

Haverhill Town Council

Minutes of a Meeting of Haverhill Town Council's

FULL COUNCIL

Held on Monday 25th November 2024 at 7.07pm 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 L Miller-Jones (until 8.04 pm)
Councillor D Page
Councillor A Stinchcombe

Apologies: Councillor A Luccarini
Councillor L Smith
County Councillors: Councillor H Sowa

In Attendance: County Councillor D Roach (until 8.18 pm)
Colin Poole, Town Clerk
Jane Lomas, Council Administrator

1 member of the public was present.

Welcome:

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

MINUTES

C24 **Apologies for Absence**
/152 The above apologies were noted.

C24 **Declaration of Interests and requests for dispensation**
/153 None.

ACTION

C24 /154 **Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held Monday, 28th October 2024**

It was proposed by Councillor J Burns, seconded by Councillor M Martin that the minutes of the meeting held 28th October 2024 be agreed as a true record.

RESOLVED

C24 /155 **To note progress of actions arising from the minutes not covered by this Agenda**

Actions are all covered by the agenda.

C24 /156 **Government consultation to allow remote attendance at meetings**

The Town Clerk presented the Government questionnaire in respect of the consultation to allow remote attendance at meetings. It is noted that Councillors may complete the questionnaire on an individual basis.

a) It was proposed by Councillor A Stinchcombe, seconded by Councillor L Miller-Jones that Haverhill Town Council agrees with the broad principle of granting local authorities powers to allow remote attendance at formal meetings.

RESOLVED

b) It was proposed by Councillor L Miller-Jones, seconded by Councillor Q Cox, that the council thinks should be no limitations placed by government upon councils with regard to setting arrangements for remote attendance of council meetings, up to and including full remote attendance.

RESOLVED

c) A poll was taken and the number of the council's current elected members likely to seek to attend council meetings remotely over the course of a year is more than 50% but less than 90%.

d) It was proposed by Councillor Q Cox, seconded by Councillor L Miller-Jones that Haverhill Town Council would wish to adopt its own rules for remote attendance at council meetings.

RESOLVED

e) It was proposed by Councillor A Brown, seconded by Councillor D Page that Haverhill Town Council sets its own procedural measures to help to ensure a remote or hybrid attendance policy which is workable and efficient.

RESOLVED

f) It was proposed by Councillor L Miller-Jones, seconded by Councillor J Burns that it would benefit councillors or disadvantaged individuals with protected characteristics, for example those with disabilities or caring responsibilities, to remotely attend formal local authority meetings.

RESOLVED

C24 **Haverhill Area Forum**

/157

Councillors agreed the reinstated meetings with neighbouring councillors was useful and the first one had been good. It also provides an opportunity to promote Haverhill. The main topic of this meeting was the Cambridge South East Transport Plan. The issue of flooding will be the focus of the next meeting.

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

/158

a) Police Report – see Appendix 3 (report from Councillor J Burns).

b) Ambulance Report – see Appendix 1.

Councillors agreed that Councillor A Stinchcombe's report effectively captures the meeting's discussions. It was a positive meeting, and it will be interesting to see what progress has been made by the next meeting in February 2025. Haverhill has been made a tier 1 priority for deployment of ambulances and the Trust has better retention levels for staff, meaning more ambulances are available.

c) County Councillors – see Appendix 2

Councillor J Mason: see report attached (Appendix 2)

The Glebe: planting has now been carried out for the community orchard, completing this biodiversity project.

Greenfields Way Bus Stop: Councillor J Mason thanked Councillor D Roach for agreeing to fund the drop kerbs on Greenfields Way.

Councillor P Hanlon asked for details regarding SEND improvements progress, the number of new staff recruited and how communication with families has been improved. Councillor J Mason replied that at Scrutiny last week, it was reported that new recruits number in the seventies. With respect to individual progress, he will seek further information.

Councillor D Roach: reported that Suffolk County Council is in the process of issuing a 'Stop' notice to the Homefield Road waste site after receiving complaints about the smell. The company has been taking food waste from Hertfordshire, which is prohibited. If the company does not comply with the 'Stop' notice, they will be prosecuted.

