

Haverhill Town Council

Minutes of a Meeting of Haverhill Town Council's

FULL COUNCIL

Held on Monday 28th July 2025 at 7.00pm at Haverhill Arts Centre, High Street, Haverhill



HAVERHILL
TOWN COUNCIL

Present: Mayor Councillor Q Cox
Councillor A Brown
Councillor J Burns
Councillor B Davidson
Councillor P Hanlon
Councillor A Luccarini
Councillor M Martin
Councillor L Miller-Jones
Councillor A Stinchcombe

Apologies: Councillor J Crooks
Councillor P Firman
Councillor J Mason
Councillor D Page
Councillor D Smith
Councillor L Smith

In Attendance: Colin Poole, Town Clerk
David Roach, Suffolk County Councillor (until 9.23pm)

Three 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**

/095 The above apologies were noted.

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

/096 Councillor B Davidson declared an Other Registerable Interest in C25/104b(i), as Chair of Haverhill Town Twinning Association. It was proposed by Councillor A Brown, seconded by Councillor A Stinchcombe, that under the Localism Act 2011 s33 (2e) a dispensation to stay be granted on the grounds that it is appropriate to do so.

RESOLVED

C25 **Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held Monday, 30th June 2025**

/097 It was proposed by Councillor P Hanlon, seconded by Councillor L Miller-Jones that the minutes of the meeting held 30th June 2025 be agreed as a true record.

RESOLVED

ACTION

C25 /098 **To note progress of actions arising from the minutes not covered by this Agenda**

C25/006c CPE performance in Haverhill: Councillor Hanlon reported that a meeting is to be held with David Taylor (portfolio holder) and Mark Walsh. Councillor Hanlon will follow this up.

C25/020c Toilet facilities at Haverhill Library: No further update. Awaiting S106 funds to be released.

Cllr P Hanlon

C25 /099 **Casual Vacancy**

a) To note that the lawful period for electors to claim a poll to fill the vacant seat has now passed and that the town council is free to fill the vacant seat by co-option.

NOTED

b) Councillors agreed that the vacancy be advertised with a view to co-opt at the September meeting. How to attract individuals from diverse backgrounds to better reflect the whole community, was discussed and this will be an agenda item at the next meeting.

Town Clerk

C25 /100 **Reports from District/County Councillors on issues pertinent to HAVERHILL and the PUBLIC FORUM**

a) Police Report:

Fires: With regard to the latest spate of fires around the town, the police have requested that we clear areas that are overgrown. The police have reviewed CCTV of one incident, but the images are dark and they have asked the County Council to turn on street lights to get clearer imaging.

Cadets: There are at least two people in the town who are interested in becoming police cadets. Councillor Burns is investigating who made the decision to close our branch.

b) Ambulance Report: Further to the meeting on 11th July, EEAST is giving Haverhill priority treatment for first or co-responder reinforcement. A two-week trial of managers being based in Haverhill as responders is to take place. Dynamic deployment may improve the situation but there are no firm details. Suffolk Fire and Rescue have agreed in principal to make fire fighters available as co-responders although there is some doubt about the kind of support they are able to give.

Councillors asked for data to compare Haverhill against Cambridge City. EEAST's CEO felt this was an unfair comparison as any ambulance responses starting from Addenbrookes are naturally going to be quicker to reach Cambridge locations than elsewhere, although he did concede that the two are contrastable, if not comparable. It is hoped that this data will be available at the next meeting.

Councillor Martin stated that it was her understanding that target response times for category 1 calls is 7 mins (for cardiac arrest, respiratory conditions, anaphylactic shock), but actual average response

times to Haverhill were: July 12.9, June 12.9, May 11.11, April 11.5, March 14.07.

For category 2 calls, the target response time is 18 minutes (stroke, etc). Actual average response times to Haverhill were: July 32.7, June 32.0, May 31.25, April 37.0.

The Town Council had been informed by the Trust that Haverhill would be first as a priority on the system, however the above figures illustrate that the town is eighth. This needs to be taken up with EEAST at the next meeting.

c) County Councillors: see Appendix 1

Councillor D Roach informed the meeting that both the civic and council sides of his role have been busy. One task has been involvement in looking at budgets and scrutinising the County Council pension fund. Councillor Roach will be touring the town with Highways during the next couple of weeks. A lot of white lining needs redoing and he will be raising this with Highways as a matter of safety.

County Councils have now been given authority for their CPE contracts, enabling them to manage parking enforcement but there is no further information at this point.

d) District Councillors:

Councillor A Brown updated the meeting on the proceedings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. This included a discussion on CIL, which was assisted by a briefing paper from the Haverhill Town Clerk (to be circulated to HTC councillors). Also, Houses of Multiple Occupation were discussed. It was believed that many HMOs are unlicensed, either because they have less than 5 occupants or the landlord has not divulged that the HMO exists – it can be very difficult to prove that residents are not related to each other. Councillor A Brown is pushing for information about HMO provision and numbers in Haverhill. A meeting has been arranged with those officers involved which will hopefully provide some answers.

Devolution: At the last Full District Council meeting District Councillors voted to work on a business plan for three unitary authorities for Suffolk.

e) Town Councillors: See Appendix 2

Councillor J Burns reminded Councillors that a VJ80 event (flag raising) will be held at 9am on 15th August, and a service at St Mary's will be held at 7pm on 21st August.

f) Public Forum: None

Town Clerk

C25 **Mayor's Report**

/101 – See Appendix 3.

Mayor Cox recommended that the council send letters of thanks to organisations around the town that are making a positive contribution to the community of Haverhill.

From his report, Mayor Cox highlighted Keddington's Gentlemen's Breakfast Club, God's Closet and his attendance at the visit to Newmarket by King Charles III and Queen Camilla.

C25 **ONE Haverhill Partnership**

- /102**
- a) An LGR engagement event is being held at St Mary's Church at 6.30pm on 29th July which provides an opportunity for the public to raise questions and concerns about the three unitary council proposal and One Suffolk proposal. The event is free but ticketed and numbers are building nicely. Business plans must be completed by end September.
 - b) The main topic of discussion at the board meeting was health and the Wellbeing Hub.
 - c) Wellbeing Hub – to be discussed in private session.

C25 **Financial Matters**

- /103**
- a) Authorisation of payments: It was proposed by Councillor J Burns, seconded by Councillor B Davidson, that the listed payments totalling £85,685.00 be authorised.

