

Council to draw up 5 year cycling network plan

At full council last month, I proposed two motions,

- One asking a cross party working group to draw up a costed five-year plan for a network of cycle paths
- The other to commit 5% of the annual integrated transport budget, which the council gets from central government, to cycling infrastructure.

The first was unanimously carried, the second was voted down by the Conservative majority administration. We are awaiting further information regarding the cross-party group that will draw up a cycling plan, and will keep you updated as this progresses.

Policy Development Panels

At full council they also changed the constitution to scrap what had been cross party cabinet committees and replace them with ad hoc policy development panels - which will have cross party representation. Mary Evans has promised that the first one will be on prioritising cycle routes as per the motion. In rural areas like ours these could be on bridleways and disused railways rather than on the roads. This would also enhance facilities for walkers (Lavenham Walk?).

Final decision reached on school transport policy changes

Following the Cabinet's decision to change Suffolk's school transport policy, my group (made up of Liberal Democrats, Greens and Independents) submitted a joint "call-in" of the decision with the Labour group.

The call-in argued that Cabinet did not have enough information to make an appropriate decision, given that there was no evidence of savings. However on Monday 9 July, the Scrutiny Committee determined that the concerns we raised were not valid and so rejected the call-in. This means that the Cabinet's decision was endorsed and the planned changes to the school transport policy will be implemented from September 2019.

Public Sector Leaders Group

Our group has been asked to comment on the review of this body which until I complained, has met in secret. We said that it should be in public, accounts published and that any decision made about local areas should involve the local councillor from district and county level who represents that area. We shall see whether they follow this advice.

Water Street, Lower Road, Mud Lane

I have asked for an update on the Water Street weight restriction works. If they do not start in August I will be reminding the press that this was what was promised. The officer we met at Lower Road has come back with a one line negative response to your request for traffic calming saying the road is too narrow and I have asked for further explanation. I have yet to receive a response on request for drainage survey of Mud Lane.