Councillor D Roach attended an award ceremony for children in foster care. Fatima Whitbread presented the medals, and it was a really good event.

d) District Councillors

Councillor A Brown the housing and homeless strategy was passed last week. There are over 1,900 HMOs registered in West Suffolk, as well as 400 homes housing four or more people, which are not registered, but should be. If any councillors have issues or problems with HMOs in their area, contact Councillor A Brown or Housing.

Councillor A Brown has noted that there is a plethora of business advertising signs on roundabouts around the town. Councillor J Mason has spoken to Highways to try and resolve this.

e) Town Councillors' matters to report – see Appendix 3

Councillor J Burns: see report attached (Appendix 3).

Parking: Councillor J Burns is still collating the figures and will circulate once complete.

Cllr J Mason

Councillor M Martin reported that the sharps service has been removed from Haverhill which is concerning. The nearest places accepting sharps are in Newmarket or Bury St Edmunds. Councillor J Mason has brought this to the attention of the ICB. The goal is for pharmacies to accept sharps again. This is recognised as an urgent need and Councillor J Mason hopes to have an update for the next Full Council meeting. The clerk will make this an agenda item.

Cllr J Mason

Town Clerk

f) Members of the public

A member of the public referred to the claim that the NHS were ignoring the planned provision of healthcare facilities on the Great Wilsey Park estate (Councillor J Burns's report to Full Council meeting 28th October 2024) and asked that the council take up this issue with the MP.

A relevant agenda item will be added for the next Full Council meeting to allow councillors to discuss how this issue might be addressed.

Town Clerk

C24 **Mayor's Report**

/159 Appendix 4.

C24 **ONE Haverhill Partnership**

/160 A consultant has been appointed and has started working on the business plan. There will be some questionnaire surveying being carried out on the High Street.

C24 **Financial Matters**

/161

a) Authorisation of payments: It was proposed by Councillor A Stinchcombe, seconded by Councillor J Burns, that the listed payments totalling £114,988.16 be authorised.

RESOLVED

b) It was proposed by Councillor A Stinchcombe, seconded by Councillor J Burns to note the completion of the external audit and the external auditor's opinion contained therein.

RESOLVED

c) It was proposed by Councillor J Burns, seconded by Councillor A Stinchcombe, to note that insurances have been fully reviewed by the RFO and placed with Hiscox via Gallaghers insurance brokers for the Town Council. The Soft Play centre remains with DOA through David J Miller insurance brokers. Events are now included in the main council insurances again.

RESOLVED

d) It was proposed by Councillor A Stinchcombe, seconded by Councillor Damien Page, to note that our recent bid to UKSPF was successful, which will provide larger capacity bins in the High Street and Jubilee Place, relocation of the original bins to outlying areas of Haverhill, improvement to the High Street environment, additional gazebos for community groups to use and additional digital signage.

RESOLVED

e) It was proposed by Councillor A Stinchcombe, seconded by Councillor M Martin to accept a grant report from Abbeycroft Leisure Easter and Spring 2024.

RESOLVED

C24 Adoption of Committee Reports

/162 a) Planning Committee:

It was proposed by Councillor P Hanlon, seconded by Councillor R André, that the minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held 7th November 2024, and 18th November 2024 and the recommendations contained therein, be adopted.

RESOLVED

b) Leisure and Community Committee:

It was proposed by Councillor J Burns, seconded by Councillor Damian Page, that the minutes of the Leisure and Community Committee meeting held 11th November 2024 and the recommendations contained therein, be adopted.

RESOLVED

C24 Actions taken under delegated powers

/163 None.

C24 Provisional meetings calendar for 2025

/164 It was proposed by Councillor J Burns, seconded by Councillor Q Cox, that the calendar of meetings for 2025 be approved.

RESOLVED

C24 Date of next meeting

/165 The next meeting will be held on Monday, 16th December 2024 at 8pm.

C24 Closure

/166 The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.49pm.

Signed Date.....

Chairman

Haverhill Town Council adopted the General Power of Competence on May 15th 2023. All decisions are taken using that power unless otherwise stated.

