

## **Nedging with Naughton PC 11.5.20 Report from County Councillor Robert Lindsay**

### **Virtual SCC meetings**

SCC has cancelled its last two full council meetings. It will be holding cabinet meetings and probably next full council meeting virtually. If they are public meetings, they can still be attended by members of the public. The link to the virtual meeting will be included on the agenda for the meeting. If meetings are cancelled, the Chief Executive will use her emergency powers to make any necessary decisions on behalf of the Cabinet/Council through the delegated decision-making process. Details of any decisions made will be published on the SCC website.

### **Bus 461/2**

This bus route is currently suspended due to social distancing being near impossible on a minibus. Since the withdrawal of the county subsidy, Hadleigh Community Transport have been seeking contributions from various bodies, including parish councils, to make up the difference. I and two other county councillors have each contributed £1000. However this is nowhere near enough to meet the full costs for a year.

### **Household Waste Recycling Centres to re-open using booking system May 14.**

This is to try to avoid risk of infection. The booking website will open tomorrow (Tues 12 May) please visit [www.suffolk.gov.uk/recyclingcentres](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/recyclingcentres) or call 0345 606 6067.

### **Green waste bin collection to restart from May 11<sup>th</sup>**

### **Supply of PPE**

Suffolk County Council are supplying emergency PPE to all primary care providers who are unable or struggling to source their own supplies.

More information on who is eligible to order PPE, and how to make an order, is available at: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19/suffolks-response/personal-protective-equipment-for-frontline-workers/>

Questions about ordering PPE should be sent to [PPE@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:PPE@suffolk.gov.uk)

### **Funding from Government**

Suffolk County Council has received £34.7m from the government to help with the council's coronavirus response.

However, the council is currently forecasting that the financial impact of the crisis will be £75m (due to both extra expenditure and lost income) by the end of March 2021, and so more support from the government will be needed.

### **Traffic calming measures to protect walkers/cyclists exercising outdoors**

The transport minister announced at the weekend that he was providing £250m emergency funding to local highways authorities to implement measures such as road closures, pop up bike lanes and 20mph limits during lockdown. Before this announcement I had already been encouraging Highways to take these sort of measures to allow residents to safely get their daily exercise and maintain social distancing.

The county council have indicated that they are willing to consider these and have already closed Ipswich Waterfront to through-traffic.

### **Delay to review of Suffolk County Council boundaries**

The Boundary Commission have announced that they will be delaying their review of Suffolk County Council's electoral division and any new boundaries will not be imposed until 2025.

### **Cost of post-16 Home to School transport increases by £90**

Plans to increase post-16 school transport were approved by the Chief Executive using delegated decision-making powers, because the Cabinet were unable to meet.

The cost of mainstream post-16 school transport has been increased by £90, whilst the cost of post-16 transport for SEND students has increased by £30. This is despite the fact that a consultation on the proposed increase indicated that 75% of parents who responded felt that the increase would have an impact on them.

If families are concerned about their ability to pay for school transport, they can apply for the 16-19 Bursary Fund which is managed by post-16 provisions and can support eligible disadvantaged young people by up to £1,200.

### **Increase in social worker pay**

Suffolk County Council has agreed to increase the pay of children's social workers to match the remuneration offered by neighbouring councils, in order to attract and retain skilled social workers in Suffolk. It is estimated that the pay increase will cost £1.4m and will be funded from council reserves. I am pleased that the council has taken this

step, because my group proposed this exact policy as part of our budget amendment in February.