

Haverhill Town Council

Minutes of a Meeting of Haverhill Town Council's

FULL COUNCIL

Held on Monday 16th December 2024 at 7:30pm at Haverhill Arts Centre,
High Street, Haverhill



HAVERHILL
TOWN COUNCIL

Present: Mayor Councillor D Smith
Councillor R André
Councillor A Brown (from 8.05pm)
Councillor J Burns
Councillor P Hanlon
Councillor J Mason
Councillor D Page
Councillor L Smith
Councillor A Stinchcombe

Apologies: Councillor Q Cox
Councillor J Crooks
Councillor B Davidson
Councillor P Firman
Councillor A Luccarini
Councillor M Martin
Councillor L Miller-Jones
County Councillors: County Councillor D Roach
Councillor H Sowa

In Attendance: Colin Poole, Town Clerk

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**
/167 The above apologies were noted.

C24 **Declaration of Interests and requests for dispensation**
/168 None.

ACTION



C24 /169 **Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held Monday, 25th November 2024**

It was proposed by Councillor J Burns, seconded by Councillor A Stinchcombe, that the minutes of the meeting held 25th November be agreed as a true record.

RESOLVED

C24 /170 **Haverhill Future Healthcare Provision**

It was proposed by Councillor J Burns, seconded by Councillor P Hanlon, that the healthcare facilities detailed in planning masterplans for the new developments to the NE and NW of Haverhill, be raised with Nick Timothy MP, and that the principle of development is secured through these Masterplan documents but there is no obligation on the public bodies accepting related s106 payments to fulfil the provisions detailed in the masterplan.

RESOLVED

It was proposed by Councillor A Stinchcombe, seconded by Councillor J Mason, that District Councillors ask West Suffolk District Council to pursue the land option through a meeting with s106 Officers and others regarding s106 obligations being for Haverhill.

RESOLVED

C24 /171 **To note progress of actions arising from the minutes not covered by this agenda**

C24/15c – See Councillor J Mason’s report (Appendix 1).

C24/158e – Sharps Services in Haverhill. Haverhill Pharmacy on Camps Road is taking Sharps.

C24 /172 **Reports from District/County Councillors on issues pertinent to HAVERHILL and the PUBLIC FORUM**

- a) **Police Report** – Nothing to report.
- b) **Ambulance Report** – Councillor A Stinchcombe is planning to raise a Freedom of Information request in order to review the statistics before the next meeting.
- c) **County Councillors** – see Appendix 1
Councillor J Mason: see report attached (Appendix 1)
Councillor Mason informed the meeting that in mid-January SCC will consider requesting that the Minister allows Suffolk to be part of a first tranche for devolution. If devolution goes ahead, SCC, Ipswich Borough and the Districts would no longer exist. We would have a new unitary council. Advantages and disadvantages are numerous, but a main concern is that if a proposal to go for the first tranche is put forward in mid-January, parish and town councillors will not have had an opportunity to raise any concerns they may have. Councillor Mason asked councillors to email him with any thoughts or concerns and he will carry representation forward.
- d) **District Councillors**
Councillor A Brown attended the WSDC Overview and Scrutiny meeting which discussed local bus services. The recommendation was that everyone lobby their MP for more money.
- e) **Town Councillors’ matters to report** – see Appendix 2
Councillor L Smith has received several complaints about parking and traffic incidents in Crowland Road. It is noted that over recent years there have been numerous conversations with residents, but the problem is that this is an arterial road running northeast-southwest through the

Town Clerk

WSDC Councillors

ALL

Cllr J Mason

town, and unfortunately the houses were not originally built with car parking in mind. Councillor J Mason will discuss this issue with Officers at SCC to see if anything can be done.

Councillor J Burns: see report attached (Appendix 2).

Councillor J Mason highlighted that Councillor Burns has worked relentlessly to get the town centre signage right. Councillor Mason has worked with Councillor Burns to get SCC to acknowledge mistakes made in the TRO in the High Street. It looks as if this is nearly complete, and Councillor Mason is requesting a copy of what will be in the TRO to make sure it is correct. Councillor Mason thanked Councillor Burns for his persistence.

f) Members of the public

A question was raised by a member of the public: How will unitary status for Suffolk affect our town council?