RESOLVED

C25 **Grant Applications**

- /104**
- a) Grant Funds Remaining
The Town Clerk presented a report illustrating remaining grant funds.
 - b) Groups for which the Council has Budgeted for an Annual Contribution
Councillor A Luccarini declared a registrable interest for the Local History Museum and said that he would leave the meeting for item C25/104b(ii).
 - i. Haverhill Town Twinning Association - £1,100 towards hospitality for twin town visitors (amount budgeted for £1,000).
It was proposed by Councillor A Luccarini, seconded by Councillor A Brown that a grant of £700 be awarded to Haverhill Town Twinning Association.
RESOLVED
 - ii. Local History Museum - £4,400 towards rent of the room at the Arts Centre and day-to-day running costs (amount budgeted for £4,400).
It was proposed by Councillor J Burns, seconded by Councillor A Brown, that the Local History Museum be awarded a grant of £4,400 towards rent of the room at the Arts Centre and day-to-day running costs.
RESOLVED
 - iii. Abbeycroft Leisure - £7,366.94 towards the Explore Outdoor activities in Haverhill (amount budgeted for £7,750).

Deputy Clerk

Deputy Clerk

It was proposed by Councillor L Miller-Jones, seconded by Councillor A Luccarini that Abbeycroft Leisure be awarded a grant of £7,750 towards the Explore Outdoor activities in Haverhill.

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

RESOLVED

It was suggested that at this time a grant be awarded for funding October half-term activities, equating to an amount of £2,688, with encouragement to Abbeycroft Leisure to explore other funding sources.

Councillor L Miller-Jones amended her proposal, and Councillor A Luccarini seconded that Abbeycroft Leisure be awarded a grant amount at this time of £2,688 towards Explore Outdoor activities.

RESOLVED

- iv. REACH - £9,000 towards the work of REACH financial advice services (amount budgeted for £5,000).

It was proposed by Councillor A Luccarini, seconded by Councillor P Hanlon that REACH be awarded a grant of £5,000 towards the work of REACH financial advice services, with a view to asking them to approach District Councillors to fund the shortfall.

RESOLVED

c) General Grant Requests

- i. ROLCC Chalkstone Community Centre - £1,000 towards improved door security.

It was proposed by Councillor A Luccarini, seconded by Councillor J Burns that a grant not be awarded to ROLCC Chalkstone Community towards improved door security.

RESOLVED.

- ii. Haverhill Hard-of-Hearing Club - £500 towards continuing training for BSL volunteer.

It was proposed by Councillor A Brown, seconded by Councillor M Martin, that Haverhill Hard-of-hearing Club be awarded £500 towards continuing training for BSL volunteer.

RESOLVED

- iii. Home-Start Suffolk - £3,000 to fund the extension of the work of a volunteer recruitment co-ordinator in West Suffolk to Haverhill.

Councillors discussed the grant application and felt that further information was required.

It was proposed by Councillor A Luccarini, seconded by Councillor M Martin that no grant be awarded as the application does not supply sufficient information.

Deputy Clerk

Deputy Clerk

Deputy Clerk

Deputy Clerk

Further, it was proposed by Councillor L Miller-Jones, seconded by Councillor P Hanlon that the application for a grant of £3,000 to fund the extension of the work of a volunteer recruitment co-ordinator be deferred until a representative from Home-Start Suffolk can attend a Full Council meeting to give further information.

RESOLVED

Deputy Clerk

- iv. Haverhill Music Academy - £6,450 towards the cost of providing group music lessons for underprivileged/SEN children.

It was proposed by Councillor A Luccarini, seconded by Councillor M Martin that Haverhill Music Academy be awarded a grant initially of £2,500. If applications for funding from other sources are not successful, then a further grant amount may be considered.

RESOLVED

Deputy Clerk

C25 Adoption of Committee Reports

/105

- a) Finance Committee: Adoption of the minutes of the meeting held 22nd July 2025 to be deferred to the next meeting.
- b) Planning Committee: It was proposed by Councillor P Hanlon, seconded by Councillor M Martin, that the minutes of the meeting held 1st July 2025 and any recommendations contained therein, be agreed as a true record.

RESOLVED

- c) Leisure and Community Committee: The meeting scheduled for 15th July 2025 was cancelled as it was not quorate.

NOTED

C25 Any Other Business

/106

None.

C25 Date of Next Meeting

/107

The next meeting will be held on Monday, 29th September 2025.

C25 Exclusion of the Press and Public

/108

It was proposed by Councillor A Stinchcombe, seconded by Councillor J Burns that under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and representatives of the press and broadcast media be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following items of business as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted – Third-party confidential information.

RESOLVED

C25 Arts provision in Haverhill

/109

The Clerk updated the council on joint working with West Suffolk. Currently external factors meant West Suffolk officers suggested a delay was inevitable.

It was proposed by Councillor L Miller-Jones, seconded by Councillor P Hanlon that Haverhill Town Council urges West Suffolk to not delay with a view to applying for Arts Council funding. If this is not possible, then the councils agree to work together to plan for 2027

RESOLVED

C25 Vision 2030 Project

/110 Dayle Baylis of Dayle Baylis Limited has been engaged to carry out a feasibility study to report in the autumn. A meeting to discuss plans with Suffolk County Council was very positive.

C25 Health and Wellbeing Hub

/111 Budget numbers have been scrutinised and the original proposal drawn up by the ICB was based on assumptions rather than commitments. Groups who have shown an interest in renting space at the proposed Hub are being contacted to ascertain their ability or willingness to make a financial commitment, which appears so far to be much less than assumed. The risk profile to the council is steeper than originally described. The Clerk and Councillor Miller-Jones will continue to work on making this project deliverable.

Deeper discussion about a realistic budget and the feasibility of going forward with the project was deferred until the next Full Council meeting.

C25 Closure

/112 The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 10.22pm

Signed Date.....
Chairman

Appendix 1 – County Councillors’ reports

Appendix 2 – District Councillors’ reports

Appendix 3 – Town Councillors’ reports

Appendix 4 – Mayor’s report

APPENDIX 1 – County Councillor’s report

Councillor Joe Mason

County and District Councillor Report, July 2025

Cllr Joe Mason

This month I attended Full Council at Both SCC & West Suffolk Council in July. I also attended PASC at West Suffolk Council as well as Development & Regulation, An Education & Children’s Scrutiny Workshop on Fostering & Adoption, Cabinet, The Local Government Reorganisation Working Group & Scrutiny Committee.

I have had multiple meetings with Highways, mostly pertaining to the Relief Road, as well as other meeting related to upcoming projects I hope can be developed and of which more can be shared soon.

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 Toilet
6. Widdington Recycling Limited (MRF Application)
7. West Suffolk Council News & Updates
8. Community
9. Addendum

1. Suffolk County Council News

At Full Council there were three motions – all worthy of debate, the first two of more significance for residents in Haverhill, and which I have listed as addendum to this report. I encourage you to read them, consider your own opinions and to view the debate should you wish to see the balance of opinions, by viewing the meeting on YouTube.

New routes announced with Local Authority Bus Grant funding

Following receipt of the 2025/26 Local Authority Bus Grant earlier this month, the first tranche of bus services being launched or improving with the revenue allocation of £2.8m, has been announced. <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/council-news/new-routes-announced-with-local-authority-busgrant-funding#:~:text=Alongside%20the%202.8m%20revenue,%2Dmoney%2Dbe%2Dspent/&https://www.suffolkonboard.com/news/2024/06/bus-service-improvement-plan-where-should-the-money-bespent/#:~:text=The%20Capital%20funding%20for%202025,submitting%20a%20sto p%20improvement%20request>.

