

Haverhill Town Council

Minutes of a Meeting of Haverhill Town Council's

FULL COUNCIL

Held on Monday 30th June 2025 at 7.00pm at Haverhill Arts Centre, High Street, Haverhill



HAVERHILL
TOWN COUNCIL

Present: Mayor Councillor Q Cox
Councillor A Brown
Councillor J Burns
Councillor J Crooks
Councillor B Davidson
Councillor P Firman (to 9.15pm)
Councillor P Hanlon
Councillor A Luccarini
Councillor M Martin
Councillor J Mason
Councillor L Miller-Jones
Councillor A Stinchcombe

Apologies: Councillor D Page
Councillor D Smith
Councillor L Smith

In Attendance: Colin Poole, Town Clerk
Vicky Phillips, Deputy Town Clerk
David Roach, Suffolk County Councillor (left 8.13pm)
Inspector Ben Hollands
PC Cheryl Claydon

1 member of the public was present.

Welcome:

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

MINUTES

C25 **Apologies for Absence**

/075 The above apologies were noted. It was also noted that Roger André had resigned his seat and the Clerk confirmed that a casual vacancy was being advertised.

C25 **Declaration of Interests and requests for dispensation**

/076 Councillors T Brown, P Hanlon, L Miller-Jones and J Mason declared an Other Registerable Interest in C25/093, Vision 2030, due to having allocated funds for the project from their Locality Budgets. It was proposed by Councillor Burns, seconded by Councillor Martin, that under the Localism Act 2011 s33 (2e) a dispensation to stay be granted on the grounds that it is appropriate to do so.

ACTION

RESOLVED

C25 /077 Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held Monday, 12th May 2025

It was proposed by Councillor J Burns, seconded by Councillor M Martin that the minutes of the meeting held 12th May 2025 be agreed as a true record.

RESOLVED

C25 /078 To note progress of actions arising from the minutes not covered by this Agenda

C24/170 s106 obligations: The Clerk had circulated the response from the ICB

C25/006c CPE performance in Haverhill: Still awaiting a response.

As West Suffolk Councillor, Cllr Hanlon to bring to attention the matter of CPE in Haverhill High Street.

C25/020c Toilet facilities at Haverhill Library: The Clerk had written to Councillor Faircloth-Mutton who had responded confirming works would be funded by s106 after December.

**Clerk
Cllr Hanlon**

C25 /079 Reports from District/County Councillors on issues pertinent to HAVERHILL and the PUBLIC FORUM

a) **Police Report:** Inspector Holland, County Inspector for Haverhill, reported on current objectives which are reviewed and set every 10 days. These are set on threat, harm and risk and are taken from crime trends in the town;

- i) special operation targeting a criminal network and linked to child criminal exploitation and predominately around specific people dealing drugs locally.
- ii) Highpoint Prison.
- iii) An operation specifically targeting ASB, specifically street drinking in the town centre.
- iv) General operation and wider operation on drug dealing and county lines; Inspector Holland is unaware of any county lines coming into Haverhill, the picture is more about local drug dealers and local individuals.
- v) An operation which has targeted identified key individuals and domestic violence.

Op Topworth ASB and Street Drinking in the Town Centre

Key individuals involved in anti-social behaviour (ASB) and street drinking in the town centre have been identified, with some of the issues linked to homelessness. A Public Space Protection Order is currently in place.

Recently, all known individuals have been issued with Community Protection Warning letters. These letters outline specific behaviours. If these conditions are breached, the matter is escalated to a Community Protection Notice, which is a more formal enforcement measure.

One individual has been issued with a Criminal Behaviour Order, which carries greater legal weight. We are also exploring the use of ASB injunctions, which are pursued through the courts.

In addition, work is ongoing in partnership with West Suffolk Council to:

- Update signage and install warning notices:

- Improve the appearance of the area, including recent clean-up efforts at the bus shelter

E Scooters and E Bikes

Patrols have been conducted in the area, including by the Kestrel team. As a result, one bike has recently been seized, and a child riding an e-bike was identified. Officers are now working with the child's parent to provide education on the legal and safety implications of using e-bikes. Enforcement remains challenging due to current legislation and the practical difficulties of pursuing individuals on these bikes. However, a problem-solving plan is being developed to address the issue more effectively.

Other news

- Community Policing have been out and engaging with the public.
- Haverhill is one of the first areas to implement a joint initiative between the police and West Suffolk Council, resulting in a closure order on a privately rented property linked to anti-social behaviour and drug dealing.
- Crime in the area continues to decline, reflecting a long-term downward trend.

b) Ambulance Report: An online meeting has been arranged for July 11th

c) County Councillors: see Appendix 1

Councillor Mason highlighted some points from his report:

1. Northwest Relief Road should be open very soon, possibly early July. There is a few minor works to be done and will need to be signed off by Highways. There will be a formal opening in September.
2. Anaerobic Digester. There was strong representation at the meeting. Several items were raised that were not included on the application and came after the consultation period. JB is concerned that given the Government's stance on the need for processing food waste, that if Acorn re-submits it eventually could be turned into a food waste processing site, is looking into this.

Cllr Burns spoke about Suffolk County Council's claim that Queen Street is a pedestrianised zone, specifically in relation to the signage. Cllr Mason has been working on this and would like it noted that Cllr Burns was correct in saying that the Town Centre did not need a new TRO.

Cllr Brown raised about parking along Camps Road and asked if SCC could consider yellow lines along one side of the road? Cllr Mason will make note and representation, but it will probably not go into current works.

Cllr Roach thanked Cllr Hanlon for his year as Chair of WSC, he also congratulated Cllr Cox and Cllr Miller Jones on becoming Haverhill Mayor and Deputy Mayor. Cllr Roach explained that he would be the first person from Haverhill to be the Chair of SCC and the last chair of the Council.

