

# Haverhill Town Council

## Minutes of a Meeting of Haverhill Town Council's

### FULL COUNCIL

Held on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2023 at 7.02pm at Haverhill Arts Centre, High Street, Haverhill



**HAVERHILL**  
TOWN COUNCIL

**Present:** Mayor Councillor D Smith  
Councillor R André  
Councillor A Brown  
Councillor J Burns  
Councillor Q Cox  
Councillor J Crooks  
Councillor B Davidson  
Councillor P Firman  
Councillor P Hanlon  
Councillor M Martin  
Councillor J Mason  
Councillor D Page  
Councillor L Smith

**Apologies:** Councillor A Luccarini  
Councillor M Marks  
Councillor L Miller-Jones

**In Attendance:** Colin Poole, Town Clerk  
Jane Lomas, Council Administrator

13 members of the public were present.

### Welcome:

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

### MINUTES

**C23** **Apologies for Absence**  
**/078** The above apologies were noted.

**C23** **Declaration of Interests and requests for dispensation**  
**/079** None.

**C23** **Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held Monday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2023**  
**/080** It was proposed by Councillor J Burns, seconded by Councillor P Hanlon that the minutes of the meeting held 15<sup>th</sup> May 2023 be agreed as a true record.  
**RESOLVED**

**ACTION**

**C23 /081 To note progress of actions arising from the minutes not covered by this Agenda**

None.

**C23 /082 Reports from District/County Councillors on issues pertinent to HAVERHILL and the PUBLIC FORUM**

**a) Police Report**

The Clerk reported that Cheryl Claydon was unable to attend this meeting.

**b) County Councillors – see appendix 1.**

**Councillor J Mason:** see report attached (Appendix 1)

Councillor J Mason highlighted the work commencing on a new household waste recycling centre. He also highlighted he had intervened on the timing of the Stagecoach bus service along Ann Suckling Way. He further highlighted Stagecoach's willingness to speak at a future council meeting regarding bus services. With regard to "No-Mow May", Councillor J Mason suggested that the Energy & Sustainability Working Party develop a position regarding areas which should be mowed and those which will be left throughout May.

Councillor Q Cox raised a concern regarding unadopted roads. With increasing development in the town, he raised the question whether this might create problems in the future. Councillor J Burns reported that this has been an issue for many years: In Hanchett End there are approximately unadopted twenty-one streetlights not working. There is an issue when developers of sites go bankrupt and there is no legacy body to pick up the liability. Councillor J Mason stated that SCC has strict criteria regarding the adoption of roads and the legal situation is complicated. There are wider discussions to be had between WSC and SCC.

Councillor A Brown reported that in Suffolk, thirty-two children's centres have been closed, including one on the north side of Haverhill (the south side centre remains open). These centres are crucial in tackling childhood obesity. Councillor J Mason agreed that this situation requires addressing and he will make representation to SCC.

**c) District Councillors – see appendix 2.**

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

**Councillor P Hanlon:** see report attached (Appendix 2)

Councillor P Hanlon reported that he is exploring an environmental way to stop unlawful verge parking at the New Croft. Since his report, the West Suffolk Parks' Officer has explained that any soil or material that is brought in to use in raising the level of the ground to discourage parking must be tested to ensure that it is not contaminated. Currently he has no resources to carry out the testing. However, he did suggest planting a denser woodland which would need to be carried out in the winter but

Clerk

requires funding. Councillor J Mason reported that SCC funds will support this biodiversity project.

**d) Public Forum**

Several members of the public wished to speak.

a) Proposed Anaerobic Digester at Withersfield.

Residents wished to make Haverhill Council aware of the strength of their feelings in respect of this proposed development in the neighbouring parish, but on the very edge of Haverhill. In particular:

- i. Traffic – Acorn has informed that traffic emerging from the site will travel west. However, it must first turn left and go around the Spirit of Enterprise roundabout in order to travel west. This will have an impact on the fabric of the roads and the level of traffic. There is also concern about where the waste will come from; The speaker voiced their opinion that it is not feasible that it will all be from local farms as they could not produce enough digestate. Acorn has given an estimate regarding the number of vehicles they expect to travel to and from the site. However, the material is bulky and the speaker believed Acorn has underestimated vehicle traffic. The speaker estimated that only 40% of waste will be produced locally.
- ii. Odour – The speaker claimed this type of waste, ie manure, has a strong odour and considered it probable that this will be transported to the site by open tractor trailers. The speaker said it was highly possible that the odour can travel 4-5 miles which will affect quality of life for local residents, e.g. they will not be able to hang washing outside, windows will need to be kept closed. The question of particles in the air was raised, and if this would affect people with breathing difficulties.
- iii. Employment – The speaker said Acorn claimed that employment will be boosted in the area. The speaker believes this will not be the case as specialist trades will need to be used to construct the plant. In their opinion it is unlikely that people with these specialist skills will live in Haverhill. Once the plant is complete, the speaker said these jobs will become redundant.
- iv. ‘Muck Off Acorn’ are planning a community meeting is for 20<sup>th</sup> July at the EpiCentre. It is hoped there will be a further meeting at Haverhill Arts Centre.
- v. Once the planning application is available for scrutiny, the group intends to object specifically and robustly.

Councillors thanked the resident for putting their points across. T Whilst the planning application has been submitted to Suffolk County Council it has not yet been validated and we can only speculate as to what the application will say. The Town Council will submit a consultation response. It was suggested that the residents might use social media to garner support and might approach Cambridgeshire parishes as some of their area may be impacted. Councillor J Mason

said that he will make representations to SCC and he will attend the meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> July. Mayor D Smith said that he fully supports the residents and will attend the meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> July.

- b) A resident attending explained she was a school mum and asked why the Splashpad Kiosk is closed at school-leaving time as some children would like to get a drink after school.

Councillor D Smith advised that this was an agenda item, and the resident was welcome to stay to hear the discussion.

