacement bollard that had been bolted down be replaced with a screw in one so that it could be removed if necessary for lorries coming out of Lavenham Press. We also asked that the modular traffic island close to Shilling Street corner be moved two metres west so that there is enough space on the footway to allow buggies/wheelchairs to get through. The engineer will investigate whether this gives enough of a turning circle for emergency vehicles.

Suffolk County Council declares "climate emergency"

On 21 March, I successfully seconded a motion calling on Suffolk County Council to recognise the imminent dangers of climate change and declare a climate emergency. The motion received near-unanimous support, with 60 councillors voting in favour, and only one vote against and one abstention.

As a result of this motion the Council will form a cross-party panel by September 2019, which will be tasked with developing policy ideas to help the authority cut carbon emissions on a spend to save basis. The council has also agreed the ambition to be carbon neutral by 2030, and has committed to working with partners in Suffolk to help them achieve the same goal.