The Town Clerk replied: This is a white paper so it is just an expression of what the government would like to do and doesn't directly involve town councils. Strategic authorities would need to have a directly elected mayor of that authority. As strategic authorities would be given extra powers the government thinks there needs to be a named person who holds these extra powers and who cannot be stopped by councillors from getting on with their job. This mayoral role is unrelated to mayors of town councils, who have no power to act alone.

C24 **Mayor's Report**

/173 See Appendix 3.

C24 **ONE Haverhill Partnership**

/174 The next Board is on 16th January and there are no further updates at this time. Work on the business plan is ongoing.

C24 **Financial Matters**

/175 a) Authorisation of payments: It was proposed by Councillor J Burns, seconded by Councillor P Hanlon, that the listed payments totalling £150,691.15 be authorised.

RESOLVED

b) Budget Briefing 2025/26: The Town Clerk thanked Councillors André, Burns, and Davidson for their support in proofreading the document and for their valuable contribution. Councillors considered the working document presented by the Clerk. It was proposed by Councillor R André, seconded by Councillor P Hanlon, that the working document be adopted as a first draft.

RESOLVED

c) Accounts Package: It was proposed by Councillor J Burns, seconded by Councillor D Page, that the Scribe cloud-based accounting and booking system be adopted.

RESOLVED

C24 **Review of Policies**

/176 It was proposed by Councillor J Burns, seconded by Councillor L Smith, that the Health and Safety policy, and the Safeguarding policy (with a slight adjustment to Item 5 to ensure it is clear that the final bullet point does not exclude all others in Item 5) be re-adopted.

RESOLVED

Town Clerk

C24 Adoption of Committee Reports

/177 a) Planning Committee:

It was proposed by Councillor P Hanlon, seconded by Councillor R André, that the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held 3rd December 2024 and the recommendations contained therein, be adopted.

RESOLVED

C24 Actions taken under delegated powers

/178 None.

C24 Date of next meeting

/179 The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 28th January 2025.

C24 Closure

/180 The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.35pm.



Signed Date.....
Chairman

Appendix 1 – County Councillors’ reports

Appendix 2 – Town Councillors’ reports

Appendix 3 – Mayor’s report

Appendix 1 – County Councillors’ reports

Appendix 2 – Town Councillors’ reports

Appendix 3 – Mayor’s report

APPENDIX 1 – County and District Councillor’s report Councillor Joe Mason

County and District Councillor Report, December 2024

Cllr Joe Mason

Suffolk County Council Full Council took place on the 12th of December. Three motions were debated, of which the third Motion on Knife Crime will perhaps resonate most strongly for residents in Haverhill. I have added these motions as an Addenda to this report.

At West Suffolk I attended the Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee, and I attended Childrens and Educational Scrutiny Committee at SCC focussing on updates to work being done in response to the Ofsted report. I have already circulated the quarterly report to councillors. The elephant in the room of course is regarding local government reorganisation in Suffolk and what form it will take. I await with interest the publication of the White Paper expected to drop soon.

We are all here to represent the interests of residents and local businesses, even if at times we don't all agree on certain issues. I consider it a great privilege to be able represent the communities I serve at Town, District & County Council. It's been a challenging year but as this one ends I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and the very best for the New Year.

In this report.

1. Suffolk County Council News
2. Anti Spiking Project
3. Changes to Winter fuel payment - project with Reach, Citizens Advice and The Link
4. Haverhill's new recycling centre and the old Chalkstone Way site
5. Highways Update
6. Persimmon Estate, Relief Road & S106 & Related
7. Biodiversity and Community Orchard – Glebe
8. Anaerobic Biodigester
9. Market
10. West Suffolk News
11. Addenda

1. Suffolk County Council News

[Cabinet approves bold new vision for Suffolk's future](#)

Suffolk County Council's Cabinet has today approved ambitious new plans to position Suffolk as a national leader in sustainable growth and innovation.

[Suffolk Regiment archives available to view at West Suffolk House](#)

Historical records charting more than 270 years of active service for the Suffolk Regiment have found a new home thanks to support from two councils.

[Suffolk's rural communities hit by loss of £3 million in Government funding](#)

£3 million of vital public funding - designed to support rural communities in Suffolk - will be cut by the government next year, it has been revealed.

