

# Haverhill Town Council

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

### FULL COUNCIL

Held on Monday, 28<sup>th</sup> April 2025 at 7:00pm at Haverhill Arts Centre, High Street, Haverhill



**HAVERHILL**  
TOWN COUNCIL

**Present:**

- Mayor Councillor D Smith
- Councillor A Brown
- Councillor J Burns
- Councillor J Crooks
- Councillor B Davidson
- Councillor P Firman
- Councillor P Hanlon
- Councillor M Martin
- Councillor J Mason
- Councillor L Miller-Jones
- Councillor L Smith
- Councillor A Stinchcombe

County Councillor D Roach

**Apologies:**

- Councillor R André
- Councillor Q Cox
- Councillor A Luccarini
- Councillor D Page
- County Councillor H Sowa
- Jane Lomas, Council Administrator

**In Attendance:** Colin Poole, Town Clerk

3 members of the public were present.

### Welcome:.

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

### MINUTES

**C25**     **Apologies for Absence**  
**/044**     The above apologies were noted.

**ACTION**

C25 /045	<p><b><u>Declaration of Interests and requests for dispensation</u></b></p> <p>Councillor J Mason declared an Other Registrable Interest in C25/08c, Haverhill Show Committee's grant application, as Chair of the committee, and advised would leave the meeting for that item.</p>	Town Clerk Town Clerk
C25 /046	<p><b><u>Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held Monday, 24<sup>th</sup> February 2025</u></b></p> <p>It was proposed by Councillor P Hanlon, seconded by Councillor L Smith, that the minutes of the meeting held 25<sup>th</sup> March 2025 be agreed as a true record.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b></p>	
C25 /047	<p><b><u>Actions arising from the minutes not covered on the agenda</u></b></p> <p><b>C24/170</b> s106 obligations in Haverhill – we still await an explanation, which is understood to be being compiled by both ICB and West Suffolk officers.</p> <p><b>C25/006c</b> CPE performance in Haverhill – Still awaiting a response.</p> <p><b>C25/020c</b> Toilet facilities at Haverhill Library – Councillor J Mason reported that following previous funding from Councillor Heike Sowa a survey and feasibility study took place, and a location has been identified for a Disabled Toilet to be installed. It has been confirmed by Suffolk County Council that there are no funds available from core funding to install a ground floor disabled toilet, however, there is a strong intent to use S106 monies from the NW Haverhill Persimmon development to have one installed. The trigger point in the S106 is for 500 houses to be occupied. We currently stand at approximately 455. It is hoped the threshold can be reached by the end of the year, triggering the release of monies to make this much needed and long overdue facility a reality.</p>	Town Clerk
	<p>Councillors were concerned about the lack of provision of accessible toilets and the long wait to have them installed. It was proposed by Councillor A Stinchcombe, seconded by Councillor L Miller-Jones that the Town Clerk writes to Councillor P Faircloth-Mutton, portfolio holder, on behalf of Haverhill Town Council, insisting that funds be found to provide accessible toilet facilities at the library.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b></p>	
C25 /048	<p><b><u>Reports from District/County Councillors on issues pertinent to HAVERHILL and the PUBLIC FORUM</u></b></p> <p>a) <b>Police Report</b> – nothing to report. PC Oakley will be invited to the next ordinary Full Council Meeting.</p> <p>b) <b>Ambulance Report</b> – See Appendix 1. Councillor A Stinchcombe presented a graph illustrating C1 mean response time (in minutes) for Haverhill comparing 2023-4 against 2024-5. The graph shows that little has changed. A meeting is scheduled for June and confirmation of a firm date will be pursued.</p> <p>c) <b>County Councillors</b> – see Appendix 2</p>	Town Clerk
		Town Clerk

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

Councillor J Mason highlighted some of the points in his report:

- Suffolk Libraries is now called Suffolk Community Libraries.
- Residents have reported that busses are not stopping at the new bus stop on Greenfields Way. Stagecoach has a computerised system to show bus stops, but it has not updated to show the new one, so drivers are not stopping. Councillor J Mason is pursuing this.
- Councillor J Mason thanked Community Wardens for sweeping and maintaining paths and roads that are the responsibility of Suffolk County Council and West Suffolk Council. Community Wardens are making a big difference regarding issues that fall between the cracks.
- Persimmon is on course for finishing at the end of May, although Highways have to sign off the road. It is hoped the Town Council will be informed of the arrangements for the formal opening of the road.
- Councillor J Mason voiced thanks to Councillor Davidson, Councillor Brown, District Councillor Marks, and residents Jackie Pedzinski and Gemma Cullen for supporting the Great British Spring Clean. 134 bags of litter were collected which has made a big difference to the town.