Appendix 1 – Ambulance report

Appendix 2 – County Councillors’ reports

Appendix 3 – Town Councillors’ reports

Appendix 4 – Mayor’s report

APPENDIX 1 – Ambulance report Councillor A Stinchcombe

Informal report to HTC of meeting of Ambulance Subgroup with EEAST and ICB

21st November 2024

Outcomes

- Neill Moloney (CEO of EEAST) and Ed Garrett (CEO of the ICB) now realise that there is a problem with Haverhill ambulance provision and say that they are going to take steps to make things better
- Haverhill has recently been promoted to pole position in the list of standby points to receive any free ambulances, which shows willingness to do something
- Another meeting in February to review data for effect on C1 response times.
- Our MP expressed his interest by sending his researcher
- EEAST is willing to put more resources towards supporting local CFRs and helping recruit more
- EEAST is willing to engage with Suffolk FRS again to see if firefighters would be willing to be co-responders (longer term/may not be achievable)

Details of some of the many points discussed

Neill Moloney said that EEAST had very recently moved Haverhill to level 1 on the System Status Plan for S. Cambs, the priority list of locations for relocating any free ambulances. Alan said he didn't think the SSP was fit for purpose until a lot more ambulances are free at any one time, and that being #1 was unlikely to succeed as the vehicle was quite likely to be diverted before ever reaching Haverhill.

Ed Garratt said he accepted that Haverhill was underserved and he was (only) "glass half full" about the upgrading of Haverhill, and direction of travel of the Trust. Nick Tomothy had sent his researcher Ben Greening, who wasn't there to express an opinion, but asked relevant questions. Lora said that the mental health impact on retained SFRS firefighters¹ was a major reason for them being unwilling to be co-responders² for EEAST.

Colin played a blinder by suggesting that if Haverhill's promotion to level 1 was likely to be so successful, why didn't EEAST just tether one in Haverhill, while it checked how often level 1 would have had the desired result. Terry Hicks didn't quite get round to saying that he didn't expect it to be that successful, but that may have been part of why Colin's suggestion was rejected.

Lora and Alan tried to raise with Ed Garratt the importance of distance from a hospital, but Terry Hicks tried to persuade us that it is much less important that the ambulance response time. This seemed to go against the grain of his later saying that changes in the Ambulance Quality Indicators (which probably meant greater focus on time to transfer patients to hospital) meant that they were winding down their stock of RRVs. As he said that he would never tether a double staffed ambulance, Alan suggested the Zoned Resources approach used by SE Coast AST, to which he seemed receptive and said that that sort of arrangement might result from a larger review. Even if this semi-tethering arrangement is all that EEAST trials, at least we'd

have a foot in the door to argue for further adjustments, such as how few call categories a “zoned resource” ambulance would be allowed to respond to, and to within how small a radius of the centre of its zone (or standby point) it would be allowed to respond to calls, before having to return to its own zone.

Quinn pressed for a date for a meeting to review whether there has been any improvement in our C1 response times. Neill suggested early Feb 2025 and Colin will try to arrange this.

¹ We should probably similarly be concerned for the mental welfare of CFRs before we get too involved in recruiting more. If EEAST doesn't look after them well, it's not as though NSFT will be much help. For example, unless CFRs are automatically bypassed in such cases, I think there must be quite a few effective suicides where CPR needs at least to be attempted, even with little hope of success.

² Unlike community first responders, Fire Co-Responders (FCRs) can be sent to nearly all types of calls received by an ambulance service and are able to respond with blue lights and sirens. (<https://www.frsa.org.uk/coresponders-faqs/>)

APPENDIX 2 – County and District Councillor’s report Councillor Joe Mason

County and District Councillor Report, November 2024 Cllr Joe Mason

Suffolk County Council Full Council will next sit on the 12th of December. I attended Scrutiny Committee this month, mostly focussing on ‘Transformation’ reports from directorates aiming to improve services, ensuring value for money for the tax payer and finding saving where they can be made that don’t impact on the quality of service delivery.

West Suffolk District Council sat on the 19th, with no agenda items significantly affecting Haverhill. The ‘Debate not Hate’ motion passed unanimously.

Coming up in December, I will be attending Education and Children Services Scrutiny at SCC and Performance and Audit Scrutiny.

In this report.

1. Suffolk County Council News
2. Highways Update
3. Relief Road, Persimmon Estate & Related
4. Drink Spiking Initiative
5. Anaerobic Digester
6. Banking Hub
7. Market & High Street
8. The Fox
-
9. West Suffolk News

1. Suffolk County Council News

SEND UPDATE

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

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

Following the meeting, a letter was sent from the DfE outlining the extent of progress made within SEND services across Suffolk over the past six months.