[Department for Education welcomes SEND improvements and evidence of impact, but recognises challenges](#)

The Department for Education (DfE) met with senior leaders from Suffolk County Council and the NHS to review the impact of wide-ranging improvement plans for special educational needs and disabilities services (SEND).

(In addition to this report I have forwarded to all members the quarterly report which you can [download here](#) if you somehow missed it)

2. Anti-Spiking Project

Pc Jack Oakley approached me in June about launching an anti-spiking initiative in Haverhill. Funding provided by Cllr

Roach and myself enabled PC Oakley to buy '[Stop Topps](#)' for pubs in town. Stop Topps are used to cover any drinking vessel used in pubs and clubs, including cans, bottles and glasses, to prevent spiking.

Nationally this campaign is designed to encourage people to consider their own safety when having a night out and taking positive action to prevent the risk of their drinks being spiked. Timed with the coming Christmas period, this a great opportunity to raise awareness about this growing concern. Whilst not a particular issue in Haverhill, it is in Cambridge. The Royal Exchange and The Woolpack have put up 'Stop Drink Spiking' posters from Suffolk Police, which includes a QR code taking users to a site to report drink-spiking incidents.

Many thanks to Brian and Dionne for running this scheme at the Royal Exchange and The Woolpack. (Please note all town centre licenced premises were asked whether they wanted to participate)

3. Changes to Winter fuel Payment - project with REACH, Citizens Advice and the Link

The 'Just about Managing this winter' leaflet was launched last week , as part of a joint campaign I have been involved with in partnership with REACH Citizens Advice and The Link. The hope is that we can reach pensioners who may be experiencing financial hardship, following changes to the winter fuel payment, and guide them towards support. I helped by funding the leaflet using SCC locality funding.

Its difficult to get the message out there about eligibility for different benefits and the support available for people who feel daunted by the application process. I have been very public at Cabinet and West Suffolk Council that more could be done to communicate what benefits and support is available. Posters will be distributed to key places around town and leaflets are available from REACH if you have an area you would like to target.

4. Haverhill's new recycling centre & the old Chalkstone Way site

I have received word that the old Chalkstone Way site will be retained by SCC for use as a renewing/reusing facility.

5. Highways

Winter & Potholes

Winter is obviously here, which can see road surfaces deteriorate. I kindly ask all ward members and members of the public to report road defects using the [Suffolk Highways Reporting Tool](#) for all defects to be assessed. Clearly Highways Maintenance Operational Plan will prioritise due to severity, but any help, particularly with the more serious road defects will help immensely.

Resurfacing work £10m Road Improvement project

Bad weather and hold ups have impacted some of the work planned. Harrow rd has had two failed attempts due to abandoned cars preventing work being done.

All work that has been identified for improvement will be carried out, though it is difficult to predict when due to the quantity of rescheduling that has taken place.

Haverhill Town Centre Signs

After a lot of “Toing and froing” behind the scenes at Highways, I have managed to secure an agreement that the TRO issue on the high Street will be resolved. This was confirmed to me on Thursday 12th Dec. As TRO’s take a while to deliver, I have been tentatively informed that this and the Ehringshausen way Delivery Bay will form part of a package of issues expected to be delivered in April 2025. Again, thanks to Cllr Burns for his valued contributions.

Please note the following correspondence I have received regarding the High Street Signage:
“I am very pleased to be able to report that the continued shaking of the proverbial tree has at last yielded a positive outcome – and that it has been confirmed that this TRO had been missed in the earlier consolidation order. This has been included in the list of ‘anomalous’ or otherwise ‘missing’ Traffic Regulation Orders that our Licensing Team are drawing together to commission a blanket order to further consolidate the Civil Parking Enforcement update (the same blanket order that will also address the Ehringhausen Way loading bay TRO). There is currently no timescale for these – but it is hoped that they will be in place by Spring 2025.

I appreciate this has been a very arduous process, but I am pleased that we have at last broken the deadlock here and achieved the desired outcome.”

Greenfields Way Bus Stop & dropped kerbs

The bus shelter is ordered and the dropped kerbs funded by Cllr Roach are now with Milestone to schedule.. I don’t have a date. It is likely there may be a delay, certainly on the dropped kerbs, as Milestone try to get through quite a weighty list of Councillor Projects as we near the end of this Council’s term.