**Councillor D Roach** – Many of the signs around Haverhill need cleaning or are overgrown. The Highways engineer is going to look into carrying out the work.

Suffolk County Council is going to invest in more mobile libraries. They are also looking at replacing computer systems.

**Councillor A Brown** – Residents have reported that some of the bus stop signs in Roman Way are on lampposts next to large, grassed areas. In the winter some people struggle to get on/off the bus and some have slipped on the grass. If the signs could be moved this would make bus users' lives much better. Councillor D Roach will investigate who is responsible for the bus stop signage.

**d) District Councillors**

**Councillor P Hanlon** – West Suffolk Licensing subcommittee met and members agreed to impose a condition requiring a service for outside of premises to be delivered only by waiters and waitresses and to restrict the use of the outside area to 10pm. Other conditions in relation to the Market Square will be agreed between Loungers and West Suffolk Council as the landowner.

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

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

**f) Members of the public** – No members of the public wished to speak.

**C25** **Mayor's Report** – Appendix 4.  
**/049** See report attached (Appendix 4).

<b>C25</b> <b>/050</b>	<p><b><u>ONE Haverhill Partnership</u></b></p> <p>a) <u>Report from the Clerk</u>  The Board met last week. It was a good meeting overall with the Health and Wellbeing Hub as the main focus. It was interesting to note how health is a cross-cutting issue for so many topics, and change in government and health unsettles many public services. An outcome of the Board meeting was that the Town Clerk was asked to talk to West Suffolk Council and Suffolk County Council about taking part in an engagement process with the public to better understand local government reform.</p> <p>b) <u>Wellbeing Hub update</u>  The key to the Wellbeing Hub's success is in finding the anchor tenants who can go in to make it all work. Also, trying to get finances to balance is proving difficult. Everyone around the table was very willing but original sources of funding are not necessarily now available, resulting in an inability to help with funding. The next step, with the help of Councillor J Mason, is to approach County to see how much they are able to contribute. It is hoped they will offer a larger amount to get the project off the ground and then a smaller amount yearly.</p> <p>Councillors agreed that Sarah Hedges did a splendid job in creating a business plan for the Wellbeing Hub. It was proposed by Councillor L Miller Jones, seconded by Councillor P Hanlon that the Town Clerk writes to Sarah Hedges on behalf of Haverhill Town Council to thank her for all her hard work on the Wellbeing Hub.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b></p>	<p><b>Town Clerk</b></p> <p><b>Town Clerk</b></p>
<b>C25</b> <b>/051</b>	<p><b><u>Financial Matters</u></b></p> <p>a) <u>Authorisation of payments:</u> It was proposed by Councillor J Burns, seconded by Councillor A Stinchcombe, that the listed payments totalling £109,523.01 be authorised.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b></p>	
	<p>b) <u>Mayoral Charity</u>  It was proposed by Councillor L Miller-Jones, seconded by Councillor P Hanlon that the virement of unspent funds from Mayoral Allowance to Mayoral Charity be executed.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b></p>	
	<p>c) <u>Grant Applications over £2,000: Haverhill Show Committee</u>  It was proposed by Councillor A Brown, seconded by Councillor M Martin that Haverhill Show Committee be awarded £2,000 towards the cost of staging the Haverhill Show 6<sup>th</sup> July 2025.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b></p>	

**C25      Adoption of Committee Reports**

**/052      a) Energy & Sustainability Working Party:**

It was proposed by Councillor A Stinchcombe, seconded by Councillor L Smith that the minutes of the Energy & Sustainability Working Party meeting held 8<sup>th</sup> April 2025 and the recommendations contained therein, be adopted.

**RESOLVED**

b) Planning Committee:

It was proposed by Councillor P Hanlon, seconded by Councillor M Martin that the minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held 24<sup>th</sup> March 2025, and 7<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2025 and the recommendations contained therein, be adopted.

