

Haverhill Town Council

Minutes of a Meeting of Haverhill Town Council's



FULL COUNCIL

Held on **Monday, 29 June 2026** 7.15pm at Haverhill Arts Centre, High Street, Haverhill

Present: Mayor L Miller-Jones
Councillor A Brown
Councillor J Burns
Councillor B Davidson
Councillor P Hanlon
Councillor M Martin
Councillor J Mason
Councillor D Page
Deputy Mayor D Smith
Councillor L Smith
Councillor J Teixeira

Apologies: Councillor Q Cox
Councillor P Firman
Councillor A Luccarini
Councillor A Stinchcombe
Absent Councillor J Crooks

In Attendance: Colin Poole, Town Clerk
Vicky Phillips, Deputy Clerk
County Councillor Paul Littman
County Councillor Luke O'Brien

There was one member of the public present.

Welcome:

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting and advised the meeting was being recorded.

MINUTES

C26 **Apologies for Absence**
/083 The above apologies were noted.

C26 **Declaration of Interests and requests for dispensation**
/084 Councillor J Mason declared an Other Registerable Interest in item C26/90 b) as his wife is a member of the Haverhill Show Committee.
It was proposed by Councillor D smith, seconded by Councillor A Brown, that a partial dispensation be granted to allow Councillor J Mason to stay while the grant is being discussed, however, Councillor J Mason will leave the room whilst voting takes place.

RESOLVED

C26 /085 **Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held Monday, 11 May 2026**
It was proposed by Councillor L Smith, seconded by Councillor J Burns that the minutes of the meeting held Monday, 11 May 2026 be agreed as a true record.

RESOLVED

C26 /086 **To note progress of actions arising from the minutes not covered by this Agenda**
None

C26 /087 **Reports from District/County Councillors on issues pertinent to HAVERHILL and the PUBLIC FORUM**

a) Police Report:

None

b) Ambulance Report

Councillor A Brown reported that there is a meeting shortly and will be able to give an update at the July Council meeting. Councillor J Mason will approach Health and Scrutiny again to see if they can add it to the forward work programme.

c) Suffolk County Councillors

Councillor Luke O'Brien reported that he has been elected as a chair of the Education Service Scrutiny Committee. That had its first meeting on 19th where the forward work programme was decided. Suffolk County Council is under special measures with SEND, so he will be focussing on that. The committee will also be looking at how to stay in contact with young people who use children's services following the social media ban. Councillor Luke O'Brien will also be looking at ongoing issues with the asphalt on top of the concrete base along Chalkstone Way, which has deteriorated, he intends to pursue this with his contacts in Highways.

Councillor J Mason sent his report prior to the meeting.

He explained that he and Councillor O'Brien's predecessor had lobbied for repairs along Chalkstone Way, some have been repaired, which is an improvement, but because of the nature of the surface, it's an ongoing story. Councillor J Burns advised that some of the speed cushions were damaged, some with metal wires sticking out. Councillor O'Brien to report. Councillor J Mason updated on some previous projects that he had been involved in:

- First hour free parking is now in place
- Funding secured for repairs to block paving in the High Street and Queen Street
- West Suffolk bid for improvements to bus station for real time information boards
- Councillor J Mason also reported that he was pleased to see drop kerbs have been put in along Greenfields Way have been completed.
- Will report back on County TRO for next meeting
- Councillor J Mason reported that he had met with the Waste and Street cleaning team regarding better coordination with the County Council and West Suffolk Council once weed killing treatment has taken place.
- A meeting has taken place with the Police and Crime Commissioner, Nick Timothy, members of the ambulance service, Alex Wilson and David Osborne to present options for the ambulance service to leave their current location. Councillor J Mason explained that long term he

Cllr O'Brien

believes the Blue Lights Hub will happen, but there maybe some interim measures.

- EV Charging points are going in on Ash Close.

d) District Councillors

Councillor D Smith reported:

A safety life ring has now been installed at the SUDS at Cleves Road, by the Town Council's community wardens.

It is the fourth anniversary of a tragic death by suicide at Sturmer Arches, Councillor D Smith is lobbying to try to get a commitment that it is made safe and free of risk of people jumping.

Councillor A Brown reported:

Mr Pinnock has raised about the difficulty that some people, particularly the elderly, are having with the new parking machines.

The floods lights at the MUGA at Chalkstone Way have been staying on, for 'testing', but are still on even though work has been completed. Additionally, the MUGA cannot be used yet as the tarmac needs to harden for six weeks before line markings can go on to it. Councillor A Brown asked if there was an alternative but has had no response. Will chase.

Councillor L Miller-Jones raised concerns about the app and booking system. She will also chase about the lining.

Councillor J Mason will chase about the 5-a-side pitch at the Burton Centre
Councillor J Burns had written to D Parker regarding children climbing the fence at the MUGA and the floodlights.

Cllr Brown

Cllr Mason

Councillor J Mason thanked Councillor A Brown for alerting him to the commercial refuse bins dumped in the Stour Brook, for reassurance the Environment Agency has confirmed that there has been no pollution as a result. The Greater London Waste Company have also secured the site, but it needs to be monitored.

Councillor P Hanlon updated that he had contacted West Suffolk Council about the food caddies, which had not been collected and reported that the truck had broken down. Also he updated about a particular disabled resident who has now had her issue resolved.

e) Town Councillors:

Councillor M Martin reported that the scaffolding had been removed from the old Co-Op/Argos building and that the building has been cleaned and windows replaced. The building now looks good. The Clerk advised that it was the developers that had carried out the work.

