

Parish Report – September 2020

Councillor

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Cabinet agrees to £65m loan to cover costs of Lowestoft Third Crossing

The Cabinet has given final approval for the Lowestoft Lake Lothing Third Crossing and revealed that the name of the new bridge will be “Gull Wing Lowestoft”. It is expected that construction work will begin in Spring 2021. However, the cost of the bridge is now much higher than originally estimated. The report prepared for Cabinet estimated that the total cost of delivering the bridge is £126.75m, with an additional £19m contingency for any unforeseen risks. The original estimate was £91.73m.

To fund the building of the bridge, Suffolk County Council will spend £6.9m of its own money, receive £73.39m of funding from the Department of Transport and borrow up to £64.96m.

Update on school transport arrangements for September

Suffolk County Council has confirmed that it will initially not be offering spare seats on school transport. This is due to social distancing requirements, which have reduced the capacity on school buses. However, parents may be able to apply for a spare seat from October half term.

The council has also confirmed the arrangements for masks and social distancing on school transport. The rules vary depending on the type of transport used:

- Dedicated closed routes (vehicle only carries school children) – social distancing will not apply; face coverings are recommended for children aged 11+
- Shared routes (most passengers are pupils, but may be some members of the public) – pupils should observe social distancing guidelines with members of the public but they can sit next to members of their family or school, face coverings are mandatory unless a child is exempt from wearing one
- Public transport – social distancing will apply; face coverings are mandatory unless a child is exempt from wearing one

CHILDRENS, CENTRES; following the cabinet meeting last week, I am hopeful to call this in as there was numerous data facts not included, including the number of uses in Thurston library and community centre.

BUS SERVICE FROM HADLEIGH; pleased that this has now been saved having used some locality fund to help. This can be booked on 01473 826242, however due to social distancing only 6 people can be taken each time

MID SUFFOLK

The Greens and Lib Dems have now formed a group which entitles us to 50% of all seats on committees. However, the leader has not offered any cabinet positions.

The council has agreed the timetable for the joint local plan which unfortunately will be put back even further to 2021

MOTION ON COUNCILS INVESTMENTS IN COMMERCIAL PROPERTY; The greens and lib Dem put forward a motion to halt any further investment in commercial properties especially outside the county. This was defeated by the chairs casting vote.

MOTION ON CYCLING; this was agreed unanimously.