

**Report for Lavenham PC 1 Mar 2018** Robert Lindsay County councillor

### **Two Water Street closures**

I am writing this day before closure of Water Street is due for culvert repair. Obviously there is likely to be another one a few weeks later for weight restriction. I have asked about the timing of road closures but I stressed to Highways that we don't want to delay any of the projects any further

### **Lower Road.**

I have reminded highways that we are awaiting a date for meeting community engineer to discuss potential traffic calming measures on Lower Road. There is one engineer for the whole of West Suffolk.

### **“Community self-help”**

I have scheduled a meeting next week with the officer conducting this consultation – Lloyd Jones - and with the currently most senior highways officer Mark Stevens and with the rest of my council group to try to urge for the need to allow parishes to hire their own contractors (and to try to get clarity on this). So I will let you know how that goes.

### **Suffolk Public Sector Leaders**

I have met Chris Bally, deputy chief executive and policy advisor to the SPSL, to raise my concerns about the governance of this body which meets in private and makes decisions on spending a proportion of business rates and some grant money. He has agreed with me that there is a need to provide more openness and has said it is on the agenda. I shall be pressing for it to meet in public and for minutes and agendas to be published. He has provided a breakdown of the finances it currently controls (£7.4m in business rates) and the £2m committed so far.

### **Decriminalisation of parking**

The Public Sector Leaders includes the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) and one of their roles is to drive the above project which will hand over enforcement of on-street parking from police to District Councils such as Babergh, scheduled for spring 2019. After pressure from me, Colin Noble circulated some notes of the November meeting to councillors. One item on these notes indicated that a “lack of resource” at the Dept for Transport may risk delaying this handover from its scheduled spring 2019 date. The leaders and the PCC agreed to lobby Suffolk MPs on this. I spoke to the officer supervising this and he tells me that regulations must be laid before parliament for Suffolk's application to be approved and that a lack of DfT lawyers (all working on Brexit) is the problem. When it happens, Babergh is likely to be looking for places where it can charge for on-street parking, because the work of enforcing yellow lines in the district is forecast to generate a loss, without extra paid-for parking slots.