**C23**      **Mayor's Report:**  
**/083**      Mayor's report – see appendix 3

**C22**      **ONE Haverhill Partnership**  
**/084**      The next meeting is on 29<sup>th</sup> June. The Clerk will provide a report at the next Full Council meeting in July.

**C23**      **Adoption of Committee Reports**

**/085**      a) **Leisure & Community Committee:**

Under Standing Order 7, to review the decision to amend the opening hours of the Splashpad Kiosk:

Cllr J Mason gave a PowerPoint presentation illustrating his case for opening the Splashpad Kiosk on weekdays. He said that it was his belief that sales data shows the kiosk is underperforming rather than that there is insufficient demand. Cllr J Mason expanded on this, specifically he alleged:

ambiguous opening hours.

Lack of social media promotion by the council officers, as opposed to by councillor members.

Lack of an A-board showing the menu

Lack of healthy and vegetarian options – The Clerk & Cllr Burns pointed out there were vegetarian options on the menu.

Lack of promotional events.

Insufficient benches and no sun parasols.

Cllr J Mason said that he is willing to offer financial support through Locality funding if Council were willing to support his suggestions but has no faith in the council in doing these things.

Cllr André said that he would have liked to see some concrete figures to back up Cllr Mason's presentation, or evidence there are enough people are interested and he did not accept Cllr Mason's financial argument.

Cllr Burns explained the costs involved in opening the kiosk. He provides the sales analysis and has data back to April 2022 when the kiosk was advertised as open all week. This data does not support Cllr Mason's assertion that if the kiosk was open at the times he suggests it would make a profit. The 'spike in sales' Cllr Mason highlighted was very short and dropped off rapidly. Cllr Burns further highlighted that weather is a

factor regarding patronage, i.e. there are no customers when it rains or is cold, or conversely, when it is too hot. The staffing rota is made up a month in advance. It is a requirement that a shift supervisor is present when the Kiosk is open. HTC has four supervisors who work over three sites to allow for time off due to sickness or holidays, we'd need more staff if we extend the opening hours.

Cllr J Crooks suggested that the matter is reviewed after the summer holidays.

Cllr A Brown accepted some of the points regarding promotion and hoped that they would be implemented. But currently the footfall doesn't justify changing the opening times. Cllr L Smith agreed with Cllr Brown. Cllr Q Cox and Cllr M Martin agreed with the proposal for a review after the summer.

The Clerk advised that whilst everyone might aspire to have the kiosk open more, Councillors at the Leisure and Community Committee had made their decision based on actual sales data and not what we would like the data to tell us. The data showed that in 2022, when the public definitely knew the opening times, the actual buying behaviour was not what people are saying on social media. He reminded councillors that the 'drab' building is in fact a toilet block and, in terms of lack of signage, there was no signage at all before the Town Council took over the kiosk. We have painted the bright blue, the bubble pattern and put up the signage. However, it is not our building and we need permission to do more to it.

The sign with the amended opening hours was in place the day after the Leisure and Community meeting took place so he rejected the assertion officers had ignored council instructions. The comments regarding promotion made at this meeting will be taken on board by officers.

The Clerk further advised that at the end of the day the change in hours was a council decision and that can be changed by the council, and officers will carry out the instructions of the council accordingly. But if funds are to be diverted as proposed, then Councillors must decide where are they taken from?

Running the kiosk as a 'service' meant asking the taxpayer to subsidise a handful of people buying slushies and ice creams – The Clerk wondered how that proposal might be received on social media?

It was proposed by Cllr A Brown, seconded by Cllr P Firman that a Working Party be formed to review the performance of the kiosk.

**RESOLVED**

Members of the Splashpad Kiosk Working Party:  
Councillor Q Cox

Councillor P Firman  
Councillor J Mason

It was proposed by Councillor J Burns, seconded by Councillor P Hanlon that the minutes of the Leisure & Community Committee meeting held 16<sup>th</sup> May 2023 and the recommendations contained therein, be adopted.

**RESOLVED**

b) Planning Working Party:

It was proposed by Councillor P Hanlon, seconded by Councillor L Smith that the minutes of the Planning Working Party meeting held 22<sup>nd</sup> May and 6<sup>th</sup> June 2023 and the recommendations contained therein, be adopted.

**RESOLVED**

c) Energy & Sustainability Working Party

It was proposed by Councillor L Smith, seconded by Councillor J Burns that the minutes of the Energy & Sustainability Working Party meeting held 13<sup>th</sup> June 2023 and the recommendations contained therein, be adopted.

**RESOLVED**

**C23** **Financial Matters**

**/086**

Authorisation of payments: It was proposed by Councillor J Burns, seconded by Councillor P Hanlon, that the listed payments totalling £210,329.39 be authorised.

**RESOLVED**

**C23** **Actions Taken Under Delegated Powers**

**/087**

None.

**C23** **End of Year Accounts**

**/088**

a) **Significant Events**

The RFO advised 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 review of the effectiveness of the Internal Audit were considered.

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

**RESOLVED**

c) **Annual Accounts & Return**

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

It was proposed by Councillor P Hanlon, seconded by Councillor M Martin, that the Annual Accounts be adopted.

**RESOLVED**

ii. Approval of sections 1 & 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023.

1. Annual Governance Statement: It was proposed by Councillor J Burns, seconded by Councillor B Davidson, that the annual governance statement be signed as a true reflection.

**RESOLVED**

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

**RESOLVED**

3. Earmarked Reserves as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023: It was proposed by Councillor L Smith, seconded by Councillor P Hanlon, to approve the Earmarked Reserves totalling £933,576.69.

**RESOLVED**

Cllr R André questioned why reserves held exceeded the ceiling the council had put on them. The Clerk advised that both were expected to be expended heavily in this financial year, but he would ensure that the ceilings were observed if not.

4. Assets Register: It was proposed by Councillor J Burns, seconded by Councillor B Davidson, that the asset register detailing fixed assets valued at £950,192.90 be approved.