Improving Suffolk's roads - an update on the summer surface dressing programme

As summer sets in, Suffolk Highways is pleased to announce the successful completion of the first phase of its 2025 surface dressing programme – a vital tool in maintaining and extending the life of our county's roads.

Surface dressing is a cost-effective and efficient method of road maintenance that prolongs the life of existing road surfaces, helping to avoid more disruptive and costly repairs in the future.

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/council-news/improving-suffolks-roads-an-update-on-the-summer-surface-dressing-programme>

Major review of transport infrastructure and future needs for Suffolk gets underway

The Council has begun evaluating what investment and where is needed in the county transport network.

Highways chiefs are to forge ahead in developing a robust and more resilient road network for Suffolk.

A root and branch review will assess the transport network, identify what needs to be done to strengthen it, then establish what the next steps should be to achieve this.

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/council-news/major-review-of-transport-infrastructure-and-future-needs-for-suffolk-gets-underway>

Districts and borough must be honest with residents over their 3-councils proposal

Suffolk's district and borough councils must be more open with residents about their proposals for local government reorganisation (LGR), Suffolk County Council has said.

- Call for Suffolk's five district and borough councils to come clean over their reorganisation proposals
- Details needed so public can make informed decisions
- Delay risks failure to properly assess proposals before sharing with Government

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/council-news/districts-and-borough-must-be-honest-with-residents-over-their-3-councils-proposal>

2. Highways Update

• Winter, Potholes, Repairs and Resurfacing

Things are relatively quiet at the moment there have been some delays. Waiting for a new date to be given for Allington Walk has been postponed again due to parked cars preventing works to take place.

• Haverhill Town Centre Signs & Ehringhausen Way

On Friday 24th July, a meeting was held with County Council Highways Officers with Cllr John Burns, Colin Poole and myself to discuss, hopefully finally, the changes that need to be made to the signage in the High Street, Queen Street, Swan Lane and Camps Road. It was a positive meeting which explained some of the difficulties faced with enforcing the TRO.

There is no date given to its resolution with new signage now agreed, to be designed, signed off, ordered and installed. Whilst this was very positive step forward it is most disappointing that it has taken this long to get this far.

• Crowland Road

In May I commissioned a speed check on Crowland Road to take place at the beginning of July. Section in

Purple is the report I received from Highways

The surface detection radar unit was in place for two weeks from 30/06/25, to 13/07/25, and was positioned on Crowland Road, just past the junction with Castle Lane. The data is broken down by day within the surveys – but the below summaries is given for the 7-day averages across the two surveys.

Week Commencing 30/06/25.

Northbound traffic (towards Withersfield Road)

- There were 1354 vehicles per day travelling down Crowland Road, towards Withersfield Road.
- 85th percentile speed – 28mph.
- Mean Average Speed – 21mph.
- 1298 vehicles out of 1354 were travelling at 30mph or less.
- A further 49 were travelling more than 30mph – but less than 35mph (within the tolerance zone given by the police).

The highest speeds recorded were in the 40-45mph category. No higher speeds were recorded. Approximately 1-2% of vehicles would have received a speeding ticket.

Southbound (towards Camps Road)

- There were 1051 vehicles per day travelling along Crowland Road towards Camps Road.
- 85th percentile speed – 28mph.
- Mean Average Speed – 22mph.
- 1002 vehicles out of 1051 were travelling at 30mph or less.
- A further 42 were travelling more than 30mph – but less than 35mph (within the tolerance zone given by the police).
- The highest speeds recorded was a single vehicle travelling at between 50-55mph.
- Approximately 1-1.5% of vehicles would have received a speeding ticket.

Week commencing 07/07/25.

Northbound (towards Withersfield Road)

- 1454 vehicles per day travelling along Crowland Road towards Withersfield Road.
- 85th percentile speed – 28mph.
- Mean Average Speed – 22mph.
- 1399 vehicles out of 1454 were travelling at 30mph or less.
- A further 49 were travelling between 30mph but less than 35mph (within the tolerance given by Suffolk Police).
- The highest speed recorded was a single vehicle traveling between 45-50mph.
- Approximately 1-2% of vehicles would have received a speeding ticket.

Southbound (towards Camps Road).

- 1044 vehicles travelling along Crowland Road towards Camps Road.
- 85th percentile speed – 28mph.
- Mean Average Speed – 22mph.
- 995 vehicles were travelling at 30mph or less.
- A further 43 vehicles were travelling higher than 30mph but less than 35mph (within the tolerance given by Suffolk Police).
- The highest speeds recorded were 40-45mph.
- Approximately 1.5% of vehicles would have received a speeding ticket.

‘In Summary’ from Highways

"I am pleased to see that the data returned shows such a high rate of compliance in the speed limit – with low 85th percentile speeds and mean average speeds recorded for both directions of travel and for both weeks of the survey.

Very few drivers seem to be exceeding the speed limit – of 34,331 vehicles that passed through the survey across the two weeks the equipment was deployed, approximately 1.5-2% would have received a speeding ticket. The highest speed recorded as a single vehicle travelling 50-55mph.

Based on this data, there are no additional passive or physical traffic calming measures that would be considered here – and there would be no support in lowering the speed limit at this time.

Whilst I appreciate that this is not the response that local residents were seeking, I hope that this data reassures both you and they, that the problem with speeding on Crowland Road is not as prevalent as they feared – and that the issues with speeding traffic is more perceived than actual for this location."

Discussion regarding Crowland Road will continue, though I am not currently supporting changing the road to a one way road without a thorough review of all the implications on the wider road network.

I am dissatisfied with the no right turn signage and design layout of the entrance to Crowland Road, but as new design and layout far exceeds my locality budget, there is insufficient data of road traffic incidents to ask Highways to consider funding pre-emptive works.

I am entirely sympathetic to the concerns raised by residents, there does not seem to be an 'easy' solution to concerns raised, which have been long standing, certainly a long time before I became a County Councillor, as it was something I know that both then Cllrs Paula & Quillon Fox had been engaged with as well.

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

- **Haverhill Local Transport Plan**
No further update
- **New Pelican/Toucan Crossing**
on **Wratting Road** Awaiting an update
- **Greenfields Way**
dropped Kerbs & Path from **Clements School to The Doctors Surgery (Bus Stop)**
Awaiting an update

4. Persimmon Estate and Relief Road, S106 & Related (Not already listed above)

As reported this last week in the Echo <https://www.suffolknews.co.uk/haverhill/news/residents-are-furious-morerelief-road-delays-cause-ange-9426792/>

On Friday 19 July 2025, I received formal notification from Persimmon Homes that the NW Haverhill Relief Road will not open before 11 August 2025 at the earliest. Furthermore, no definitive opening date has been confirmed. This follows a series of previously communicated deadlines that were not met — namely, the end of May, the end of June,

mid-July, and most recently, the end of July. According to Persimmon, the latest delays are attributed to:

- Incomplete snagging and finishing works
- Outstanding verge and environmental measures
- Further tarmacking and white-lining
- Gully and drainage issues

While some remedial work is now underway, the failure to meet multiple public deadlines has understandably caused considerable public dissatisfaction.