Cllr Roach also mentioned that the Anaerobic Digester committee was unanimous on their decision, the application breached lots of policies.

d) District Councillors: see Appendix 2

Cllr Hanlon reported that an application has come forward for the ex-Vixen Public House. Also, other derelict buildings in town are now being discussed and a meeting has been arranged.

Grass Cutting is now being cut every three weeks, following a review. Cllr Mason requested that small parcels of grass be maintained that are currently being missed. Cllr Brown requested that any issues around grass cutting to report to him or West Suffolk Council, additionally, he

Cllr Brown

advised that if there were any areas containing orchids etc. that the public could put signs up to advise WSC not cut them down.

e) Town Councillors: See Appendix 3

Cllr Martin raised her concerns about unlicensed HMO's in the town. Cllr Luccarini confirmed that the list is up to date, not all HMO's requires a licence.

f) Public Forum:

Grass Cutting at Coupals Road.

Mr Pinnock reported an issue with an area along Coupals Road which has been missed Cllr Brown will report and follow up

**C25
/080**

Mayor's Report

– See Appendix 4.

Community Groups

Cllr Cox asked that the Town Council formally recognise and support the valuable work being carried out by individuals and community groups in the town. He highlighted the contributions of the Scouts and Guides, particularly their efforts in the development and fundraising for the new Scout building. It was also requested that R. André be recognised for his significant contribution to this project along with his work as a Town Councillor.

Cllr Cox would like it noted that he had recently been to an event where Brassability were playing, and that they were amazing.

Cllr Hanlon: Queen Street gates need cleaning, the Town Council community wardens to contact Neil Williams at Samuel Ward to arrange.

Cllr Brown would also like to thank the Town Council staff and everyone involved in putting on the Armed Forces Day event. Military vehicle users have said that Haverhill is the best event that they visit.

**C25
/081**

ONE Haverhill Partnership

a) The Partnership is organising a public engagement event for local government reform, to be held at St Mary's Church on Tuesday 29th July at 6.30pm.

b) Wellbeing Hub: Councillor Miller-Jones has worked incredibly hard, along with Sarah Hedges and the Clerk, to make the financial plan stack up. Unfortunately, the proposal was based on anticipated participation by key community groups generating a core rental income and those groups have decided against taking a tenancy. There remain two options. One, is to abandon the project as one which everybody thinks is a great idea, but nobody is prepared to take the financial risk, or the Town Council takes a financial leap of faith that once the Wellbeing Hub is open, we will find the tenants.

The Clerk provided an overview of the proposal to go ahead with the proposal, supported by Councillor Miller-Jones. Members debated the project, discussing their concerns, benefits of the project, the Café element, maintenance and appearance of the building, the garden area and car park. The Clerk explained to members that the three year break out clause allowed some confidence to take the risk.

It was proposed by Councillor Lora Mill-Jones seconded by Councillor Pat Hanlon, that the Town Council support the project.

RESOLVED

**C25/
082**

Suspension of Standing Order 3x: It was proposed by Councillor A Luccarini, seconded by Councillor J Mason, that SO3x be suspended, in order to complete the business on the agenda.

RESOLVED

C25 Financial Matters

- /083** a) Authorisation of payments: It was proposed by Councillor A Stinchcombe, seconded by Councillor J Burns, that the listed payments totalling £205,176.58 be authorised.

RESOLVED

C25 End of Year Accounts

- /084** a) Significant financial events

- i. To note the RFO advises no such events occurred.

NOTED

- b) Review of Internal Controls

- i. Review of Internal Controls for the Council was considered.
ii. Review of the Internal Audit was considered.
iii. Terms of Reference, Specification and effectiveness of the Internal Audit were considered.

It was proposed by Councillor J Burns, seconded by Councillor P Hanlon that the Internal Controls, Review of Internal Audit, Terms of Reference, Specification and review of the effectiveness of the Internal Audit be adopted.

RESOLVED

- iv. The Internal Auditor's report for the year ending 2024/25 and their AIAR report to the External Auditor was considered. The only recommendation referred to ensuring the prior-year figures on the Annual Accounting Statement were correct. This has been done.

It was proposed by Councillor J Burns seconded by Councillor P Hanlon that the Internal Auditor's report for the year ending 2024/25 and AIAR be adopted.

RESOLVED

- c) Annual Accounts and Return

- i. Adoption of Annual Accounts
1. Income and Expenditure
2. Balance Sheet

It was proposed by Councillor L Miller-Jones, seconded by Councillor M Martin, that the Annual Accounts be adopted.

RESOLVED

The Chair and Clerk signed the Annual Accounts.

- ii. Approval of sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return for the year ending 31st March 2025.

1. Annual Governance Statements: It was proposed by Councillor A Stinchcombe, seconded by Councillor L Miller-Jones that the annual governance statement be signed as a true reflection.

RESOLVED

The Chair and Clerk signed the Annual Governance Statement.

2. Accounting Statements: It was proposed by Councillor J Burns, seconded by Councillor P Hanlon, that the accounting statements be signed as a true reflection.

RESOLVED

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

3. Earmarked Reserves as at 31st March 2025: It was proposed by Councillor J Burns seconded by Councillor A Stinchcombe to approve the Earmarked Reserves totalling £939,920.97.

RESOLVED

4. Assets Register: It was proposed by Councillor A Stinchcombe, seconded by Councillor J Burns, that the asset register detailing fixed assets valued at £981,611.69 be approved.

RESOLVED

5. Risk Register: It was proposed by Councillor A Stinchcombe, seconded by Councillor J Burns, that the Risk Register be adopted.

RESOLVED

- d) To confirm all relevant insurances are in place

NOTED

C25 /084 **Adoption of Committee Reports**

- a) Finance Committee: It was proposed by Councillor P Hanlon, seconded by Councillor J Burns, that the minutes of the meeting held 29th April 2025, and any recommendations contained therein be agreed as a true record.