**RESOLVED**

**C25      Policy Review**

**/053      Updated Standing Orders and Updated Finance Regulations**

It was proposed by Councillor J Burns, seconded by Councillor M Martin that the updated Standing Orders and updated Finance Regulations be adopted.

**RESOLVED**

**C25      Actions taken under delegated powers**

**/054      None.**

**C25      Date of next meeting**

**/055      The annual meeting of the Town Council and Mayor-Making will take place on Monday, 12<sup>th</sup> May 2025.**

**C25      Closure**

**/056      The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 7.47pm.**

Signed .....

**Chairman**

Date.....

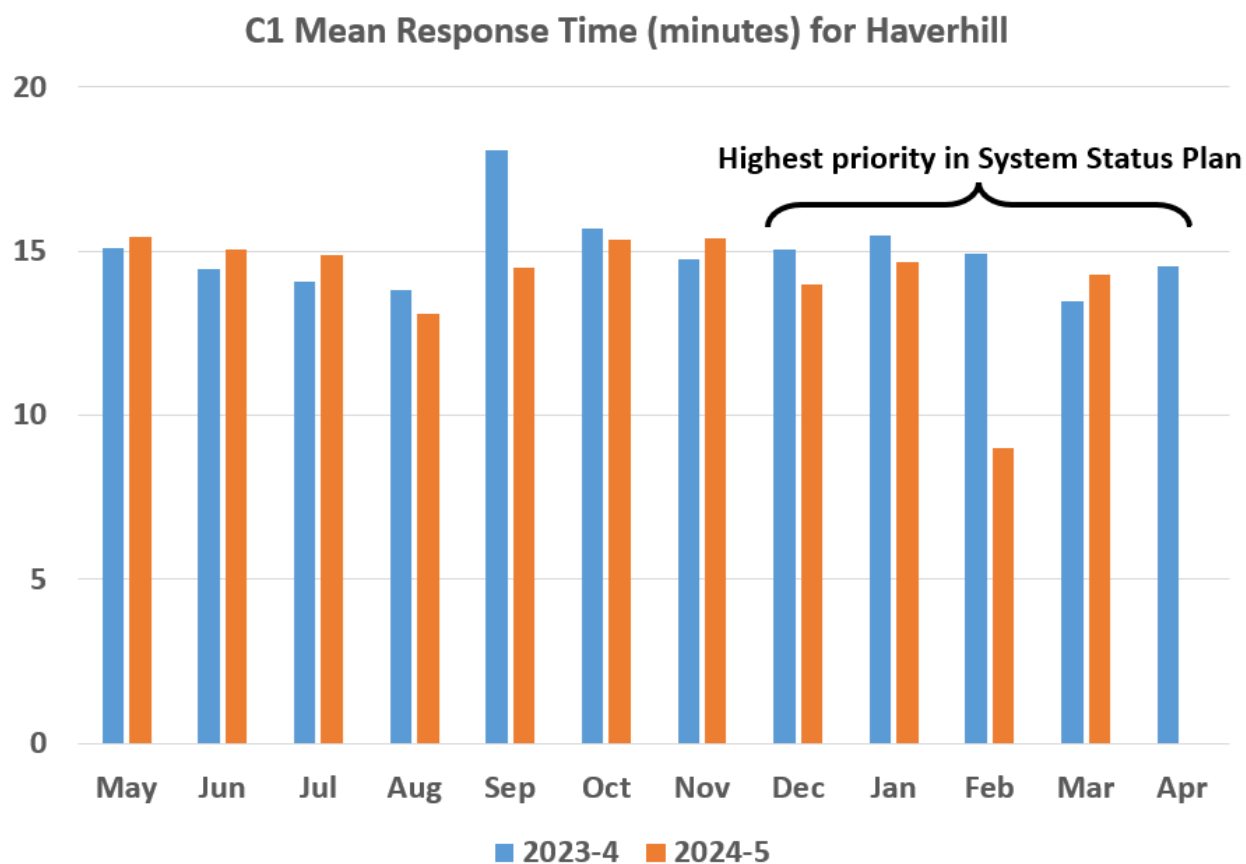
**Appendix 1 – Ambulance report**

**Appendix 2 – County Councillors' reports**

**Appendix 3 – Town Councillors' reports**

**Appendix 4 – Mayor's report**

**APPENDIX 1 – Ambulance report**  
**Councillor Alan Stinchcombe**



## **APPENDIX 2 – County and District Councillor’s report**

**Councillor Joe Mason**

### **County and District Councillor Report, April 2025**

**Cllr Joe Mason**

A quieter month since my last report with neither West Suffolk Council nor Suffolk County Council meeting. I continue to attend meetings at SCC for Scrutiny, Education & Children’s Service Scrutiny, Development & Regulation and PASC at WSC.