As regards planning enforcement, it should be noted that West Suffolk Council issued a Breach of Condition Notice in January 2025 in response to Persimmon's failure to deliver the road in line with its agreed schedule. While this enforcement action signalled serious concern, it has not yet brought about the pace or urgency expected. I have made additional representations to West Suffolk Council regarding this latest delay.

The extended delay has had a significant impact on residents, particularly in relation to:

- Congestion along Wratting Road (exacerbated by recent utility works)
- Ongoing HGV activity on Withersfield Road and other local routes
- Declining public confidence in the delivery of major infrastructure tied to housing development I continue to receive regular contact from concerned and frustrated residents, many of whom rightly expected the road to be operational by now.

I will continue to engage with officers at Suffolk County Council, West Suffolk Council, and Persimmon Homes to:

- Seek a confirmed opening date
- Ensure that all outstanding works meet required safety and design standards
- Push for full transparency and timely public updates

I have since received further detail regarding works from Persimmon which I am happy to share:

“

The dates for addressing the snags are as follows:

- Install 600mm pipes to [animal] crossing in order to extend : **Complete by 25/07**
- Complete all snags : **Complete by 01/08**
- Redress Cadent verge : **Complete by 07/08**
- Removal off site of all Heras fencing : **Complete by 30/07**
- Finish all tarmac works : **Complete by 08/08**
- Install sand bag head wall : **Complete by 08/08**

”

The road still needs to pass another inspection before it can be officially signed off. I will continue to hold to account, apply pressure, express both frustration and disappointment, and offer encouragement – all in varying measure – until this road is finally opened.

In retrospect, I would have welcomed a little more support from West Suffolk Council, who imposed the Breach of Condition Notice and Suffolk County Council in the monitoring of this delivery. I don't believe a local member should have had to be quite so hands on demanding progress and holding Persimmon to account and having to make local voices heard.

Ann Suckling Road

One recent improvement of note is that construction traffic is now being routed via the completed section of the Relief Road from the A143, rather than through Ann Suckling Road. This change follows repeated representations made to both Persimmon and Suffolk Highways, and it should significantly reduce disruption for residents in the southern part of the development. This change is a welcome step and has already had a positive impact on road safety in that area.

While the rerouting of construction traffic is a welcome and overdue improvement, the continued failure to deliver the NW Haverhill Relief Road on time remains unacceptable. The people of Haverhill have waited long enough. They deserve a road that is safe, reliable, and—most crucially—finally completed. I will of course provide a further update to the Town Council as soon as or if a firm opening date/week is confirmed.

5. Haverhill Library Toilet

No further update – awaiting S106 monies to be released to fund the Toilet project

6. Widdington MRF

I met the planning officer again about the Widdington MRF planning application. This is now going to Development and Regulation Committee in October for a Decision to be made. My intent is to attend and speak on this application when it goes to committee.

7. West Suffolk Council News and Updates

Of note two items were submitted for debate at the Full Council Meeting at West Suffolk Council. See Addendum for details item 2.

1. The Local Plan was adopted (**Passed**)
2. Motion on Notice: Local Government Reorganisation (**Passed**)

Rather disappointingly the LGR debate was limited as it had been added to the agenda as a “Motion on Notice” just limiting the debate to 10 speakers, far less than the more openly debated Local Plan item which for such a significant item was disappointing. Earlier in the year we were assured there would be debate around the two or three Unitary Model. The following Motion on Notice only asked members to support progressing with a Three Unitary Model with no debate on the two unitary model.

WS News

Thriving Communities Fund opens for applications

A community grant scheme that will support work to help the health and wellbeing of residents across West Suffolk, has now opened for applications.

West Suffolk Council's Thriving Communities Fund is open to community groups, charities and voluntary organisations to apply for a grant to help fund initiatives with more than £260,000 available.

<https://www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/news/pr202150716ws01.cfm>

West Suffolk Local Plan to increase affordable housing is adopted

West Suffolk Council's priority to deliver more affordable housing has seen it become one of the first local planning authorities in the country to put in place a 40 per cent policy for greenfield sites.

<https://www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/news/pr20250715ws08.cfm>

Council to invest in crucial advanced manufacturing and engineering centre

Investment to deliver a much needed state-of-the-art advanced manufacturing and engineering centre for West Suffolk has been approved.

<https://www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/news/pr20250715ws05.cfm>

West Suffolk parks continue to prove a winner

East Town Park in Haverhill, Aspal Close Nature Reserve in Beck Row, Brandon Country Park, Nowton Park and The Abbey Gardens in Bury St Edmunds and West Stow Country Park are all managed by West Suffolk Council. All six have today (15 July) been awarded Green Flag status. It's the sixth year running that all six have won. Green Flag Status is a recognised national quality mark for parks and green spaces. This award comes just 10 days before the start of Love Parks Week – a campaign by Keep Britain Tidy to encourage people to get out and enjoy the parks in their area.

<https://www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/news/pr20250715ws03.cfm>

Free activities during summer holidays for families who need support

West Suffolk Council's programme of free activities over the school summer holidays for children from families in need of support, has opened for bookings.

<https://www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/news/pr20250707ws02.cfm>

Other updates

- **Markets**
No further updates

8. Community

a. Burton Centre Court

Awaiting an update

b. Trees & Parking

I am receiving quite a lot of complaints regarding Trees. A good starting place is the FAQ's on the West Suffolk Website.

<https://www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/environment/environmental-services/treefaqs.cfm>

Obviously this is for trees primarily on West Suffolk Land or in Conservation Preservation Areas. Equally I am getting a lot of complaints regarding inconsiderate parking across the Cangle District. With limited to no CPE and police reluctant to ticket I have found there is little that can be done other than to solve parking issues. The police in fairness have been responsive to some instances where parking has created a particularly severe obstruction or hazard.

Please guide members of the community to use the West Suffolk Reporting Tool, <https://www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/parking/cpe/> or for particularly severe cases call 101 or report using the Suffolk Police website. <https://www.suffolk.police.uk/contact/af/contact-us-beta/contact-us/drivingvehicles-traffic/report-illegal-parking/>

c. Haverhill Show Cancellation and Rescheduling

Unfortunately, due to severe and persistent weather conditions in the days leading up to the event, including heavy rainfall and forecasts of further disruption including multiple hours of thunder and lightning, in consultation, I made the decision to cancel the show on safety grounds. This marked the first time in my tenure as Chair of the Haverhill Show that a cancellation was necessary, and it was not a decision taken lightly. We received widespread understanding and support from the community, with many recognising the challenges we faced and expressing appreciation for the transparency and timeliness of the decision.