In summary, it ‘welcomes the improvements and the evidence of impact’ and recognises ‘the considerable challenges that remain to reach the required targets’...

... The progress meeting with the Department for Education was held on November 4 and reviewed work over six months since the publication of the Priority Action Plan, which was agreed following the Ofsted and CQC inspection in November 2023. This was the most formal review since the inspection. The next progress meeting will take place in May 2025.

[Home Energy Efficiency Assessment Voucher Scheme in Suffolk](#)

The Suffolk Retrofit Assessment Voucher Scheme launches today, a pioneering initiative aimed at promoting energy efficiency and sustainability in homes across the county.

[Council making net zero gains, but still work to do](#)

Suffolk County Council continues to bring down its carbon emissions, with significant reductions from council-owned street lighting, vehicles and buildings, but there is still work to do to reach its ambitious target of net zero by 2030.

2. Highways

Quakers Lane

All works are now completed. As regards Bollards for Quakers Lane, please note the following text from Highways to whether lockable bollards could be installed.

Conversations have taken place between the relevant teams regarding the request for lockable/removeable bollards to be installed on either end of the unbound section of Quakers Lane to both prevent 'rat-running' and accelerated deterioration of the newly laid surface. As this section is technically a private road (albeit one that carries a Public Right of Way), there is no objection to these being installed and as a private road this would not require any form of legal 'stopping order' or any other form of Traffic Regulation Order.

It was advised that providing the bollards leave space for pedestrians, cyclists (and technically as this is a Bridleway, also horses), there would be no objection to bollards being installed in the two locations you have marked.

There may be some local complaints over installing bollards here, particularly for those motorists who are currently using this as something of a cut-through between the High Street and Recreation Road/ Helions Park Avenue. However, as the Public Right of Way through here is a bridleway, not a BOAT (byway open to all traffic), there is no legal reason these bollards cannot be installed.

As you have suggested, the Ex-Servicemen's Club would be a key holder for these to allow their delivery lorries to pass through and as they are the main (if not only) legitimate traffic here, again I can see no issues with this. (Please note Chapmans might claim a ["Right of Way Easement by Prescription"](#) and request to be a key holder, by having used this bridleway for commercial purposes for over 20 years.)

There is a very slight possibility that the overall owner of this section of Quakers Lane may raise objection, but as this is an unregistered piece of land (and access will be available on proof of ownership etc) this should not be a particular concern and if they held keys, any objections would be rather moot.

Unfortunately, there would be no funding available from SCC for this request and as you alluded to in your email of 2 November, you have exhausted your Local Highways Budget. The price of the supply/installation of these of bollards varies hugely dependent on the style and type."

"... an example of a decent quality 'basic' bollard that are around £60 each, including the mounting socket. This type of bollard are extremely simple and quick (and subsequently good value) to install and are long lasting, weather/rust proof and impact resistant. When removed, they have a flush fitting flap that protects the socket. When mount, a padlock secures these in place.

Perhaps Haverhill Town Council would be prepared to consider funding the purchase and installation of these. As this is not part of the maintainable highway, there would be no need for any additional permission from SCC, therefore avoiding the cost of a minor works licence. The installation could also be carried out by a normal groundwork team, it would not require an approved highway contractor, so in theory the overall cost would be relatively low for this."

This would no mean that they only way forward would be if Haverhill Town Council would want to go ahead and install bollards. I believe this would be a good project to carry out and in doing so safeguarding the bridleway which should not be used for through traffic and in doing so protect it for Pedestrian and Cycle use.

High Street

As requested by the West Suffolk led Highstreet Enhancement Group, I request repairs to the brick work along the High Street. Some work was carried out but not as much as I would have liked. Highways continue to use HMOP to determine whether defects meet criteria for repair. This is disappointing

Haverhill Town Centre Signs

Cllr Burns and I met with Highways on November 15th . We are still working to find a resolution to the problematic and incorrect TRO on the High Street. I remain resolute to see this thorny and persistent issue through to a positive outcome. Many Thanks to Cllr Burns for his valued contributions.