Councillor LS reported:

- Has attended some events as Councillor D Smith is Deputy Mayor
- Ecovend machine at Leisure Centre is now working
- Has attended Zone steering group, everything is progressing as planned.

Councillor J Burns had submitted his report prior to the meeting, but highlighted the following:

- Assisted at Castle Manor Prom
- Assisted with cleaning at the splashpad
- Has taken down speed device at Northern Avenue to collect data, which he will report back to the Council.
- Will be assisting at Samuel Ward Prom

Mayor L Miller-Jones reported that there has been an extension to the splashpad hours

f) Public Forum:
None.

C26 **Mayor's Report (appendix iii)**
/088

Mayor L Miller-Jones had circulated her report prior to the meeting but highlighted some events that she had particularly enjoyed:

- The HTTA gateway relocation
- Trail Tail app
- Suffolk Day
- 100th Birthday party
- Civic events for Chair of West Suffolk

Mayor L Miller-Jones thanked Deputy Mayor D Smith for attending some events on her behalf.

Mayor Miller-Jones also explained that she was holding some fundraising events for her mayoral charity, REACH, the first one being a quiz night at the Rugby Club and she invited all members to attend.

C26 **ONE Haverhill Partnership**
/089

Report from Clerk

The Clerk reported that the ONE Haverhill Board meeting will be taking place on 16th July.

C26 **Financial Matters**
/090

a) **Authorisation of payments:**

It was proposed by Councillor J Mason seconded by Councillor J Teixeira that the listed payments totalling £239,599.47 was authorised.

RESOLVED

b) **Grant Applications**

i) **Haverhill Show**

Councillor J Mason left the room 8.50pm.

It was proposed by Councillor J Teixeira, seconded by Councillor P Hanlon that the amount of £2,250 towards the provision of the Haverhill Show.

RESOLVED

Councillor J Mason returned to the room 8.51pm.

ii) **Haverhill Local History Museum**

It was proposed by Councillor J Burns, seconded by Councillor A Brown that the amount of £4,400 for support costs.

RESOLVED

C26 **Boyton Place Community Room**
/091

It was proposed by Councillor J Mason, seconded by Councillor A Brown that the Town Council take on the head lease and oversee the proposed new community room to be co-located with the new primary school on Boyton Hall Estate, with the potential for the Residents' Association to take on the management in the future.

The Clerk to contact Suffolk County Council.

RESOLVED

Town Clerk

End of Year Accounts

a) Significant Events

- i. To consider if any events that occurred during the 2025/26 financial year (or after the year-end), have consequences, or potential consequences, on the authority's finances which need to be reflected in the statement of accounts.
- ii. To note the RFO advises no such events occurred.

NOTED

Suffolk County Councillors Paul Littman and Luke O'Brien left the meeting

b) Review of Internal Controls

- i. Review of Internal Controls for the Council were considered.
It was proposed by Councillor P Hanlon, seconded by Councillor M Martin that the Internal Controls be adopted.

RESOLVED

- ii. Review of the Internal Audit was considered.
It was proposed by Councillor J Teixeira, seconded by Councillor L Smith that the Internal Audit be adopted.

RESOLVED

- iii. Terms of Reference, Specification, independence and effectiveness of the Internal Audit were considered.
It was proposed by Councillor D Page, seconded by Councillor M Martin that the Terms of Reference, Specification, independence and effectiveness of the Internal Audit be adopted.

RESOLVED

- iv. The Annual Internal Auditor's Report to External Auditor was considered.
It was proposed by Councillor L Miller-Jones, seconded by Councillor J Teixeira that the Internal Auditor's report to the External Auditor for the year ending 2025/26 be adopted.

RESOLVED

c) Annual Accounts & Return

- i. Adoption of Annual Accounts
 1. Income and Expenditure

It was proposed by Councillor J Burns, seconded by Councillor P Hanlon that the Income and Expenditure for year 01/04/2025 to 31/03/2026 be adopted.

RESOLVED

2. Balance Sheet

It was proposed by Councillor J Teixeira, seconded by Councillor M Martin that the Balance Sheet for year ended 31/03/2026 be adopted.

RESOLVED

- ii. Approval of sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return for the year ending 31st March 2026.

1. Annual Governance Statements

It was proposed by Councillor D Page, seconded by Councillor J Burns that the annual governance statement be signed as a true reflection.

RESOLVED

The Chair and Clerk signed the Annual Governance Statement.

2. Accounting Statements
It was proposed by Councillor L Smith, seconded by Councillor A Brown that the accounting statements be signed as a true reflection.

RESOLVED

The Chair signed the Accounting Statements that had previously been signed by the RFO.

3. Earmarked Reserves as at 31st March 2026
It was proposed by Councillor J Burns, seconded by Councillor B Davidson, that the Earmarked Reserves totalling £945,660.80

RESOLVED

4. Assets Register
It was proposed by Councillor J Burns, seconded by Councillor D Smith that the asset register detailing fixed assets valued at £985,182.30 be approved.

RESOLVED

5. Risk Register
It was proposed by Councillor B Davidson, seconded by Councillor P Hanlon that the Risk Register be adopted.

RESOLVED

d) To confirm all relevant insurances are in place

- i. To note that insurances were reviewed in November 2025 (C25/158b) and remain in place.
ii. To note that in June 2026 the council has taken professional liability insurances in the sum of £2m to cover the new alternative education provision work of the Engagement Hub, in accordance with the contracting requirements set by Suffolk County Council.