#### **In this report.**

1. Suffolk County Council News
2. Highways Update
3. Active Travel, Cyclists Pedestrians and Rights of Way
4. Persimmon Estate, Relief Road, S106 & Related
5. Haverhill Library
6. Anaerobic Biodigester & Widdington Recycling Limited (MRF Application)
7. West Suffolk Council News & Updates
8. Community

#### **1. Suffolk County Council News**

No meeting held in April

- **6,000 on-street and community EV charge points for Suffolk**  
Suffolk County Council, in partnership with operator Believ, will deliver around 6,000 new public electric vehicle (EV) charge points across the county...  
<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/council-news/6000-on-street-and-community-ev-chargepointsfor-suffolk>
- **Suffolk Highways launches weeds and grass management programme for 2025**  
Thousands of miles of verges and weeds will be treated as the campaign gets underway.  
Spring has sprung and Suffolk Highways has commenced its summer maintenance works, which will see teams cut thousands of miles of grass verges and treat 2,300 miles of weeds.  
Grass cutting is scheduled to start in May, with the grass verges alongside A and B roads across Suffolk being cut first and receiving two cuts each summer...  
<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/council-news/suffolk-highways-launches-weeds-andgrass-management-programme-for-2025>
- **Extra £9 million will fund new places for pupils with SEND**  
Hundreds of children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) in Suffolk are set to benefit from new government funding. It has been announced that Suffolk will receive £9,441,348 from the Department for Education to invest in new SEND school places.  
Plans will now be drawn up by the Local Area SEND Partnership.  
This funding is in addition to the 200 new SEND places that Suffolk County Council's.

- **Nature recovery plan aims to revive Suffolk's wildlife**

A new strategy has been drafted to help restore and enhance nature across Suffolk, and a consultation has been launched today (Wednesday 16 April) for you to share your views. <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/council-news/nature-recovery-plan-aims-to-revivesuffolks-wildlife>

## 2. Highways Update

- **Winter, Potholes, Repairs and Resurfacing**

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

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

I continue to make further representations for residents about other roads/areas that need attention. As I reported last month winter has been relatively kind to the roads which has been welcome. Patching work continues where it meets intervention criteria but, I again kindly ask all ward members and members of the public to report road defects using the [Suffolk Highways Reporting Tool](#) for all defects to be assessed. Clearly Highways Maintenance Operational Plan will prioritise due to severity, but any help, particularly with the more serious road defects will help immensely.

- **Haverhill Town Centre Signs & Ehringhausen Way**

It has been confirmed to me that the TRO will come into force in May. It has been explained to me that once the TRO is in place, it shouldn't take long to put signage up and lineage down. I am hopeful that this can be done before the end of June. By the next Town council meeting in May I hope to have a clearer understanding of the timescales for the new TRO to be implemented.

I met with the Street lighting Team to discuss Bollards, particularly along Ehringhausen Way. Many have been replaced cleaned or reseated, as a result of this dialogue. I am appreciative of the collaborative way the streetlighting team have worked with me on this.



Regarding issues relating to Street Lighting or Bollards, please report these on the Suffolk Highways reporting tool in the first instance. If not addressed within 3 week's, please do email me.

## 3. Active Travel, Cyclists, Pedestrians and Rights of Way

- **Haverhill Local Transport Plan**

I am hopeful that I will be meeting with the Active travel team soon to discuss projects for Haverhill based upon the revised information/submission I sent in last month.



- **Lack of Bus Service at Newly Installed Bus Stop on Greenfields Way**

It has come to my attention, following contact from local residents, that buses are not currently stopping at the newly installed bus stop on Greenfields Way. According to information provided by Suffolk County Council (SCC) officers, the issue lies with Stagecoach not yet having updated the onboard systems used by their drivers. As a result, the new stop does not appear in their operational system, and drivers are unaware that they are required to stop there.

This situation is clearly unacceptable. The presence of a marked bus stop and individuals waiting should be sufficient indication that service bus service is expected. The current failure to serve this stop is causing inconvenience to residents and undermines the purpose of the installation.