Other Works

Very difficult to predict with certainty whether roadworks will go ahead on any specific day as the weather has deteriorated somewhat and Highways will not lay road in bad weather to ensure when works are done they are lasting and wont degrade due to the poor weather conditions affecting the quality of the resurfacing.

Greenfields Way Bus Stop

Works have completed with just the bus stop to be installed. As I have spent my highways locality budget many times over, Cllr David Roach has kindly agreed to fund dropped kerbs installed on Greenfields Way to ensure residents with mobility issues can safely cross to get to the surgery and/or pharmacy.

Lamp posts

I have been responding to a number of requests relating to lamp posts not working in different parts of the Town. If members should happen to find one not working, please do report using the [Suffolk Highways Reporting Tool](#)

3. Relief Road, Persimmon Estate & Related

I am conducting a site visit this week with Persimmon and Cadent and I will seek confirmation regarding whether the works are still on track for a Spring Opening.

An excellent meeting was held with residents on the Persimmon Estate chaired by Cllr Quinn Cox and in attendance was PC Jack Oakley, representatives from RMG and Havebury, as well as Colin Poole, Vicky Phillips and other HTC staff.

A number of people signed up to join a “Steering Group” for the creation of a Residents Association. I am sure Colin will discuss and share next steps.

At the meeting there was an opportunity for residents to ask a lot of questions and field many concerns which will be familiar to the Town Council, as many of these have been issues I have previously reported on.

Other Issues

I am meeting Highways to discuss and chase a range of issues including:

- Wratting Rd Puffin Crossing
- Farrant Rd Surfacing
- Saxon Crescent Dopped Kerb and other Issues on Saxon Crescent
- Dropped Kerbs and Speed Mitigation on Ann Suckling Road
- Howe Road Bus Gate

Future Phases

Phase 3A Local Centre has been submitted since my last report and the TC placed an objection to it.

Persimmon are discussing dates with HTC to set a date for a workshop for phases 4a, 4B and 5B, which will be the final submission of the whole Persimmon development.

4. Drink Spiking Initiative

Since June I have been working with PC Jack Oakley, Brian and Dionne from the Woolpack & Royal Exchange and of course fellow Cllr, David Roach, to launch this initiative in time for Christmas.

David & I funded Foil Drinks Topper, posters and signs. Whilst the spiking of drinks is more of a National issue rather than local, I hope this encourages reflection and discussion about how to stay safe on a night out in Haverhill, but also in Cambridge where there have been reported cases.

I am committed to supporting measures that tackle the issue of Violence Against Women and Girls. This is just one way I can do this. I hope across our community we can speak with a clear and loud voice that violence against women and girls (and indeed children generally) is unacceptable and should always be condemned.

[Haverhill Echo Report](#)

BBC articles:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/topics/c1llgrn3j5zt>

[Violence Against Women & Children:](#)

5. Anaerobic Biodigester

Still awaiting submission of final documents needed for the planning submission to go to the Development & Regulation Committee at SCC.

6. Banking Hub

Final report on this. Other councillors and myself attended the Grand Opening and the new Banking Hub, seems to be well received by the community. I have asked CAUK to reach out to surrounding parishes councils to inform them of the banking services available in Haverhill

7. Market & High Street

I remain concerned over the lack of traders on the High Street, the weather now will likely impact the market. The Makers market in November was impressive. It remains a concern that more shops are closing with Timpsons and My Screen Monkey the latest to close.

8. The Fox Pub

Members might be interested to hear that the Fox Pub has been put back on the market. Residents on the Persimmon Estate and I am sure those on the Redrow Estate are keen to see this site developed. It is good that it is being listed as:

“Proposed 90 cover pub/restaurant and first floor private accommodation & Planning consent was GRANTED under DC/20/0479/FUL (but now lapsed) for new Sui Generis public house / restaurant together with 50 parking spaces (inclusive of 9 EV spaces) and trade garden” <https://search.savills.com/property-detail/gb0457s136861>

9. West Suffolk Council

As aforementioned, West Suffolk District Council sat on the 19th, with no agenda items significantly affecting Haverhill. The 'Debate not Hate' motion passed unanimously.