NOTED

C26 **Adoption of Committee Reports**

/093

a) Planning Committee

It was proposed by Councillor P Hanlon and seconded by Councillor A Brown that the Minutes of the meeting held 5th May 2026, 19th May and 1st June and any recommendations contained therein, be agreed as a true record.

RESOLVED

b) Leisure and Community Committee

It was proposed by Councillor J Burns and seconded by Councillor D Smith that the Minutes of the meeting held 26th May 2026 and any recommendations contained therein, be agreed as a true record.

RESOLVED

c) Finance Committee

It was proposed by Councillor L Smith and seconded by Councillor B Davidson that the Minutes of the meeting held 26th May 2026 and any recommendations contained therein, be agreed as a true record.

RESOLVED

C26 ***Councillor D Page left the meeting***

/094

Membership of Committees

It was agreed that Councillors be appointed as follows:

- a) Appeals Committee:
Cllr J Crooks, Cllr B Davidson, Cllr A Stinchcombe.
b) Arts Centre Development Working Party – *To be taken to next meeting*

- c) Civic Events Working Party
Cllr T Brown, Cllr J Burns, Cllr Q Cox, Cllr B Davidson, Cllr A Luccarini, Cllr L Miller-Jones, Cllr D Page.
 - d) Community Events Working Party
Cllr A Brown, Cllr J Burns, Cllr B Davidson, Cllr P Hanlon, Cllr A Luccarini, Cllr L Miller-Jones, Cllr D Page.
 - e) Energy & Sustainability Committee
Cllr L Miller-Jones, Cllr D Page, Cllr D Smith, Cllr L Smith, Cllr A Stinchcombe.
 - f) Finance Committee
Cllr J Burns, Cllr J Crooks, Cllr B Davidson, Cllr P Hanlon, Cllr A Luccarini, Cllr L Miller-Jones, Cllr L Smith, Cllr J Teixeira
 - g) Historic Buildings Preservation Trust Working Group
Cllr Q Cox, Cllr M Martin, Cllr J Mason, Cllr D Smith
It was proposed by Councillor J Burns, seconded by Councillor A Brown that Councillor J Mason be elected as Chair of the Working Party
RESOLVED
 - h) Leisure and Community Committee
Cllr A Brown, Cllr J Burns, Cllr Q Cox, Cllr P Hanlon, Cllr A Luccarini, Cllr M Martin, Cllr L Miller-Jones, Cllr D Page, Cllr D Smith, Cllr J Teixeira
 - i) Personnel Committee
Cllr J Burns, Cllr A Luccarini, Cllr L Miller-Jones, Cllr D Page, Cllr L Smith
 - j) Planning Committee
Cllr A Brown, Cllr Q Cox, Cllr P Hanlon, Cllr A Luccarini, Cllr M Martin, Cllr L Miller-Jones, Cllr D Smith.
 - k) Tendering Working Party
Cllr J Burns, Cllr B Davidson, Councillor L Miller-Jones
 - l) Youth Advisory Group
Cllr Q Cox, Cllr L Miller-Jones
- It was proposed by Councillor M Martin, seconded by Councillor J Burns that the membership of Committees be confirmed as listed above.
RESOLVED

C26 Appointments of Chairs and Vice-Chairs of Committees

/095 It was agreed that Councillors be appointed as follows:

- a) Appeals Committee:
Cllr B Davidson (Chair)
- b) Arts Centre Development Working Party
To be taken to next Full Council meeting
- c) Civic Events Working Party:
Cllr J Burns (Chair), Cllr Q Cox (Vice Chair)
- d) Community Events Working Party:
Cllr J Burns (Chair), Cllr B Davidson (Vice Chair)
- e) Energy & Sustainability Committee:
Cllr L Smith (Chair)
- f) Finance Committee
To be deferred to Finance Committee
- g) Historic Buildings Preservation Trust Working Group
Cllr J Mason (Chair)
- h) Leisure and Community Committee
Cllr J Burns (Chair), Cllr D Smith (Vice Chair)
- i) Personnel Committee
Cllr L Smith (Chair), Cllr D Page (Vice Chair)
- j) Planning Committee
Cllr P Hanlon (Chair), Cllr A Brown (Vice Chair)

k) Tendering Working Party

To be deferred to Tendering Committee

It was proposed by Councillor B Davidson, seconded by Councillor D Smith that the membership of Committees be confirmed as listed above.

Councillor D Page rejoined the meeting

C26 Appointment to Outside Bodes (see attached Matrix)

/096

To agree appointments of representatives to outside bodes

a) ONE Haverhill – Mayor, Clerk and 3 other Councillors

b) Haverhill Disability Forum

c) Youth Advisory Group

It was proposed by Councillor D Page, seconded by Councillor A Brown that the membership of Outside Bodies be confirmed as listed above.

RESOLVED

Following a request by Councillor J Mason, the Clerk to speak to members of ONE Haverhill regarding board membership.

Town Clerk

C26 Approval of terms of references for Committees and Working Parties

/097

It was proposed by Councillor L Smith, seconded by Councillor J Burns that the terms of reference for committees and working parties be approved.

RESOLVED

C26 Actions taken under delegated powers

/098

None

C26 Date of Next Meeting

/099

The meeting noted that the next meeting will be held on Monday, 27 July 2026.

C26 Closure

/100

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.20pm

Signed

Chairman

Date.....

