

REPORT TO HADLEIGH TOWN COUNCIL – 20th August 2020

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

Suffolk County Council (SCC)

Dear Councillors,

COVID-19 Response

As of 16th August, the confirmed cases in Suffolk are, broken down by Districts & Boroughs, as follows:

Ipswich	718	524.4 per 100,000 residents
East Suffolk	896	359.2 per 100,000 residents
Mid Suffolk	337	324.4 per 100,000 residents
Babergh	275	298.8 per 100,000 residents
West Suffolk	512	286.0 per 100,000 residents
Suffolk	2,738	359.6 per 100,000 residents
East of England	25,609	410.7 per 100,000 residents
England	275,200	488.9 per 100,000 residents

This shows an increase of **14-cases** across Babergh in the 4-week period since 19th July.

Schools Bus service to Colchester

At the end of June 2020, Beestons announced that it could no longer operate the #971 service from Hadleigh to Colchester. This route serves many of our post-16 school children who have opted to attend 6th Form and Further Education Colleges there. This would have brought great hardship for their families who would then have to arranged alternative means of transport at greater personal expense.

I am delighted to report that after negotiations led by the Passenger Transport Team at Suffolk, a new arrangement has been agreed between the Chambers and Beestons bus companies. The replacement for the #971 Beestons service will be:

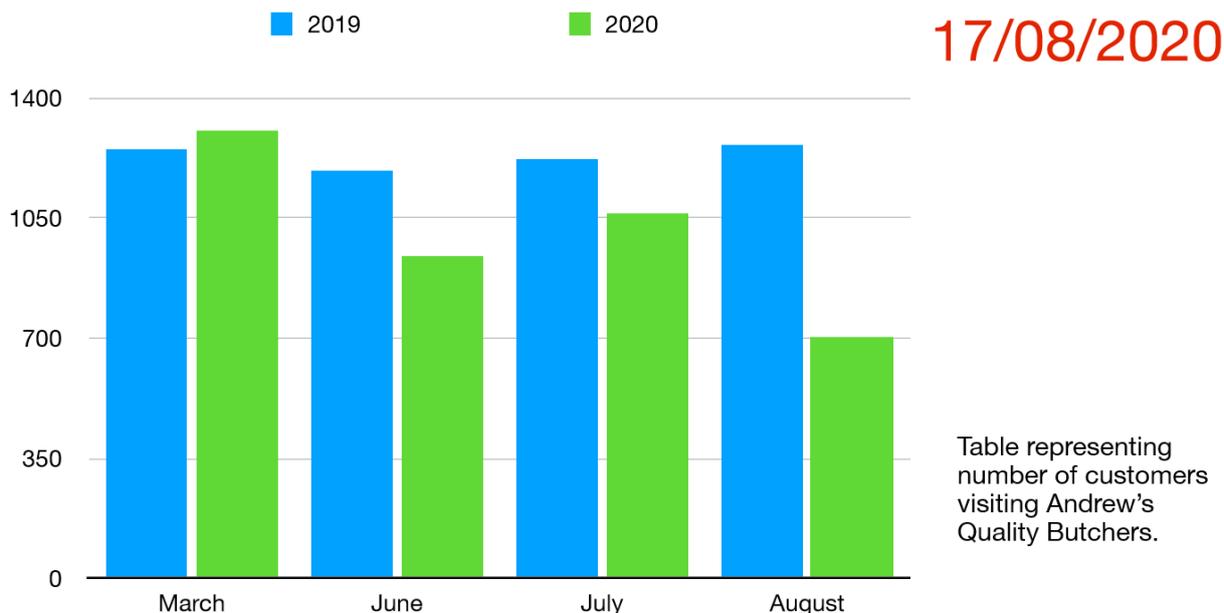
The Beestons #84C will leave Magdalen Road at 0710, arriving Stoke-by-Nayland, Bear Street at 0740, where students can then change on to Chambers #84 through to Colchester Schools. The return #84 trip will arrive in Stoke-by-Nayland in time to change back onto Beestons at 1635, arriving back at Magdalen Road at 1705.

