

Haverhill Town Council

Minutes of a Meeting of Haverhill Town Council's

FULL COUNCIL

Held on Monday 29th July 2024 at 7.00pm at Haverhill Arts Centre, High Street, Haverhill



HAVERHILL
TOWN COUNCIL

Present: Mayor Councillor D Smith
Councillor R André
Councillor A Brown
Councillor J Burns
Councillor A Cox
Councillor B Davidson
Councillor P Firman
Councillor P Hanlon
Councillor A Luccarini
Councillor M Martin
Councillor J Mason
Councillor L Miller-Jones
Councillor L Smith
Councillor A Stinchcombe

Apologies: Councillor D Page

In Attendance: Councillor D Roach
Colin Poole, Town Clerk
Jane Lomas, Council Administrator

1 member of the public was present.

Welcome:

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

MINUTES

C24 **Apologies for Absence**
/104 The above apology was noted.

C24 **Declaration of Interests and requests for dispensation**
/105 None.

C24 **Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held Monday, 24th June 2024**
/106 It was proposed by Councillor P Hanlon, seconded by Councillor L Smith that the minutes of the meeting held 24th June 2024 be agreed as a true record.

RESOLVED

ACTION

C24 /107 **To note progress of actions arising from the minutes not covered by this Agenda**

None.

C24 /108 **Lithium Batteries**

Councillors considered the safety and regulation of lithium batteries used in e-bikes and e-scooters. It was proposed by Councillor A Stinchcombe, seconded by Councillor Q Cox, that Haverhill Town Council supports the bill being brought to the House of Lords by Lord Foster of Bath to improve the safety of lithium batteries (used in e-bikes and e-scooters) and their disposal.
RESOLVED

C24 /109 **Reports from District/County Councillors on issues pertinent to HAVERHILL and the PUBLIC FORUM**

a) **Police Report** – The Town Clerk reported that there have been reports of antisocial behaviour in Jubilee Park and children’s play equipment has been damaged. In order to deter vandals, drug users and drug dealers, PC Jack Oakley has initiated cutting back of the hedges, making the play area more visible. Ideally, PC Oakley would like the park locked at night, but this is not logistically or practically possible. He has asked if the WSC portable CCTV can be used so the police can monitor activity in the park. Councillor D Smith offered to look into this in his capacity as a West Suffolk councillor.

b) **County Councillors** – see Appendix 1

Councillor J Mason: see report attached (Appendix 1)

Councillor Mason highlighted that Suffolk County Council approved a further investment of £9.1 million over three years to expand special educational needs and disabilities services at its cabinet meeting. However, there are concerns regarding future budgets. Councillors noted this is significant in improving SEND services and thanked Suffolk County Council for their investment.

Councillor A Brown asked if there is a maintenance and refurbishment plan for the small bridges over Stour Brook. Councillor D Roach will look into this now Highways have claimed them as their own.

Councillor D Roach reported that work on the drop kerbs on Millfields Way has started.

Over the last few weeks, he has undertaken a lot of work regarding fostering and adoption.

Councillor D Smith explained that West Suffolk Council has been going through a ‘peer challenge’ to informally test the Council’s effectiveness. It will be interesting to receive the findings of the report.

c) **District Councillors**

Councillor L Smith reported receiving a noise complaint regarding AMP generators in the Homefield Road area. Councillor L Smith is investigating and has brought it to the attention of Environmental Health.

Clerk

Cllr D Smith

Cllr D Roach

- d) **Town Councillors' matters to report**
Councillor J Burns: see report attached (Appendix 2)

d) **Public Forum**

A member of the public asked if it is a good time to raise the issue of ambulance response times in Haverhill with our new MP. The Town Clerk has introduced HTC to our MP and suggested a meeting to discuss pertinent issues but has not received a substantial response. However, a reply is anticipated once he is orientated in his new post. The Town Clerk advised that a date to meet with the East Ambulance Service and Suffolk and North East Essex Integration Board is being arranged to discuss ambulance response times in the Haverhill area. It was agreed that regular updates will be added to the Full Council meeting agenda.

Town Clerk

C24 **Mayor's Report** – See Appendix 3.

/110 The Mayor reported that as well as the events listed in his report, a lot of time has been spent around election duties.

The Mayor visited Chalkstone Community Centre to be presented with the certificate of acceptance for the Knife Angel, from the Barfield family. They kindly presented a 'bleed box' which contains equipment for first aiders to stem catastrophic bleeding, to be placed at Strasbourg Square. The Town Clerk has contacted First Responders to let them know.

C24 **Grant Making**

/111 a) To amend grants policy clause 1.2

Current clause 1.2: Haverhill Town Council has the authority to make grants under the Local Government Act 1972, s 137, which allows a local authority to spend a limited amount on activities for which it has no specific power, but which the authority considers 'will bring direct benefit to their area or any part of it or all or some of its inhabitants'. The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 added the requirement that the benefit obtained should be commensurate with the expenditure incurred. Whilst this Council gives grants under the General Power of Competence, it follows the rules for s137 as good practice.

It was proposed by Councillor J Burns, seconded by Councillor R André that Current Clause 1.2 be amended as follows:

Haverhill Town Council has the authority to make grants under the Localism Act 2011 s1, General Power of Competence. Whilst this Council gives grants under the General Power of Competence, it follows the rules for s137 as good practice. This means grant applications will not be successful unless they can demonstrate outcomes which the authority considers 'will bring direct benefit to the area, or any part of it or all or some of its inhabitants'. The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 added the requirement that the benefit obtained should be commensurate with the expenditure incurred.

RESOLVED

b) Grant Request: Abbeycroft Leisure

It was proposed by Councillor J Mason, seconded by Councillor A Luccarini that Abbeycroft Leisure be awarded £5,161.72 towards the HAF programme for October 2024, and that Abbeycroft Leisure explore alternative sources of funding for the further requested amount of £2,580.86 for May 2025.

RESOLVED

c) Grant Request: Haverhill Hard of Hearing Club

It was proposed by Councillor A Luccarini, seconded by Councillor J Burns, that Haverhill Hard of Hearing Club be awarded towards the cost of BSL training £759.

RESOLVED

**C24
/112**

ONE Haverhill Partnership

a) The Town Clerk gave a verbal update.

Andrew Hunter has now stepped down as Chair of One Haverhill Partnership and Henry Wilson MBE has taken over the role.

Councillor L Smith asked to be reinstated to the Education, Skills and Employment task group.

Town Clerk

b) Science Festival (report – Appendix 4)

After reviewing the Science Festival report, it was proposed by Councillor R André, seconded by Councillor L Miller-Jones, that Haverhill Town Council take the role as leading partner on a second Haverhill Science Festival as requested by the ONE Haverhill Board, to be held in April 2026.

RESOLVED

c) Haverhill Town Centre Masterplan

There was a wide-ranging discussion regarding an invitation from Councillor Indy Wijenayaka (Cabinet Member for Growth, West Suffolk Council), to nominate one Councillor to represent Haverhill Town Council and Haverhill residents and business owners, to a working group for the Haverhill Town Centre Masterplan. It was suggested that one Councillor should be nominated in the first instance in order to avoid missing meetings, but also that a request should be put forward to increase the number of Councillors representing Haverhill.