Appendix i) - County Councillors' reports

Appendix ii) – Town Councillors' reports

Appendix iii) – Mayor's report

Appendix i)
Suffolk County Councillor Reports
Councillor Joe Mason

County and District Councillor Report, June 2026

Cllr Joe Mason

A great deal has happened since the elections in May. I was very pleased to be returned as a Suffolk County Councillor, although this time I serve in opposition. The election saw Reform UK take control of Suffolk County Council with 41 councillors. The other 29 seats are held by the Green Party (13), the Conservative Party (9), Labour Party (3), the Liberal Democrats (2) and independent councillors (2)

A Political Commentary to this report

I do not usually include this section in a report for obvious reasons. However, I believe it is important to make clear the following. The role of an opposition group or indeed any member at any council is to scrutinise the administration, question its decisions and ensure that important issues are properly debated.

Less than two months into the new administration, I already have serious concerns. These are not necessarily about the individual decisions being taken, but about what I see as attempts to limit or avoid proper debate and scrutiny.

An administration with a clear majority has the right to implement the programme on which it was elected. However, that mandate does not remove the need for openness, challenge and accountability. Proper debate is not an inconvenience to be managed; it is an essential part of transparent and democratic local government.

In this report

1. Suffolk County Council News
2. Outstanding Projects (Started prior to the last election)
3. Highways Update
4. Active Travel, Cyclists, Pedestrians and Rights of Way
5. Blue Lights Hub
6. Forest City
7. EV Charging Installations
8. Haverhill Preservation Trust? Saving the Corn Exchange
9. Persimmon (Landscaping & Maintenance Issues)
10. Community Hall/Space for Haverhill North
11. West Suffolk Council News
12. Community & Other West Suffolk Council Discussions/Projects not mentioned previously in this report

1. Suffolk County Council News
(For full details of all SCC news stories please visit
<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/council-news>)

Council to weigh up reorganisation legal challenge as letter reveals minister ignored professional advice

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/council-news/council-to-weigh-up-reorganisation-legal-challenge-as-letter-reveals-minister-ignored-professional-advice>

In short Councillor Michael Hadwen, Leader of Suffolk County Council:

"I have been clear from day one that I have no wish to see my county divided, and I will fight tooth and nail to avoid this from happening.

"It has taken the threat of legal action for the government to finally reveal some of its reasoning on why it took the decision it did on LGR – and the correspondence does not make for convincing reading.

"Not only is the Secretary of State trying to force Suffolk into a chaotic reorganisation – he is doing so with a blatant disregard for the advice of his civil servants.

"Suffolk deserves better and we intend to deliver it for our residents."

Comment

It is my group's position that we object to this legal challenge and the process that has taken place without debate in the chamber. Whilst the three unitary decision was not our preferred option, the formation of Unitaries and simplifying local government is essential and should not be delayed. The JR could cost the Suffolk taxpayer up to £500,000 and we do not believe there has been open democratic process at Suffolk County Council within the rules of the constitution.

I urge all Town Council members to read the following article:

<https://www.ipswich.co.uk/suffolk-is-taking-the-government-to-court-over-lgr-but-can-it-win-its-500k-taxpayer-funded-battle/>

Suffolk County Council is proud to fly the St George's Cross

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/council-news/suffolk-county-council-is-proud-to-fly-the-st-georges-cross>

Cllr Michael Hadwen, Leader of Suffolk County Council said:

"Today the St George's Flag has been raised to fly alongside the Union Flag and the County Council Flag.

"We are proud to fly the flag of England and celebrate our national identity, heritage, and the communities we serve. The St George's Cross is an important symbol of our country.

"When the Ukraine Flag was first raised, it reflected a moment of solidarity during an extraordinary international crisis. That support for the Ukrainian people continues, as does our support for Ukrainians living in Suffolk. After four years, however, we believe it is right that the council's flagpoles should once again focus on flags representing our nation and our county.

Comment

"I took part in the debate against Russia's illegal war in Ukraine back in 2021. The sentiment of solidarity discussed in the chamber was contributed to by most members in what was a memorable, meaningful and valuable debate. The raising of the Ukrainian flag was universally supported, ironically also by a number of now Reform UK members.

The taking down of the flag is not the issue. The decision without debate and discussion is for me highly problematic and disrespectful to members from all parties past and present who had been engaged on this issue and valued the inclusive manner in which the debate took place

Suffolk SEND services praised for ‘significant step forward’ by inspectors – but challenges remain

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/council-news/suffolk-send-services-praised-for-significant-step-forward-by-inspectors-but-challenges-remain>

Children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) in Suffolk are beginning to see improvements in support services after inspectors recognised a ‘significant step forward’ in the county’s improvement journey.

Comment

This welcome news is too early for the new administration to take credit for. Let’s hope this improvement continues under this administration.

Surface dressing season for Suffolk's roads gets underway

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/council-news/the-surface-dressing-season-for-suffolks-roads-is-underway>

Road space equivalent to 106 full-sized football pitches will be treated between now and August.

New ways of working will be trialled as Suffolk Highways launches its annual surface dressing programme to help maintain and improve roads across the county.

During the 2026 season, running from this week to August 8, 759,000 square metres of road – equivalent to 106 full-size football pitches - will be treated, delivering safer, longer-lasting surfaces for residents, businesses and visitors.

Surface dressing is a fast, efficient and sustainable way to maintain roads. It seals the surface, restores skid resistance and protects against water damage, helping extend road life and reduce the need for more costly repairs.

Comment:

Pleased to see Hanchett End made the list. I have requested a full list of roads for Haverhill and Withersfield.