I have been in contact with SCC officers for several weeks in an effort to resolve this matter. However, it is important to clarify that SCC does not operate bus services directly – Stagecoach is an independent transport provider. That said, it is vital that we press for urgent action to rectify this issue and ensure that the stop is integrated into Stagecoach's active service route.

The installation of this bus stop followed four years of sustained lobbying, and it is deeply disappointing that it is not yet functioning as intended.

I have escalated this matter again with SCC officers and requested that they liaise with Stagecoach as a priority to ensure buses begin stopping at this location without further delay.

- **Wratting Road Pavement**

Over the past few years, I've regularly heard from residents concerned about the narrowing of the path on the upper part of Wratting Road. Unfortunately, neither West Suffolk Council— responsible for sweeping paths and roads—nor Highways, who handle maintenance, have been able to allocate resources, based on the criteria they use to assess the need for works. That said, many residents feel unsafe using the path, and I'm hugely appreciative that Haverhill Town Council has stepped using the newly appointed community wardens to carry out the works to remove the undergrowth obscuring the path as well as doing a cutback. The top of the hedge overhangs the path entirely and is starting to overhang the main carriageway. Once the nesting season is over, I will be asking Highways to address.



- **Public Footpath between Orford Road and Homefield Road**

Following some discussions I have had with officers, SCC have been out to contractors and have booked in the successful bid to carry out works hopefully in the first half of May, with hopefully a worst-case scenario being late May.

- **New Pelican Crossing on Wratting Road**

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

- **Greenfields Way dropped Kerbs**

No further update – awaiting installation date

- **Crowland Rd**

I don't have the funds to carry out work here, nor are funds available from SCC Highways core funding. The Town Council if it is minded might wish to investigate funding an up-to-date speed survey and fund a 20mph limit which might reduce speed. I would be willing to support this especially as there is a school on this road. The

District Cllrs for this area might wish to support residents with a permit parking scheme to ease issue regarding parking, done through West Suffolk Council, which I would not recommend due it very likely causing significant issues for residents who live along the nearby section of Withersfield Rd and have nowhere else to park.

#### **4. Persimmon Estate, Relief Road, S106 & Related**

There are multiple issues/projects I am engaged with on this site - too many to list here many of which are covered in the Addendum. Of note:

- **Persimmon Community Newsletter**

Persimmon have issued another community update newsletter. Please see Addendum.

- **Relief Road**

I attended a site walk with planners from Persimmon & Kato and officers from Suffolk Highways & West Suffolk Council Planning. It is reassuring to see things progressing well. There is much talk about an end of May completion. There was concern raised by everyone at the meeting about whether the installation of the culverts could cause a slight delay. These were installed last week and to the best of my knowledge no issues have been reported. It is most likely that the road itself will be opened in June once Suffolk Highways have signed it off.

I have no information about the opening ceremony. Persimmon are liaising with WSC and SCC regarding this and I am sure contact will be made with Haverhill Town council in the weeks ahead. For those members interested in what the road is like (three weeks ago) I recorded a video which can be viewed here. <https://fb.watch/z9NDB5QBFh/>



- **Farrant Road & Path adjoining Saxon Crescent**

There has been over a year's delay in the delivery of the final top layer and infrastructure (crossings & Raised tables with setbacks/discussions with Persimmon & Highways regarding specifications. Work has now started and is expected to complete in the next 5 weeks. A section of the Relief Road will be opened to facilitate ingress and egress for residents whilst some sections are worked on.

I have been successful in lobbying for a path to be included between the Havebury controlled Saxon Crescent and Farrant Rd. Both Havebury and Persimmon have agreed to fund this path in principle and final details are being agreed.

Persimmon also agreed to a request from me which has been approved by Highways to move a raised table crossing point that this path will lead to for children wanting to access the park/play area.

- **Primary School & Community Space**

I met with SCC, West Suffolk Officers and Town Clerk, Colin Poole about the proposed Primary School. Its delivery is not imminent and is projected to be built in 2028 as there is a current surplus of Primary School places. There is little substantive to report from this meeting. Funding the community space remains an issue, though there was a general feeling of optimism that this might be possible. I am hopeful this can become more concrete when we next meet.