It was proposed by Councillor A Luccarini, seconded by Councillor J Burns, to request representation for Haverhill to be increased to a minimum of three Town Councillors, two District Councillors and one County Councillor.

RESOLVED

Town Clerk

It was proposed by Councillor P Hanlon, seconded by Councillor R André, that Councillor Q Cox be nominated to represent Haverhill Town Council for the Haverhill Town Centre Masterplan working party.

RESOLVED

C24/113 **Financial Matters**
a) Authorisation of payments: It was proposed by Councillor J Burns, seconded by Councillor R André, that the listed payments totalling £170,361.34 be authorised.

RESOLVED

C24/114 **Adoption of Committee Reports**
a) Personnel Working Party:
It was proposed by Councillor R André, seconded by Councillor J Burns, that the minutes of the Personnel Working Party meeting held 21st May 2024 and the recommendations contained therein, be adopted.

RESOLVED

b) Leisure and Community Committee:
It was proposed by Councillor J Burns, seconded by Councillor Q Cox, that the minutes of the Leisure and Community Committee meeting held 15th July 2024 and the recommendations contained therein, be adopted.

RESOLVED

c) Planning Committee:
To be deferred to the next meeting.

d) Finance Working Party:
It was proposed by Councillor J Burns, seconded by Councillor R André, that the minutes of the Finance Working Party meeting held 22nd July 2024 and the recommendations contained therein, be adopted.

RESOLVED

C24/115 **Membership of Committees**
Councillors considered amending the terms of reference for Leisure and Community and Finance meetings and membership numbers. Councillor P Hanlon proposed, and Councillor Q Cox seconded, that the membership of the Leisure and Community, and Finance meetings are reduced from 10 to 8, and the quorums amended from 4 to 3.

RESOLVED

C24/116 **Actions taken under delegated powers**
None.

C24/117 **To receive urgent correspondence**
None.

C24/118 **Date of Next Meeting**
The meeting noted that the next meeting will be held on Monday, 30th September 2024.

C24/119 **Closure**
The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.31pm.

Signed
Chairman

Date.....

- Appendix 1 – County Councillors’ reports**
- Appendix 2 – District Councillors’ reports**
- Appendix 3 – Mayor’s report**
- Appendix 4 – Science Festival 2024 report**

APPENDIX 1 – County Councillor’s report
Councillor Joe Mason

County and District Councillor Report, July 2024

Cllr Joe Mason

This is my first report since the General election on July 4th and for me personally, the Haverhill Show on July 7th which successfully went ahead despite some unwelcome rain. Many thanks to those Councillors who attended and/or supported the event in some/any way.

Suffolk County Council met on the 11th July with 2 motion voted on. I attended Scrutiny where the main focus was on the “State of Suffolk’s roads” (See slides added to this report as an Addendum. I also attended SCC Cabinet.

At West Suffolk Council at the Full Council the main amended motion was focussed on procedures and funding for the Leisure Centre. I attended Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee as well at multiple Cabinet meetings representing concerns of residents and challenging areas of concern.

Last week I was interviewed by BBC Radio Suffolk in Newmarket on the topic of the decline of markets. I also attended and took part in the Corporate Peer Challenge of West Suffolk Council led by the LGA.

In this report.

1. Suffolk County Council News
2. Haverhill’s New Recycling Centre
3. Highways Update
4. Persimmon Estate
5. Anaerobic Biodigester
6. West Suffolk News
7. Addendums

1. Suffolk County Council News

2 motions out of 3 submitted to full council was voted on with 1 withdrawn. The first motion recognised the outcome of the General Election affirming Suffolk County Council’s commitment and duty to co-operate and work with the new administration.

Proposed by Councillor Matthew Hicks and seconded by Councillor Richard Smith

“Suffolk County Council recognises that the public, having expressed their views at the General Election, have elected a new Government alongside many new Members of Parliament representing Suffolk’s constituencies. This Council pledges that it will work with the new National Administration and awaits details of the new policy directions which are expected soon. This Council will welcome new national initiatives, for example, on social care, fairer funding for our young people in education and extra resources for Suffolk’s highways while also carrying out the important responsibility of holding newly elected representatives to account. In these early days of the new Government, Suffolk County Council recognises the duty it has to co-operate, and looks forward to a positive and beneficial relationship with

Government Ministers and all our local Members of Parliament, for the benefit of the people of Suffolk whom we all represent.”

This motion I believe was an important one as we get used to the new landscape. It is essential that Councils focus on improving services and seek good 2 way communication as well as support from central government regardless of party politics.

The second motion can be found as an addendum to this report and the full agenda and member reports can be accessed by visiting this [link](#)

Other news

New All-Age Autism Strategy launched in Suffolk

A joint strategy and action plan has been launched today to help support autistic people of any age and their families. <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/council-news/new-all-age-autism-strategy-launched-in-suffolk>

More money for SEND services

Suffolk County Council’s cabinet approved a further investment of £9.1 million over three years to expand special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) services at its cabinet meeting.

- Funding will pay for new permanent SEND staff to support children and young people
- With this new investment, this year more than £20 million will have been committed to expanding the service.

Cllr Andrew Reid “Reforming SEND services is our top priority and this investment, especially given the challenging financial situation we face, shows our commitment.”

2. Haverhill’s New Recycling Centre

Haverhill’s new £2 million recycling centre at Homefield Road, will open to the public on **Thursday 8 August 2024**. It replaces the centre at Chalkstone Way and will make recycling and disposal of waste even easier and safer.

The Chalkstone Way recycling centre will close permanently to the public on Tuesday 6 August 2024. The booking system will be updated in due course to reflect the move, but as usual customers can still book their slot to drop off waste and recycling at www.suffolkrecycling.org.uk

The project sees FCC Environment and Suffolk County Council working as part of the Suffolk Waste Partnership with West Suffolk Council. The facility will be operated by FCC Environment, which manages all of Suffolk’s 11 recycling centres.

3. Highways

Haverhill Town Centre Signs

Re-statement/Installation of new signs seem to have finished. Meeting arranged with Cllr John Burns to audit works completed and to identify what either is still incorrect or still missing. Ongoing. Please do encourage people to use the reporting tool for road and sign defects.

<https://highwaysreporting.suffolk.gov.uk/>

Overgrowth along Bypass and Withersfield Road

I am trying to get a long overdue cutback of vegetation along the Bypass and Withersfield road. A number of signs have been unreadable or entirely engulfed. I also notice that some signs are missing which I have notified Highways about. No timescales but will track progress on this

going forward. The nesting season is coming to a close and I will be chasing to see if this can be done with some urgency.

4. Persimmon Estate and Relief Road & S106 – Improvement to Ann Suckling Road and Wratting Road

Local Members will now no doubt be aware that Persimmon have issued a release notifying that CADENT will finish moving the Gas Main in December which has further pushed back the completion of the Relief Road to Spring 2025. This is significant as this now marks 2 years of delays from the original Spring 2023 deadline. West Suffolk Legal teams are exploring legal action in relation to the continue Breach of Conditions.