RESOLVED

- b) Planning Committee: It was proposed by Councillor M Martin, seconded by Councillor P Hanlon, that the minutes of the meeting held 6th & 19th May, 2nd & 16th June 2025 and any recommendations contained therein, be agreed as a true record.

RESOLVED

- c) Energy & Sustainability Working Party: It was proposed by Councillor L Miller-Jones, seconded by Councillor A Stinchcombe, that the minutes of the meeting held 10th June 2025 and any recommendations contained therein, be agreed as a true record.

RESOLVED

C25 /085 **Membership of Committees**

It was agreed that Councillors be appointed as follows:

- a) Appeals Committee: Cllr J Crooks, Cllr B Davidson, Cllr L Miller-Jones, Cllr A Stinchcombe.
- b) Arts Centre Development Working Party: Cllr D Smith, Cllr Q Cox, Cllr J Burns, Cllr A Luccarini, Cllr L Miller-Jones.
- c) Civic Events Working Party: Cllr T Brown, Cllr J Burns, Cllr Q Cox, Cllr B Davidson, Cllr A Luccarini, Cllr D Page.
- d) Community Events Working Party: Cllr A Brown, Cllr J Burns, Cllr Q Cox, Cllr B Davidson, Cllr P Hanlon, Cllr A Luccarini, Cllr L Miller-Jones, Cllr D Page.
- e) Energy & Sustainability Committee: Cllr Q Cox, Cllr L Miller-Jones, Cllr D Page, Cllr D Smith, Cllr L Smith, Cllr A Stinchcombe.
- f) Finance Committee: Cllr J Burns, Cllr Q Cox, Cllr J Crooks, Cllr B Davidson, Cllr P Hanlon, Cllr A Luccarini, Cllr L Smith.
- g) Leisure and Community Committee: Cllr A Brown, Cllr J Burns, Cllr Q Cox, Cllr P Hanlon, Cllr A Luccarini, Cllr M Martin, Cllr D Page, Cllr D Smith.
- h) Personnel Committee: Cllr J Burns, Cllr Q Cox, Cllr A Luccarini, Cllr D Page, Cllr L Smith

- i) Planning Committee: Cllr A Brown, Cllr Q Cox, Cllr P Hanlon, Cllr A Luccarini, Cllr M Martin, Cllr D Smith.
- j) Tendering Working Party: Cllr J Burns, Cllr Q Cox, Cllr B Davidson.
- k) Youth Advisory Group: Cllr Q Cox, Cllr L Miller-Jones,

It was proposed by Councillor P Hanlon, seconded by Councillor J Burns, that the membership of Committees be confirmed as listed above.

RESOLVED

C25 Appointment of Chairs and Vice-Chairs of Committees

/086

It was agreed that Councillors be appointed as follows:

- a) Appeals Committee: Cllr B Davidson (Chair)
- b) Arts Centre Development Working Party: Cllr Q Cox (Chair)
- c) Civic Events Working Party: Cllr J Burns (Chair), Cllr Q Cox (Vice Chair)
- d) Community Events Working Party: Cllr J Burns (Chair), Cllr B Davidson (Vice Chair).
- e) Energy & Sustainability Committee: Cllr L Smith (Chair)
- f) Finance Committee – to be deferred to Finance Committee
- g) Leisure and Community Committee: Cllr J Burns (Chair), Cllr D Smith (Vice Chair)
- h) Personnel Committee: Cllr Liz Smith (Chair), Cllr D Page (Vice Chair)
- i) Planning Committee: Cllr P Hanlon (Chair), Cllr T Brown (Vice Chair)
- j) Tendering Working Party: Cllr Q Cox (Chair)

It was proposed by Councillor L Miller-Jones, seconded by Councillor M Martin, that the appointment of Chairs and Vice-Chairs be confirmed as listed above.

RESOLVED

C25 Appointment to Outside Bodies

/087

- a) Cllr A Brown, Cllr J Burns, Cllr Q Cox, Cllr B Davidson, and Cllr D Smith be appointed to ONE Haverhill.
- b) Cllr Miller-Jones to discuss with Councillor membership of the Haverhill Disability Forum.
- c) Cllr L Miller-Jones be appointed to the Youth Advisory Group.

It was proposed by Councillor J Burns, seconded by Councillor L Miller-Jones, that the membership of Outside Bodies be confirmed as listed above.

RESOLVED

C25 Approval of terms of references for committees and Working Parties

/088

To approve the terms of references for committees and Working Parties.

It was proposed by Councillor A Stinchcombe, seconded by Councillor L Miller Jones, that the terms of reference for committees and working parties be approved.

RESOLVED

C25 Action taken under delegated powers

/089

Following a majority of councillors on the Leisure and Community Committee indicating their support, a £500 grant to Rotary for their annual children's day out was approved.

NOTED

C25 Any Other Business

/090

None.

C25 Date of Next Meeting

/091 The meeting noted that the next meeting will be held on Monday, 21st July 2025.

C25 Exclusion of the Press and Public

/092 It was proposed by Councillor M Martin, seconded by Councillor L Miller-Jones that under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and representatives of the press and broadcast media be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following items of business as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted –future planning, as publicity would undermine the Council's ability to have unfettered debate and result in less robust, well-considered or effective policies.

RESOLVED

C25 Vision 2030

/093 The Clerk presented the proposals for a feasibility study for the Vision 2030 Project. It was proposed by Councillor J Burns, seconded by Councillor M Martin that £14,615 + VAT be approved for engaging Dayle Bayliss of Dayle Baylis Limited to carry out a feasibility study to report in the autumn.