Following the cancellation, the Committee resolved to explore alternative dates to ensure the show could still take place in 2025. After consultations with suppliers, contractors, stallholders and other stakeholders, I am pleased to confirm the “Haverhill Show - Take 2” has been rescheduled for Saturday 30th August 2025. This new date enables us to retain the core elements of the original show while giving exhibitors, performers and sponsors the opportunity to recommit. Already, we have received confirmation from many returning participants.

There were some unavoidable costs associated with the original event date, which will result in a slightly different event, but I am aiming for it to be as every bit as good as what we had planned. A new communications campaign is underway to re-promote the show under the refreshed title “Haverhill Show – Take 2”. This has been positively received on social media and in the press.

My committee and I wish to thank the **Town Council** for its continued support.

.....

Please note this report does not include all the casework 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 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.

9. Addendum

Suffolk County Council Motions

Motion 1 (Passed) – Proposed by Councillor Richard Smith and seconded by Councillor Lance Stanbury. (Conservative)

It notes that the government proposes no short or medium term end to the funding problems experienced across our sector, and that the very severe implications of SEND spending remain unresolved, with any action being postponed for a further two years.

This Council deplores much of the tone of the government’s announcements, especially that the maximum rise possible (without a referendum) in Council Tax will be expected. This will subject Suffolk’s Council Tax payers to future rises of five per cent, probably double the prevailing rate of inflation, meaning that Council Tax will double in just thirteen years.

The Council recognises, that as a rural area, Suffolk is already feeling the strain of recent government announcements. Its businesses are struggling with new National Insurance liabilities, our agricultural community is concerned over the future of family farms due to the changes to Agricultural Property Relief, the stark issue of rural deprivation continues to go unrecognised by government, and an ageing population is seeing increased pressure placed on Adult Social Care. Further, regional infrastructure investment such as the much needed upgrade of Ely junction which has a benefit to cost ratio of 4.89 to 1 continues to go undelivered.

It is the view of this Council that Suffolk deserves fairer funding and the government’s Spending Review does nothing to recognise this. Instead it just increases the burden on local council tax payers.

The Council asks its Leader to write to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government to raise the issues contained in this motion and to copy this letter to the Chancellor of the Exchequer.’

Motion 2 (Not Passed) – Proposed by Councillor Seamus Bennett and seconded by Councillor Robert Lindsay.
(Green)

'Deaths and serious injuries sustained in road traffic collisions have been on the rise in Suffolk over the last five years. According to council data, Suffolk's road KSI (Killed and Serious Injury) figures have been rising steadily in recent years, increasing by around 10% a year, from 265 in 2020 to 340 in 2024. The council has recognised the seriousness of this by RAG-rating this increase as red in its quarterly Corporate Performance Reports. And, according to the Department for Transport official statistics (2023 report), by far the most significant contributory factor in road traffic collisions is speed, responsible for nearly two-thirds of road deaths.

*There is a huge amount of research to support lower local speed limits as a key element in reducing road casualties. In **Wales**, a 2023 nationwide 20mph policy on 'restricted' roads has led to 28% fewer casualties in the following 12 months compared to the previous year, 10 fewer deaths, lower than expected vehicle damage claims enabling a significant drop in Welsh car insurance premiums, and negligible impacts on journey times. Less than 3% of the roads affected have returned to 30mph.*

The importance of slowing traffic in residential areas has also been recognised globally. In February 2020, international road safety experts and ministers from 130 countries adopted the "Stockholm Declaration" which sets 30km/h (20mph) as the appropriate 'default' speed limit where more vulnerable road users and motor vehicles mix. In 2023, the average cost of a death on roads of 40mph or less including medical and ambulance costs, insurance and damage to property was £2.6m, and £300,800 for collisions where at least one person is seriously injured.

There are other benefits of 20mph limits: quieter, more pleasant urban environments that encourage more social interaction, safer and therefore increased healthy, active travel, reduced CO2 and NOx emissions (33% higher at 30mph than 20mph) and more footfall to local businesses.

Cornwall council realised the benefits of a more facilitative speed limit policy following an initial trial in 2022: 76% of residents were supportive in urban areas and 85% in rural areas, leading to a decision to extend 20mph limits across the county. **Surrey** has simplified its criteria for changing speed limits when requested by local communities. It has published on its website tables which show the mean speeds where it will allow a speed limit change using signs alone, and mean speeds where it requires supporting engineering measures. **Oxfordshire** have amended their speed limit policy so that speeds of 20mph can be considered for roads with existing average speeds of up to 40mph.

*Currently, the process for a **Suffolk** parish or town council to introduce a 20mph limit requires local traffic surveys to obtain information often already available from government sources, significant financial outlay, as well as being lengthy and time consuming, given the criteria which must be met. This can be prohibitive and deter applications, however popular or beneficial 20mph might be.*

With more than 7,500 people killed or seriously injured on Suffolk roads since 2000, we have a responsibility to take a more proactive approach to reducing casualties. Around 28 million people in the UK (40% of the population) already live where 20mph is the norm. This Council has the opportunity to unite across the Chamber and across our county, working positively with communities to facilitate significantly safer streets in the towns, villages and residential areas in which we all live.

Therefore, this council

- states clear, unequivocal support for towns, parishes and communities throughout the county who wish to adopt safer speed limits, including 20mph limits in towns and villages*

- resolves to review, with a cross party approach and as a matter of urgency, Highways criteria for the introduction of 20mph limits, with a view to simplifying the process and facilitating communities to achieve safer, calmer neighbourhoods
- aspires to adopt "Vision Zero" principles for road safety not accepting road deaths as inevitable with a shared goal of achieving zero deaths and serious injuries (KSIs) on Suffolk's roads.'

Motion 3 (Not Passed) – Proposed by Councillor Sandy Martin and seconded by Councillor Rob Bridgeman (Labour)

'Recognising the severe congestion caused by the current programme of partial closures of the Orwell Bridge, and the cost to the entire Suffolk economy, including the disruption to freight from Felixstowe, this County Council hereby commits to:

- 1) *Affirming its resolve that a Northern Bypass for Ipswich should be built, to relieve traffic congestion in North Ipswich and in the villages north of Ipswich, and to provide an alternative for the A14 when the Orwell Bridge is not fully operational*
- 2) *Re-examining the work that has already been done to determine the best possible route for a Northern Bypass for Ipswich*
- 3) *Working with the MPs for Ipswich, Suffolk Coastal, and Central Suffolk and North Ipswich, to build a consensus for the way ahead, and to present a united case to the Department for Transport.'*

West Suffolk Council

Motion on Notice: Local Government Reorganisation Motion to Council

This Council notes that, on 5 February 2025, the Government invited local authorities in Suffolk to submit proposals by 26 September 2025 for the reorganisation of local government in the region made up of Norfolk and Suffolk.