I visited the site and held discussions with both Persimmon and CADENT. I sincerely hope good weather holds and allows good progress to be made.

Future Phases

Phase 5 and the Local centre (3A) are being submitted. Phase 5 is expected imminently with the local Centre expected to drop by the end of August.

Farrant Road

Final Dressing remains delayed as a result of discussions being held between Highways and Persimmon regarding quality assurance/specification issues that need addressing before the final surface is laid.

Playground Area

Vandalism of the new playpark resulted in over £600 worth of damage. This is being re-couped from those responsible. There was a positive response from local police and the wider community challenging this anti-social behaviour by a few spoiling the playpark for others to enjoy.

Ann Suckling Road

Ongoing - Discussions with highways continue about a range of improvements and speed mitigation measures. Persimmon have agreed to fund a raised table on Ann Suckling as a Speed mitigation measures. Many issues relating to the site as a whole.

Freshwater/Havebury Estate

Ongoing - Following a site walk with Havebury and West Suffolk I was disappointed by the lack of formal response from Havebury regarding necessary works that need to be carried out.

Wratting Road Crossing

No further news – Discussions ongoing

5. Anaerobic Biodigester

There is no further update as Acorn seem to be slow to respond to the list of additional information and mitigations relating to issues arising from their application.

6. West Suffolk Council News

It is with disappointment and some frustration that West Suffolk Council will now not be sitting again until November.

West Suffolk Council’s UKSPF Town Centre Fund

West Suffolk Council has created a Town Centre Fund using the UK Shared Prosperity Funding (UKSPF) to improve town centres and high streets, fostering a sense of local pride and belonging in West Suffolk.

The national funding is designed by Government to raise people’s satisfaction with their town centre and engagement in local culture and community.

By securing over £38,000 of the UKSPF to be used in 2023 to 2024, West Suffolk Council created Town Centre Fund, with further funding over £192,000 available from 2024 to 2025

<https://www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/news/pr240719ws01.cfm>

Markets Matter

At Cabinet last week West Suffolk Cabinet voted to adopt the Market Development Plan “Markets Matter” and the spending of £300,000 to be spent on improving markets across the district.

<https://www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/news/pr20240716ws02.cfm#:~:text=The%20'Markets%20Matter'%20Development%20Plan,heart%20of%20the%20Council's%20vision.>

Whilst I welcome the spending, I have been particularly outspoken on the lack of delivery on the previous market review and the unnecessary and poorly evidenced review this year. It is sad to hear of yet another chain closing.

Green Spaces & Road Names

Complements and my gratitude go to the West Suffolk Parks Team that continue to be most helpful in addressing many issues relating to overgrowth and damaged/missing/obscured road names. Please note I carried out this activity as part of a Highways assessment across the Cangle area, though of course road name signs fall under West Suffolk’s remit and indeed any member or resident can report broken or missing road Names to West Suffolk Council.

Stour View Medical Centre

West Suffolk council purchased Stour View Medical Centre. I welcomed the engagement that was afforded to me as a local councillor prior to the purchase. We await more information regarding which parties are interested in the centre. I sincerely hope it doesn’t remain vacant for long and become another unused asset. I am sure more information will be shared when it becomes available.

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Please note this report does not include all the work I am undertaking at the moment or projects I am engaged with and trying to move forward. Members are always welcome to contact me should they need any information or assistance relating to issues across the Cangle District.

7. Addendums

Suffolk County Council Motion 2

Proposed by Councillor Simon Harley and seconded by Councillor Andrew Stringer
“This council recognises that developer contributions through the infrastructure levies or from legal agreements including s.106 are a vital way to ensure that pressure put on the county’s infrastructure by new developments are adequately mitigated by improvements and new projects where necessary. Sometimes, however, the system of securing this funding and the process by which these infrastructure improvements are undertaken are subject to delays at the planning, design and implementation phases, whether this is due to difficulty in securing the

monies from developers, or by other authorities, or capacity at Suffolk County Council for beginning and completing the work. Suffolk County Council needs to ensure works are not substandard or poorly designed and follow national and local guidance such as the Suffolk Design Streets Guide. Works that are not well thought through/designed, or delayed for long periods not only cause problems locally, but they also lead to a great deal of frustration for residents, affecting local feelings about new developments and ultimately, communities' willingness to accept new housing.

2 This council, therefore, pledges:

- To ensure that guidance on developer contributions is updated and that sufficient and appropriate infrastructure improvements are evidenced and identified at the earliest possible stage in the planning process and, where local and neighbourhood plans are formed, in consultation with the local county councillor (who can then seek community feedback)
- To ensure that where funding has been secured via infrastructure levies S106 and, where appropriate, S.38 and S278 highway agreements, works that are identified are then programmed and carried out in a timely manner and to a high standard
- To ensure the implementation of schemes are completed in a reasonable timescale
- To use all relevant legal powers where needed, to ensure completion of infrastructure projects and travel planning

that are conditioned as part of planning permissions.”

The State of Suffolk's Roads – Slides from Scrutiny Committee:

The 'State of Suffolk's Roads'

Scrutiny Committee
23 July 2024



Highway maintenance funding

Suffolk Highways is allocated **capital** and **revenue** funding to perform a broad range of highway maintenance activities across all highway infrastructure assets.

Capital highway maintenance funding is received from the **Department for Transport** on an annual basis.

Suffolk County Council has made additional capital investments over recent years.

Suffolk County Council receive **revenue** funding from several sources including **Council Tax, Business Rates, and grants from Central Government**.

This funding is used to support a diverse range of council services such as those delivering Adult and Community Services, Children and Young People Services, Fire and Public Safety as well as Highways.

Capital funding

Capital highway maintenance funding is received from the Department for Transport on an annual basis.

£2.7 billion local highways maintenance funding between tax years 2022 and 2025.

This equates to **£27.238m per annum** and is known as the 'Maintenance Grant'.

In addition to the above, on 4 October 2023, the government announced £8.3 billion of additional highways maintenance funding over the period 2023 to 2034

This equates to **£107.6m for the period to 2023-34**.

Capital highway maintenance funding is used for:

- replacing highway assets, such as the removal and installation of a new street lighting column or lantern;
- maintenance activities, such as patching and surfacing of roads or pavements

Capital funding cannot be used for revenue expenditure work such as the operating costs of a service or for recurring expenditure such as grass cutting or other cyclical maintenance activities.

Funding £m	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29
Local highway maintenance	£27.238	£27.238*	£27.238*	£27.238*	£27.238*
Additional highway maintenance	£3.436	£10.071	£10.071	£10.071	£10.071
Total	£30.674	£37.310	£37.310	£37.310	£37.310

* unconfirmed

£8b of government funding is raised from vehicle excise duty (0.8% of total) per annum

17% of this (£1.367b) is provided annually to English local authorities for highway maintenance.