RESOLVED

C25 Closure

/094 The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.47pm

Signed Date.....
Chairman

Appendix 1 – County Councillors' reports

Appendix 2 – District Councillors' reports

Appendix 3 – Town Councillors' reports

Appendix 4 – Mayor's report

APPENDIX 1 – County Councillor's report

Councillor Joe Mason

County and District Councillor Report, May - June 2025

Cllr Joe Mason

This report covers the months of both May & June and my first since retiring At Suffolk County Council I continue to attend meetings for Scrutiny, Education & Children's Service Scrutiny, Development & Regulation (Planning), Local Government Reorganisation Working Group and the Shareholder Group (Vertas). At WSC on the Performance & Audit Scrutiny Committee. As ever I will try to limit the report to items pertinent to Haverhill.

In this report.

1. Suffolk County Council News
2. Highways Update

6. Haverhill Library
7. Widdington Recycling Ltd (MRF Application)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 3. NW Haverhill Relief Road & Persimmon Related | 8. West Suffolk Council News & Updates |
| 4. Active Travel, Cyclists Pedestrians and Rights of Way | 9. Community |
| 5. Anaerobic Digester Decision | |

1. Suffolk County Council News

Annual General Meeting was held in May. it was my absolute pleasure to stand in the chamber and formally 'Second' the nomination of fellow Haverhill Councillor [David Roach](#) as Deputy Chair of Suffolk County Council. He has twice previously been Mayor of Haverhill and has held many positions of responsibility within District and County Councils. Cllr Jessica Flemming was appointed as Chair of Suffolk County Council. An incredibly experienced and dedicated Councillor who cares passionately about public service and the important contribution local charities and community organisations make to communities across Suffolk.

Motions to Council

There were Three Motions that were all passed.

Motion 2 (Green) sought to support 'The RSPCA's 'Pets as Prizes' campaign seeks to ban the archaic practice of giving live animals as prizes. Often winners of such a prize are not adequately prepared to meet the live animal's welfare needs.

Motion 3 (Labour) sought to give consideration to awarding a long-service medal for PCSOs to show society's appreciation for the work that they have done.

Perhaps most significantly in light of the Acorn Anaerobic Digester Decision and other infrastructure projects around the county was **Motion 1 (Conservative)**

'This council supports robust pre-application consultation for nationally significant infrastructure projects. In Suffolk, the unchecked surge of "clean energy" and transmission projects—sprawling solar and battery arrays and vast grid networks—strains our rural communities, farmland, and delicate ecosystems, causing significant local disruption. The council strongly opposes the government's amendments to the Planning and Infrastructure Bill, which remove sections 42 and 49 of the Planning Act 2008, replacing statutory consultation with inadequate statutory guidance. These changes undermine fair engagement with Suffolk's residents, who face cumulative impacts from poorly coordinated energy schemes threatening the local economy, biodiversity, heritage, and quality of life.

The council reiterates its opposition to the government's 2030 grid decarbonisation target, which drives this relentless pace of development, prioritising arbitrary deadlines over thoughtful planning. It is the council's view that delays at preapplication arise from the volume of projects and applicants' often substandard engagement, not excessive regulation. Weakening the consultation process risks approving flawed developments that disregard Suffolk's unique environmental and social needs. The council urges the government to:

1. Retain sections 42 and 49 of the Planning Act 2008, or
2. Enforce case-by-case statutory engagement criteria, rigorously assessing applicants' consultation quality. Without these safeguards, the proposals will fuel distrust and enable harmful energy projects to proceed. Suffolk demands a planning process that balances broader goals with our residents' wellbeing, landscapes, and economy,

£8m funding for Bus Service improvements

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/council-news/8m-funding-for-bus-service-improvements> **Suffolk County Council has secured a grant of £8m from the Department for Transport for new and enhanced bus services in the county.**

Published: 13 Jun 2025

The funding from the Department of Transport's Local Authority Bus Grant can be used to create new bus services or enhance existing routes.

Following on from previous grants from the Department for Transport to improve bus services, totalling £3.7m of revenue funding between 2023 and 2025, the new grant which has been allocated for 2025/26 comprises of:

- £2,805,076 revenue for delivering new or enhanced services.
- £5,229,805 capital for new and improved bus stops, bus stations, bus priority measures or vehicle upgrades.

SCC are still happy to see new proposals from community groups for service improvements – even if we cannot fund everything right now it is our ambition to continually improve and refine the bus network and community transport services across Suffolk to best meet the needs of the population. As such, we want to build a “wish list” of service improvements or new routes ready to choose from when future funding becomes available. [The current list can be found here.](#)

The Capital funding for 2025/26 will be used to deliver a number of bus priority schemes, on-bus accessibility equipment and upgrades to the Real Time Passenger Information system. **We are also allocating £500,000 for bus stop improvements as requested by the community.** Parish Councils and other community groups are now invited to submit a scheme on a page idea for new bus shelters or real time screens, better paving at waiting areas or footway improvements to add crossing points or link stops to homes. Please note the points covered in the FAQ below and also information available here ([Report, apply or request – Suffolkonboard](#)) when submitting a stop improvement request.

It would appear the bus service to and from West Suffolk Hospital to Haverhill has retained its funding.

Local Government Reorganisation Survey

Council reorganisation affects us all - so have your say today

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/council-news/council-reorganisation-affects-us-all-so-have-yoursay-today>

The people of Suffolk are invited to give their views on the biggest shake-up of local government in more than 50 years. A new survey giving residents the opportunity to shape the future of councils and public services in Suffolk has been launched. It's part of the Government plan to reshape and streamline councils in Suffolk to save money, reduce confusion and improve public services for residents.

The survey only takes about 10 minutes to complete, and can be done online at www.suffolk.gov.uk/devolution, by emailing devolution@suffolk.gov.uk or by calling 0345 603 1842 where a member of Suffolk County Council's customer services team can help residents to complete the survey.

Suffolk Supports Anti-Social Behaviour Awareness Week

Suffolk's Safer Stronger Communities Board has joined a national campaign to raise awareness of Anti-Social Behaviour during a week of action in July.

National Anti-Social Behaviour Awareness Week runs between 03-09 July and aims to encourage people and communities to make a stand against ASB, work together to make communities safer and highlight ways to take action by those experiencing it.