6. Persimmon Estate and Relief Road & S106 & Related

I am expecting a further update from Persimmon on a range of issues. I will share with members when it comes through. However, since my last report I have visited the Persimmon site to discuss a wide range of issues. I conducted a site visit a fortnight ago and raised concerns relating to a wide range of issues, many of which have been addressed in their December community update which I distributed to councillors and I have added as an Addendum to this report.

I have been assured again that the relief Road is on target for a Spring 2025 opening. I remain sceptical yet also hopeful. I believe there is a keen determination to get this work completed. I am quietly working behind the scenes with West Suffolk and Highways to ensure that close monitoring of progress is being carried out;.

Of particular note I have been responding to multiple complaints regarding Sunday Working and excess amounts of mud on phase 6 roads and on Ann Suckling Road. I have received assurances that these issues are being dealt with. It would appear the Sunday working issue is now resolved. I believe the mud issue is ongoing and I am seeking further assurances about regular, multiple road cleaning that needs to take place each week.

Farrant Rd – No further progress. Persimmon are now instructing Contractors. They have stated completion by the end of the year. It is likely this will now be done in the new year.

Howe Road Bus Gate No - further update - Awaiting confirmation of Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) camera could take months as this link will not be open for many month. No timescales available for this.

Wrattling Rd Puffin Crossing No further update.

Saxon Crescent Dopped Kerb and other Issues on Saxon Crescent - Expected to be installed very soon, subject to the developer booking road space. As these are works planned after the site had been signed off and there is no bond, there is little pressure that can be brought to bear to get it done quickly. I am chasing Highways to keep the developer on task. This slow delivery is most frustrating and the current situation in my opinion is unsafe for pedestrians with pushchairs wanting to cross Anne Sucking Rd.

7. Biodiversity and Community Orchard – Glebe

This is now completed. I funded two areas for increased biodiversity at the Glebe using SCC locality funding to helping solve an anti-social behaviour issue concerning residents. Plants used will attract pollinators and as it mature should make an appealing addition to the area. I have now had confirmation that the Community Orchard will now not go ahead.

8. Anaerobic Biodigester

No update. Still awaiting documentation from Acorn to be submitted.

9. Market

I remain concerned regarding the weekly saturday market. Individual events seem well attended such as the Christmas Event on the High street on the 29th November

10. Stour View Medical Centre & HSBC Bank

No further news on HSBC bank which is frustrating.

As regards the Stour View Medical Centre

“In July we acquired the freehold of Stourview Medical Centre in Haverhill to help facilitate future development on the Jubilee Place area, meet the ambitions of the town masterplan and provide the opportunity to deliver some of the place-shaping proposals. As we undertook to do at the time of purchase, we have sought to let out the property and I am pleased to report that the centre has been and continues to be used as a Covid and Flu Vaccination Clinic. Operated by Clare Pharmacy this has helped to provide a well-located vaccination service, close to the high street, for the residents of the town and the surrounding area. With the vaccination centre ending its Council – 17 December 2024 – COU/WS/24/026 term this Christmas, we are working with partners in the Health System to bring forward uses for property to the benefit of Haverhill and the town centre.” Cllr Cliff Waterman (Leaders Statement)

11. West Suffolk Council News

West Suffolk Council is on Tuesday 17th Dec.

["New housing targets are challenging but the right thing to do"](#)

The Cabinet members for Housing and Planning at West Suffolk Council have welcomed increased targets for new homes saying it will be a challenge but it's the right thing to do.

[Continuation of Council Tax reduction for those on low incomes recommended](#)

Families in West Suffolk on low incomes, including those in work, suffering from economic hardship could benefit for another year from a 100 per cent discount in Council Tax.

West Suffolk Cabinet recommended continuing the discount for a third year following a consultation with the public and stakeholders which together supported extending the current Council Tax Reduction Scheme.

[Council to discuss weed treatment in council managed land and assets](#)

A decision to reinstate the controlled use of a weed treatment in limited areas to help reduce unwanted growth in hard landscaped areas and deterioration to structures, will be decided by Council next week.