This is equivalent of each vehicle contributing around £7 per annum



Revenue funding

Suffolk County Council receive **revenue** funding from several sources including Council Tax, Business Rates, and grants from Central Government.

The Council's net revenue budget for 2023/24 was £687.8m and around 70% is spend on essential people services.

£17.2m was allocated for highway maintenance activities (around 2.5%).

This represents around 4.9% of the funding received from council tax receipts (£329m for 2023/24) and means that a property in Council Tax Band D contributes £31.46 per annum towards highway maintenance activities.



Revenue Expenditure	Average (£m)
Structures	£ 0.283
Reactive & OOH	£ 1.613
Condition Surveys	£ 0.263
Street Lighting Faults and System Maintenance	£ 1.829
Street Lighting Energy	£ 3.234
ITS Faults and System Maintenance	£ 0.584
ITS Energy	£ 0.263
Winter Service	£ 3.179
Cyclic Drainage	£ 1.351
Reactive Drainage	£ 0.964
Grip Cutting	£ 0.124
Highway Verge Cutting	£ 0.921
Weed Treatments	£ 0.138
Misc Soft	£ 0.062
Signs and Street Furniture	£ 0.098
SLAs	£ 0.742
Total Works	£ 15.648

On average, **statutory functions and energy costs account £14.33m (91.6%)** of the available revenue spend

These are **costs we must account for** before deciding how to allocate and invest the balance

Highway Assets

Asset	Quantity	Unit
Roads (Carriageways)	4,270	miles
Pavements (Footways)	6,270	miles
Bridges & Structures	1,979	number
(inc. significant Public Rights of Way bridges)		
Street Lighting (Columns)	58,969	number
Street Lighting (Lanterns)	60,683	number
ITS (Signalised Junctions)	128	junctions
ITS (Signalised Crossings)	230	crossings
Road Signs	72,450	number
(Warning, Regulation, Directional, Informational)		
Drainage (Gully Cleansing)	142,545	number
Drainage (Grips)	189,588	number

Capital Expenditure	Average (£m)
Roads (Carriageways)	£ 17.780
Pavements (Footways)	£ 1.543
Bridges & Structures (inc. significant PROW bridges)	£ 2.511
Drainage	£ 3.336
Street Lighting	£ 2.222
ITS (Traffic Signals)	£ 0.413
Road Markings	£ 0.098
Signs and Barriers	£ 0.116
Planned Reactive Repairs	£ 6.620
Community Self-Help	£ 0.006
Total Works	£ 34.644

Let's take a look at our roads....

In Suffolk we have around **4,180 miles** (6,689 km) of road (over 38.5million m2)

To eliminate potholes, we would need to **resurface or apply a preventative surface treatment every 7 to 20 years** (varies depending on traffic type/volume and road construction)

Treatments can range between **£8.50/m2 to around £26.50/m2**

Would your carpet at home be up to the task?

VALUE

ESSENTIAL

PREMIER

SIGNATURE

ELITE

Road resurfacing - £17m per annum

That's a lot of money, so why is everything not in a perfect condition?

To answer this question, there are a number of things that we need to know:

- **The volume of road assets in Suffolk**
- **How often a road should be resurfaced**
- **How much it costs to undertake resurfacing**

From these, we can calculate the amount of money required to be spent each year for each type of road across Suffolk.

Road type	Length (miles)	Width (m)	Area (m2)	Machine Surfacing 10 years	Surface Dressing x 2 7 years	Machine Surfacing £	Surface Dressing £	Surface Dressing £	Surface Dressing £	Annualised £/m2	Annual Investment £m
A Urban	145	8.7	2,017,950			£26.50	£11.50	£11.50	£11.50	£2.063	£4,370,000

Lifecycle

Lifecycle cost

Extrapolating the above for all road types across Suffolk will give the value of funding required to implement surfacing at the required frequency to eliminate potholes.

Road resurfacing - £17.8m per annum

Using this simplistic model, it can be calculated that Suffolk Highway need to invest around £50m annum to keep Suffolk's roads in an optimal condition, a condition where road defects are minimised.

The average investment in road surfacing over the last 6 years was £17.78m around 35% of the funding required.

Countywide investment	Annualised cost £/m ² / year	Total area m ²	Annual investment £m	Electoral Division Level Investment £'000	Parish Level Investment £'000
A Urban	2.063	2,017,950	£4.162m	£55.49k	£8.69k
A Rural	2.063	3,385,907	£6.983m	£93.11k	£14.58k
B Urban	1.517	2,182,411	£3.310m	£44.13k	£6.91k
B Rural	1.300	2,317,252	£3.012m	£40.17k	£6.29k
C Urban	1.243	4,154,810	£5.164m	£68.85k	£10.76k
C Rural*	1.077	6,893,337	£7.424m	£98.981k	£15.50k
U Urban	1.050	12,331,791	£12.332m	£172.65k	£27.03k
U Rural*	1.215	6,074,430	£7.383m	£98.44k	£15.41k
Total			£50.386m	£672k	£105k

Based on the optimal lifecycle plan, each electoral division requires an annual investment of £672k. At a parish level, the investment level is £105k per annum.

However, based on the average investment over the last 6 years, these values are £237k and £37k respectively.

This funding supports less than 2 miles resurfacing per year (of an average of 57 miles of road network) per division or around 450m (of an average of 9 miles of road network) per Suffolk parish.

Road Condition

Suffolk Highways undertake annual condition surveys across all road categories in Suffolk.

These are commissioned and undertaken by an independent company.

The data gathered for A, B and C classification roads are reported to the UK Government as part of the National Indicator statistics that are published annually.

Suffolk Highways also commission condition surveys on the U classification road network.

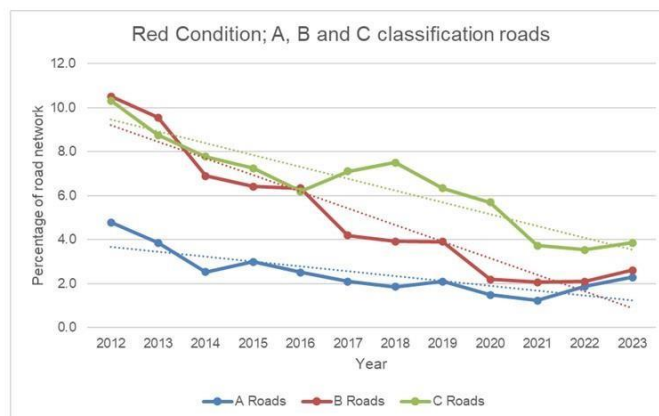
Processed data can be categorised as follows:

- Red: Likely to be in poor condition – Further investigation may be required to determine whether this section of road should be considered for maintenance.
- Amber: Likely to be some deterioration – work may be needed at some time in the future.
- Green: Good condition – no further investigation or work is likely needed at this time.