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/councilnews/suffolk-supports-anti-social-behaviour-awareness-week>



On Sunday 29th June, I met up with PC Cheryl Claydon and met with residents on the Persimmon and Saxon Crescent Estates to discuss various issues of concern.

On Monday 30th June, I will be meeting up with PC Jack Oakley for another engagement session planned at the Haverhill Arts Centre Café.

2. Highways Update

Potholes, Repairs and Resurfacing

I continue to lobby for roads across my District in need of Highways TLC, but of course severity, priority and available funding means not all works can be carried out as quick as we would all like.

I remain concerned about the state of sections along Withersfield Road particularly the section between Eastern Avenue and the Woolpack.

I complained to Milestone about the state of the “Slurry Seal” along Cambridge Way and other areas. They acknowledged that these were below expectation and are going back to the contractor to resolve. I hope to report back more at the next meeting.

A new path has been funded by Cllr Sowa on Green fields Way linking the Clements Primary School to the Doctors Surgery. This and the installation of Dropped Kerbs funded by Cllr Roach and the Bus Stop I managed to get installed marks a significant improvement for pedestrians along this route.

I have also managed to fund the final pair of dropped kerbs at the junction of Clements Close and Clements Lane. I have also commissioned a 10 day speed survey for Crowlands Road.

Town Centre Signage

I could write a tome of on this topic so will try to keep it short.

Updates from Highways

Swan Lane/Camps Road/High Street Signage – “We have been to site and re-designed the main signs that need to change to reflect the full restriction and disabled access etc. In doing so we have also found signs indicating the end of restriction are also missing. The new signs do not fit on some of the illuminated posts so these will need changing, we are checking if these need to be illuminated in any case, either way the supply will need to be changed so needs co-ordinating with Street Lighting.

This is going to take much longer to order than first thought. [We] are now preparing a drawing to show what the signing would look like.”

A meeting is to be arranged with myself, Cllr John Burns and Colin Poole to go through the order and the signing for it, the drawing will be ready for then.

Queens Street “The restriction does not require double yellow lines to be replaced as it is a Pedestrian Zone, and the double yellow line issue is picked up by the No Waiting at

Any Time sign on the entry signs. However, it does require repeater signs to remind drivers of the restriction. There is no street furniture available in Queen Street for the east side to install the repeater signs so they will need new posts or permission to install on buildings. It will take a little while to identify suitable locations to install the signs. Any posts will need to be black posts.

Loading Bay sign

"We will order the sign required and install"

Zebra Crossing and Loading Markings

These will be ordered and carried out on a 14-week delivery from order as these markings will be HMOP.

In summary, all I can say is.... we will get there...eventually.

I continue to make further representations for residents about other roads/areas that need attention.

As I reported in past months, the weather has been relatively kind to the roads which has been welcome. Patching work continues where it meets intervention criteria but, I again 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.

3. NW Haverhill Relief Road & Persimmon Related

I meet with Highways on a weekly basis and I visited the site on Thursday this last week. I walked the Relief Road with Persimmon to discuss progress and the programme ahead. This picture is now out of date, as all surfacing work has now been completed.



In the coming days, work will continue near the new Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) by Farrant Road, where lamp posts and a zebra crossing are being connected. The Toucan Crossing is also ready and just waiting for the traffic lights to be installed. Earlier today, the final layer of tarmac was laid up to the Hales Barn Road roundabout, and the surfacing should be finished by tomorrow. White lining still needs doing, but we're now clearly into the final phase.

I am discussing with Highways this week some incorrect signage showing the A143 & A1307 as Primary Roads and not Secondary, as they should be presented

Construction company KATPO are off site in the 4th July, there may be a short period for things like installing extra signage and carrying out final checks and tweaks.

Once Suffolk Highways has signed everything off, the road will open informally—there won't be an official announcement beforehand—but that's currently expected to happen around the middle of July.

A formal opening event is being planned for September. Landscaping work will continue, subject to suitable planting conditions.

The road will open with a 40mph speed limit, as originally set out in the Section 106 agreement about ten years ago. Once the road is formally adopted by Highways, they'll monitor traffic and consider any future changes based on actual usage data.

As for the road itself? I think people will really enjoy it once it's open. It's not just a useful cut-through that should ease pressure on Withersfield Road—it's also just a great bit of road. It rises and falls, sweeps through the countryside, and offers some really lovely views along the way.

Farrant Road & Path adjoining Saxon Crescent

Work continues to complete the surfacing of Farrant Road. No update regarding path adjoining estates

Primary School & Community Space

No Further update

New Pelican Crossing on Wratting Road

Expected by the end of the financial year. No further news at this time.

4. Active Travel, Cyclists, Pedestrians and Rights of Way

Haverhill Local Transport Plan

I met with the Active travel team soon to discuss projects for Haverhill based upon the revised information/submission I sent in last month. Both Cllr Roach & Cllr Sowa also met with the team.

It will likely be some months before we hear what projects have been green lighted. When I know more I will of course share with the Town Council.

Improved Route between Orford Road and Homefield Road

Following a request initiated by a resident raising a concern to me to see if anything was possible to improve the public footpath, the Public Rights of Way team at Suffolk County Council have totally replaced the bridge and significantly improved the Public Foot Path making it much safer for people to use. I'm absolutely thrilled by the work completed. It's not easy getting projects like this funded/completed, huge thanks for SCC officer support in helping get this delivered.

Before



After



Leather Lane to Clements Drive Path (Bottom of Jubilee Park)

Following concerns raised by PC Jack Oakley I sought to find a solution from either West Suffolk or Haverbury for the cutback of foliage that was providing cover for anti-social behaviour/ drug dealing.

Once again, many thanks to Haverhill Town Council Wardens who stepped in and did an excellent job of making it more open and making it feel safer for residents to navigate.