This Council also acknowledges that, on 18 March 2025, it debated and endorsed an interim plan which had been jointly prepared by all the district and borough councils of Suffolk. The report to Council on 18 March set out both the Government's criteria for new unitary councils and our own local criteria.

This Council notes that the district and borough councils' interim plan was subsequently approved by Cabinet and submitted to government on 21 March 2025, indicating that the authorities had concluded that multiple unitary councils in Suffolk was the right solution to meet the Government's guidelines for reorganisation; delivering effective council services while making sure local people still have their say in decisions that affect them.

This Council further notes that, on 2 May 2025, Suffolk's councils received feedback from the Government on their various interim plans which, alongside technical advice, welcomed their work to date, and encouraged them to finalise proposals by September. All councillors were provided with the Government's feedback by the Leader on 6 May 2025.

This Council notes that, to support their work to develop a final plan, the district and borough councils have also carried out engagement with communities and partners, including an online survey which has received more than 1,700 responses to date. In the survey, the most important attribute for future local government in Suffolk is: "Being Local - Ensuring decisions that affect you, and where you live, are made close to you - by councillors and a council that understands your needs and represents your area". This is consistent across each district and borough in the County.

Accordingly, this Council notes that, while Cabinet will not make its final decision on a submission until after a further debate by Council in September, it is intended by the district and borough councils of Suffolk that their remaining work and engagement will focus on developing a model for three new unitary councils, for the reasons set out in the motion below.

It is therefore recommended that West Suffolk Council: Continues to work in partnership with other district and borough councils to develop a final proposal for three locally-focused, sustainable unitary councils on the basis that:

- (a) residents are telling us that the most important thing to them is a local connection to their council;
- (b) three councils would have the capacity, capability and resilience to drive service improvement on the things that matter most to residents; and Page 383 Agenda Item 14 Council -15 July 2025 – COU/WS/25/018
- (c) it is strongly believed that this model is most likely to meet both the Government's criteria for local government reorganisation and our own local criteria, specifically the need to:
 - i. best reflect a meaningful sense of place and identity to support local democracy whilst also ensuring the need to create economies of scale;
 - ii. bolster the future financial sustainability of public services by considering the right scale and ability to drive this vision with system partners, as well as provide resilience in the short, medium and longer term;
 - iii. respect the character of Suffolk which is reflected in its diverse geography and local community identities; iv. ensure focus on the future growth of, and opportunities across, East Anglia;
 - v. provide the resilient, accountable leadership and capacity required to meet community needs and deliver public sector reform; and
 - vi. ensure our communities, businesses and residents have a strong voice on the East Anglian Mayoral Strategic Authority, and enable them to support the wider devolution agenda and delivery.

Comment: There is still much to learn and debate about the models and the debate will continue. Sitting on the Local Government Reorganisation Group at Suffolk County Council it strikes me how complicated the topic is and how little detail is still available for people to make an informed opinion. I look forward to see the full proposals come September when the business cases are submitted.

APPENDIX 2 – Town Councillor's report

Councillor John Burns

- **Great Wilsey Park:** New application for 198 properties for phases A3 and A5 submitted.
- **Police Matters:** Crime stats for May 2025 were distributed on 15th July. The July edition link of Constables County was sent to Councillors on 27th July. Concerns have been raised about the plans to disband the Haverhill arm of the Police Cadets scheme and the comments made by the Deputy Chief Constable about its perceived benefit. It would seem that nobody from the local policing team has been consulted and is a unilateral decision by someone who probably has never been to Haverhill to see what they do.
- **SCC Highways:** A meeting was held, as mentioned in Cllr Mason's report, last week with SCC Highways. It would seem they are finally going to do something but will be at least another 6 months before we see anything, well after the 4 year anniversary of when something was supposed to have happened. I say no more...
- **Combined Authority:** Nothing to report.

Greater Cambridge Partnership: No further updates.

Parking: Still no obvious changes to parking enforcement – seems like a stuck record. This was also discussed at the Highways meeting mentioned above. Seems SCC are revamping the contract with WSC and others which I suspect because of concerns it is not working. I have made a FOI for the 2024-25 parking figures for Haverhill, BSE & Newmarket which I expect to receive 3rd week August.

Markets: I am expecting another meeting in the Autumn to see what actions have been undertaken. A leaflet drop is about to happen specifically targeted at the new estates to show the new residents what is available on the markets.

Sturmer Arches: Nothing to report.

Fox PH (Wratting Road): Nothing to report.

Vixen PH (Millfields Way): Nothing to report – the planning application process is progressing with consultees submitting their comments.

Strasbourg Square: See above.

Other work:

Delivered and collected barriers to HAC for the Samuel Ward Prom.

Processed data for VAS in Bumpstead Road and Coupals Road. Identified suitable locations in North Avenue and hope to get them out soon as requires brackets to be installed. Eastern Avenue was requested by Cllr David Smith but no line of sight locations were identified.

Upgraded Zone CCTV recording system with latest firmware.

Splashpad:

Helped Kedington Brownies have a short play session out of hours.

Cleaned with community warden last week and changed the closing time to 8pm for the school holidays.

Been regularly monitoring including today (27th July).

VJ80 15th & 21st August:

Working on the 9am am flag raising on Market Square including video & audio provision.

Been working intensely with others on the 21st event being in St. Mary's Church including creating a comprehensive video production and with live readers & music. The event will be filmed as well with a composite video produced afterwards.

Filmed ELO Encounter last Friday and produced the output for them from 3 cameras. It was a brilliant sold-out show with fantastic music and lighting. A very polished performance from a relatively local East Anglian group.

Updated 3 HTC Laptops to Windows 11 and also, after some extensive investigations, have managed to update another 2 out of 5 laptops that Dell said could be upgraded but Microsoft said no with the remaining 3 to be done over the next few weeks. That will save HTC at least £2.5K in having to purchase new laptops. A further 7 laptops will be software upgraded and should not need replacement.

Purchase of 2 replacement laptops have been needed, and a small number of desktop units will be purchased to replace 10+ old units in HAC. The proposed expenditure, including £2K provision for new data and backup servers which were not in the budget, is currently running at 25% below the approved £10K budget total and I hope to keep it like that.

Received and made extensive comments to WSC on the Town Masterplan consultant's report. Was surprised to see a survey go out from WSC as was not discussed with the group, and having completed it, found to be very lacking in scope.

Usual IT related issues at Zone and HAC plus approval of invoices. Currently updating till systems, with recent changes. A new method of processing interval drinks where more than one interval in a show specifically for HTC Bar as well as the HitP system upgraded ready for next month.

Tested thriving communities' application process for WSC.

Due to work all week on HitP next month.

Provided usual weekly financial income stats from the till system for the various sites to HTC management plus attending various HTC meetings.