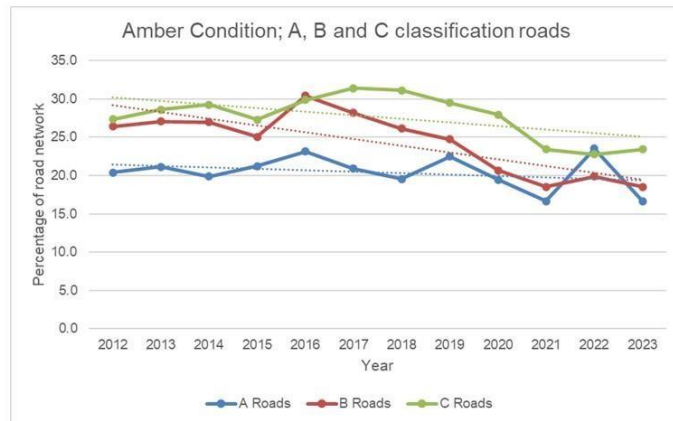
Road Condition

2023 data	Road Classification		
	Red A	Red B	Red C
National Average	4%	7%	7%
Suffolk	2.3%	2.6%	3.9%

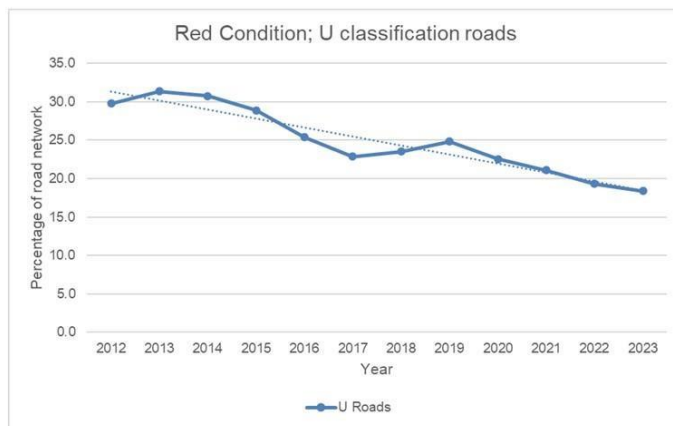


Road Condition

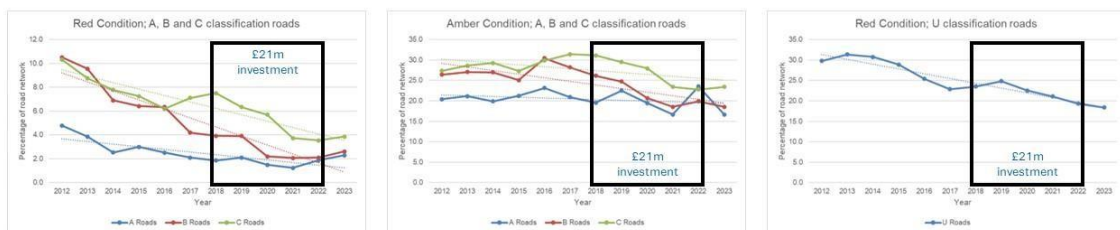
	Road Classification		
2023 data	Amber A	Amber B	Amber C
National Average	25%	29%	29%
Suffolk	16.7%	18.5%	23.4%



Road Condition



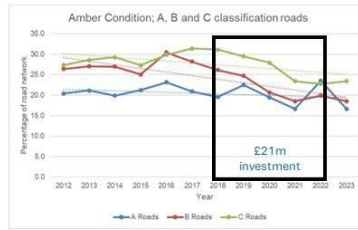
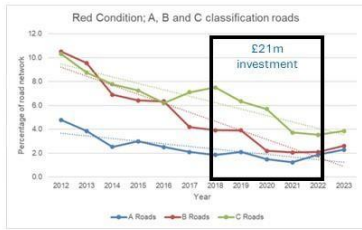
Road Condition



The condition data gathered between 2018 and 2022 shows:

- Stabilisation of the percentage of A roads in red condition
- Continued rate of reduction in the percentage of B roads in red condition
- An acceleration in the rate of reduction of C roads in red condition
- A reduction in the percentage of B and C roads in amber condition
- A continuation of the reduction of U roads in red condition

Road Condition



Red Condition

2023 data	2012	2023	Reduction %
A Classification	14.4 miles	9.2 miles	64%
B Classification	36.4 miles	12.0 miles	33%
C Classification	112.2 miles	44.9 miles	40%
U Classification	587.7 miles	397 miles	68%

Green Condition

2023 data	2012	2023	Improvement
A Classification	309.6 miles	324.8 miles	15.2 miles
B Classification	303.9 miles	361.4 miles	57.5 miles
C Classification	752.3 miles	848.5 miles	94.2 miles
U Classification	1,569.7 miles	1,760.4 miles	190.7 miles

Prioritisation of roads

A range of data is applied to UK Pavement Management System network sections of which there are 26,318 sections in Suffolk.

Suffolk Highways use:

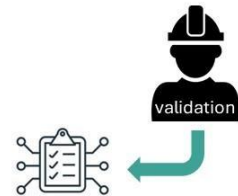
- Condition Score (0 to 50)
- Maintenance Hierarchy Score (4 to 15)
- Maintenance Intervention Score (0 to 25)
- Customer Score (0 to 10)

} Prioritisation Score



Once potential locations are identified, validation work is undertaken which includes consideration to:

- site suitability for resurfacing treatment type (i.e. machine surfacing or preventative surface treatment),
- other planned Suffolk Highways work
- work of others on the highway network such as utility companies and developers



The final list of an annual road surfacing programme is then aligned within available budgets.

The 'State of Suffolk's Roads'

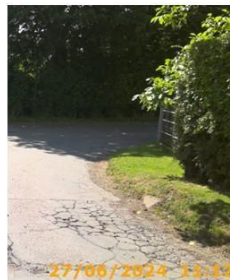
The condition of Suffolk's roads continues to improve, but road defects will continue to occur.

Non-intervention defects

Some will be condition type defects that, whilst not aesthetically pleasing, do not pose a risk to road users.

Intervention defects

Others will deteriorate to the extent that Suffolk Highways will need to complete a repair as part of its Safety Defect Service.



Non-intervention crazing



Non-intervention longitudinal cracking



Non-intervention shallow 'pothole'

The 'State of Suffolk's Roads'

Safety Defect Service

The new highways contract incentivises the delivery team to group ordered defects together.

This means a change in how the Suffolk County Council's inspection teams identify defects for repair and to order nearby defects that may become 'intervention' defects by the time of the next inspection.



Insurance Claims

Since 2012:

- 5,953 road defect claims received
- 4,878 were dismissed
- Average 'repudiation' rate of 85%
- Average payout per claim £914

Last 5 years

- Average 'repudiation' rate increased to 91%
- Average payout per claim dropped to £787

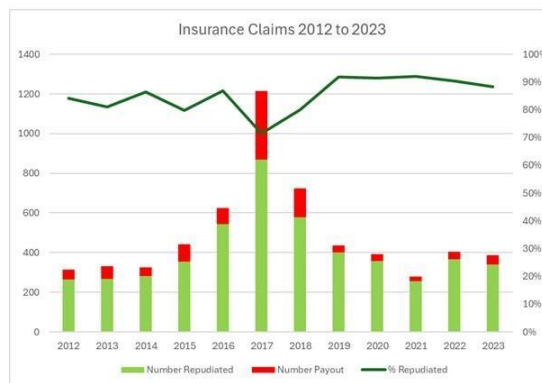
Go.Compare submitted 300 FOI requests, it found that:

"January 2020 to December 2022, councils in England and Wales paid more than £5.6 million to drivers claiming for damage caused to their vehicles by potholes".

