

REPORT TO HADLEIGH TOWN COUNCIL – 19th September 2019

Cllr Mick Fraser – County Councillor for Hadleigh Division & District Councillor for Hadleigh South Ward

Dear Mayor and Councillors,

May I please convey my apologies for not being with you tonight, regrettably I have a very important party meeting that I must attend.

Suffolk County council

We Are Listening

I am delighted to report that I will be joined by the leader of Suffolk County Council (SCC), Cllr Matthew Hicks, other county councillors and senior council managers at our “We Are Listening” stall in Hadleigh’s Market Place between 11am – 1pm on Friday 18th October. We look forward to residents of Hadleigh sharing their views, discussing their concerns, opinions and ideas for our great county of Suffolk.

Bus Subsidies – Hadleigh Services

In my July 2019 report, I stated that SCC was having to remove £340k of subsidies to a number of routes across Suffolk affecting many that serve Hadleigh. I can now inform you that some routes will continue, including the route 971 which will now be a fully commercial operation by Beestons. This is good news for our young people using this service for their education needs. The Routes 461, 112 and 120 have had their council subsidy support extended through until 31st March 2020. Unfortunately routes 90, 796 and 94A remain having their respective subsidies removed at 2nd November 2019.

Hadleigh Traffic Management Working Group

I was delighted to welcome Cllr Faccini to the Group at the meeting of 3rd September. In August I invited our Highways Community Engineer to view several roadway issues that were brought to his attention by the HTMWG. During a very productive afternoon we discussed the need for better crossing points for the disabled on the High Street and on Lady Lane. Also, I pointed out the many broken paving slabs around the Town centre area which cause trip hazards. It was also noticed that the two mini-roundabouts by The Kings Head need repainting. Hopefully, these items will be rectified soon.

I have reported to the group that I have initiated other safety schemes using my Local Highways Budget. These include safety awareness measures at the Cottesford Close footpath crossing point on Station Road and the entrance to Hadleigh Nursing Home.

Benton Street

I intend now to progress further with some appropriate traffic management measures for Benton Street to improve safety for pedestrians and other roadway users. I have discussed this issue with the Town Mayor, as it is important to have the Council’s support for a preferred scheme. On 19th August I gave a presentation to the council and other

residents of various traffic management options, designed by Suffolk Highways. This allowed me to explain the merits and shortcomings of each and suggest how best this issue could be progressed. It is my hope that I can now trigger Highways to start the next phase and install a traffic management scheme early next year.

The Hold –Suffolk’s New Record Office

Building work on The Hold record storage office is now well underway. Whilst it is primarily a record storing facility, it has so much more to offer. There will be a dedicated exhibition space which will host four specially curated exhibitions per year, to encourage both young and old to interact with Suffolk’s culture and history. Exhibitions make up just a small portion of events that will be held in the building. A 200-seat tiered auditorium will primarily be used by the University of Suffolk but will also host conferences and talks by archivists. The Hold’s thermal mass maintained strong room record storage facility spans an impressive 1650 cubic metres, spread over three floors.

Suffolk bucks the national trend for vaccine rates

On 21st August it was revealed that national rates for the second MMR vaccine has now fallen to just 87.2 %. This is thought to have led to the large increase in measles cases in England and Wales in 2018 (991 compared to only 278 the previous year). However, as a result of the hard work of local healthcare professionals and the engagement of parents, Suffolk continues to buck this trend. Vaccination rates in Suffolk at the end of March 2019 reached 94.5% for the first MMR dose (by 24 months of age) and 90.3% for the second booster dose (by 5 years of age).

Following the introduction of a targeted, multi-agency campaign launched in December 2018, a Suffolk project group was set up to address falling vaccination rates. Public Health Suffolk has worked with NHS England and Improvement, Public Health England, Suffolk Clinical Commissioning Groups and Child Health Information Service to identify and remove potential barriers for parents and children in accessing immunisation services. They have also improved the quality of vaccination data and encouraged parents to consider the preschool booster/MMR just prior to school entry.

Babergh District Council

Planning permission has now been granted for Persimmon to build the Phase 1 of 172 new homes at Weavers Meadow. This development will include 35% affordable homes including five bungalows, and will comprise of 1, 2, 3 and 4-bedroom dwellings. This should go some small way in addressing the high demand for new houses across the district. A small piece of land closest to the by-pass will be transferred to BDC for potential employment use. This developer also intends to submit a further planning application soon for their larger phase 2 development of 250 dwellings and further employment land.

Joint Local Plan

Have met with Cllr Rolf Beggarow to discuss the allocation of playing field land in relation to the Joint Local Plan. It is clear that the planned area of 1.2 hectares is insufficient and that we would need an additional 3 hectares to accommodate the requirements for playing rugby in this town. It is important that evidence-based comments are submitted to BDC

stating this by 4pm on 30th September 2019. Comments can be made electronically through the Council's online system at www.babergh.gov.uk/localplan, by email to localplan@babermidsuffolk.gov.uk or by writing to Babergh at Endeavour House.

I have nothing further to report.

Yours Sincerely

Mick Fraser

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Hadleigh Division
Suffolk County Council