**RESOLVED**

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

**RESOLVED**

d) **Review of Insurances**

It was noted that all insurances were reviewed in November 2022 (Minute C22/150b) and remain in place.

**C23  
/089**

**Membership of Committees**

It was agreed that Councillors be appointed as follows:

- a. Appeals Committee: Cllr Q Cox, Cllr B Davidson, Cllr M Marks, Cllr J Mason, Cllr D Page.
- b. Arts Centre Development: Committee now obsolete.
- c. Civic Events Working Party: Cllr A Brown, Cllr J Burns, Cllr Q Cox, Cllr B Davidson, Cllr A Luccarini, Cllr M Marks, Cllr D Page, Cllr D Smith.
- d. Community Events Working Party: Cllr A Brown, Cllr J Burns, Cllr B Davidson, Cllr P Hanlon, Cllr A Luccarini, Cllr M Marks, Cllr L Miller-Jones, Cllr D Page.
- e. Energy & Sustainability Committee: Cllr J Burns, Cllr A Luccarini, Cllr J Mason, Cllr L Miller-Jones, Cllr D Page, Cllr D Smith, Cllr L Smith.
- f. Finance Committee: Cllr R André, Cllr J Burns, Cllr B Davidson, Cllr P Hanlon, Cllr A Luccarini, Cllr J Mason, Cllr D Smith, Cllr L Smith.

- g. Leisure & Community Committee: Cllr A Brown, Cllr J Burns, Cllr Q Cox, Cllr P Firman, Cllr P Hanlon, Cllr A Luccarini, Cllr M Marks, Cllr M Martin, Cllr D Page, Cllr D Smith, Cllr L Smith.
- h. Personnel Committee: Cllr R André, Cllr J Burns, Cllr A Luccarini, Cllr D Page, Cllr D Smith, Cllr L Smith.
- i. Planning Committee: Cllr R André, Cllr A Brown, Cllr Q Cox, Cllr J Crooks, Cllr P Hanlon, Cllr A Luccarini, Cllr M Martin, Cllr D Smith.
- j. Tendering Working Party: Cllr R André, Cllr J Burns, Cllr B Davidson, Cllr D Smith.

It was proposed by Councillor M Martin, seconded by Councillor A Brown, that the membership of Committees be confirmed as listed above.

**RESOLVED**

**C23 /090 Appointment of Chairs and Vice-Chairs of Committees**

It was agreed that Councillors be appointed as follows:

- a. Appeals Committee: Cllr B Davidson, Chair; Cllr Q Cox, Vice Chair
- b. Energy & Sustainability Committee: Cllr J Burns, Chair; Cllr A Luccarini, Vice Chair
- c. Finance Committee: Cllr D Smith, Chair; Cllr R André
- d. Leisure and Community Committee: Cllr J Burns, Chair; Cllr D Smith Vice Chair
- e. Civic Events Working Party: Cllr J Burns, Chair; Cllr Q Cox, Vice Chair
- f. Community Events Working Party: Cllr J Burns, Chair; Cllr B Davidson, Vice Chair
- g. Personnel Committee: Cllr L Smith, Chair; Cllr D Page, Vice Chair
- h. Planning Committee: Cllr P Hanlon, Chair; Cllr A Brown Vice Chair

It was proposed by Councillor M Martin, seconded by Councillor A Brown, that the membership of Committees be confirmed as listed above.

**RESOLVED**

- i. **Suspension of Standing Order 3w**: It was proposed by Councillor J Burns, seconded by Councillor J Mason, that SO3w be suspended, to allow the meeting to conclude the business to hand.

**RESOLVED**

**C23 /091 Appointment to Outside Bodies**

- a. It was proposed by Councillor P Firman, seconded by Councillor J Burns, that Cllr J Burns, Cllr Q Cox, Cllr B Davidson, and Cllr D Smith, be appointed to ONE Haverhill.

**RESOLVED**

- b. It was proposed by Councillor J Burns, seconded by Councillor P Hanlon, that Cllr M Martin be appointed to Haverhill Disability Forum.

**RESOLVED**

- c. It was proposed by Councillor P Firman, seconded by Councillor Q Cox, that Cllr J Burns and Cllr Q Cox be appointed to the Youth Advisory Group.

**RESOLVED**

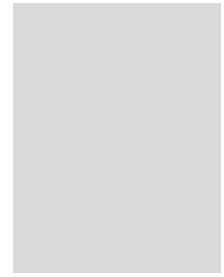
**C23 To receive urgent correspondence**



/092 None.

**C23** **Date of next Meeting:**  
/093 Monday, 17 July 2023.

**C23** **Closure**  
/094 The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9:06pm.



Signed .....

Date.....

**Chairman**

- Appendix 1 – County Councillors’ reports**
- Appendix 2 – District Councillors’ reports**
- Appendix 3 – Mayor’s Report**

## County and District Councillor Report – May 2023 Cllr Joe Mason

A lot to share this month. The next Suffolk County Council meeting takes place on Thursday July 13<sup>th</sup> I would like to remind members that I am one of 3 County Councillors and that you can also contact Councillors Roach & Sowa if there are any specific questions and concerns not covered in this report.

Local issues I am engaged with, and Topics covered in this report.

1. [Haverhill’s New Recycling Centre](#)
2. [Highways Update & A1307 Road Closure](#)
3. [Stagecoach Buses](#)
4. [Persimmon Estate & Relief Road](#)
5. [S106 – Improvement to Ann Suckling Road and Wrating Road](#)
6. [No Mow May](#)
7. [Anaerobic Biodigester](#)
8. [Sturmer Arches](#)
9. [Pallets on old Castle Hill School Site](#)
10. [Pre-School Places](#)
- .....
11. [General Council News since last report](#)

### 1. Haverhill’s New Recycling Centre

I have been informed that clearance and construction is underway, and I hope to give updates as time progresses. For SCC press release please visit:

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/council-news/work-begins-on-new-haverhillrecycling-centre>

### 2. Highways Update & A1307 Road Closure

I continue to have on-going discussion with highways regarding road surface damage issues. Many thanks to members and residents who continue to use the Suffolk Highways reporting tool. <https://highwaysreporting.suffolk.gov.uk/>

#### ○ Ehringhausen Way junction works.

The plan was originally to resurface the whole of the junction (the 200sq/m repair. On visiting site, this was revised, and the decision was made to only carry out patch repairs. The Contractors made several large-scale patch repairs rather than the smaller ones

previously seen. This was decided on a number of different factors including time and cost constraints.