*Council that paid the most during this period paid £565,248
The council placed at number 10 paid £153,200 over the same period*

2021 & 2022

- Suffolk County Council total payout 2021 & 2022 = £47,378



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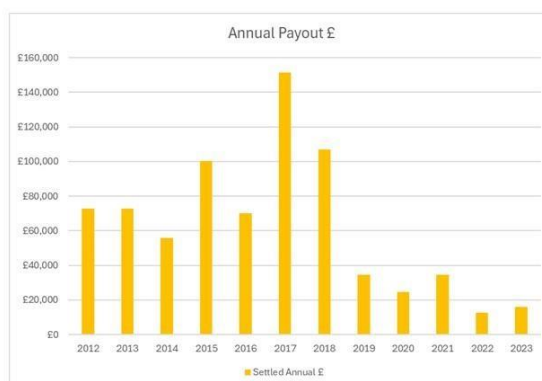
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2021 & 2022

- Suffolk County Council total payout 2021 & 2022 = £47,378



APPENDIX 2 – Town Councillor’s report Councillor John Burns

- **Great Wilsey Park:** No further updates.
- **Police Matters:** Crime stats for May 2024 were distributed on 16th July. Link to the May edition of Constable’s County was sent out on 24th July. I helped with police “Fatal 4” event on Market Square on 28th however due holidays and other events nearby it was not overly well attended. PCC will be on Market Square on 9th August and, with Chief Constable, in HAC on 19th September for public meetings.
- **SCC Highways:** I will be meeting with Cllr Joe Mason 29th am to review the road signs that have been installed and what has not so he can report back to SCC.
- **Combined Authority:** No further updates.
- **Greater Cambridge Partnership:** Nil to report.
- **Parking:** I continue to report lack of enforcement but no active response from WSC management.
- **Markets:** I attended WSC O&S to listen to the debate on proposals by WSC to try and support markets. I was singularly unimpressed with the officer’s report which concentrated mostly on Maker’s Markets (which never part of the 2022 review) and virtually nothing on supporting existing traders nor the vast majority of the detailed recommendations that have not even been looked at since the review completed. The investment seems to me more a case of “we need to build a house, we don’t know what type of house we want, who is going to live it, how big it will be nor how many rooms, but we will spend £300K building something anyway.”
- **Sturmer Arches:** The History Group located the 1972-1974 HUDC minute books but after searching nothing related to the railway line sale was found in them. I believe this is because all the documentation relating to that are in separate files as was seen in the Suffolk Record Office. So the search goes on...
- **Fox PH (Wratting Road):** As has been reported elsewhere, the proposal for a convenience store and drive through coffee shop was rejected by planners. It will be interesting to see whether an appeal is lodged.
- **Vixen PH (Millfields Way):** No further updates known.
- **Strasbourg Square:** Nothing new to report. The “flower beds” are looking tatty again as is the whole of the Chalkstone and Birds Estates. Reported a lot to Havebury for areas they own and wait to see how they react.
- **Other work:**
 - Attended various HTC meetings online and in person.
 - Helped facilitate and worked on Armed Forces Day event.
 - Worked with WSC to facilitate use of Clements Community Centre as a polling station for the General Election including opening and closing the site on election day.
 - With a member of staff spent several hours cleaning the Splash Pad at start of school holidays. Facilitated regularly cleaning thereafter. Opened pad after hours so Kedington Brownies could have some fun after walking across from the village as part of their annual outing.
On Sat 20th July was reported to me that pad was not working. After investigation I had to close the site as an electrical circuit was being tripped about 10-15 minutes after being reset having spent 3 hours trying to fix via the software. With the help of an electrician the next day we identified that one of the sump pumps feeding water to

the features (where water comes out) has a fault. I therefore isolated the pump (there are two) and left it running on one pump with reduced pressure. We are working on identifying model of the pump with a view to replacing ourselves or bringing in more specialised contractors if not. There have not been any further complaints as far as I am aware.

- Tested application form for WSC Grant Working applications.
- Updated Zone and HTC server systems to use new database drivers for till systems. Working on updated till reporting system to give management better information on income and sales levels across all four systems compared to previous years. Provided weekly sales figures to Town Clerk for current financial year.
- Currently working on providing CCTV data for police following an incident last week at the Zone.

APPENDIX 3 – Mayor’s report

Mayor Engagements for HTC on 29th July 2024

Date	Event
24 th June	Haverhill Town Council
25 th June	WS Learning Presentation
29 th June	Armed Forces Day U3a Picnic in the Meadow Haverhill Singers
7 th July	Haverhill Show
8 th July	HTC Community Events
9 th July	HTC Civic Events
15 th July	HTC Leisure and Community
19 th July	Ipswich Mayor at Home
22 nd July	HTC Planning
25 th July	Clements Fun Day Transport East Webinar
26 th July	Panto Photo Shoot
29 th July	Knife Angel Certificate Acceptance Haverhill Town Council

Appendix 4 – Haverhill Science Festival report



Haverhill Science Festival Report

Haverhill Science Festival ran from 22nd to 27th April 2024 and provided a fantastic range of activities for everyone. All the events were free to attend, however some events were ticketed due to restrictions on venue capacity. When the Board signed off on this project the following aims and objectives were set:

1 - Aims

- Develop in children an interest in science, technology and engineering, and motivate them to study these topics at GCSE and beyond.
- Promote employment and training opportunities in technology locally.
- Highlight Haverhill as a place to do business within the Cambridge economic subregion.

2 - Objectives

- Every primary school in Haverhill will receive at least one whole day of sciencebased activities delivered by a specialist educational company, either Kinetic Science or SteamCo.
- For secondary schools, all year 7s or 8's (to be confirmed by schools) will attend a presentation by Helen Sharman, the first Briton in space. She provides motivational talks to young people encouraging them to follow STEM subjects into post-16 education.
- Lord Robert Winston visiting to give similar encouragement to the whole school.
- Outside of educational settings the festival to include a planetarium and a community day, full of science experiments, making and designing.
- Provide free science books through our partners, the National Literary Trust, who have a long-term project in Haverhill.