2. Outstanding Projects (Started prior to the last election)

There are a number of projects that I have been working on from before the election, across the old Cangle Division that I am still either pressing for completion or have recently seen implemented

First Hour Free Parking

I am very pleased that the first hour of parking is now free in Haverhill’s main town-centre car parks. This follows the budget amendment I proposed at West Suffolk Council, which was approved by just one vote. I argued for the change because Haverhill businesses compete with retail parks and supermarkets where parking is free, and our town centre needed a fairer offer. The aim is simple: to make it easier for residents to pop into town, visit the market, use local services and support independent businesses without immediately facing a parking charge.

It is also interesting to see councils across the country introducing similar—and in some places considerably more ambitious—free-parking schemes as part of their

efforts to support High Streets. Haverhill is not acting in isolation, and there is a growing recognition that councils need to be proactive in helping town centres compete.

I am, however, disappointed that West Suffolk Council did not consult members more fully about the installation of the new machines and the available payment options. These practical details affect how easily residents can use the scheme and should have benefited from greater local input. As this is a two-year pilot, its impact must now be properly measured through footfall, parking usage, business feedback, vacancy rates and the amount of time people spend in the town centre.

Free parking alone will not solve every challenge facing the High Street, but it removes one frequently raised barrier and gives residents another reason to visit.

High Street – Block Paving

Works have been approved though there is no confirmed date and works may take some time, but I am pleased that with previous Cllr Roach, funding has been identified and allocated for improvements not just to the block paving but the drain near Chapmans as well as random patches of tarmac, e.g. At the entrance of Queens Street that spoil the High Street Aesthetic.

Dropped Kerbs on Clements Lane

The final part of my dropped kerbs project was installed just prior to the election, with Clements Close being the last of my dropped kerb projects prior to the new administration taking over.

Bus Improvement Scheme & Bus Shelters

RTI boards confirmed but no date given for implementation. New Bus Shelters for Vetch Walk/Chivers Road, Chimswell Rd and Howe Road confirmed, awaiting dates for installation.

I welcome West Suffolk Councils submission to support a package of improvements at Haverhill Bus Station to improve overall passenger experience, whilst also strengthening the bus interchange. Measures in the bid include:

- Upgraded lighting across all shelters
- Enhanced CCTV coverage
- Installation of an Automated External Defibrillator (AED)
- Clearance of obstructive landscaping
- Provision of new cycle parking
- Implementation of a new wayfinding and signage system
- Installation of a Pulse Smart Hub / digital totem kiosk

I believe funding was already available for the RTI boards, but I believe West Suffolk are exploring using available S106 funding.

Burton Centre Court

I am beginning to think that the planned tenancy of the courts might now not go ahead due to issues facing the community group. I should know more by the next Town Council Meeting,

3. Highways Update

Monthly safety inspections continue across our main roads, and any defects meeting intervention criteria will be repaired within the required HMOP timescales. I have toured the area with my Community Liaison Engineer, raising a wide range of issues across Haverhill & Withersfield.

Withersfield Rd & Downs Crescent

Have been confirmed for resurfacing works for the 2026/27 tax year – Still no date

Allington Walk

Done! Something I have personally been fighting for and had been postponed a number of times Residents are very happy with the work carried out.

Greenfield Way dropped kerbs

I have yet to find out who sanctioned the dropped kerbs on the rest of the Clements estate. Highways haven't been able to tell me, and I have yet to check whether Havebury had this work carried out. Regardless Greenfields way has never been so accessible. A huge improvement with what looks like a further 10 sets of dropped kerbs installed!

County Wide TRO

No further updates – I have been told September for implementation of the changes to TROs specific to Haverhill. I will chase this for next month's report.

Bypass / A1307 cutback and signage issues

It's in an appalling state. I will be lobbying the new administration and Portfolio Holder for Highways Christopher Hudson, for whether funding can be found and work can be carried out.

Potholes – General

Things got a lot quieter from the end of March onwards. Pothole season was pretty grim though in truth Haverhill suffered less than nearby areas. I remain resolute in the opinion, that whilst potholes will always happen over the winter months, Highways must respond quicker to reports of "Wheel Breakers"

Kerb Weeds

Haverhill North and West and some parts of Withersfield are in desperate need of some Highways and West Suffolk Council Street Cleaning TLC. This current programme for weed treatment is:

- Haverhill West — week ending 26 June
- Withersfield — week ending 26 June
- Haverhill East — week ending 3 July
- Haverhill North — week ending 10 July
- Haverhill South — week ending 17 July

This weekend I have written to Operations at West Suffolk asking for improvements to street sweeping and coordination with SCC for dead weed removal.

4. Active Travel, Cyclists, Pedestrians and Rights of Way Haverhill Local Transport Plan

I have had it confirmed that the Howe Road and Regiment Way Crossing will be going ahead.

I will try and provide a more detailed update next week. It has been hinted that the Toucan crossing on Wratting Road will be installed by end of Year – awaiting accurate date for the installation.

Raised Table on Ann Suckling Road & Speed Mitigations measures being considered

No further update, still awaiting date for the installation. The timing for works is ultimately dependent on the developer. Many thanks to Councillor John Burns for installing SIDS on Ann Suckling way to gather data on the traffic using this road.

Depending on the outcome of the data I am looking to implement measure to increase pedestrian safety along this route.
I am also looking at ways in which I might be able to help in the village of Withersfield and I look forward to attending the Parish Council meeting to hear from local members there.