I have shared my disappointment that a full junction resurface was not carried out.

○ **Queen Street/Highstreet Road defect**

Anglian Water have rejected this defect citing that it is an issue for Suffolk Highways to resolve. In discussions with my highway's locality officer, I have asked if the Highways Assessment Officer can order a reactive repair (to have the tarmac patch re-done around the covers)

There will also be a separate request for the proper paving stones to be replaced – this will have to be prioritised by the Asset Team. There are a few similar areas in Haverhill where paving stones/brick weave have received a temporary repair with tarmac, and it is hoped that these can be included in the works programme.

○ **Missing signs, town centre, Ehringhausen Way Delivery Drop off Zone and any other TRO (Traffic Regulation Order) issues**

Last week I arranged a meeting with Strategic Highways, KEIR (Highways Construction), Cllr John Burns and myself. I invited Cllr Burns due to his comprehensive and historical knowledge of signage and TRO issues particularly around the Town Centre.

County Cllr Roach & Sowa are also aware of this work, and we will together review proposals/recommendations as a requirement of our role as County Councillors. It is possible that some clear communication with the community might be required for some recommendations/changes. It will not be possible to carry out actions until the new Highways Contactor Milestone takes over later this year.

**We have made significant progress, and in recognition for Cllr Burns work on this I am happy for him to report back, as he is helpfully conducting a consultation with Town Council members.**

○ **Issues with unadopted roads/streetlights.**

Following from the March Town Council meeting where the adoption of Catkin Close, Cangle Road, and Hanchett Village were raised, I have received the following from the Development Management Team – who take point in any new developments. I have been informed that this is the general process for adoption of roads/streetlights etc:

**“...For Development sites of less than 5 properties, Suffolk Highways will not consider adopting these.**

**Developments of 5-10 properties will only be considered for adoption under exceptional circumstances.**

**Developments of 10-20 properties are the usual threshold for us to adopt a road(s) on a new build site.**

**When the adoption process is begun, a section 38 agreement needs to be in place (or negotiating an agreement) for this for Suffolk County Council to adopt the development's highways.**

**When the roads and footways and other infrastructure have not yet have been adopted, it is for one (or more) of the following reasons:**

- **Construction of the roads is not yet complete.**

- The section 104 agreement for the adoption of the sewers by the drainage authority has not been received.
- Repairs to defects have not been completed our satisfaction.
- Test certificates for street lighting have not been received.
- the roads and footways are still within in the 1-year maintenance period.
- The Developer has declined to undertake any of the above – or provide a Bond to us.

Therefore, any residential development in question is still under the management of the developer and the roads and footways in the site remain private.

**There is no obligation, legally for a developer to undertake any of the above – and no legal requirement that Suffolk Highways adopt any roads. Such developments remain the responsibility of the Developer (or a third-party management company) until such a time as a Section 38 can be agreed...**

There are various sites in Haverhill where the roads/streetlights and other infrastructure are unadopted; but one of the main locations where Highways have received customer reports for this is the Bloomsfield Road/Spring Close development, off Apple Acre Road:

This has been raised numerous times with the Development Management Team since the properties were constructed. I have been told Suffolk Highways has taken this as far as they are able (or obliged to). The most recent note on this was from late last year: SCC had confirmation from HC Moss's (the developer) solicitors that the adoption was not being progressed from their side. SCC does not have the powers to make developers put their land forward for adoption. The outstanding legal fees were requested, and our files closed at that point.

I realise that this will cause some concern amongst the residents here. The only advice being offered that might help to resolve this is for them to contact the developer *en masse*. They would have bought their properties with the assumption from the developer that these roads would be adopted. There may be a case for them to raise a joint civil action that would compel the developer to either complete the adoption process – or to maintain the roads, streetlights and other infrastructure to an acceptable level themselves (in the same way as many other private developments).

○ **Bus Stop, Greenfields Way.**

Discussions are still ongoing with the Locality Highways Budget Team and SCC Transport Manager regarding the outstanding bus-stop request, originally raised by Councillor Fox. They have responded.

***“..The proposal is to relocate the existing bus stops nearer to the health centre, making that facility easier to access by bus.***

***We have the design and costs all worked out but are currently stuck on the legal side. The land is owned by West Suffolk and leased to the health centre. West Suffolk are***

*looking for unlimited legal costs to be borne by us should future changes to the stop/removal be required and I am simply not willing to commit to that, looking instead for a cap of £1,000. For reference we had agreed to cover around £750 of their legal costs as part of this project. As we have no budget other than councillor funds to cover such costs should they arise. (I have now spent my Highways locality budget. So, it is most frustrating that I find this out now)*

*NB, the current stops are within what would be considered an “acceptable” walking distance from the surgery, but we recognise that it is still off-putting for the more infirm. Stagecoach is happy with the proposal from the bus company point of view...”*

This is now being dealt with between the legal teams at Suffolk Highways and West Suffolk District Council. The original funding offered by Cllr Fox for the physical costs of relocating the bus-stop are ring-fenced and will remain attached to this until the legal side can be resolved. I’m afraid I cannot give even an estimated time for this.

○ **A1307 road closure, 15-17 July – Message from Greater Cambridge**

**Partnership** “The Linton Greenway works from Hildersham to Dale Head Foods has been substantially completed, and the pathway and road are fully open.