Members will address the increasing challenge of invasive and unsightly weeds and unwanted growth in public areas, in and around manmade structures, where other methods have failed to work effectively. Evidence shows that the limited use of chemical weed treatment in discrete areas, would cause no measurable harm to the environment and help maintain a more attractive streetscape for residents and visitors who had complained about untidiness previously.

[West Suffolk opens £34,000 fund to boost community sports activity](#)

Grassroots sports clubs across West Suffolk can now apply for grants from a £34,000 council fund designed to increase participation and activity.

[Home energy efficiency voucher scheme launched across homes in Suffolk](#)

The Suffolk Retrofit Assessment Voucher Scheme, a pioneering initiative aimed at promoting energy efficiency and sustainability in homes across the county, has now been launched.

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 for the betterment of the community. Where I have stated 'no further updates' or 'ongoing', please refer back to my previous months reports.

Members are always welcome to contact me should they need any information or assistance relating to issues across the Cangle District.

Addenda

Motions to Council (PASSED)

Motion 1 – Proposed by Councillor Matthew Hicks and seconded by Councillor TJ Haworth-Culf

'Suffolk County Council places on record its opposition to the changes to Agricultural Property Relief (APR) announced by the Labour government in the Autumn Budget. The Council believes that these changes create a 'Family Farm Tax', which fundamentally undermines the viability of Suffolk's farming sector and threatens our nation's food security.

Following these changes to APR, the Council reaffirms its support for Suffolk's meat, dairy and arable farmers. The Council notes analysis by the National Farmers Union (NFU) stating that 75 percent of working farms could be threatened by the 'Family Farm Tax' and that the average size of a Suffolk farm is 400 acres.

Furthermore, the Council registers its concern that the Labour government's policy of decarbonising the electricity grid by 2030, rather than 2035 under the prior government, threatens Suffolk's best and most versatile farmland, its rural communities and landscape.

National Grid's Transmission Entry Capacity (TEC) Register reveals that tens of thousands of acres of solar farms have been given connection offers in Suffolk. The Council notes that it is the position of the County Council that solar farms should not remove our best and most versatile land from food production.

The Council believes that the government's 2030 target is a driver towards the unnecessary industrialisation of Suffolk's landscape and does not allow sufficient time for the proper exploration of alternatives to schemes such as the Norwich to Tilbury Pylons and other energy projects elsewhere in the county.

Therefore, this Council resolves to:

- a. Write to the Rt Hon Rachel Reeves MP and the Rt Hon Ed Miliband MP setting out its opposition to the policies above;
- b. Invite representatives from Suffolk NFU to meet with the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council to discuss how the Council can further support local farmers.'

Amended Motion 2 – (PASSED)

Initially proposed by Councillor Andrew Stringer (Green) and seconded by Councillor Richard Rout (Conservatives) 'Energy Secretary Ed Miliband has promised to triple the amount of solar power in the UK by 2030, including a 'rooftop solar revolution' to encourage builders and empower homeowners to install solar panels on new and existing buildings.

This council recognises Suffolk will have a role to play in reaching the government target of 70GW of solar capacity by 2035, and renewable energy has the potential to reduce residents' energy bills. However, current planning policy as applied by the planning inspectorate, Secretary of State and an uncoordinated approach to Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) are creating significant challenges for our rural communities, including solar farms.

This council will welcome consultations that would ensure that solar installations are "roof before rural", as many communities feel that East Anglia is seeing too much of our most productive and valuable land set aside for solar farms without clear community benefit, while too many new buildings are allowed to be constructed without the benefits of solar generation. There also needs to be a clear plan to retrofit existing buildings to take most advantage of the opportunities our towns and urban areas present.

This council believes that insufficient consideration is currently being given to upgrading the local electricity distribution grid to enable rooftop and brownfield solar schemes, such as over car parks.

Furthermore, the council registers its concern that steps taken to date by the government and the solar industry to remove links to modern day slavery, particularly Uighur forced labour camps in Xinjiang, from the solar supply chain are insufficient and unacceptable

This council agrees to write to the Secretary of State to outline these concerns, and to seek assurances that our best quality agricultural land is protected by ensuring existing and future developments play their part in reaching our sustainable energy targets.