#### **5. Haverhill Library & Burton Centre Court**

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

This application for occupancy at the Burton Centre Court is still progressing and at pre-ap stage. There is still little I can publicly say at this point. A planning application is needed and is in the process of being drawn up.

## **6. Anaerobic Biodigester & Widdington MRF**

I met the planning officer again about the planned Anaerobic digester at Spring grove Farm. This is now going to Development and Regulation Committee on June 19<sup>th</sup> for a decision to be made. Currently there are some objections in place. E.g. one from Highways.

The Widdington MRF application still has no date yet for determination, and I will keep members up to date with any news.

My intent is to attend and speak at both when they go to committee.

## **7. West Suffolk Council News and Updates**

No full council in April. Seems very quiet from my perspective. Little to report of reference to Haverhill.

- **New housing service to help the most vulnerable in West Suffolk**

A new housing service which will help vulnerable people and further West Suffolk Council's work in preventing and reducing homelessness has been launched today.

<https://www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/news/pr20250401ws01.cfm>

- **We can support landlords and their tenants ahead of Renters Reform**

A collaboration between East Suffolk and West Suffolk Council is urging private landlords worried about the Renters Rights Bill to get in touch with their council.

<https://www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/news/pr20250410ws01.cfm>

- **Markets**

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

## **8. Community**

- **Sunflower SEND Hub – Haverhill SEND Support Group**

Following a 1 to 1 meeting with local resident Tina Scott who was keen to see improved provision for SEND children in Haverhill, I was thrilled to attend a well-attended "Sunflower Send Hub" launch event. It appears they have already held some successful events. They are now registered with Companies house and are aiming to become a CIC.

There is clearly a need for a local community group that support SEND families, which this group aims address.  
Members can find out more about this new community group by visiting their Facebook page:  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/551812851245826/permalink/575082878918823/>

• **The Great British Spring Clean**

This year’s picks were carried out across the town, carried out by residents. Thanks to **Gemma Cullen** and **Jackie Pedzinski** who led some group litter picks. I’m also hugely grateful for the support of local councillors who are keen to give their time and take on tasks to improve and care for our local environment —**Cllr Bruce Davidson, Cllr Tony Brown**, and **Cllr Margaret Marks** for leading groups at different locations around the Town.



Attendance was mixed with some litter picks well attended with others less so. Despite this many individual solo litter picks took place during the GBSC fortnight. It was good to see local businesses like the Saffron building Society and children’s groups take part in and contribute to the litter picking total. In total 134 Bags of Waste were cleared from our streets and green spaces, which further underlines that litter remains an issue in the town. Discarded drinks bottles and cans represent the most frequent find and a national scheme of reverse vending machines frankly can’t come soon enough. Thanks also should go to the West Suffolk Waste team who continue to actively support this community initiative. Many thanks to Haverhill Town Council promoting the Keep Haverhill Tidy 2025 Campaign. I have had some dialogue with operations about the placement or need for bins in specific areas and have been somewhat frustrated.

• **The Haverhill Show & Haverhill Car Boot Sales**

Work is well under way regarding planning for the Haverhill Show which this year is being held on Sunday July 6th. The first Haverhill Car Boot Sales will take place on Sunday 18th May.

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Please note this report does not include all the work I am undertaking at the moment or projects I am engaged with and trying to move forward for the betterment of the community. Where I have stated ‘no further updates’ or ‘ongoing’, please refer to my previous month’s reports.

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

**See next page for Addendum.**





# North West Haverhill Community Update

March 2025

Persimmon Homes Suffolk is pleased to announce that it has secured planning **consent** for the **Local Centre and Phase 3A**.

The local centre includes space for a **4,000sqft supermarket**, **two additional retail units** and a **paved plaza** area that will create a **thriving hub** for the community, plus **83 new homes** for Boyton Place.

Work is due to start on this latest phase this autumn, bringing forward these much-needed community facilities ahead of schedule to give a focal point in the heart of Boyton Place.

West Suffolk Council have also approved plans for Phases 5A and 5C which will comprise of a further **112 homes**. Permission was granted at the planning committee in February.

An application for the **final phases** of the development have now been **submitted** by Persimmon Homes Suffolk. This phase, known as **Phases 4A, 4B and 5B** includes **264 new homes**, of which **78** will be for **shared ownership or affordable rent**. The homes will meet National Described Space Standards and five will be M4(2) compliant for wheelchair access, including three accessible bungalows.