Our original intention was to complete the planned carriageway surfacing by closing the A1307 between Haverhill and Fourwentways roundabout weekdays overnight, and diverting traffic on National Highways roads. However, we have now been advised that it is only possible to use this diversion at weekends. Due to this, we now plan to complete the carriageway surfacing work over a 48 hour window. This will involve closing the A1307 between Haverhill and Fourwentways roundabout, **from 6am on Saturday 15 July until 6am on Monday 17 July.**

A map of the diversion route can be found [here](#).

To avoid diverting large vehicles such as HGVs through small village roads, the diversion uses other available A roads, including the A143 and A11.

We will also book a contingency weekend for 22 - 24 July for further possible overnight closure, but hope to complete the works in full the previous weekend.

All efforts will be made to keep disruption to a minimum. We would like to apologise in advance for any inconvenience these works may cause.

Warning boards and digital signage will be installed on site from Tuesday 20 June to inform road users of the upcoming closures.

This communication is part of an extensive suite of direct and indirect communications activities to be undertaken between now and the start of the works to give all stakeholders as much notice as possible, to minimise disruption.

**How do I keep up to date with the project?**

Please visit the project’s web page at [www.greatercambridge.org.uk/A1307](http://www.greatercambridge.org.uk/A1307) or for further details on

the rest of the Greenway please visit [Linton Greenway \(greatercambridge.org.uk\)](http://Linton Greenway (greatercambridge.org.uk))

If you have any questions about the ongoing works, you can contact Milestone contractors on [a1307schemes@milestoneinfra.co.uk](mailto:a1307schemes@milestoneinfra.co.uk)

If you have any queries about the project, you can get in touch with Greater Cambridge Partnership by emailing: [contactus@greatercambridge.org.uk](mailto:contactus@greatercambridge.org.uk) or telephone Cambridgeshire County Council's Contact Centre on 01223 699906."

### 3. Stagecoach buses

Members may have noticed in the Echo that residents have been unhappy about the new bus service which has meant 3 buses an hour starting before 5am in the morning and then throughout the day. There is some confusion as to why Persimmon S106 money is being used on the Boyton Hall Estate. The short answer is that it was always planned to have a bus service along Ann Suckling when it finally connects to the Persimmon Estate and Howe Road, which will have a Bus gate allowing only buses through. The service was triggered by legal agreements in the S106, and money has been given to Stagecoach to deliver it.

Currently, this is a Hail service and currently all fares are £2 which is great value for money. I am pro the bus service, and I am keen to get more people using bus services.

The main problem was that although this bus service was announced quietly early in the year residents received no information and the impact of so many buses wasn't apparent until the service started.

For some residents this has been 6 buses hourly as it is a closed loop and so the houses along Ann Suckling have been negatively affected by buses passing both ways.

I have spent considerable time speaking with residents along Ann Suckling and Falklands. I have met with nearly all residents and there has been a split opinion. Some are really happy there is a bus service, others do not want it at all. I even knocked on one door where there was no awareness that any buses were using Ann Suckling.

The overall opinion was that it seemed pointless to have so many empty buses per hour using the Boyton Hall Estate as a roundabout and that there was universal agreement that a reduction in service would mark a significant improvement.

I have negotiated with Stagecoach the following which is a marked improvement on what has been happening. This has full Local Authority Support which is requesting a variance to service of 13/131A is This is not yet fully official and is awaiting confirmation by the Traffic Commissioner -a start date of 23<sup>rd</sup> July has been identified for the following for the Boyton Hall Estate:

- No service uses the road before 06:00
- 06:00-07:00 the service is every 15 mins. • 07:00- 09:00 the service is every 30 mins.
- 09:00-14:00 the service is hourly at 00 mins past the hour.
- 14:00-17:30 the service is every 30 mins.

This then allows commuters to use service 13 to access Cambridge and shoppers on the off peak. All journeys would be on service 13.

The buses will finish their journey in from Cambridge on the main road, and Ann Suckling Road will be the first point on the journey to Cambridge. Obviously, anyone travelling home from Cambridge will be able to travel through on the same ticket. This then stops the scenario of the buses having go round Ann Suckling twice, once to drop off people travelling in from Cambridge and once for people travelling out from Cambridge.

No 131 or 131A journeys would go into Ann Suckling, Stagecoach would discharge their 106 obligations through the 13.

Between 09:00 - 14:00 the service would still be accessible every 30 mins with the buses on the 30 past the hour going to the Fox

Stagecoach need permission from the Traffic Commissioner to do this and cannot do so on 23.7.23 without it. I am awaiting an update on this.

Stagecoach have informed me that they want to come out for a public consultation on how we evolve the 13 further. They are asking for help in ensuring we get that consultation to as many residents in Haverhill as possible. The idea is that we will then reflect on feedback from the local community and other stakeholders before making any further changes.

**I have emailed the Clerk to request that David Boden , Business Development Director for Stagecoach East is invited to a future Town Council meeting to discuss proposals and receive feedback.**

#### **4. Persimmon Estate & Relief Road**

West Suffolk Council had a monthly site meeting on Tuesday with Persimmon to check on progress generally. I am expecting a report imminently. They will also be producing a further public update.

##### **○ Soft landscaping and POS**

The play equipment is being installed at the playing fields adjacent to phase 2a and I have pressed the point that Persimmon should do everything they can to get this open as soon as possible. The soft landscaping of this area has not been completed correctly (incorrect ground preparation, incorrect tree planting and no proper seeding of the area in accordance with the plans). An enforcement case has been requested on this. I am waiting for an urgent update on getting this whole area reviewed.

Replacement planting for phase 1 will be going in the autumn. I have suggested they may also want to consider some enhancements to this area at the same time to improve the amenity of the space.

##### **○ Later Parcels**

WSC had a recent pre-app meeting on parcels 4 and 5. WSC has asked Persimmon to approach the Town Council and Ward Members so they can also input into this process. There has not been any further engagement with Persimmon on progressing the local centre. This timetable here has been impacted by the economic uncertainty as they will want to know which end users are onboard as this will affect their design approach. This concerns me immensely and I am looking for a commitment for Persimmon to deliver on the local centre project.

