

Report for Lavenham PC from County Councillor Robert Lindsay, 2.7.20

Water Street Verbal update

Suffolk Local Outbreak Control Plan published

Suffolk County Council has published a Local Outbreak Control Plan which sets out how Suffolk would prevent and respond to a localised outbreak of COVID-19. A copy of the full plan and an executive summary can be viewed here:

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19/suffolks-response/>

Suffolk has received £2.79m from the Government to support the delivery of the plan. The plan focuses on preventing and managing outbreaks in 'complex settings and groups' e.g. care homes, schools, health settings, workplaces, public spaces, BAME communities and those that are shielded.

I was yesterday assured by Suffolk's Director of Public Health, Stuart Keeble, that he is now getting from central government the post code level data on test results, which is what he needs for an effective response.

Concessionary travel rules reintroduced on public transport

Suffolk County Council has announced that concessionary travel rules, which had been relaxed during lockdown, will be reintroduced from July 6. This means that from Monday 6 July, concessionary bus passes in Suffolk will only be valid Monday to Fridays from 9:30am to 9pm, and all day on Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holidays. The council has stated this is necessary to support social distancing on peak bus services. All passengers are now required to wear a face covering on public transport.

Planning Inspectorate accepts plans for Sizewell C

The formal consultation stage of the process will begin on 8 July and run to 30 September. Anyone who wishes to comment will need to register on the Planning Inspectorate website.

My group will be proposing a motion on 9 July at full council meeting asking the county to oppose the development of Sizewell C. It is currently supportive in principle but against the proposed way it is being constructed.

Cabinet approves 5-year cycling plan for Suffolk

On 16 June the Cabinet approved a 5-year cycling plan for Suffolk, which identified 148 potential routes to be prioritised. This is as a

result of a motion proposed I proposed two years ago, which called on the council to produce a strategic costed 5-year cycling plan.

Funding has not yet been secured for these routes, but the cycling plan will provide a strong basis to bid for funding as and when it becomes available. There is coincidentally some emergency “active travel” funding which is being used to set up some of the cycle routes near the top of the list. The Cabinet’s approval of the plan means that discussions can begin with district and borough councils on developing the five-year-plan further.

No spare seats will be offered on school buses

Suffolk County Council normally allows families who are ineligible for free school transport to purchase a spare seat on the council’s school buses. However, they will be withdrawing that service this September due to social distancing requirements.

Any parents who are concerned by this change can call 0345 606 6173, and information will also be available on www.suffolkonboard.com.

Recycling centres reopen to trailers, vans and trade waste

For details of booking see here <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/planning-waste-and-environment/waste-and-recycling/find-a-rubbish-tip-or-recycling-centre/>

Up to £20m saved in pension fund

At the last pension committee meeting on June 1 we heard that the value of the Suffolk Pension Fund fell by £327m in the quarter January to March 2020, to £2.802bn, a drop of just over 10%, as stock markets, led by oil stocks, plummeted in the wake of the pandemic. I had been urging for some time a switch of fossil fuel investments into low carbon equivalents and in January, before the plunge began, we completed the transfer of £260m from three ordinary tracker funds into a low carbon “Climate Aware” tracker. The low carbon tracker lost 16% in the quarter while the 3 funds we transferred from lost 21%, 17% and 21%. I do not yet have the breakdown of actual amounts but it equates to between £10 and £20m saved.

Lavenham School looking for a governor

Apply or inquire to Suffolk County Council 01473 263972 or email: governance@suffolk.gov.uk.