5. Blue Lights Hub

Last Week I met with West Suffolk Council, Nick Timothy, Tim Passmore and representatives from the EEAST to explore options. It looks likely that there will be an interim measure, but the Blue Lights hub remains an ambition that all parties are working towards. Funding models are being explored for different options.

6. Forest City

I attended the launch of the Forest City proposal at the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors in Westminster because I believed it was important to hear directly from those promoting the scheme and to understand the case they were making. My attendance should not be interpreted as support. I have made my opposition clear and public, and Shiv Malik is well-aware of my position. I continue to keep channels of communication open because I believe it is important to challenge him directly on what I regard as flawed reasoning for justifying a scheme of around 390,000 homes, with dire consequences that would fundamentally reshape communities, the surrounding countryside and the wider region.

From the conversations I have had with residents in my District I believe there is an overwhelming lack of support for Forest City. Local people deserve to know where their elected representatives stand on a proposal of this scale, and I would therefore welcome other Councillors setting out their positions publicly. This issue is too important for silence or ambiguity: all of West Suffolk communities impacted should be fully informed, properly consulted and given a meaningful voice in decisions that could permanently alter the West Suffolk & East Cambs Regions

7. EV Charging

The Ash Grove installation has been installed. I am awaiting news of which projects are next across Haverhill; this rollout is happening slower than anticipated.

8. Haverhill Preservation Trust? Saving the Corn Exchange

I chaired the first meeting of the Task & Finish Working Group regarding the Corn Exchange. Many thanks to Cllr David Smith in attendance with residents and Tom Foakes from the Suffolk Preservation Society. It was decided to task the Town Council to explore external funding to reduce the risk in order to carry out a feasibility study – essential before proceeding with deciding the vehicle for any future work to secure the Corn Exchange.

9. Persimmon Path (& Landscaping & Maintenance Issues)

I carried out a site visit with West Suffolk planning officer to communicate my frustration at the lack of care and delivery of landscaping across the Persimmon site. I intend to say more on this in the coming weeks, as it would appear Persimmon seem uninterested in resolving long standing issues.

10. Community Hall/Space for Haverhill North

No further updates

11. West Suffolk Council News

Discover West Suffolk's makers markets this summer!

<https://www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/news/pr20260622ws01.cfm>

Residents and visitors are invited to enjoy a summer of shopping local at the makers markets in Bury St Edmunds, Haverhill and Newmarket this July and August. The popular markets are ideal for discovering delicious treats, homeware, clothes, jewellery and more!

Haverhill - Saturday 4 July, 9am to 3pm

Each market will have a range of talented traders showcasing their unique products, making the perfect day out for all the family! Shoppers are encouraged to use the makers markets as a chance to explore West Suffolk whilst finding some great deals.

Comment:

I have attended a number of Market Working Groups. I welcome very recent signage and improvements to social media content, but progress has been too slow and with little impact across not just Haverhill but also Newmarket and Mildenhall.

Shape Tomorrow Together - First say on the new West Suffolk Local Plan

<https://www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/news/pr20260616ws01.cfm>

People from across West Suffolk are encouraged to give their views on the first stage of consultation on a new local plan and shape tomorrow together.

The new West Suffolk Local Plan will plan where new homes, and employment can be built to meet local needs to the year 2045. It will also include policies one example being around the delivery of affordable housing. West Suffolk Council was among the first councils in the country to up its affordable housing policy on greenfield sites with a requirement that 40 per cent of new homes be affordable. That policy is in its current local plan adopted in July last year. Since then, the Government has revised housing need figures – for West Suffolk this means that rather than planning for the delivery of 765 homes a year, it needs to cater for closer to 1200.

Six play areas to get revamp ahead of school holidays

<https://www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/news/ws20260615pr01.cfm>

Six play areas in West Suffolk are set to receive a fresh, new look over the next few months as part of an ongoing council funded programme of playground refurbishments.

I am currently monitoring two on the North Ward. One at Alderton Close and one on Hales Barn Road

12. Community & Other West Suffolk Council Discussions/Projects not mentioned previously in this report

Roll out of Simpler Recycling in West Suffolk

I am a little surprised that this did not appear on the news page of the West Suffolk Council website.

Whilst the rollout did not go entirely smoothly, as far as I am aware, everyone who should have received new bins has now done so. After offering support through social media, I dealt with more than 60 enquiries from residents—not including a few that came from as far away as Saxmundham and Brandon!

Locally, huge credit must go to the Waste team, who worked hard to resolve the problems that arose. They were responsive and helpful throughout, and I am grateful for the speed with which they dealt with the many issues I passed on to them.

Stour Brook Waste Bin Tipping

I worked with the Environment Agency to get Greater London Waste to remove the commercial bins that Youths had thrown into the Stour Brook. I visited the site with an AE field inspector who was able to confirm that no pollution was recorded at the site. The environment agency compelled GLW to make the site secure to prevent a reoccurrence. Many thanks to other members who brought this to my attention. It is concerning how much damage was caused in this a community including evidence of fires having been set.

Atterton & Ellis

I have asked for an update from West Suffolk Council regarding progress in discussions between Property Services and Bernhard and Company,

The Fox

No update other than I requested that West Suffolk insist on the owner making the site secure, which it is now. It is a shame that it is now being targeted and used for Graffiti. Truly an eyesore for the gateway into Haverhill and it is frustrating nothing can be done to see improvements here.

Community Police Matters

I continue to liaise with the community police team on a range of issues around town. I am having a ride along with one of the local community police officers to discuss matters across the area: in particular a number of parking and anti-social behaviour issues facing the community.