This council will also a) continue to review its own buildings and assets to facilitate the installation of rooftop solar panels wherever **practical**, including libraries, family hubs and buildings on county farms. b) work through Suffolk Public Sector Leaders to ensure any such installation by local authorities in Suffolk have the best possible supply chain guarantees.'

Motion 3 – Proposed by Councillor Sam Murray and seconded by Councillor Philip Faircloth-Mutton (PASSED) 'Suffolk County Council commits to continuing its work and partnerships to eliminate knife crime across Suffolk.

It is widely recognised that improving safety for the residents of Suffolk can only be achieved on a collective basis. Therefore, the Council thanks its staff, members and partners on Suffolk's District and Borough Councils, Suffolk Police and Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner, and Probation and Health services for the vital work they all do.

The Council also thanks Suffolk's communities and acknowledges the vital role they play in tackling this issue, particularly by raising awareness among young people across the county.

The Council commends Suffolk Constabulary on its continued efforts to reduce knife crime following the release of data by the Office for National Statistics (ONS), which showed a 38% reduction in crimes across Suffolk involving a knife between June 2022 and June 2024. However, the Council recognises enforcement is only part of the solution.

Therefore the Council asks that, through their chairmanship of the Safer Stronger Communities Board, the Cabinet Member for Environment, Communities and Equality table an agenda item for the next meeting of the Board, scheduled for March 2025, to build on the work already being delivered in Suffolk and investigate the benefits of piloting a knife crime action plan in Ipswich, given the continued concerns raised by residents and councillors in the town.'



CGI of the proposed
Local Centre within Phase 3A

North Haverhill Community Update

December 2024

Persimmon Homes Suffolk has been working to bring forward the latest phases of the Boyton Place community at North Haverhill over the autumn months while also carrying out improvements to existing phases.

An application has been submitted for Phase 3A which includes the **Local Centre and 83 new homes**, as well as Phases 5A and 5C which will bring a further **112 homes**.

Landscapers have been auditing trees and creating a schedule for replanting those that have not taken or been vandalised. Work has already started planting and staking trees around the play area, and further tree planting will take place in January.

Designs for the raised tables and dropped kerbs in Ann Suckling Road have been submitted to Suffolk County Council Highways for approval and once approved, work can start immediately.

Farrant Road surfacing works were delayed due to a change in specification from Highways. This work is now scheduled to take place in the new year. Residents will be warned in advance and we advise checking our website for information.

Haverhill Relief Road

Cadent's extensive gas main diversion works have progressed well and are expected to finish in **mid January 2025**. Persimmon Homes Suffolk has been in discussion with Cadent to explore the possibility of **remobilising groundwork contractors** whilst they finish commissioning the diverted gas main.

All works need to be done under Cadent's supervision and will include:

- ② Completing the tie in of the Relief Road to Hales Barn Road roundabout
- ② Constructing the culvert and roadway across the ditch.

These works require Minor Works Agreements which are being finalised with Suffolk County Council and we aim to start in January.

The remaining works will be completed once Cadent have finished on site, with the aim of finishing the road in spring.

Landscaping works along the relief road are also scheduled to take place from early January.



Communal spaces

Existing play areas

Sadly, the play equipment has again been targeted by vandals. Persimmon is arranging for the equipment to be replaced and will cover this cost. However, if these acts of vandalism, which has also seen trees damaged, continues the cost may have to come from management fees in the future.

The area surrounding the play park has recently been subject to a strim and thistle clear. Landscape contractors will continue to attend the park to cut the grass and strim as appropriate.

Replacement landscaping is underway now and the raised areas where the grass has not taken will be rotovated and reseeded in spring next year.

A schedule has been agreed with the on-site team to regularly check and empty the bins, along with a litter pick as and when required.

Allotments

A request for a tender for ground works for the delivery of the allotments adjacent to Ann Suckling Road has gone out and work will commence in the coming months to allow for delivery in summer 2025.

The intention is for West Suffolk Council to adopt the allotments and establish an Allotment Association.

Wildflower Meadow

Wildflower seeds have been planted across the development, and while these may not look as aesthetically pleasing at this stage, in time they will form an attractive part of the open space.

The weeds we have growing create competition for the wild grasses and flowers but will die off, making way for more attractive growth.

We are exploring the possibility of installing information boards to explain the various types of wildflower meadows and the nature and wildlife benefits that they provide.