Thanks also the wardens for some grass cutting on Dunston Drive, that was on SCC land, maintained by WSC. I have sought confirmation that these areas are on the schedule for maintenance. I encourage members to contact the parks team at West Suffolk if you think there might be similar areas that need attention.



5. Anaerobic Biodigester Decision

As has been reported in the press the application for the Anaerobic Biodigester was refused by Suffolk County Councillors at the Development & Regulation Committee on Thursday 19th June. You can read the full Decision Notice here:

https://suffolk.planning-register.co.uk/Document/Download?module=PLA&recordNumber=6753&planId=126374&imageId=2005&isPlan=False&fileName=Decision%20Notice%20Signed_redacted%202025-06-23.pdf

This was an important decision for our community, and I know many local voices were strongly opposed to the proposal. Many thanks to David Roach who spoke on and voted against the application and to Cllr Pat Hanlon who attended and spoke on behalf of the Haverhill Town Council Working Party.

Of course this may not be the end of the story, as Acorn have announced their desire to appeal the decision. The applicant has six months from the date on the decision notice (23 June) to lodge the appeal.

6. Haverhill Library

As of the last report to Full Council: Following previous funding from Cllr Heike Sowa a survey and feasibility took place, and a location has been identified for a Disabled Toilet to be installed. I have had it confirmed from Suffolk County Council that there are no funds available from core funding to install a ground floor disabled toilet. However, there is a strong intent to use S106 monies from the NW Haverhill Persimmon development to have one installed. The trigger point in the S106 is for 500 houses to be occupied. We currently stand at approx. 455. It is hoped the threshold can be reached by the end of the year, triggering the release of monies to make this much needed and long overdue facility a reality.

7. Widdington Recycling Limited (MRF Application)

Still waiting for this to go to Committee

8. West Suffolk Council News and Updates

New Chair and Vice-Chair elected for West Suffolk Council

A big well done for Cllr Pat Hanlon for his last year as Chairman of West Suffolk Council. Cllr Phil Whitam has been appointed as the Chair with Cllr Peter Armitage appointed to the role of Deputy Chair. No other business was conducted at the May meeting and there was no meeting in June.

<https://www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/news/#:~:text=New%20Chair%20and%20Vice%2DChair%20elected%20for%20West%20Suffolk%20Council>

District and borough council's clear message to communities: "Let's shape the future of Suffolk together!" Suffolk's five district and borough councils are launching a county-wide survey asking people for their views on the future of vital local government services.

<https://www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/news/pr20250515ws01.cfm>

Survey Link: https://midsuffolk.govocal.com/en-GB/projects/have-your-say-suffolk/surveys/new?phase_id=44f8dc31ba28-4610-ba3c-3e70c0f2d658

West Suffolk Council agrees new strategy for achieving net zero target

Cabinet has welcomed significant progress being made by West Suffolk Council to deliver ambitious net zero projects and agreed to adjust targets to account for national initiatives and funding.

The council's strategic priority to improve West Suffolk's environmental resilience has focused on helping households and businesses to decarbonise, as these are where the most carbon is emitted in the district. Schemes such as Solar for Business, the Decarbonisation Initiatives Fund and Warm Homes Suffolk are examples of how the council is helping businesses, community groups and residents struggling with the cost of living, to manage energy costs and achieving net zero emissions.

<https://www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/news/pr20250520ws01.cfm>

West Suffolk Council awarded £4.1 million for decarbonisation projects at Bury St Edmunds and Haverhill leisure centres

West Suffolk Council has been awarded £4.1 million from the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero to decarbonise Bury St Edmunds and Haverhill Leisure Centres.

<https://www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/news/?pageno=2#:~:text=West%20Suffolk%20Council,Haverhill%20Leisure%20Centres.>

Markets

I continue to attend most Saturday Markets and some Friday markets. The Makers Market continues to do well as do most of the one of "Special Markets" West Suffolk council plan. I remain concerned that all the efforts seem to go into making these 'Special Markets' a success, whereas the quieter Saturday markets continue to struggle. I will be lobbying/asking for more promotion and input into the weekly markets which continue to seem to struggle.

I attended a Market Stakeholders meeting attended also by Cllr John Burns. Whilst generally positive I do believe progress, in carrying out actions to support the market traders and grow the market, seems particularly and unnecessarily slow.

9. Community

County Council Certificate Presentation

It was my absolute honour to present Barry Bishop with a Suffolk County Council certificate to celebrate his retirement from being Poppy Appeal Organiser for the Royal British Legion. Barry and his team have collected over £350,000 in the 15 years he has been involved.



The Haverhill Show

Final preparations are underway regarding the Haverhill Show which is being held on Sunday July 6th. Two car boot sales have been held by the team