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Please note this report does not by any means include all the casework I am undertaking now or projects I am engaged with and trying to move forward for the betterment of the community. Where I have stated 'no further updates' or 'ongoing,' please refer to previous month's reports. I have tried to share as much transparency on many of the issues projects I have been engaged with and that I feel are reportable this month.

Members are always welcome to contact me should they need any information or assistance relating to issues in the area.

For Reference:

At **Suffolk County Council** I sit on:

Development & Regulation Committee, Scrutiny Committee, Education Transport Appeals Panel & whilst I am a substitute for the Police & Crime panel, it is likely I will attend most meetings.

At **West Suffolk Council** I sit on Performance & Audit Scrutiny Committee

At **Haverhil Town Council** I don't currently sit formally on any committees, but I will of course attend if summoned or need to act in capacity e.g. as a County Councillor such as the Haverhill High Street Enhancement Group, or if the agenda requires my attendance such as the Planning Committee, Energy & Sustainability Committee and Community & Leisure Community, which I have attended on a number of occasions.

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Appendix ii)
Town Councillor Report
Councillor John Burns

- **Great Wilsey Park:** Work continues alongside Chalkstone Way on the Barratt development as well as the Redrow phases near to Gurteen Avenue & English Way. I recently requested further news on the signalised junction of Chalkstone Way & Wratting Road and have been advised the plans are once again back with SCC.

Redrow recently invited Charmian Thompson & myself for a photoshoot and then produced a press release in advance of Armed Forces Day and their continuing support for the naming of their roads from WW2 casualties and veterans. They produced some excellent maps of the estate clearing showing the names which were on display by the Haverhill Family History Group last Saturday. They were well appreciated by many residents who did not know why the roads, some of whom lived there, were so named. We are hoping to produce a leaflet for all new residents on the estate to direct them to the Family History website with similar for the Persimmon site. Bloor homes have asked for names for their new estate to be developed and it is hoped the WW2 theme will continue as long as names are still available.

- **Police Matters:** Crime stats for April 2026 were distributed on 18th June. I had a recent meeting with the local policing Inspector to catch up on events in the town as well as to confirm arrangements for Armed Forces Day. From that there are all kinds of proactive actions taking place despite the lack of local police officers compared to smaller towns in Suffolk. I understand we hope to have a new PCSO assigned to the town in September and one more officer to join the Community Policing Team.
- **SCC Highways:** Chalkstone Way was recently patched but Millfields Way, which I understood was due to be resurfaced, was patched only with several potholes ignored but SCC managed to resurface the garage areas. Closing of Millfields Way caused a lot of problems for residents with the highways management team not seeming to know what they were doing blocking off the road at each end and telling residents/businesses to go the other way. When they did so they also found it blocked off and they were told to “talk to the council” rather than being sensible and letting them through.
- **Combined Authority:** Nothing to report.
- **Greater Cambridge Partnership:** No further updates.

Parking: I recently made a FOI request for parking statistics. Upon receipt I compiled and passed across to Councillors. It is patently obvious there has been no perceived benefit from the so-called increase in enforcement personnel and I have severe doubts whether there has been anything extra. As usual the places needing enforcement are being ignored with WSC concentrating on car parks and resident permit areas.

Markets: A meeting was recently held but once again I found little or no progress has been made. A few vinyl signs have now been put out but the vast majority of the 45 action points have not been looked out with it now being 4 years since the markets review was completed.

I specifically asked how the “£100K” allocation per annum is being spent and when anything will be done. I received no response or commitment.

Sturmer Arches: Nothing to report.

Fox PH (Wratting Road): Nothing to report.

Vixen PH (Millfields Way): The owner is trying to keep the site secure, but people still are trying to access. The sooner work starts on it the better.

Strasbourg Square: See above.

Other work (in no particular order):

- Splashpad: Following all the repair work, hot water cleaning and water testing I then found further repairs were necessary to the surface of the pad. I arranged for that and the pad was opened 19th May some 4 days earlier than scheduled. Since then, it has worked (and been used) well and we have cleaned the pad, using my industrial pressure washer, just the once when minor staining was noticed. Following the hot weather last week (when I increased the opening times), we will be cleaning it again very early tomorrow (Monday 29th June) to avoid build up created by use of things like suntan location, dirty feet, shoes, etc. and will continue to do so as needs must. Signs had to be put up to remind users not to take bottles into/near the pad and I moved the bin that WSC had put right next to it away because people were just leaving rubbish on top (can't manage to lift the lid) and being blown into the pad.
- Helped over 2 days with installation of bunting in the town centre.
- Filmed and created video for Haverhill Town Twinning Association rededication of the Ehringshausen statue on Jubilee Plaza.
- Wellbeing Centre:
 - Delivered & collected barriers for the opening event.
 - Setup software and initial configuration of products for the till system.
 - Many other jobs related to the operation including CCTV analysis for the police following a criminal event.
- Attended town centre development meeting. Not sure it achieved anything.
- Provided usual weekly financial income stats from the till system for the various sites to HTC management plus attending various HTC meetings.
- With wardens cleaned using my industrial pressure washer:
 - The bridge in Swan Lane,
 - the units in the kids play area on the Rec,
 - all of the benches around perimeter of the Rec,
 - the benches outside the Kiosk,
 - graffiti from electrical box in Howe Road,
 - graffiti from garages in Chalkstone Way opposite Samuel Ward Academy,
 - graffiti from back of Premier Travel,
 - railings near the Retail Park
 - We are scheduled to try to clean the Anglian Water box in Bumpstead Road and several other areas as time permits. Some of the paint used has proved near impossible to remove though.
- Opened and closed Clements for the SCC elections.