## Phase 3A

- ⑤ **Striking Local Centre** building comprising a **supermarket** and **two further commercial units**
- ⑤ Apartments above the commercial units
- ⑤ **Paved plaza** to the front with seating for the community
- ⑤ **83 homes** including **26 for below market rent** and **shared ownership**
- ⑤ Potential occupants have expressed an interest and we are in negotiations now plans have been approved.

## Phases 5A and 5C

- ⑤ **112 new homes** ranging from one-bedroom apartments to five-bedroom family homes
- ⑤ **10 homes** for **shared ownership** and **24 for below market rent**
- ⑤ Significant areas of green space with pedestrian links to other phases.





Relief Road looking west -  
February 2025

## Haverhill Relief Road

Persimmon is pleased to advise that we have completed the installation of the gas main diversion and the drainage to the final section of road is currently being installed together with the storm water balancing ponds.

The bridge at the Hales Barn Road Roundabout end is currently being manufactured and is due to be installed this month. Once installed, this will allow the final section of road to be constructed. Landscaping works have also taken place along the first section of road at the Haverhill Road end up to the central roundabout.

We remain on course for completion of the Relief Road towards the end of spring 2025.

Details of the opening will be provided on the Haverhill website once they have been confirmed and it is envisaged that a formal opening ceremony will follow.

## Allotments

Work is starting here imminently and our revised delivery date for this important community benefit is autumn 2025.

Discussions have taken place with West Suffolk Council with a view to the Council adopting them and setting up an allotment Association.



Western stretch of the Haverhill  
Relief Road - February 2025





# Communal spaces

## Play areas

The large play and Multi Use Games Area adjacent to Phase 3B is due to commence in May.

The games area will be fenced off and will be predominantly designed for ball games, while the play area will offer 10 pieces of equipment including a see-saw and an accessible roundabout and swing. Picnic benches will be installed within this area.

## Gurlings Close footpath

We are pleased to report that we have had excellent feedback about the new section of footpath that has been recently constructed from Gurlings Close leading to the New Cangle School (pictured below).



## Farrant Road

We are pleased to confirm that remedial works (prior to resurfacing) on Farrant Road commenced on 7th April. The remedial works will take approximately eight weeks. During this period, there will be 'road narrowing' traffic control to provide a safe working environment for our operatives. Once the remedial works are completed, final surfacing will be carried out and this will be completed in phases, with traffic diversions implemented to enter and exit Boyton Place via the road north of the site. Please check our website for diversion routes.

## Bins

There has been concerns raised that the dog waste and litter bins on Phase 1 and at the park are not being emptied regularly enough.

There is a process in place whereby the bins should be emptied every two weeks by site and this will be maintained until the Management Company takes over this role. In the meantime site have been instructed to monitor the situation and empty more frequently if required. Further waste bins will be installed as we move through the phases of development with areas adjacent to Phase 3b and 6 due to be installed in June 2025.