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

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

APPENDIX 2 – Town Councillor's report

Councillor John Burns

Report by John Burns on Town activities May/June 2025

- **Great Wilsey Park:** Work progresses on the new local centre planning application and involvement (if any) of NHS. Due to meet online (30th June) with NHS West Suffolk Alliance to discuss possible use of the new local centre.
- **Police Matters:** Crime stats for April 2025 were distributed on 9th June. A report from Inspector Hollands and PC Claydon will be made at the June council meeting so will not report anything more here.
- **SCC Highways:** No sign of the new signs promised to be in place by the Spring, but I understand pressure is being made to bear by Cllr Mason.
- **Combined Authority:** New Mayor was elected with a change of political scene. Interesting the comments he has made so far as regards the Greater Cambridge Partnership and their obvious enthusiasm for buses over anything else plus his enthusiasm for light rail to Haverhill.
- **Greater Cambridge Partnership:** No further updates.
- **Parking:** Still no obvious changes to parking enforcement. I have reported (again) the agreed changes we discussed during Covid which the current set of officers at WSC seem unaware of including the spaces in the Arts Centre car park that have been relined despite being well below minimum space standards. Also reported the signs to the car parks in Ehringshausen Way being either obscured by trees or vandalised.
- **Markets:** I (and others) have had meetings with WSC officers and work is finally afoot to implement some of the recommendations from the 2022 review I chaired. How successful it will be is not known but it is certainly clear the greatest frustration and cost is waste collection.
- **Sturmer Arches:** The response from WSC to complaints about lack of action over this seemed blissfully unaware of the discussions (nothing since 2021) that were held with them.
- **Fox PH (Wratting Road):** The suggestion that housing could be built here needs to be vigorously rejected.
- **Vixen PH (Millfields Way):** A planning application for this site has now gone in for 9 flats and 3 shops utilising the existing building framework with underground parking for residents only. I have emailed the planning officer as quite a few errors in the application which no longer does anything to Strasbourg Square car park whilst potentially make it even more congested by residents. The leases the businesses have specifically state it should only be used by businesses and community centre. Most of the time 60% is occupied by residents displaced by CPE with businesses complaining that their customers are turning away. The police will be very pleased that the ASB that has been occurring there recently may finally be coming to an end.
- **Strasbourg Square:** See above.
- **Other work:**
 - In April assisted over two nights with erecting banners for VE/VJ80 and bunting.
 - Splashpad:
 - Worked with commissioning engineers to replace the pump, clean the supply tank, and commission the system.

- Arranged for cleaning of the pad with high pressure hot water washing and chemical algae deterrent.
- Assisted with taking of water samples for analysis.
- Arranged replacement of a motor starter that was underrated for the new pump.
- Arranged for repairs to the pad surface which had split at the seams in several locations.
- Open the splash pad a day early on 22nd May.
- Been monitoring use, pad surface cleaning and chlorine tablet replacement. Some pressure washer spot cleaning by wardens is due to take place on 30th June. The pad has been well attended and I am not aware of any complaints since this work was undertaken.
- VE80 8th May :
 - Helped arrange VE80 flag raising including filming and producing a video of the event.
 - Helped arrange event in St. Mary's Church including a supporting production of a video for the event plus a final composite video of the event which was published on social media. Thanks to those that helped produce this event which was well received by about 150 people attending.
- HAC Phone System: An odd problem raised itself in that incoming calls were either being terminated, or the caller could not be heard. After a lot of testing, it was determined that the broadband router may have been faulty, so I drove to the suppliers at Isleham, brought back a replacement, installed, verified over a few days that the problem had gone and then returned the old router. No further problems have been experienced.
- Carried out a survey with the Tech Team on replacement CCTV camera system for the Arts Centre.
- Currently working with others on a VJ event being at St. Mary's on 21st August evening including a composite video of relevant items from the time, music, and roll call readings I recently filmed of several contributors. It should be a good event.
- Helped arrange and facilitate the Armed Forces Day convoy and event held last Saturday including display of a Westland Gazelle from the Army Air Corps. A very hot day but well attended and thanks to all those who had stalls, volunteered, arranged and attended.
- Currently working on plans to upgrade and/or replace IT systems running Windows 10 to Windows 11 in the Arts Centre and Zone plus replacement of the server infrastructure with more resilient systems. Most of the laptops appear to be upgradable without any further cost.
- I have finally (after 2 years of inactivity due mainly to health related issues) started to put out the Vehicle Activated Signs around town. I started with a single one in Wratting Road to assess the effect of the new roundabout at the start of the Relief Road and published the results which showed an average 5mph drop compared to pre-Covid.

I was due to install in Bumpstead Road but found one of them was not communicating to my PC so, after several discussions with the manufacturer, took it up to Dereham last week and, whilst I waited in the area, they fixed by replacing the radar which is what we thought it would be. I retested and both devices are now in Bumpstead Road until the end of the week. This should give some good data as to whether the new McDonalds entrance is having any effect on speeds. Other locations requested by the police and Councillors will be monitored in sequence.

- Went on an estate walkabout around the Chalkstone Estate with Havebury and WSC officers. Mostly OK although reported barriers and signs left since January by broadband installers to them. They were very prompt in replying and removing.
- Met with others for the Town Masterplan meetings and consultants report. Looking forward to the final report for a detailed review of their findings and suggestions.
- Delivered & collected barriers to New Croft for Castle Manor prom which appeared to go very well.

- Usual IT related issues at Zone and HAC plus approval of invoices.
- Worked with Cllr Luccarini on changes to the HAC website for Spektrix payments – I don't take any credit as he did most of the work.
- Reported to Redrow incorrect street nameplate naming for Chisnell Road on the Great Wilsey Park estate.
- Provided usual weekly financial income stats from the till system for the various sites to HTC management plus attending various HTC meetings.

END

APPENDIX 3 – Mayor's report

Cllr Quinn Cox Mayors Report from May 12th and 30th June

This is my first report since becoming mayor in the 12th of June, I would like to thank my fellow councillors for their support in that regard. It is an honour; I will do my utmost to represent the Town Council and our Town in the best way I can.

It has been a relatively busy six weeks with a number of events to attend; it has been a really great start for me being able to attend a variety of events.

May 17th

I was lucky enough to be invited to attend the Haverhill Scouts and Guides HQ, Official Opening of their new building. I was an impressive community gathering and the achievement was incredible. The new building was finished well; the event was well attended. Plenty of activities to engage those present. For me it summed up Haverhill as a community, the amount of community hours given to help build and make this happen was staggering. It also showed how supportive local businesses can be, with lots of donations amassed that would have equated to a small fortune. They all need to be commended for their work as it is a huge achievement. That evening to have been invited to HTTA (Haverhill Town Twining Association) French themed evening. It was again a lovely evening; the group are incredibly welcoming with great support from Bruce and Elaine who put a lot of work into the group.

May 20th

Centre Stage invited to me to their opening night of their show Calendar Girls. What a fantastic show, incredible singing and acting with a touch of sadness and lots of laughter. I thoroughly enjoyed it. A real privilege to have been able to have seen it as well as raising thousands of pounds for charity. Absolutely incredible effort, the whole of centre stage need to be congratulated. A wealth of talent in our town.

