

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT FOR LAVENHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING THURSDAY 5TH JULY 2018

Plans for school bus cuts on hold

Two weeks ago the cabinet voted unanimously to approve the new policy. My group combined with Labour to submit a 22 page report which critiqued that lack of information, research and some misleading statements in the papers that the cabinet based their decision on. Earlier this week we heard that most of these objections had been accepted by the council. That means that the decision will now be examined by the scrutiny committee on July 9th. Our main objection was and is that there is no real evidence that the move will produce any savings, especially given the experience in Essex.

New cabinet member for highways to review road maintenance policy

The new Cabinet Member for Highways, Mary Evans, has launched a major review of the way highways in Suffolk are maintained.

Areas due to be reviewed include:

- * Existing policy which determines how resources are deployed, known as the Suffolk Highway Maintenance Operational Plan (HMOP);
- * How the location of potholes on the road is considered alongside the width and depth, recognising the impact they can have on cyclists and motorcyclists;
- * How utility companies coordinate roadworks and are held to account for their actions;
- * How residents, councillors and businesses are informed about road repairs and how they can access information;
- * Financial control and contract management;
- * How town and parish councils can work closer with Suffolk Highways to make the best use of their local knowledge, skills, money and time.

Water Street weight restriction

You may have seen in the East Anglian that the latest promised date for the work, issued by the SCC press office, in response to press inquiries, is "mid-late August". The usual health warning should apply to this. I have asked Cllr Mary Evans to include communications with councillors and the public in her review of Highways. She has indicated this subject needs a separate review

R LINDSAY
JULY 2018