Waste bins

Two dog waste bins are due to be installed, one in the open space by the play area and second within the open space next to Farrant Road.

We have experienced delays in the delivery of the bins from our supplier but we are hoping to have them installed in December.

In the meantime we would kindly ask that residents dispose of their dog waste themselves.

A regime is being put in place to ensure that the bins and dog waste bins will be regularly emptied.

Road sweeping and site hours

We would like to apologise for the muddy road conditions along Ann Suckling Road. We have committed to sweeping this more frequently and reminded contractors and deliveries that they should access the site via the relief road to the north.

We can also confirm there will be no further working on Sundays.



Street scene view of homes proposed within Phase 3A

Community workshops

Persimmon Homes Suffolk is aware of the growing need for a local centre at North Haverhill and we are keen to bring forward this exciting mixed-use development that will be a focal point for the community.

A series of workshops were held with Haverhill Town Council and West Suffolk Council which have shaped the current and up and coming phases of the development.

Phases 5A and 5C

- ① Reserved Matters application submitted to West Suffolk Council in July for **112 new homes**
- ① **34 homes** for **shared ownership** or **below market rent**
- ① Minor amendments made following initial consultations
- ① Targeting Reserved Matters approval in January 2025.

Phase 3A

- ① Reserved Matters application is live and **consultation process** underway
- ① **Striking Local Centre** building comprising a **supermarket** and **two further commercial units**
- ① Apartments above the commercial units
- ① **Paved plaza** to the front with seating for the community
- ① **83 homes** including **26 for below market value rent** and **shared ownership**
- ① Targeting Reserved Matters approval in **February 2025** with a start on site planned for late summer/autumn 2025.

Potential operators have expressed an interest in the supermarket unit and we hope to be in a position to announce a development partner by spring 2025.



New play areas proposed

Two further play areas will be delivered for the community during 2025. Equipment is due to be installed during the early part of the year, with landscaping to follow before the end of the current planting season.

The first will be a **large play** and **Multi Use Games Area (MUGA)** to the west of Phase 2a.

- ⑤ Fenced off area for basketball and football games
- ⑤ **10 pieces** of play equipment for all ages - including a **see-saw** and an **accessible roundabout** and **swing**
- ⑤ Picnic benches.

The second will feature **gym trail equipment** and will be located to the west of Phase 6.

- ⑤ **8 pieces** of play equipment including swings, see-saw with **additional logs** and **boulders** for **natural play**
- ⑤ Picnic benches
- ⑤ **3 pieces** of gym trail equipment - an exercise bike, cross trainer and multi-fitness frame for body weight exercises.

Air Walker - SB0532



Cross Trainer - SB0545



Multi-Fitness Frame - SB0657



Bike Station - SB0649



Multi-Play Unit - TB7051



Swing - MB00025



See-Saw - TBR7171



Stepping Posts - TBR7146



Play Unit - TB7057



Duo Toddler Swing - TBR7159



Suggested equipment for play areas and gym trail

Stay up-to-date

Visit our website for latest updates on Boyton Place and the Haverhill Relief Road.