Winter Fuel Payments

I remain outspoken at Cabinet and at Full council on the issue of the government changes to Winter Fuel Payments and the need for West Suffolk Council to go further in reaching out to residents, to not only ensure more people apply for Pension Credit, to not just leave it to partner organisations, but to also highlight a range of benefits and support to those who just miss out and fall within the "Just About Managing" group. These benefits include Attendance and Carers allowances, Council Tax reduction and Social Tariffs. I have been critical of the West Suffolk Council administration response by citing; out of date information on their website, the disappointing toolkit they sent out and poor/limited social media. I encourage all members to raise awareness of these lesser-known support measures for those people who just miss out on Pension Credits and find themselves worse off than people on lower incomes who do qualify for Pension Credit and Winter Fuel Payments. Members can signpost residents to Citizens Advice and Reach for advice and/or help with form filling.

Taxi Licensing

This is an ongoing issue, which has not yet been fully resolved, and as such I will omit specific information regarding which businesses have been affected. I know I am not the only Councillor who has been on the case with portfolio holder Cllr Gerald Kelly, but a fortnight ago I became aware of an issue where local Taxi firms were facing having to go to Bury ST Edmunds to be licensed and have their enhanced MOT done, primarily due to an issue with the tendering application process which saw a local garage miss out.

After quite a lot of correspondence with all parties, I am reassured that this is going to be resolved, but it is important that a speedy resolution is found. I hope that it can be confirmed this week so that local taxis will continue to have a local garage to have their enhanced MOTS done. It is good to hear that West Suffolk seem keen on simplifying the licensing process for taxis and I hope details of this can be announced soon.

Biodiversity and Community Orchard – Glebe – Ongoing

Woolpack planting project - Ongoing

Stour View Medical Centre - No further update other than it is currently being used for COVID & Flue Jabs.

Better Access to Health & Mental Health Services – No further update, though I continue to press the need for better Health & Mental Health Services/provision, and I am calling on the council to work with partners to help deliver better access to Health Services in the Town.

West Suffolk Council News

There have been a number of press releases from West Suffolk Council that impact Haverhill or might be of interest to members who sit on the Environment and Sustainability committee.

[Recycling success for West Suffolk: partnership to boost recycling is extended](#)

Two additional reverse vending machines have been installed in West Suffolk following an initial six month trial.

Thanks to an enthusiastic response from the local community two more machines have been added; one in Haverhill Leisure Centre and another in local insurance broker Howden Bury St

Edmunds. These join the machines already installed in The Guineas, Newmarket Leisure Centre, West Suffolk College and Parkway Multi-storey.

[Plans to help commercial organisations meet new national recycling regulations agreed](#)

Proposals to enhance commercial waste recycling in West Suffolk, including increasing the range and volume of products that can be diverted from commercial and non-domestic organisations (for example: schools, care homes, hospitals and other government facilities) have been agreed.

[Warm spaces open to support West Suffolk residents this winter](#)

Nearly 40 warm spaces including libraries, community centres and village halls are putting on activities to support residents of all ages across West Suffolk this winter. [The ones in Haverhill that have been announced on the West Suffolk Website include:](#) Haverhill Library, St Mary’s Church, Haverhill Arts Centre

[“We need to work in partnership to address housing challenges”](#)

West Suffolk’s Cabinet member for Housing is calling on partner organisations to work with the council to help deliver a new strategy that will benefit communities.

[Free activities to help struggling families during the school holiday](#)

Children and young people in West Suffolk who receive benefits related free school meals can now book for free activities throughout the school winter holidays.

.....

Please note this report does not include all the work I am undertaking at the moment or projects I am engaged with and trying to move forward for the betterment of the community. Where I have stated ‘no further updates’ or ‘ongoing’, please refer back to previous reports. Members are always welcome to contact me should they need any information or assistance relating to issues across the Cangle District.

Finally, my community work continues with the Haverhill Santa tour of Haverhill and surrounding areas. Licenses, routes and dates are all set and we look forward to being on the market place and parade this coming Saturday.

APPENDIX 3 – Town Councillor’s report

Councillor John Burns

- **Police Matters:** Crime stats for September 2024 were distributed on 3rd November. There has been no new Constable’s County.

Cllr Hanlon and I met with Inspector Ben Hollands at a police liaison meeting on 19th November. We had a good discussion with problems of unlit scooters and bicycles, inconsiderate riding of cycles on the railway walk, ASB in the town centre, and the current priorities over drugs, theft and burglaries mostly in more rural areas.