## ○ **Persimmon Community Room/Hall**

Discussions are ongoing and both West Suffolk Council and Suffolk County Council have agreed plans for a project and work is being done to secure money to supplement the S106 monies for a community space.

## ○ **Construction on the Relief Road**

Work continues on the relief road. At the A143 end the kerbing in the road surface should be starting soon. There had been a small delay with the supplier for the road surface material, but I have been told that it has no knock-on effects for the wider programme.

In the central roundabout section, the concrete protection slabs are complete and Anglian Water are currently working on the diversion of the water main. I have been told that this is a complex job due to the depth of the pipes and the nature of their constriction which makes them fragile.

After the water diversion, work should be starting on the gas diversion. This is work that is carried out by contactors, **Cadent**.

Persimmon is in discussions with Cadent to ensure their programme is as swift as possible to ensure no further delays, but this is ultimately a part of the programme they have no direct control over.

Further to the west earthworks are largely complete and drainage is now going in. The final section of the relief road cannot be completed until all the gas works have been finished. WSC have also just received the amended soft landscaping details for the relief road corridor. I have been told that these will be uploaded to DCON(H)/09/1283 soon.

## **5. S106 – Improvement to Ann Suckling Road and Wratting Road**

Two weeks ago I met with West Suffolk Council Planning and Highways Officers to discuss the planned S106 changes to Ann Suckling and Wratting Road. We viewed and discussed plans that had been created by Persimmon that included:

- Speed mitigation proposals along Ann Suckling
- Changes to the Junction with Wratting Road
- Cycle Lanes leading along Ann Suckling and towards Samuel Ward School.
- The location of a new Toucan Crossing on Wratting road near the junction with Ann Suckling.

When these plans are updated, I will be keen that a public consultation is held as these proposed changes will be significant. There remains a funding shortfall in delivering all of these elements at the moment as the original S106 monies requested is insufficient for the delivery of these schemes.

## **6. No Mo May**

I have received correspondence from residents ranging from celebrating No Mow May, to outright opposing it.



Myself, I am somewhat conflicted. The Recreation Ground looks fantastic, and the Meadowlands Park area has been a wonderful example of promoting biodiversity with fantastic displays of Wild Flowers.

Concern has been raised that cutting long grass damages the grass and it is difficult to remove large quantities of cuttings. I intend to speak more on this at Council as I think the No Mow May policy needs tweaking particularly on estates, junctions and some shared open spaces that are used for play and recreation.

I remain committed to the previous West Suffolk Council commitment to the West Suffolk Council motion I worked on with Councillor Wakelam banning Glyphosate, but we now need this new administration to commit to help clear kerbs of grass and weeds particularly on our estates.

#### 7. **Acorn Anaerobic Biodigester.**

Whilst not in the Cangle Division it is of particular interest to residents in the North and West Wards which are in my County Council Division. I have made my position known on this. I am pro Anaerobic digesters generally, **but I am against this proposal** for a wide number of reasons which I fully intend to represent at County. Despite this I remain interested in reading the application. The current situation is that a full application for the development has been submitted and that SCC, have gone back to the applicant (today) requesting additional information that is required prior to validation.

I have been told that once the application is validated, I will be notified and given a link to the planning portal, which I will share with members and the wider community.

#### 8. **Pallets on old Castle Hill School Site**

I have received correspondence regarding Pallets being dumped on the old Castle Hill Site. Many have now been removed by the SCC, but I remain concerned this presents as a Fire Hazard. I am somewhat disappointed that they are still there, and I will be chasing a response and action this week.

#### 9. **Sturmer Arches**

Further to my requests for an update on Sturmer Arches I have received the following information:

- o West Suffolk Council continues to wait for a decision from the Department for Transport on the disputed ownership of Sturmer Arches between the Council and National Highways, formerly Highways England.
- o At the present time the structure is listed as an asset under the Historic Railways Estate, which is part of National Highways. They have confirmed that this **government body remains responsible** for the structure whilst the ownership is in dispute.
- o As the structure would come with financial liabilities for ongoing monitoring and maintenance and has no potential to generate income, West Suffolk have explored whether there are central government funding pots available to ensure that the local public purse is not significantly impacted. However, they have so far been unable to

identify such funding, in the event that DfT determine that the viaduct is the responsibility of West Suffolk Council.

- o West Suffolk Council own the embankments either side of the viaduct and last year some works were undertaken to the fences at the side of the bridge to further discourage people from clambering down the embankments and hopefully from also potentially accessing onto the bridge parapets.
- o The Council's lawyers will continue to liaise with the DfT solicitors, and we will continue to look for funding opportunities to protect the Council's potential future position.

## 12. Pre-School Places

I have had conversations with residents who have shared concerns about the future of Pre-School places in the area. I have nothing to update members other than this might be a developing issue, and I intend to discuss this more with portfolio holders and officers at Suffolk County Council.

## 13. General SCC

### News Motion

1 - Passed

Proposed by: Councillor Richard Smith and seconded by Councillor Alexander Nicoll.

- 'This Council welcomes the recently received £7.9m from His Majesty's Government towards the development of yet further Active Travel Schemes in Suffolk.'

(For more information of Active travel Schemes please visit <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/active-travel-england> )

### Amendment to Motion 2 - Passed

Proposed by: Councillor Annette Dunning and seconded by Councillor Bobby Bennett "This Council recognises:

- The good work done by our officers and the voluntary sector to support those in need as cost-of-living pressures continue.
- Feedback from VCSE organisations shows that many people are not benefitting from support they are eligible for.
- The need for this council to continue to work with voluntary and statutory agencies along with interested stakeholders and to put in place an additional programme of communication, to improve the take up of benefits and support available".

I would urge all members to signpost to your contacts & communities' information about cost-of-living support available:

Suffolk County Council:

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/community-and-safety/communities/healthier/cost-of-living-support>

of course, West Suffolk Council has information to:

<https://www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/cost-of-living/>

## £10 million new funding to fix residential roads.

Local road surfaces in villages and residential areas in Suffolk should be blitzed as part of a new £10 million programme, Suffolk County Council has announced today.