We created a dedicated web page www.haverhillsciencefestival.uk

<p>Monday 22nd April</p>	<p>Professor Russell Cowburn FRS The Faraday Institute: Science and Faith Russell Cowburn is a physicist who has made critical contributions in the field of nanotechnology — the manipulation of matter on a tiny scale. His work has important applications, such as its use in an anticounterfeiting technology. He has been described as ‘half scientist–half technologist’, having had over 60 patents granted.</p> <p>Feedback: This was a really thought-provoking start to the week, a discussion on why science and faith are not exclusive. The discussion included a reminder that through history many scientists from Galileo through to George Lemaitre were priests, whilst creationism is barely 200 years old.</p> <p>Also, the book of Genesis is a theological text and not a scientific paper. Science is about <i>how</i>, whilst faith is about <i>why</i>, so they can sit perfectly comfortably together.</p>	<p>St Mary’s Church 7.00pm – 9.00pm</p> <p>Free: Ticketed Event</p> <p>Attendance: 24 people</p>
<p>Tuesday 23rd April</p>	<p>Business Breakfast Event Local business leaders met for the regular breakfast event, but with an extra emphasis on Haverhill’s role in the Cambridge science corridor.</p>	<p>The EpiCentre 9.00am – 10.30am</p> <p>Free: For local business leaders</p>
	<p>BT Technology Day Haverhill Year 8 students had an amazing day working with BT, robots and programming.</p> <p>Feedback: “Students really enjoyed the hands-on nature of the work with BT, programming Robots and light boxes.”</p> <p>“Teachers were able to learn alongside children we are hoping to recreate these workshops ourselves for more children.”</p> <p>Headteacher comments: “For me the most impactful part was watching the full engagement of students doing an activity they have never done before with such enthusiasm!”</p>	<p>Samuel Ward Academy 200 Y8 students took part</p> <p>Castle Manor Academy 150 Y8 students took part</p>

<p>Wednesday 24th April</p>	<p>Haverhill Jobs Fair This regular event was moved to be part of the Science Festival.</p> <p>Feedback: This went well with good feedback from stall holders. There were enough staff on-hand to assist people who were anxious and benefited from extra support. Local universities were represented and there were stalls both in the auditorium and the Studio.</p> <p>DWP allocate appointments for job seekers but it is not possible to predict the volume of people walking in. In the morning it was very busy, but it quietened down during the afternoon.</p>	<p>Haverhill Arts Centre 10.00am – 12.30pm</p> <p>Free: For job seekers and people looking for training and educational opportunities.</p>
<p>Thursday 25th April</p>	<p>Lord Robert Winston Lord Winston is Professor of Science and Society and Emeritus Professor of Fertility Studies at Imperial College London.</p> <p>School visit Feedback: Lord Winston visited Castle Manor School for the afternoon. Y10 students from Sam Ward came across to Castle Manor to take part.</p> <p>“Students really enjoyed it and gained a lot from it. They were particularly inspired to think of careers in medical or scientific research as a result of listening to Lord Winston and having the opportunity to ask him questions.”</p> <p>“Teaching staff loved it - he is a bit of a hero to lots of the science teachers so we were really delighted to spend time with him.”</p> <p>Epicentre visit feedback: Lord Winston had a tour of the Haverhill EpiCentre to see the work of the brilliant startup companies based there.</p> <p>“I was pleased to visit the Epicentre - please give my warmest thanks to all and especial thanks to the two fine scientists with the excellent projects they are developing. I look forward more to hearing about how their work develops and wish them all success.” LRW</p>	<p>12.00 Castle Manor Academy School event</p> <p>150 year 10 students from Castle Manor and 50 from Sam Ward took part.</p> <p>3.30pm The EpiCentre Lord Winston toured the building and visited some of the researchers working there.</p>

	<p>Arts Centre feedback: ‘An evening with’ Lord Winston and booksigning rounded off a very full day.</p> <p>LRW was interviewed on-stage by Georgie Jamieson. It was an engaging and inspiring discussion and Lord Winston answered questions from the audience. He stayed on longer than he originally said he would and signed books afterwards.</p>	<p>7.00pm Haverhill Arts Centre Free: Ticketed event</p> <p>Attendance: 140 people</p>
	<p>Space East Event You don’t need to build rockets to get involved in the space industry. This was an event for local business leaders exploring how their capabilities and expertise can access the opportunities presented by the £17.5bn UK space sector. It was hosted at the EpiCentre by Space East.</p>	<p>The EpiCentre 5pm – 7pm</p> <p>Free: By invitation only</p>
<p>Friday 26th April</p>	<p>Helen Sharman CMG OBE Helen became the first person from the UK in space on 18th May 1991, when she launched into space for an eight-day mission orbiting the Earth, most of which was living and working on a space station.</p> <p>Feedback: Helen gave two talks, one to Castle Manor students who came across to Sam Ward Academy, and the second to Sam Ward students. She also had a quiet session with students at risk of becoming NEET, to help inspire them to stay engaged in education.</p> <p>“They absolutely loved it. They found it interesting and inspiring. They loved being able to ask questions to a "real astronaut".”</p> <p>“Seeing Helen Sharman was inspirational for both students and staff. To be able to meet a real astronaut is not something many people experience in life - thank you for giving our Town this opportunity.”</p>	<p>Samuel Ward Academy School Event</p> <p>Attendance: 470 Y7 students for the talks, 20 Y8-9 students at risk of becoming NEET.</p> <p>It was also great to see the schools working together and the students moving between the schools, which breaks down barriers.</p>

<p>Saturday 27th April</p>	<p>SteamCo Community Science Day This was a day of science, engineering, Arts and fun with SteamCo, Kinetic Adventures, the Merck Curiosity Cube, RSPB and the Cambridge Hands-On Science group.</p> <p>Feedback: The weather deserted us for this event, although wasn't as bad as expected. The reduced numbers of people attending were on one hand disappointing but there were enough for there to be a vibe without queues – families were able to engage in the activities they wanted and Nick Corston's MC'ing meant it always felt exciting.</p> <p>It was great to hear from attendees how many families were 'dragged there' by their children wanting to share the experience they had at their primary school earlier in the week, and to see children with, on and in, the cardboard models they were making.</p> <p>There was some great volunteering opportunities and intergenerational work.</p>	<p>East Town Park 11am-3pm Free: Community Event</p> <p>Attendance: est. 400</p>
	<p>Dr Mark Gallaway: Haverhill Planetarium Dr Mark Gallaway is an award-winning professional science communicator, author and astronomer with a doctorate in astrophysics.</p>	<p>Arts Centre 11.00, 12.00 1.00 and 2pm 45 minutes per session</p> <p>Free: Ticketed Event</p>
	<p>Feedback: It was very popular and sold out with all the places occupied for the shows.</p>	<p>Attendances: 119</p>

All Week:

Kinetic Adventure & SteamCo worked with all 7 primary schools in Haverhill to bring a total of twenty half-day science-based activities to over 1800 children in Haverhill.

Kinetic Adventure is an organisation created in 2014 to inspire and enthuse children and young people to consider a career in Engineering, Science, IT and Maths as well as bringing the curriculum alive and allowing all to reach their potential.

Feedback from schools:

"It was so nice to be able to explore science in various ways - forensics and chemistry. The children were able to explore and investigate different tasks. The children really did work together."

“I was proud to see how much love the children have/had for science. It has also made me realise the importance of creating more opportunities for external visitors to come into school to deliver hands on practical experiences for the children. It also encouraged me to liaise with the science leader to create a stem club for children to participate in different activities.”

“The children thoroughly enjoyed both workshops. It was a great hands-on experience which encouraged lots of questions and developed disciplinary skills.”