## Stay up-to-date

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

**W:** [persimmonnhaverhill.co.uk](https://persimmonnhaverhill.co.uk)

## APPENDIX 3 – Town Councillor’s report

### Councillor John Burns

- **Great Wilsey Park:** We had a good meeting with Bloor Homes over their proposed purchase and development of another tranche of land. If they continue in this vein hopefully will be a good development for existing and future residents. The 1<sup>st</sup> local centre plans seem to be progressing and again the applicant seems to have resolved any concerns there were except SCC Highways now seem to want even more. Their frustration over the plans for the Fox PH were obvious.
- **Police Matters:** Crime stats for February 2025 were distributed on 1<sup>st</sup> April. Nothing else to report other than what has been reported on social media by them.
- **SCC Highways:** As per Cllr Mason’s report, I am hoping that we will still see and verify the proposed TRO changes meet the legal requirements, as has been promised several times, before they are finalised and not result in something that has failed us once again as has now happened three times in the past 3 years.
- **Combined Authority:** Elections for the Mayor take place this week. It will be interesting what the political climate brings.
- **Parking:** No obvious changes to parking enforcement. There seems to be confusion over whether CPE will enforce or not grass verge parking. It would appear WSC management are of a different view to their operatives.
- **Other work:**
  - Digisign currently working but one of the PCB had failed on the traffic facing side that controls brightness at night. We have bypassed the sensor and now working OK. This same PCB failed on the other side 18 months ago and not cheap to replace so leaving as is for now.
  - Splashpad pump repair and commissioning now scheduled for April 29<sup>th</sup> with cleaning for 6<sup>th</sup> May. Some damage to the rubber surface has come to light in the last couple of weeks which will need repairing before opening as one is a potential trip hazard. Hopefully this will be done w/c 12<sup>th</sup> May to avoid a delay to the opening.
  - Usual IT related tasks for HTC especially around problems with the VOIP phones losing audio on inbound calls. At moment we are looking at replacing the network router with a more powerful model although not convinced that is the problem and may be external. Planning for Win11 update where needed. I made changes to the till system to allow party guest numbers to be recorded at the Zone as this will help in any future analysis of usage. Fixed a problem with Coffee Bar staff discount accounting.
  - Provided usual weekly financial stats for Zone, Coffee Bar and HTC Bar to HTC management plus attending various HTC meetings.
  - Attended a Birds Estate walkabout organised by Havebury and came away with quite a few problems mostly related to fly tipping.
  - Filmed 4 x Jurassic shows at HAC for the production company and sent them the rather large 4K footage on SSD. Somewhat disappointing with the attendance figures and may have something to do with ticket prices especially for young people. That I suggest needs to be reviewed if such an event is created in the future.
  - Have been extensively working with others on planning for the VE80 commemoration event. Plans now basically finalised and these are on the HTC website/social media. I have created a video of (mainly) audio recordings I made of the Haverhill Silver Band (with appropriate slides) for the event to be held in St Mary’s Church on 8<sup>th</sup> May



(7pm) interspersed with (live) St. Mary's Choir and readings reflecting what was going on at the time. The event will be filmed to create a final video for historical reasons. Raising of Union flags at 9am on 8<sup>th</sup> May. All welcome to both events.

- Finished setting up 4 x new Windows laptops for the "On The Spot" van as well as providing a loan 4G router for use out on the road.
- Working this week as part of the team installing the VE80/VJ80 banners and bunting.

## **APPENDIX 4 – Mayor's report**

Mayor's Report to Haverhill Town Council  
Monday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2025

To paraphrase Mark Twain, the statement that my previous report was to be my last before the Annual meeting when my term as mayor would come to an end, was greatly exaggerated! I had somehow overlooked this meeting at the end of April, so this report will definitely be the last. I promise.

It has been quite a quiet month for civic, interspersed as it has been by the Easter holidays, and with neighbouring councils looking towards the new civic year and preparing for new mayors there has been a distinct end of term vibe.

Thank you to those of you who were able to attend our Civic Thanksgiving Service at St Felix Church on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> April. Your support is always appreciated. The service was led by Fr John, ably assisted by Rev Max and Dcn Huw. I hadn't expected the focus to be so much on me, which was a bit embarrassing I must say. It is important that we give thanks for the contributions made by everyone that helps in any way, small or large - councillors, volunteers, anyone - to make our town such a great place to live and work.

Thank you also to Cllrs Quinn Cox and Liz Smith for reading so beautifully. The church didn't take money for hosting the service, so all donations on the day will go directly to my chosen charities, Haverhill Men's Shed and The Link. Final thanks go to the incomparable Vicky Phillips for arranging everything, putting up with my tardiness in replying to her emails and making sure the day went off without a hitch.

One other event I attended was the annual Sudbury and District Scouts Association St George's Day Service at St Mary's, Long Melford. It was heartwarming to see hundreds of young people, and their more senior leaders, fill the church for this joyous occasion. It was a warm afternoon and I don't envy the parade that they undertook up the hill from the village. We tactfully declined and took our seats in the church to greet their arrival.

One point to note was the presentation of the Scouts' most prestigious award, the Colonel Probert Endeavour Award, to Peter Bartlett from 1<sup>st</sup> Haverhill. This is given to a scout, beaver, cub or guide "who has achieved a great personal triumph". He was nominated by his Group Scout Leader for the amount of physical work he personally had put into the construction of the new Haverhill Scouts building which, incidentally, will be officially opened on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> May.

I have a couple of duties left to carry out before the end of my term, most notably the VE80 celebrations on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May, which will commence with flag raising on the market square at 9am and conclude with bell ringing at 6.30pm followed by a service at St Mary's Church. I hope to see you all there.

David