I attended Havebury’s drop-in session at Clements pm 20th and brought the local CPT officer up to date with some concerns.

- **SCC Highways:** Following a meeting with Cllr Joe Mason, a representative from SCC Highways and myself, I have provided SCC with my views on the state and legality of the TROs covering the town centre and specifically over vehicular movements. I await a response in due course so consideration can be made to fixing the incorrect signage.
- **Parking:** I have now received the results of a FOI request for the parking enforcement statistics to April 2024 in Haverhill and, as a comparison, those in BSE & Newmarket. I am currently collating the data but reiterates that car park enforcement still seems to take much more priority which goes against the purpose of CPE (as stated in their 2017 business plan) which was to reduce or remove inconsiderate parking and congestion, not as a money earner.
- **Markets:** I still have had no response to my request from the WSC Portfolio Holder as to what progress has been made as reported in last month’s report.
- **Vixen PH (Millfields Way):** No further news known other than the press have become interested again and asking for more information as to what is going on.
- **Other work:**
 - Assisted at Halloween Trail.
 - Attended Haverhill Area Forum meeting on 5th November.
 - Wrote detailed instructions with pictures for Zone staff on how to update the slides that appear on their customer information TV. Also setup new mobile phone to access HTC emails and general setup for member of staff.
 - Delivered and collected HTC barriers to New Croft for their fireworks event.
 - Met with HTC staff and Highways Assurance to review the town centre road closures for Remembrance event as well as meeting with RBL and others to review the entire planning for the event. I again delivered barriers/cones early in the morning and retrieved late afternoon.

Remembrance went off very well with the vast majority of the planning working as intended and well attended by the public. A few minor issues did arise that can be included in the event planning for 2025. A live stream, and subsequently edited video was made of the event.

- I assisted with installation of the Xmas tree on 20th including delivering/collecting barriers for safety reasons. I am due to help out on 30th Xmas event.
- Attended Town Centre enhancement project meetings on 30th Oct and 20th Nov.
- Carried out several IT related tasks at Zone and HAC.
- Provided usual weekly financial stats for Zone, Coffee Bar and HTC Bar to HTC management plus attending various meetings.

APPENDIX 4 – Mayor’s report

Monday 25th November, 2024

Obviously, the main engagements since my last report were the events centred around the Remembrance Day commemorations. I was invited to lay a wreath at the Rose Gardens in Bury St Edmunds, where there many memorials dedicated to the forces stationed in our region, both British and US, as well as memorials to those who were at Dunkirk and societies that support their work.

Once again, our own Remembrance Day service on the Sunday was well supported by our residents. It is not obvious how many people actually take part in the parade until they are all massed on the market square before being dismissed at the end of the service. Thank you to everyone who participated and thank you to all of our officers and volunteers who made sure that the day was a success and a fitting tribute to all those who have lost their lives in past conflicts. A special thank you to my friend David Rinaldi for the loan of his mobility scooter, without which I wouldn’t have been able to attend.

At 11 am on Armistice Day itself we gathered in the High Street outside St Mary’s for the RBL’s two minutes silence. It was very well observed and, considering that the event is not advertised, always draws a good crowd.

One other notable event to mention was the official opening of the Banking Hub in the High Street. I was honoured to be asked to cut the ribbon and make a short speech. It will provide a vital service to aid the inclusion of those residents that are either unable or unwilling to use the online services that the banking sector is increasingly moving towards by providing a service, run by the Post Office, for cash-based transactions, and complementing those already available at the main branch.

Lastly, following a visit with Lady Clare, Lord Lieutenant of Suffolk, to see the innovative work being started at Nyobolt on the industrial estate, it was good to see that they have been granted the necessary licence by the Environmental Agency to take their research to the next level. Thank you to our MP, Nick Timothy, for getting this over the line. Thanks also to the officers at West Suffolk Council who highlighted the company and suggested the company for a visit, without which we would not have been aware of their struggles. We were pleased as a council to be able to push the buttons we had at our disposal to help one of our newer Haverhill companies to progress.

As we prepare to enter Advent, and season of goodwill, I would like to remind you of our Civic Carol Service at St Mary’s on Wednesday 4th December at 7 pm. You, your families and friends are all welcome to join us for an evening of carols and readings.

All the best.

David