“The children were engaged, involved, focused, resilient when things might not have gone quite right, asked questions and really enjoyed the sessions.”

Total attendances: 1329

Feedback from Kinetic Adventures:

The whole week was extremely well planned. Thanks to Toni Kittle at Unity Trust and her teams for organising the schools' events. Teachers were exceptionally helpful and polite. They were very hands on, explaining and encouraging the children.

SteamCo Promotes Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts and Maths, Champions Creativity by campaigning for it, Inspires Creativity by showcasing it and Ignites Creativity by helping stage events in Schools and Communities, Fetes and Festivals.

Feedback from Schools:

“As science lead it was great to see all of the children involved. All making a rocket, working together and joining in. Nick was great, the way he engaged all year groups was good. He made alterations for our Y1 children and they had a super time.”

“It was really emphasised that it doesn't matter if the rockets are not perfect, we learn by this and improve! The assembly at the beginning of the day was a great way to launch the day and all children were eager to join in.”

“As the head teacher, I was proud to see how much love the children have/had for science. It has also made me realise the importance of creating more opportunities for external visitors to come into school to deliver hands on practical experiences for the children. It also encouraged me to liaise with the science leader to create a stem club for children to participate in different activities.”

“The children loved the day lots went to the weekend activity and there was a real buzz around the school and it was great to celebrate as a whole school”

“The talk that Nick gave was not only great for the science learning but an inspiration to our year 5 and 6 students, instilling in them that hard work pays off and if you have determination and drive, an interest and find your 'art', you can achieve what you put your mind to. It was also thought-provoking for our children- making them consider career paths in an ever-changing world.”

Total attendances: 1813

SteamCo Feedback:

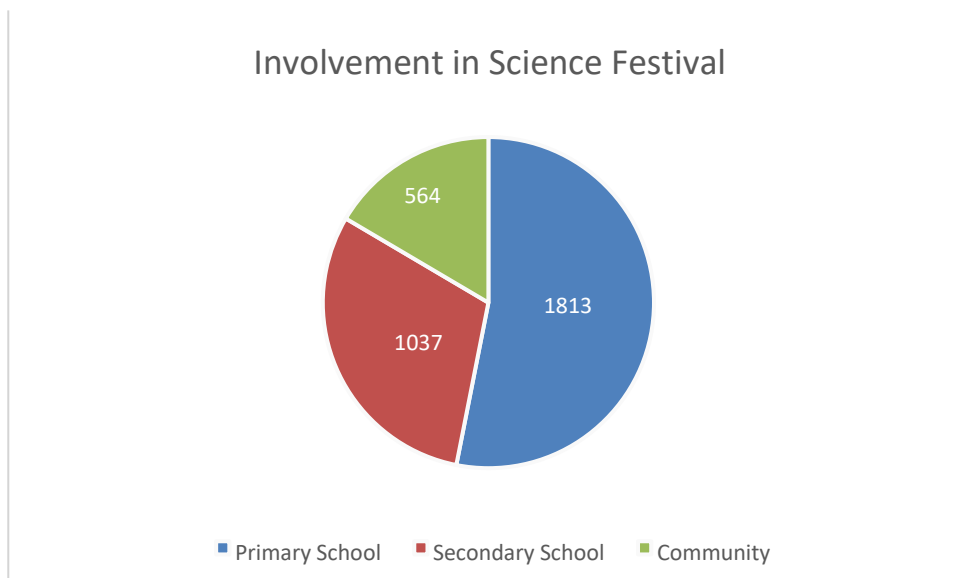
NC said that he thoroughly enjoyed the week, and it was a milestone in STEAM Co.'s development. The visits to the schools were immensely enjoyable. Saturday's event was the icing on the cake, even though the weather was dreadful.

Board members are recommended to visit <https://www.steamco.org.uk/haverhill24> to get a taste of the week.

Free books for schools:

Unfortunately the hoped-for partnership with the National Literacy Trust to provide free books to schools fell victim to the scaling back and withdrawal of their project from Haverhill. We were however able to use some of the contingency budget to fund giving 4x science books by Lord Robert Winston to each of the primary school libraries. In addition 7x books were donated to Reach to distribute to households where a child may not own any books.

Total attendance for the festival: 3414



Financials

The costs came in under the £20,000 budget we had been working to.

Income	£	%
Public sector	14425	80
Private sector sponsorship	3500	20
	17925.00	

A huge thank-you to the Town Council, West Suffolk and local councillors who backed this project, and our sponsors from the private sector, without whom we could not have put on this festival.

Expenditure

	£
Speaker fees and expenses	7334.50
Promotional material and marketing	480.00
Primary School costs	7400.00
Free books for children	300.94
Community day costs	2391.34
	17906.78

The per-capita costs work out as

1813 Primary students: £4.08

1037 Secondary students: £6.60

564 community participants: £4.24

Because this was a learning curve for us, we found that we suitable grant-making trusts had very long lead times, which meant we had already missed deadlines by the time we discovered the funding opportunity had ever existed. We are grateful to our sponsors and ensured they are featured strongly on all our publicity and website. The sponsor packages seemed to work, although in the end very few sponsors actually took up complementary tickets to events.

Social Media

From 14 March - 30 April the Science Festival Facebook posts **reached 17.8k users** with **472 interactions** (shares, comments, likes).

Of the 17.8k users that saw the posts, 2,685 were followers of HTC's Facebook page and 15,040 from people who don't follow the page - this could be from group posting, paid advertising etc.

During this time we had 1,500 unique Facebook page visits.

On the website, www.haverhillsciencefestival.uk we had at least 261 unique page views.

There was a fair amount of broadcast media. Several interviews were on the BBC: Helen Sharman on BBC Cambridge and BBC Suffolk, which also visited Westfield School. Colin Poole did interviews with BBC Suffolk and Star Radio. Nick Corston spoke to BBC radio.

Board members are recommended to Google "Haverhill Science Festival" to see the breadth of coverage we achieved online for the town, which contributes towards the aim of highlighting Haverhill to high-tech business.

Thank you

Thanks go to the ONE Haverhill Partners who made this possible, particularly those individual member sand officers who joined the task group, which was very hands-on and without which we couldn't have delivered a successful festival.

One particularly noteworthy message which wasn't scripted by us but came independently from Lord Winston, Helen Sharman, Kinetic Adventures and SteamCo, - and is reflected strongly in the school feedback, so clearly got taken on board - is that science demonstrates it is OK to be

comfortable with things failing. Learn the lesson and try again, now we know what doesn't work. That is a valuable life-message for children to take on board.

The objectives set out at the beginning of this report have all been met.

What next?

Schools were very positive that this was something they would like to see repeated. The steering group are recommending a biennial event. This would fit in with the long lead-time for organising the event and funding applications to grant-making trusts. It would also mean that the funding burden is halved, along with the demand on the steering group and officers. As the focus is primarily on school-aged children, this would mean each child would take part in at least five science festivals but this would keep it fresh.

Colin Poole

Chair, Haverhill Science Festival Task Group