- Raised and lowered Suffolk Day flag.
- Opened splashpad for Kedington Girlguiding as they had walked across from Kedington.
- Setup laptop and setup for new Town Centre Manager.
- Installed Vehicle Activated Sign in Anne Suckling Lane and will be analysing/reporting data when they are brought down again this week. I have instructed wardens on how to install so hopefully in future I can leave them to climb ladders whilst I will continue to download and analyse collected data. That should mean I can get back to areas that Councillors and police have requested in the past.
- Filmed concert for Friends of St Mary's and produced video for them.
- Spent some considerable time redeveloping the Zone till system to allow for the government's recently announced summer VAT reduction on eat-in children's food and entrance fees. Implemented this weekend and seems to be working OK.
- Helped organise and film the Armed Forces Day flag raising last week. Facilitated the Armed Forces Day convoy (much reduced due to another event in Bottisham), helped out with barriers early morning etc. and across the very hot day before clearing up. I did take some footage and hope to produce something in due course.

Appendix iii) Mayor's Report Councillor Lora Miller-Jones

Hello everyone,

I hope you're well. I am pleased to present my very first mayor's report! It is rather long because it covers six weeks! Here is an outline of some of the things I've been doing:

My first mayoral engagement was the unveiling of the Gateway sign, beautifully refurbished and relocated as it deserved to be. I had the honour of cutting the ribbon and chatting to members of HTTA about the work they do. Special thanks to Bruce and Dave for their work on this! I love the connections that HTTA nurture, they are so valuable. One of their members mentioned to me that he's concerned because they don't have young members and he doesn't want it to die out, so please join and encourage your younger friends and relatives to join too! I'm looking forward to meeting the French delegation in August when they come to visit.

Next was the grand opening of the Stourview Wellbeing Centre, which was a fantastic event attended by the colleagues, partners and volunteers who have worked so hard to bring this project to fruition. It was very well attended and it was great to bring together so many people who had been involved in the various stages of the project since its inception.

The following day, the centre held its open day for the public, another very busy and successful event, with live music and a great atmosphere! We had wonderful feedback from both of these events and it was an honour to open the centre as mayor.

The following day I had two events, first was another ribbon cutting, this time for the grand opening of the new Free Food in Haverhill hub, which was fantastic to see and support. They do amazing work to reduce waste, offering the opportunity for anyone who wants to attend to fill a basket with produce, and asking only a small donation if possible in return. I love the fact that it's open to all, no questions asked, and I absolutely commend the hard work done by Lauren, Matt and the rest of the volunteers and their families

After that I visited God's Closet, a church organisation who do something similar but with clothes for babies and children, called a 'free shopping day'. These clothes are donated by the community, and customers can fill three bags with clothes for a £1 donation. It was incredibly well attended, and it was amazing to see so many donations of clothes (there were mountains of them), and lots of lovely youth volunteers giving their time to the project.

My next event was the mayor making for the Mayor of Thetford, which was really great, I met such nice people and swapped charity fundraising ideas with the new mayor, Vic. The mayor making was very traditional in lots of ways and everyone loved it, they have a swordbearer and all the councillors and the clerk wear robes, and the clerk wears a wig. I think we should have a sword, and Colin definitely should have a wig!

I was also able to attend the launch of the Haverhill trail on the Trail Tale app, offering a self-guided history walk around the town centre. Those involved put so much work into designing the route and all the information (big shout out to Brian and Charmian), I recommend that everyone download it as it's really really interesting if you want to learn more about our history!

Another honour and privilege was being invited to judge the Meadowlark Pageant in Kedington. The enthusiasm and effort from all participants was incredible! From the youngest participants, toddlers, to the eldest, who were pensioners, everyone worked so hard on their costumes and songs, and the atmosphere was brilliant. A really fantastic day.

I was also kindly welcomed at the Meadows Care Home for their open week, where I had a lovely time chatting and playing bingo with the residents. They've invited me back to open their summer fete this weekend.

On 21st June I attended Suffolk Day in Bury, which was another fabulous event, with stalls and activities on Angel Hill and in the Abbey Gardens, followed by the proclamation at the Athenaeum and a concert at St Edmundsbury Cathedral. I met lots of other mayors, enjoyed learning about the recipients of the medals, and was thoroughly engaged by the variety of talent on display at the concert.

A very great honour was being invited to the 100th birthday party of Mrs Verna Titmarsh, and getting to spend time chatting to Verna and all her family and friends. Verna has been in Haverhill since the 70s, she spent years volunteering for Citizens Advice and has been very active in the local U3A. It was lovely to chat to the attendees and I was very grateful to be invited to her special day.

Finally, yesterday, I attended the Chair of West Suffolk's civic service at St Edmundsbury Cathedral. The service had a wonderful message about tolerance and social justice, which I really appreciated, and there was an absolutely amazing choral anthem called Seek Him that Maketh the Seven Stars by a composer called Jonathan Dove, which was magical. It was good to see some of the same faces from the other events I've attended in the past month, I'm already getting to know a few of the other mayors which is really nice.

All in all I've had a wonderful start to my year as mayor, it's been busy and tiring, but I've been so grateful for every event that I've been invited to, and am looking forward to the rest of the year.

I've also been busy planning my mayoral fundraising events for REACH. The first one will be a Quiz Night at the Rugby Club on Saturday 25th July, 7pm start (doors open at half 6). Please do come along.