

Parish Report – October 2020

Councillor

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Proposed motion that would have seen speed limits lowered to 20mph across Suffolk

At Full Council on the 22nd October, the LDGI Group proposed a motion that would implement a default 20mph speed limit for roads in residential areas and communities across Suffolk's towns and villages, with 30mph limits to be retained only in exceptional circumstances. The motion was supported by both the LDGI Group and the Labour Group, and though some Conservative councillors privately expressed support, unfortunately they were whipped to vote against it. As the seconder of the motion I said "20mph is supported by numerous organisations, including ROSPA, the UN and the 20splenty campaign,

"By rejecting this motion, the Conservative administration have lost a massive opportunity to improve the lives of their residents, to make the air cleaner, to get more people walking and cycling, and to reduce deaths and injuries on our roads."

SCC has separately announced a publicity campaign "to encourage walking and cycling" that will consist of posters and radio adverts, along with £235,000 funding for Quiet Lanes Suffolk, which parishes can apply for. My group has called for greater commitment from the administration to support walking, cycling and road safety.

Submitted response to 'Planning for the Future Consultation'

Following the Government's announcement of a consultation on their proposed reforms to the planning system, my group has submitted a response representing the issues of Suffolk's urban and rural areas. The key points of our response were:

- Planning decisions must be kept local, as local communities have unique circumstances that will not be reflected if all decisions are taken at a national level.
- Planning approval should not be automatic or determined by AI decision-making, which could lead to inappropriate development that does not meet the needs of the local community.
- The environment must be safeguarded.
- Quality must not be lost for the sake of speed.
- Affordable housing must be protected.

County Council AGM

This month saw the Annual General Meeting of the County Council, which I attended. The AGM should have taken place in May but was delayed due to COVID-19. Cllr Graham Newman was elected Chairman of the County Council until the next AGM in May 2021. Cllr Louis Busuttil was elected Vice Chairman.

Cllr Brambley-Crawshaw, Leader of the LDGI Group, gave an executive speech praising the dedication of Suffolk County Council officers and public sector workers who have pulled together to combat the pandemic. She also called for more co-operation between local politicians to combat the issues of the pandemic and climate change.

MASKS ON CLOSED CONTRACT SCHOOL BUSES as from 2nd November all students should wear masks unless a health reason not to.

NEW CYCLE PARKS IN STOWMARKET; government money has funded a new cycle park in Stowmarket and one in Sudbury,

NEW COVID RULES. At the time of writing we are not clear how this will affect SCC officers attending sites, issues etc. I'll let you know asap

MID SUFFOLK;

The council will agree the next stage of the Joint local plan on 11th November. Then there will be a period of consultation on the legality of the plan. Buxhall is classified as a Hamlet.

CARK PARKING IN STOWMARKET; this will now be digital.

ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING POINTS; there will be some on the car parks in Stowmarket.