

Lavenham PC 4.6.20

Report from County Councillor Robert Lindsay

Water Street

Verbal update – will be speaking to project manager before your meeting

Lavenham Walk– verbal update

Social distancing in the village

Well done on submitting your proposals for streetscape realignments early. I shall be interested to see the outcome.

Further opening of schools

From June 1st pupils in nurseries, reception, year one and year six were allowed back to school.

The county's cabinet member for education reports that fewer schools than expected opened and those that did had fewer pupils than expected turn up. Some schools have delayed opening to June 15th.

The Council has provided all schools with a risk assessment checklist.

It is keen to reassure parents that **it is not compulsory for parents to send their children to school at this time and there will be no penalties for families who choose to keep children at home.**

More information is available at:

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19/parent-guidance-about-schools-during-covid-19-pandemic/>

Testing in Suffolk

A regional testing centre for Suffolk and surrounding areas can be found at the **London Road Park and Ride, Copdock, Ipswich**. It is open from 8am to 7pm, every day. There are also various mobile testing units across Suffolk. In addition, home testing kits can be requested. More information on how to access a test in Suffolk is available at: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19/covid-19-testing-in-suffolk/>

Domestic Abuse helpline available 24/7

The existing Domestic Abuse Outreach Service, run by Suffolk County Council and Anglia Care Trust, has extended its **0800 977 5690** freephone number to be available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Anyone with concerns including professionals who may be supporting clients, as well as friends and families who are concerned for loved ones, can access this local support.

Recycling centres reopen with booking system

Suffolk County Council have reopened household waste recycling centres, following weeks of closure due to the lockdown. They are operating on a booking system, to help reduce traffic disruption on roads around the sites and support social distancing on site for staff and members of the public.

EDF submits application for Sizewell C DCO

On 27 May, EDF submitted an application for a development consent order for Sizewell C to the Planning Inspectorate.

I am concerned about EDF's decision to go ahead with an application during the current crisis, as it will be much more difficult for the public and stakeholders to fully scrutinise the plans and participate in the consultation process. Our political group has a motion before full council in July to outright oppose the application.

Exclusion of public from Council online meetings

I have raised with the county's monitoring officer the fact that the next planned online meeting of Development and Regulation Committee (the county's equivalent of planning) is not allowing members of the public to speak. I believe that we need to assume that all council meetings will be online for the foreseeable future and we should therefore ensure that the public have the same ability to participate as they do at a face to face meeting.