APPENDIX 3 – Mayor’s report

Cllr Quinn Cox **Mayors Report from 1st to 28th of July**

Here we are with my second Mayors report, it seems only moments ago I was doing the first. I chaired my first Full Town Council Meeting, it was long but purposeful and I really appreciate everyone’s patience. It has been another amazing month seeing a variety of organisations, places and people, one being the King.

1st of July

SALC AGM and 75th anniversary.

I attended the event which showed the importance of SALC (Suffolk Association of Local Councils) supporting local authorities with a range of different services. Going for 75 years is a credit to them and the work they do. A huge highlight was meeting Sir Terry Waite who was a real gentleman, happy to chat and discovered we lived in the same place for a year. I would like to thank Colin and Vicky for the pleasure of their company during the day.

Deputy Mayor Cllr Lora Miller-Jones attended Supporting & Empowering the Carers of Elderly People event.

1st July

I went to the Supporting & Empowering the Carers of Elderly People drop in event at the Arts Centre.

This event brought in a wide range of stallholders from various support groups including Dementia Life, Suffolk Family Carers, Memories Are Golden, REACH and Suffolk Sight, to name but a few. It was a wonderful event and I couldn't believe how quickly four hours flew by! All the stall holders were brilliant and it seemed like it was so well received and will have helped a lot of people.

I think it was a great success and I'm so pleased to have been there. And a huge thank you to Madeleine and Charmian for inviting me.

4th July

Deputy Mayor Cllr Lora Miller-Jones attended Felixstowe Civic Reception.

I attended the new Mayor of Felixstowe's civic dinner at Sea You in Felixstowe. It was a lovely venue and beautiful evening. The views were incredible. It was great to meet some of the chairs and mayors from around Suffolk, and to learn about the great work of the Mayor's two charities, Felixstowe Opportunity Group and St Philip's Community Hub.

St Philip's Community Hub offers a pop-up shop which allows anyone to fill a basket of groceries for only a few pounds, no questions asked. They have weekly visits from a nursing team and from CAP money advice, and they offer internet access, hot drinks and board games and crafts. The representatives from St Philip's were lovely and were passionate about the good that they're doing for the community.

Felixstowe Opportunity Group run a wonderful support group for children with learning disabilities, autism, and other special educational needs. They offer respite for parents and carers whose SEND children can learn and play in a safe and inclusive environment, and again, their staff were amazing and it was so good to meet them and find out about the work they've been doing.

The food was lovely, with great vegan options, and the staff were amazing and so friendly. All in all, a lovely evening.

10th July

Visit to Broadlands Hall School

It was a real pleasure to be invited to look around Broadlands Hall School and meet the Proprietor Keith Boulter and New Head Teacher Chris James Roll. He took time together with a former student of mine Vicky Hayes who had a significant role to play at the school overseeing behaviour. It was great to see a number of local faces that were also involved in the staff team. It has grown over a number of years from 14 students to now over 60. They are supporting boys with Special Educational Needs ages 9 to 20.

The environment has changed significantly over the last years creating more classroom space, developing space for future student borders and continue to develop the space. An incredible peaceful setting, a positive feel around the school from staff and students alike. A dedication to individual needs and the space they might need to develop their skills and learning.

They do need our support with their 6th form students moving forwards in studying at Colleges to follow their aspiration. This is proving difficult, as colleges are saying they are unable to meet students needs. It is something I have said I will help look into with more detail and what the precise barriers are. I hope it is something we can all potentially support with ensuring those with Special Education Needs are given equal opportunities to become valued members of society.

I look forward to seeing how the school continues to progress and student develop while being part of the Broadlands Hall school.

10th of July

Haverhill Veteran Brass

It was an enjoyable lunchtime concert for a silver band that brings together retired people once a month, presenting 2 concerts per year. There were some powerful tunes played from themes from the big screen and other tunes, one focused on the meandering River Thames representing its journey.

It was great to see the talent on display with another Silver Band from Cornets to Tuba's. It was lovely to meet a couple that were in attendance all the way from Haverhill Massachusetts, it was pleasing to hear of a longstanding relationship with Haverhill UK and a family here. Their children have become life long friends and so the connection goes on.



17th of July

Broadlands Hall Awards Ceremony

After my previous visit I was pleased to be asked to come back and present awards to the students of Broadlands Hall School.

The morning was kind to us weather wise, parents, guardians and other guests had been invited. A warm welcome greeted you and once again a positive vibrant atmosphere was evident on arrival. A good program had been put together with a wide array of awards to be presented. It is clear that celebrating success is a key part of the school with many receiving awards due to progress, their ability to push forward even when things are tough and contributions to the life of the school. All students that were able, came to collect their awards with beaming smiles and pride. It was to be followed by their sports day but sadly due to engagements shortly after the ceremony, I had to leave. I hope to have the opportunity to go back as well to visit other amazing school in our incredible town.

17th of July

Robert Everitts Memorial Service

It is a sad time when people leave is but an honour to represent the Town Council at Robert Everitt's Memorial Service. I never new him myself, but is didn't take long to discover he was a well-liked individual, worked really well across the political parties, gave an awful lot to his local community of Bury St Edmunds and to his family. Clearly a character and from the various testimonies given during and after the service will be very much missed. We send our deepest sympathies to his family at this sad time.

20th of July

God's Closet Shop Day Event

What an amazing group to have met, with such a lovely positive cause. They have been taking in children clothes donations over the last year. This is to then provide them to those in the local community. People were invited to come along, pay £1 and given 3 carrier bags that they can fill with what ever clothes they chose. It was well received with many grateful attendees. I was provided with lots of warmth, drink and food, a great charitable effort by the groups combined effort. It was family orientated day with members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. The Pastor and Elders were there, along with parents and younger member of their community.

(The Seventh-day Adventist Church is a Protestant Christian denomination known for its observance of the seventh-day Sabbath (Saturday) and its belief in the imminent second coming of Jesus Christ).

They would like to find a more permanent base as they currently use a number of different bases in the town.





20th of July

Newmarket VIP visit - King Charles III and Queen Camilla

I was invited to join the Mayor of Newmarket for the arrival of a VIP guest but we had to respond by the 1st of July but were unaware who was due to visit. As part of the visit we were expected to wear our full robes. It didn't take much longer to find out it was the King himself coming to Newmarket. It was odd being the other side of the barriers once I arrived. There was definitely a buzz on arrival and the streets were already busy. I was among other Mayors in attendance together with other dignitaries gathered for the arrival of the King and Queen.

We were assembled outside the Memorial Hall on Newmarket High Street. On arrival the King and Queen got out of their car with their entourage and were introduced to a number of those in front of where I stood. With lots of cheering and pleased crowds, he was just a few feet away and then continued on down the High Street to meet the public waiting to see them both. This is the first time King Charles has visited Suffolk, so became quite a historic visit.

Once they had gone, we were invited to an incredible buffet where I had the chance to catch up with other Mayors and those gathered.