W: persimmonwhaverhill.co.uk

APPENDIX 2 – Town Councillor’s report

Councillor John Burns

- **Great Wilsey Park:** Work has been ongoing at Chalkstone Way roundabout to bring up to adoptable standards so that the new TRO for the estate can be implemented. SCC were planning to implement enforcement when they have no responsibility for the land until I pointed this out.
- **Police Matters:** Crime stats for October 2024 were distributed on 2nd December. The latest edition of Constable’s County was sent out as a link on 10th December.
- **SCC Highways:** It will be seen from Cllr Mason’s report that my efforts over the past 3 years in trying to convince SCC that they were wrong to assume that the traffic movement TRO for the High Street, Peas Market Hill and Queen Street had been cancelled in 2019 (without any consultation) has finally been met with success. Although we still have to wait until the next financial year, I am hopeful that the signage will be put right both in the town centre and outside the Leisure Centre so that enforcement can be carried out by the police and hopefully CPE will step up to the mark as well.
- **Combined Authority:** No further updates.
- **Greater Cambridge Partnership:** No further updates.
- **Parking:** Apologies but have not had time to collate the parking stats I received as result of a FOI request. I have put in my diary to do between Xmas and New Year after filming and editing for panto has been completed.
- **Markets:** I still have had no response to my request from the WSC Portfolio Holder as to what progress has been made as reported in October’s report.
- **Sturmer Arches:** Still nothing to report.
- **Fox PH (Wratting Road):** No further news known.
- **Vixen PH (Millfields Way):** No further news known.
- **Strasbourg Square:** I reported the lights on the shops and alleyways being out and WSC Customer Services disputed their problem but after pointing out they owned the building I am hopeful this will be resolved soon as I went direct to the Property Manager instead.
- **Other work:**
 - Assisted at Xmas event with early morning barrier drop off and late night collection.
 - Managed splashpad decommissioning.
 - Carried out several IT related tasks at HAC.
 - Reported numerous unlit streetlights and traffic bollards to SCC. Reported litter and vegetation problems across town to Havebury and WSC.
 - Provided usual weekly financial stats for Zone, Coffee Bar and HTC Bar to HTC management plus attending various meetings.
 - Currently filming panto for HAC.

APPENDIX 3 – Mayor’s report

Mayor’s Report to Haverhill Town Council Monday 16th December 2024

It’s been just three short weeks since the last full Council and my last report, but after only performing two ribbon-cutting events in the previous 18 months I was invited to do two in two days. Talk about London buses!

The first was to celebrate the completion of the major refurbishment of Sainsbury’s supermarket, which was rather surreal for me, as I’m sure many of you know, it is where I work in my day job. It certainly drew some quizzical looks from some members of staff that didn’t know I was the Mayor of Haverhill when I arrived wearing the chain of office. The following morning Liz and I were delighted to attend the official opening of the new Unity Stars nursery school at Coupals school, the latest addition to Unity Academy Trusts portfolio. With the number of education facilities on Chalkstone Way it is rapidly becoming Education Way. Best wishes to Karen Davies and her team for the future of this much needed addition to the pre-school offer to residents of our town.

On the same day we held our Christmas Fair and Light Switch on event. It was wonderful to see our town full of smiling faces as they enjoyed the street entertainment that was on show, along with all the makers’ market stalls and the Craft Fair in the Arts Centre. The switching on of the lights was preceded by a parade along the High Street and Queens Street with performers from Mahogany Carnival, Coleridge Carnival Crew, along with many of our talented local young stars. We then moved up to the Rec for our annual Fireworks Spectacular, which lived up to its name. After last year’s unfortunate “fog out” it was fantastic to see! Many congratulations to all of our staff and volunteers at Haverhill Town Council for making the whole day a safe and successful one.

The busy weekend continued the following morning as we were invited once again to Haverhill Methodist Church for their annual Toy Service, where members of the church bring toys to be distributed among the families of Haverhill who may not be in the position to buy their own. Once again, the generosity on show was heart-warming, and a clear and tangible example of one way in which they are sharing the message of Christmas. It was today third such service I had attended, twice as Mayor and once as consort to Liz, each time with a different minister. I cheekily suggested to Rev. Moses that I could show him how it’s done.

The last two official engagements I attended were Civic Carol Services. The first was the West Suffolk service at St Edmundsbury Cathedral, hosted by Cllr Pat Hanlon. As well as Pat, it had a very familiar feel to it as the majority of the music was led by Haverhill Silver Band, along with organist Matthew McVey, who is the musical director of Haverhill Singers.

The Silver Band were also the main musical contributors two evenings later at our own Civic Carol Service at St. Mary’s, ably assisted by the church’s own choir, including a fine solo from Rev. Max and organ piece by Richard Hart. It was a well-attended service and thanks to all of you that were able to join us for an uplifting programme. The collection taken will be shared between my two charities this year, Haverhill Men’s Shed and The Link.

Thank you to everyone we have met this year for making us so very welcome. I urge you to support the good causes they represent in any way you can.

Thanks also to Vicky for helping me throughout the year to be where I needed to be, when I needed to be, and putting up with my last-minute changes of plan.

Finally, thank you to Colin Poole and his team for guiding the council through another year, and to my fellow councillors on Haverhill Town Council. Thank you for all the hard work that you put in to make our town the Best Little Town in Suffolk.

Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

David