Published: 25 May 2023

The extra funding will nearly double Suffolk Highways' £11 million annual roads maintenance budget but be targeted at smaller residential streets which are typically maintained less frequently than busier A and B roads.

The announcement was made by Suffolk County Council's leader, Cllr Matthew Hicks, at the authority's annual general meeting today.

Speaking about the funding, Cllr Hicks said:

**"Let me be clear, the state of some of our roads is not good enough. That is why today I am announcing a major investment to improve roads across the county where people live. Those smaller roads often in estates or off the beaten track in our villages that are rutted and in need of some love and attention. To do this we will set aside a further £10 million to be spent over the next 20 months reaching these locations across our county and I look forward to this being delivered with our new partner Milestone."**

The funding is subject to a formal Cabinet decision which will follow later this year.

At the same time, Cllr Hicks also reiterated the council's commitment to improving services for children with special educational needs and disabilities, including £55 million to create 1,275 new SEND school places by 2025.

Cllr Hicks said:

**"We are seeing improvements, but the pace of change is not fast enough, and it is not being felt by families. This is a hugely emotional issue, and it is deeply upsetting. Yes, it is part of a national struggle - but we cannot and must not hide behind that. Suffolk must continue to step up regardless of the situation nationally."**

Highways and SEND will be areas of particular focus for Suffolk County Council over the next two years. There was also reaffirmed commitments to deliver:

- The Gull Wing bridge in Lowestoft
- New homes on SCC land
- Further help for Ukrainian refugees
- A new highways contractor Milestone
- Hundreds more EV charging points
- A £20 million flood prevention and footpath improvement programme.

To coincide with the annual general meeting, Suffolk County Council has published a list of its top 50 achievements since 2021, including:

- Our Cassius Digital Care work and innovation is going from strength to strength.
- An extra £2.5m for mental health services
- 300 miles of road now designated as quiet lanes.
- New household waste sites in Ipswich and Haverhill
- £13 million in funding secured for active travel.
- 3,000 environmentally friendly homes being delivered on SCC land.
- 250,000 trees planted.
- Over 100 new EV charging points
- A new Highways Contract with Milestone starting in October.
- 43,400 streetlights converted to LED.

## APPENDIX 2 – District Councillors’ reports

### Councillor John Burns

- **Great Wilsey Park:** Work continues albeit at a much-reduced rate. The developer is completing contracted properties, some footings, and some shell properties before building to demand rather than the previously stated building while they can. The temporary access road in Chalkstone Way has now been closed off and construction traffic now enters via the new roundabout. At last count there were about 80 occupied properties.
- **Police Matters:** Crime stats for April 2023 were distributed on 19<sup>th</sup> June. A link to the May edition of ‘Constables County’ was distributed on 29<sup>th</sup> May. I attended (virtually) the Police Accountability meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> May where I posed the question for the PCC to ask the Chief Constable as to how they can impress on partners (particularly WSC) that they need to work together to reduce ASB crime and not to put barriers in the way because the police will not pay for temporary CCTV coverage.
- **SCC Highways:** As has been advised a meeting was held last week, after 20 months of asking for action, regarding restoring the missing town centre signs including escalating to the CEO of WSC a few weeks back. This was encouraging but we now have to wait a few more months until the new maintenance company takes over. I produced a 12-page document showing where the signs do not match the TRO. Some changes to the TRO will be needed and I have asked Councillors for their input into the process to take advantage of it.
- **Greater Cambridge Partnership:** Work progresses on the Dean Road crossroad closure and installation of new roundabout at Bartlow Crossroads. A successful conclusion was made to identify the owner of the memorial, of someone who sadly died on the A1307 so that Cambs CC can liaise with them to avoid desecration.

The A1307 will be closed west of Linton for 2 days for resurfacing 15<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> July.

The GCP’s “Making Connections” consultation report was recently published and makes interesting reading particularly around the proposed road charging scheme for Cambridge.

- **New Croft:** I have some serious concerns regarding the HCSA proposed 4.5m fence around the site and their intention to effectively ban members of the public from it that have had unfettered access for many years.
- **Parking:** There has of course been no progress on this, and the town centre and other areas continue to suffer from lack of enforcement. I hope to have the latest annual stats soon for comparison purposes.
- **Markets:** No progress with WSC over the market review which is fast approaching it’s one year anniversary since it was approved. I will not be abandoning this as I was Chair of the group that spent months producing recommendations.
- **Sturmer Arches:** I have requested Suffolk Record Office to investigate the boxes handed to them by SEBC around 1975 as to whether they contain documents from 1972-1974 from the old Haverhill Urban District Council. These were identified as existing just before Covid hit but are uncatalogued so may require a manual trawl. I have also asked the National Archives in Kew if they are able to check whether their British Rail estate sale archives, that are documented in their Discovery Catalogue, have been sub-divided into areas of the country in order to gauge how long it will take me to search them.

National Highways are still waiting for SCC Highways to give them permission to allow rope hanging off the bridge in order to inspect it which they have to do for all structures over any road. This is a without prejudice report which in 2022 identified about £11K of repairs

needed but of course WSC deny they own it – they do own the 2 x outer arches as per the land registry documents.

