

# Parish Report – November 2021

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## COVID-19

Latest SCC information is available here: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Latest Government advice is available here: [www.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.gov.uk/coronavirus)

## Full Council – Motion and Decisions

The Suffolk County Council met for a Full Council meeting on the 21<sup>st</sup> October 2021. Our Group proposed a motion to support the Local Electricity Bill, to help proportion local energy supplier's costs, making local electricity cheaper and more reliable. The motion was passed unanimously. Details of the motion can be found here: <https://powerforpeople.org.uk/local-electricity-bill-briefing-for-councillors>

The Conservatives forwarded a motion to condemn Insulate Britain, which was passed with the following vote: 41 For, 9 Against, 7 Abstained.

## Cabinet Meeting – 12<sup>th</sup> October

On the 12<sup>th</sup> October, the Cabinet and Councillors met to discuss the following two matters: Recommendations highlighted in the Suffolk Local Access Forum Annual Report 2020/21, and to vote on submitting the Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP), in relation to the Council's Bus Back Better Strategy. Summary of the main decisions are below:

1. The Cabinet accepted the Suffolk Local Access Forum Annual Report 2020/21 and noted the report's recommendations and the action that the Council was taking to address the recommendations.
2. The Cabinet acknowledged and agreed to the headline asks and order of costs contained in the proposed Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP), as set out in the report.
3. Full Cabinet Reports can be viewed here:  
[https://committeeminutes.suffolk.gov.uk/DocSetPage.aspx?MeetingTitle=\(12-10-2021\),%20The%20Cabinet](https://committeeminutes.suffolk.gov.uk/DocSetPage.aspx?MeetingTitle=(12-10-2021),%20The%20Cabinet)

## Suffolk Schools to Reintroduce Face Coverings

On Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> October, the Directors of Public Health, and Children and Young People Services, released a statement notifying us that face coverings are to be reintroduced into schools from 1<sup>st</sup> November.

This is due to the rising COVID cases in Suffolk, and therefore staff and students will have to wear face coverings in communal areas, outside of the classroom, unless exempt for medical reasons. Visitation will also be restricted to essential visits. A further review on its effectiveness will commence 15<sup>th</sup> November. See Cllr Simon Harley, our Group's Public Health Spokesperson's comments on the decision at <https://suffolkgli.wordpress.com/2021/10/26/gli-public-health-spokespersons-warning-over-winter-response-to-reintroduction-of-covid-measures/>

### **Sizewell C: Government Announce Support & New Funding Strategy**

On the 15<sup>th</sup> October, Suffolk County Council announced their support for Sizewell C, and are taking up 'important concerns' to the Secretary of State. Our Group remains firmly against the project, believing there has been a political underestimation, and that the people of Suffolk are being sold short by the Administration's inability to face the reality of the situation.

In addition, on 26<sup>th</sup> October, Business and Energy Secretary, Kwasi Kwarteng, announced a new government strategy for funding the nuclear power project in Sizewell. The project so far has been heavily contentious, suffering from delays and planning concerns, as well as overflowing costs.

Our Group has abhorrently rejected this strategy, and severely recommends that the Government reconsiders before it puts the burden of cost onto our local communities, and instead looks into investing in cleaner, cheaper, and quicker forms of renewable energy available to Suffolk.

### **Bus Back Better: Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) Approved**

The Cabinet approved the new Bus Service Improvement Plan, as part of their new £50m Bus Back Better strategy – aimed at rejuvenating Suffolk's bus service, in particular isolated areas of rural Suffolk. Our Group supports the essential commitment needed to help connect rural communities.

Bus Back Better aims at making bus services cheaper, more reliable, and carbon efficient. All proposals of the BSIP that were passed by Cabinet can be viewed here:

[https://committeeminutes.suffolk.gov.uk/DocSetPage.aspx?MeetingTitle=\(12-10-2021\),%20The%20Cabinet](https://committeeminutes.suffolk.gov.uk/DocSetPage.aspx?MeetingTitle=(12-10-2021),%20The%20Cabinet)

I have spoken with Tim Stephenson about the possibility of a KATCH TYPE responsive bus .

REVIEW OF HGV ROUTES; all parish councils will be consulted but any comments from the public should be included in your response.

## **MID SUFFOLK**

DRAFT LOCL PLAN; the final inspection report has been postponed for 6 months for more work to be done.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANS; these can now be ratified by the chief executive once they have been agreed at referenda in order to not delay implementation.

MOTIONS TO COUNCIL; to reduce the amount of over head street lighting, not to turn street lihts off

And to reject calls for photo ID for elections.

#### **Local Articles: Suffolk GLI's responses**

**Cllr Caroline Topping**, our Group's Education Spokesperson's comment on the disproportionate exclusions of SEND and BAME students: Suffolk school exclusions SEND and BAME concerns | East Anglian Daily Times (eadt.co.uk)

**Cllr Andrew Stringer**, Our Group Leader's comment on the Groups motion to support Local Electricity Bill: Suffolk backing for groups and businesses to generate power | East Anglian Daily Times (eadt.co.uk)

**Cllr Caroline Page**, and **Cllr Annette Dunning**, our Group's Spokesperson for Achieving Net Zero Carbon's comments on the Sizewell C update and support by Conservatives: Sizewell C: How developer cash will be spent | East Anglian Daily Times (eadt.co.uk)

**Cllr Keith Welham**, our Group's Highways, Public Transport and Rural Services Spokesperson's comments on the Bus Back Better Strategy approved by Cabinet: Suffolk County Council to submit £50m bus improvement bid | East Anglian Daily Times (eadt.co.uk)

**Cllr Andrew Stringer**, our Group Leader's comments on the Freight Industry Replacing Electric Trains with Diesel due to the Energy Prices: Diesels replace electric trains on Freightliner services | East Anglian Daily Times (eadt.co.uk)

**Cllr Simon Harley**, Our Group's Public Health and Biosecurity Spokesperson's comments on the Reintroduction of Face Coverings in Suffolk Schools: GLI Public Health Spokesperson's Warning Over Winter – Response to Reintroduction of COVID Measures – Suffolk Green, Liberal Democrat and Independent Group (wordpress.com)

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