May 24th

I attended the Saffron Walden Mayor making, it was a lovely occasion and a real pleasure to meet the new Mayor Jubeyuir Ahmed. He seemed very keen to work with us more closely moving forward.

May 29th

Back again with the HTTA again as we have the pleasure of our guests arriving from Germany our twinned town of Eringshausen. We had a real privilege of Brassability, a family band playing for us, they were spectacular again showing how much talent is in Haverhill. I want to particularly mention Archie Pannel who at 12 years old played some of the most complex Trumpet playing I have ever seen and was superb. His sister at 10 years old played also playing

some tunes solo, was an incredible talent, a real treat and both we to watch for the future. They both need recognition for such talent at such youthful ages.

May 31st

I was again invited to the HTTA to speak at their event and say farewell to our German Guests. It was great to meet the Mayor of Eringshausen Jurgen Mock, his wife and son. An experienced Mayor of many years and continue to value the link between our two nations.



June 4th

Visited the zone and catch with the staff working there. It was great to meet the staff, see things in action and talk through how things are moving forward.

June 8th

I attended the Civic Service and Mayor Making in Great Dunmow. A lovely event that also combined their Sunday Service. A variety of people were involved, particularly the local primary school and its steel band. The new Mayor Carole Sullivan has only been a councillor for 9 months and has taken on a huge role. I offered our support should she ever need it in her year ahead and wish her every success in it.

June 10th

I caught up with more of our Town Council staff back the offices at the zone. A positive meeting with Karen, Rebekah and Callum. They are providing some really valuable support to a range of people and groups and was exciting to hear about the work they are doing. I appreciated the time they gave and look forward to catching up with them again over my 12 months as Mayor.

June 14th

The Kedington Meadow Lark, I was invited to be part of the judging panel for the Meadow Lark, the theme was 'Festival of Flight'. A variety of groups took part and it was a wonderful afternoon. I wasn't prepared for the time and effort that had gone into costumes, it was tough to pick the best as it was a really high standard. The event couldn't have had better weather for the event, with lots to offer and well attended, thank you Kedington for the invitation. A brief mention to the Men's Shed who were in attendance in numbers which was great to see.



June 16th to 19th

The Meadows Care home – Open Week

The Meadows kindly invited me to join them for there events and managed to take part in a couple of days. They had a variety of singers, an Indian themed party as well as a history talk from U3A. it was great to see the residents enjoying the events as well as taking part. I got to meet a few of the residents in their rooms. One 97yr old originally from Surrey, eventually ending up in Hundon and now Haverhill. She had lived a varied life and told me of her experience in Beruit. While in a car had guns pointed at her. I asked her what she did. " I pushed them away of course, how rude pointing guns at someone. They moved on to the next car." A

very brave and interesting woman. It was wonderful to have been able to have spent some time there and will be making the effort to go back, More incredible stories please.

June 20th

I attended the Civic reception for the Mayor of Thetford, I learned something that day, Thetford isn't in Suffolk but Norfolk. Who knew, as it turns out lots of people and I must have been living under a rock. A positive event meeting the Chair of West Suffolk and Mayor of Ely both delightful individuals.

June 21st

Haverhill beer Festival, this was a tough one to push myself through but I did manage to get the mental strength. A great event, well attended of both evenings with great live music. Thank you to the arts centre staff who were fabulous and to the volunteers serving the drinks. The one thing that came from the event was meeting a young couple who have moved from Cambridge to Haverhill, they could not have spoken more highly of Haverhill. They were keen to get involved in the town. Always great to hear the positives and young blood wanting to be part of things.

June 22nd

Another Civic service but this time a Suffolk one, West Suffolk Civic service for the new chair of West Suffolk Phil Wittam. It was great to meet him again and be part of the civic service but good to see Pat Hanlon and David Roach in attendance at the event.

June 23rd

The start of Armed forces week and flag raising. An honour to have been present and reflect on those serving, veterans and their families. We were led in reflection by Rev Max Drinkwater who did a fantastic job, capturing the feeling and reverence of the occasion.

June 24th

Another opportunity to meet with more Haverhill Town Council staff this time it was with Gary Wilson, overseeing lots of operational elements and day to day running of services we provide. We had a lengthy worthwhile chat. It highlighted the need to continually look at more and more volunteers in supporting events. Something we all need to look at how we can help in promoting this. I would like to thank Gary for his time and insight.

June 28th

Armed Forces day, my role in this was only very slight but what a fabulous event. The team of people involved in putting this together did the town proud. A good array of Military vehicles, The Scottish Pipe Band, the attendance of both the police and air cadets, veteran's with a dash of some dignitaries for the parade. The bands, singers and stalls were fantastic, adding to a really great afternoon that was well attended. On speaking to those that had set up stalls, the feedback was very positive and they had been busy which was great to hear. I would like to thank, Sara, Colin and the whole team for their contribution. As Well as our own Councillors John Burns and Tony Brown for putting this together with those part of the process to make this happen. Once last mention to Phil Wittam as the Chair of West Suffolk for the support and attendance at the event.

At this point I already need to thank Vicky who has been incredibly supportive already, clearly so important to enabling the role of Mayor to run as smoothly as possible. I am sure this will be the first of many thanks to her as the year moves forward.

I have said and will continue to say it, Haverhill has a fantastic community which has already been shining through in the events I have been lucky to attend. It has real heart, those outside of Haverhill need to know, an incredible Town full of incredible people. I hope throughout the year I can continue to see the contribution's people make to this town.

Should anyone wish to know anything in more detail please ask away. If I have missed anyone who should have been mentioned or thanked, please accept my apologies. It wasn't intentional.

Until the next time and my July report, thank you for reading.

Cllr Quinn Cox
Mayor of Haverhill