23rd of July

Chalkstone Fun Day

It was great to attend Chalkstone fun day and all those that came along. It was a well attended event and even though grey clouds were in the sky, the weather was kind as it didn't rain. The stalls were busy particularly the face painting and bouncy Castle area. It was great to have the Fire Brigade and Police spending time with us, bringing both a Fire Engine and Police car. These again were popular so a huge thank you to them. It was great to see a number of organisations there such as Reach, The Rural Coffee Caravan and Open Mind.

Nice to see a variety of Town Council Staff providing huge support for the event, without whom these events would not happen. Plus, the youth service team were in attendance with the "on the spot van" which looked incredible. A huge thank you to all those involved and attended.



24th of July

Meeting with Sunflower SEND Hub

Meet with Tina Scott and Donna Allen from the Sunflower SEND Hub, they are my chosen charity for this year. They have only been developing this year and have moved forward massively. They have been given Alternative Provision status for September and can take students as of then. This is great news for them but more so for the town, offering more SEND provision. Tina is a huge force for change and I look forward to working with her and the whole team to help raise money for them. I look forward to support from my fellow councillors in helping them move further forward and raise money.

25th July

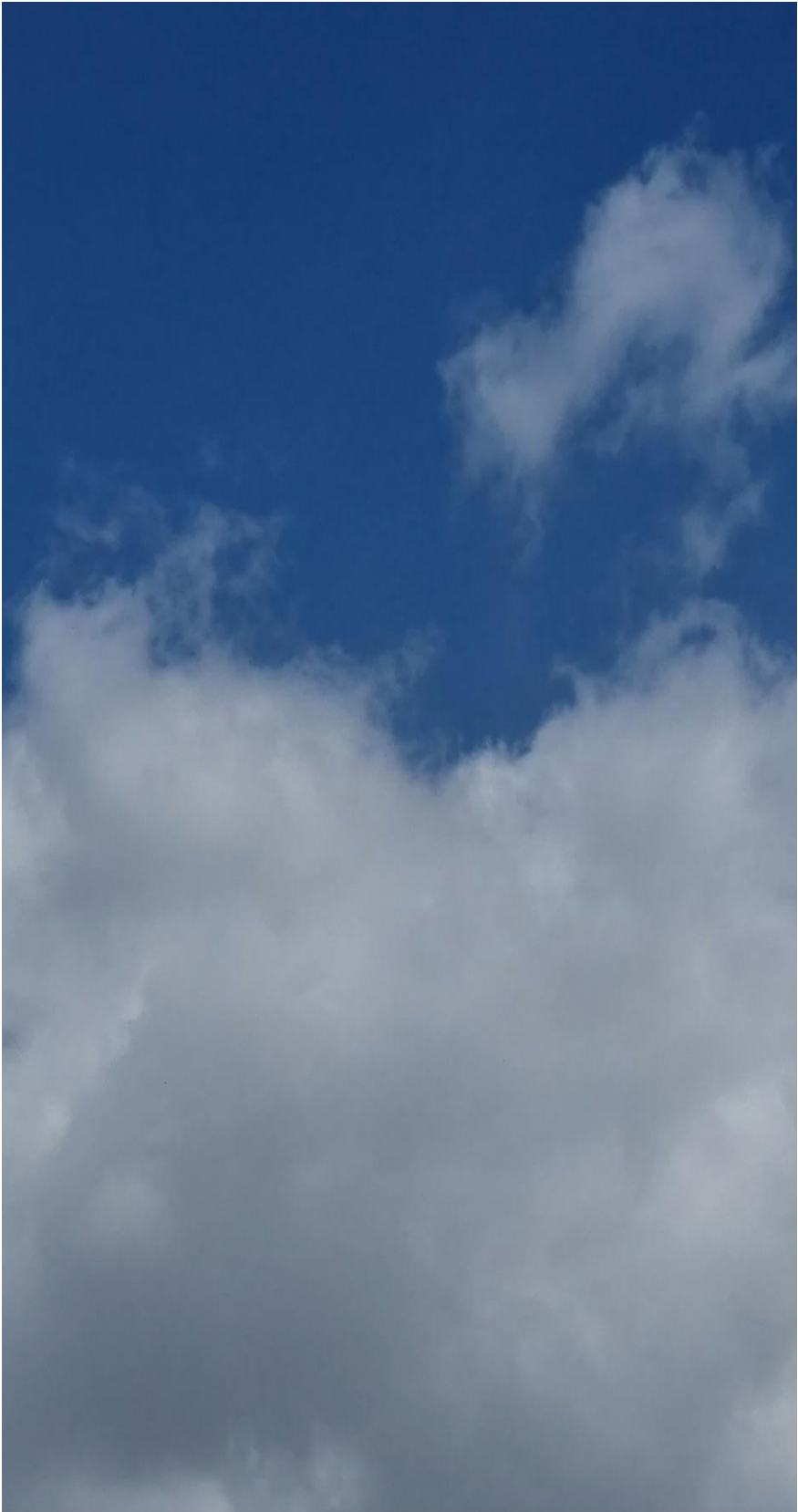
Freedom of Huntingdon Parade with RAF Wyton.

I attended the Freedom of Huntingdon Parade, this is a function which has been ongoing for 70 years since 1955. RAF Wyton have been given the honour of the freedom of Huntingdon. It was a beautiful day with those attending from in and out of the County of Cambridge. RAF Wyton, its voluntary band together with officers and others from the Airforce in full display, full uniform, guns with fixed bayonets and full military order.

The band were great, entertaining with a variety of tunes, Those Magnificent Men in Their Flying Machines, was great and received a well earned applause at the end. We were also treated to a fly past by a Spitfire, it circled three times before leaving us. I am very excited to include a photo as it flew overhead.

The reception was lovely and on talking to some of Huntingdon's local councillors found out that Oliver Cromwell was born there and a connection to legend of Robin Hood.





The Skies Above Huntingdon

As you can see in the photo on the left is the beautiful blue sky any fluffy clouds about Huntingdon Town Square.

A spitfire flew above us so thought I would include my efforts of photographing such an amazing event.

As you can see, I clearly had no idea where it was but still feel it important to share this moment with you.

A photograph of a Spitfire.



26th of July**Kedington's Gentleman's Breakfast Club**

Another privilege to have been asked to join the group for their delicious breakfast and to meet them to chat and talk to them.

A very warm and welcoming group where I was very much looked after. Plenty of discussion with a number of individuals and I was asked to talk to the group after breakfast. We discussed local issues and how important their group is in ensuring people meet up and are included in events. As they meet monthly, I would be keen to meet with them again as it was a great way to spend a Saturday morning. I thank them for their kind invitation.

July's engagements for this report have come to an end, from being in the presence of the King, seeing a Spitfire fly overhead, fabulous music, excellent food and most importantly incredible people. It is such a pleasure to be able to be in the role I am and be part of so many different events.

Cllr Quinn Cox
Mayor of Haverhill