- **Atterton & Ellis site:** Still no news. Prior to the election I strongly recommended to WSC that they approach the owner again including potential purchasing the site from them. I said doing nothing was not an option.
- **Fox PH (Wrattin Road):** I understand the site has been purchased by a new developer. Full planning permission, including discharging of all the conditions, make this a site that could be demolished, rebuilt and ready to serve all the new houses north of the town in a very short time. Hopefully that will be the case as will make a great attraction to that part of the town.
- **Vixen PH (Millfields Way):** This failed to sell at auction and is still on the market. The receivers have yet to do anything about obtaining a certificate of lawfulness regarding whether the planning application is extant.
- **Proposed McDonald's Bumpstead Road.** Despite my concerns over the access to the site not being ideal and suggesting alternatives, Braintree planners have ignored those plus those from SCC/WSC (have not even responded to me) so are recommending approval. It comes before their planning committee on 4<sup>th</sup> July.
- **Strasbourg Square:** This is finally due to start today (26<sup>th</sup> June) removing one of the "triangles", replacing the wooden sleepers with concrete versions, removing all the weeds and replanting with hardy low maintenance plants. New seating is hopefully going to be installed as well.
- **Market Square:** WSC now state the dips in the surface were repaired months ago (they did not tell me) and I have yet to check as been a lack of rain. However, the dips around the edge have not been fixed as WSC claim they are owned by SCC.
- **Armed Forces Week:** It was a busy week starting with the Armed Forces flag raising on the Monday to the main day itself. This involved finalising the convoy route and timings, moving barriers to the Square on the Friday night, putting out cones early on Saturday, and coordinating/stewarding the event especially the convoy on what turned out to be a very hot day. The whole day went really well with Bill Gladden, a 99-year-old D-Day veteran, being taken around in the lead police vehicle with several other dignitaries being carried out in jeeps. Bill latter on sang 2 songs close to his heart to the watching public which I filmed and placed on FaceBook. I have already expressed my thanks to all those that arranged and attended.
- **Other work:**
  - Continue to facilitate broadcast of TC council meetings at the Arts Centre.
  - Worked on setting up email accounts for new Councillors. Facilitated the filming and broadcast of the annual meeting. Continue to fix the occasional IT problems and supporting staff requests.
  - Waiting for the power and network connections for the HAC bar to be able to install new till systems. A new cash/card payment system was successfully installed at the Zone.
  - Continue to regularly approve HTC/HCT invoice payments.
  - Attended various HTC meetings both physically and online.
  - Filmed a couple of WSC meetings whilst we await their new A/V system to be commissioned.
  - Took both VAS to Dereham for repair and will be collecting once they have been repaired. We can then resume carrying out speed checks across town as there have been some requests primarily from the police.

- With Cllrs Firman and Luccarini, judged the Haverhill heat of the Young Market Traders competition.

END

### **Councillor Pat Hanlon**

My report I feel will be a little bit longer than normal for a verbal report because of what has happened on West Suffolk District Council after the election results, so I decided to put my report in writing.

Because the largest group couldn't form a majority on the West Suffolk District Council, two groups formed a working relationship to form a majority grouping.

I was asked by the now leader of the council if I wanted to be deputy chair of West Suffolk District Council, I was very pleased and honoured to say yes.

As the chair was on holiday for the first two engagements, I was very surprised in being told my very first engagement would be to welcome her majesty the Queen to West Suffolk at the unveiling of a new painting at Palace House Newmarket, and in the evening at the Launch of the Urban Frame: Mutiny in Colour Contemporary art exhibition, at the National Horse Racing Museum, Newmarket. Looking forward to the opening at the Haverhill Arts Centre on July 15th.

Parking on the grass verge in front of the Croft sports grounds:

I have been trying with Cllr Miller-Jones to get Officers, Councillor and a developer together to a meeting at the Croft, to try a environmental way to help stop unlawful verge parking, this is still ongoing in trying to get the meeting up and running.

Meeting with Reach: myself, Cllrs Miller-Jones, and Dave Smith met with Reach about mental health issues in Haverhill.

### **Appendix 3 Mayor's Report**

It is now six weeks since I became Mayor of Haverhill, and I don't think the sun has stopped shining. I can't take all the credit, but someone is definitely smiling down on me.

It has been a gentle introduction to the role for me, which I have been grateful for as I try to juggle mayoral engagements around work and other council commitments, but the lack of numbers has been made up by the variety of events that I have attended. The very first week I was at a Skills Escalator Day for primary school children and also the launch of the Haverhill Cancer Support Group. Jyoti and Helen have done a fantastic job, with the aid of funding from Persimmon's Community Champions Fund, to get this group up and running. I am sure it will become a fabulous resource to those people in need of help and support at an extremely difficult time in their lives.

I attended the Mayor of Thetford's reception. It is always nice to meet dignitaries from areas outside Suffolk and be able to promote the virtues of our town to those that may be only vaguely aware of us and where we are.

I was also fortunate enough to be invited to a barbecue hosted by our own Cllr Davidson in his role as Chair of Haverhill and District Town Twinning Association, as we welcomed our visitors from Ehringshausen. Unfortunately, only a few were able to make the trip over this time, but I am sure they enjoyed the hospitality shown to them.

It was another hot and sunny day as I was invited to judge the Kedington Meadowlark Pageant and present the trophies to the winners. The amount of work put into making some of the costumes was incredible. And well done to the Kedington Veterans football team for dressing up as Oompah Lompahs, much to everyone's delight.

Not in an official capacity, but I managed to find time to take in a show at The Arts Centre, where one of my favourite tribute bands, Limehouse Lizzy, were performing. Great show, great crowd, lots of happy people.

I attended the Haverhill Business Networking event at the EpiCentre, along with WSC's portfolio holder for Growth, Indy Wijenayaka, and hope to attend future meetings in order to connect with our local business community.

The week just gone was Armed Forces Week, and I was honoured to raise the Armed Forces flag on the market square to mark the start of the week. The week culminated with our Armed Forces Day event on Saturday. Congratulations to everyone who had a hand in giving us a spectacular production, from the exhibitors with their military vehicles, the stall holders, the entertainers, and all the tech and event staff and volunteers. I know I have forgotten a lot of people, but a big thank you anyway.

The final engagement, on the same evening, was an invitation from the Mayor of Great Dunmow, Alexander Armstrong – no, not that one! – to their Summer Solstice Music Festival. It was a great event, but I know we do it just as well, if not better!  
Eternal thanks to Vicky for guiding me through my first few weeks as Mayor. Your help and advice are invaluable.

David