High Street Safer Places Measures

Since the installation of the Safer Places measures along the High Street, I have received many correspondences requesting me as the SCC representative for their removal. These numbers have increased more so since the Council's ERM of 3rd August and I forwarded most of them to the Clerk. At that meeting I stated that I support the High Street businesses, and I have spoken to many of them about their concerns. I requested that they provide me with any empirical data proving whether the measures installed are

having a negative impact upon them. Here is some feedback from two of the most prominent traders which both indicate a significant downturn in trading since the beginning of August 2020:

Andrew’s Quality Butchers – Their full statement was sent to the Clerk, but the table below shows the average number of customers has been dramatically lower since the installation of the Safer Places measures at the beginning of August. They anticipate trade to continue declining the longer the measures are in place, further dragging down the average data for August.



Post Office - First Class Greetings, which includes the Post Office, provided percentage comparison figures for 2019 vs 2020 on a weekly basis. These figures are from week ending 13/06/2020 when they returned to 6-day full-days trading. The figures are a percentage for 2020 compared to the same weeks' trading in 2019.

- 13/06/20 - 57%
- 20/06/20 - 67%
- 27/06/20 - 55%
- 04/07/20 - 75%
- 11/07/20 - 93%
- 18/0720 - 83%
- 25/07/20 - 105%
- 01/08/20 - 101%
- 08/08/20 - 73%
- 15/08/20 - 61%

The income they derive from Post Office transactions is paid up to 9 weeks in arrears. Therefore, they are unable to provide empirical data regarding this income stream for this period. From their observations they believe that their transactions levels have been affected even more severely in the Post Office than the normal retail business.

Given the numbers of new COVID-19 infections across Babergh, 14-new cases in a 4-week period, the risk to residents and visitors on the High Street is low. Now we know more about this virus our behaviours are different; we generally wear masks, understand social distancing better, and residents are sensible. I believe what we have installed currently is a vastly over-engineered solution which goes way beyond what is needed. It is not fit for purpose and poses a greater risk to the economy and the vibrancy of the High Street.

Please consider carefully whether these current measures should remain in place any longer, be removed, or replaced with something else. I am encouraged that there is some support from residents for them. This could lead to a very useful conversation of what we might achieve more permanently on the High Street. But these present measures should only be in place if they are serving a proven purpose of keeping people safe.

Hadleigh Quarry Planning Application

The two Hadleigh Quarry planning applications were again submitted without change to Suffolk's Development and Regulation Committee again on Wednesday 15th July 2020. As at May's committee, I supported the Town Council's and of residents' objections with my concerns being:

1. The proposed level of HGV movements of 80 per day implied a 20-fold increase, which is too large for our present local roads' infrastructure.
2. I stated bluntly that the junction at Aldham Mill Hill/A1071 is inadequate and unsafe, and the increase in slow moving turning moments by HGV's can only increase the risks.
3. Aldham Mill is currently of insufficient width for HGVs to pass one another without traversing the grass verges and will require widening of the carriageway to 5.5 metres in width.
4. The quarry operator has frequently breached the current HGV movement conditions, more than the 8 per day allowed for.

Both applications were refused by the committee by 8 votes against to 5 votes in favour.

SCC Councillor Locality Budget

Each year SCC councillors are given a share of Suffolk's £600k Locality Budget, £8,000 each. Since the start 2019 I have been delighted to support various organizations and start-up projects using my allocation; these being:

- £450.00: Hadleigh Chamber of Commerce - EADT 'Focus on Hadleigh' article
- £324.00: Hadleigh Foodbank – Volunteer safeguarding training
- £1,750.00: Hadleigh Library Friends Group - New shelving units
- £1,500.00: Hadleigh in Bloom – High Street hanging blower Baskets
- £500.00: Suffolk Lowland Search and Rescue (SuLSAR) – Match funding towards new drone equipment
- £550.00: Hadleigh Rockets Netball Club – Coaching training for 20 volunteers
- £959.92: Hadleigh Rockets Netball Club – Goal post equipment
- £1,040.00: Hadleigh & District Angling Club – Disabled toilet facility

£1,000.00: Hadleigh Community Transport Group – Support to continue #461 route
 £800.00: HADS – Panto stage hire
 £348.00: Hadleigh Chamber of Commerce – Suffolk Magazine Christmas Advertisement
 £1,500.00: Student Life – Mental Health First Aider training for Hadleigh High School students
 £1,000.00: Porch Project – London Expedition

Collaborative Communities Covid-19 Board

Here is a snapshot of some of things achieved by Suffolk Coronavirus Community Fund, which is overseen by the Suffolk Community Foundation, since March:



I have nothing further to report.

Yours Sincerely

Mick Fraser

Cllr Mick Fraser
 Hadleigh Division
 Suffolk County Council