

Lavenham Parish report from Robert Lindsay County Councillor 3.9.26

46 Sudbury to Bury late bus

Cllr Domoney and your Clerk usefully alerted me to the fact that Konect's new timetable makes the last, late bus back from Sudbury an hour earlier. I've raised this with the County Council's bus officer who was not aware. The County is paying for this late bus (through public BSIP funding) so he will be asking why they changed it, as it is essentially a variation of contract, which he believes the County has not agreed. More when I have it.

Dunwich wildfire repercussions

After the wildfire, the Suffolk Fire Brigades Union wrote to the PM to ask for more appropriate kit, i.e. clothing that is lighter, boots for outdoor terrain, more 4X4 vehicles and more firefighters. Suffolk currently receives lower than average funding from the government for its fire service, although it is one of the driest areas in the country and is therefore more likely to be hit by wildfires in our increasing hot, dry summers. Some County Fire Brigades, like Hampshire, do have the correct light weight clothing.

£18k on remodeling leader's office

The new Reform UK administration at the council is spending around £18,000 to remodel the Leader's office at Endeavour House, claiming these works were needed as there was not enough room in the current Leader's office.

Help to Replace Ageing Heating Systems

All Suffolk councils are partnering with Switch Together, a community group-buying scheme, to make it easier for Suffolk residents to choose installers to replace ageing gas, oil or LPG boilers with heat pumps.

Through the government's Boiler Upgrade Scheme, eligible homeowners in England can receive a grant of £7,500 toward an air source heat pump, or £9,000 for households currently heating with oil or LPG.

The grant is applied for upfront by the installer, so residents do not need to claim it back or repay it. Switch Together works by bringing residents together so that installers compete to win their business which secures better prices than homeowners could negotiate individually. Switch Together's group-buying savings apply on top of the government grant.

For more information about the scheme, please visit the Sustainable Suffolk website:

<https://sustainablesuffolk.org.uk/what-we-do/projects/switch-together-suffolk/>

Warm Home Loan

Homeowners across Suffolk can now apply for a loan to help fund energy efficiency improvements to their homes, thanks to a partnership between Suffolk County Council and Lendology. The Warm Homes Suffolk Loan scheme offers eligible homeowners access to loans from £2k to £15k at a fixed interest rate of 2.2%, with repayment terms of up to seven years.

Further info:

<https://www.lendology.org.uk/partner/suffolk-council/>

Public Consultation on Cuts to Healthy Child Service

Suffolk County Council's public consultation on proposed changes to its Healthy Child Service has been extended for an extra month. The proposed changes include cessation of the Young Person Pathway and Family Nurse Partnership, which provides specialist support to parents under the age of 21 after they have a baby. The proposals also include removal of the Community Staff Nurse role from Health Visiting teams, and the School Nursing service becoming term-time only. The consultation now runs until 18 October, with a decision likely to be made at Cabinet in November.

Further info:

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/consultations-petitions-and-elections/consultations/healthy-child-services-consultations>