

## **Report for Nedging PC 8.1.18**

### **Consultation on cuts to Citizens Advice**

In November, Suffolk County Council announced their intention to cut all funding for Suffolk's Citizens Advice Bureaus as part of their budget savings proposals. This was later amended to a phased cut over 2 years. The funding will be reduced by half (£184 000) in 2019/20, before being removed entirely in 2020/21. Suffolk County Council have launched a consultation on this proposed funding cut, which I would encourage you all to complete. The consultation runs until 5pm on Wednesday 23 January, and can be found at:

[www.suffolk.gov.uk/cabconsultation](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/cabconsultation)

### **Council pledges to lead fight against single-use plastics**

On 6 December 2018, my group successfully put forward a motion calling on Suffolk County Council to do more to tackle single-use plastic waste in the county. The motion was agreed unanimously by all councillors. The measures the council has agreed to implement include a commitment to work towards only using sustainable or re-usable plastics in all council buildings, writing to the public on how to reduce plastic waste, and creating a "plastic free Suffolk network" of councils, businesses and other organisations.

### **Suffolk County Council refuses to tackle carbon emissions**

At the Council meeting in December, I seconded a motion asking Suffolk County Council to set an annual "carbon budget" and create targets for reducing carbon emissions. Suffolk County Council already monitors its carbon emissions, but currently this work is not in the public domain and there are no clear targets for carbon reduction. A carbon budget would set out how much carbon the council could emit each year, much like a financial budget sets out how much money can be spent. Unfortunately, the administration voted against the motion and refused to commit to any carbon reduction targets.

### **40mph speed limit extension Ipswich Road**

I am told this is booked in for the 28 Jan with work expected to complete by Feb 3, weather permitting.

## **New highways boss**

After a long search, a new head of Growth, Highways and Infrastructure, Mark Ash has been hired and will start in February. He is currently Director of Waste and Environment at Essex County Council, where he does flood and water management, sustainable drainage services, management and promotion of the natural environment and renewable energy.

## **Road closures signage and diversions**

Having changed the pothole policy, new cabinet member for highways is also looking see if Highways can improve the co-ordination of road closures to stop over-runs and improve signage. They are looking seriously at the option of a permit scheme for road closures, similar to the one Essex already operates.

I have specifically asked that notices of closures such as the recent one in Bildeston which was ten miles from the actual roadworks in Stowmarket, mention the location of the roadworks, so that people are not diverted needlessly. I am told this has been fed back to the traffic management company which the utility uses.

## **Abandoned and unremoved signs**

I have raised this issue with Network Assurance. They are urging you to please report signs that are abandoned on [networkassurance@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:networkassurance@suffolk.gov.uk) and if at all possible with photos because utilities can be fined for these.