

## **Report for Nedging parish council 8/11/22 by County Councillor Robert Lindsay**

### **Roundabout**

Thank you to Nedging parish council for agreeing to hold the £4000 grant from my locality budget for the Roundabout magazine. The funds towards a new printer should help ensure the future of this magazine.

### **Bildeston Food Bank Update**

Soaring food and energy prices mean there is now a record 23 families regularly using Bildeston food bank, that represents 53 people, including 19 children.

The Food Bank has just launched its domestic oil winter appeal and is working with the Mrs LD Rope Trust to provide 500 litres of heating oil to each of six families that have requested it.

### **Heating Bildeston Project**

The project has now received a thumbs up to go to the next stage from a feasibility study conducted by an independent consultant. The study found that a scheme requiring about 10 boreholes and a small “energy centre” where heat pumps are used to bring up the temperature of borehole water, would be technically and financially feasible and would qualify for a Government grant for £50% of the capital cost. However the group first needs to identify £50k to do the second phase feasibility including drilling a test borehole. I have put them in touch with county grant’s officers to help them identify funding.

### **Automatic Numberplate Recognition**

This week, (8<sup>th</sup> November) Suffolk’s cabinet is likely to decide to apply to the Government to give itself powers to enforce moving traffic offences. This will allow it to use numberplate recognition cameras to fine people for driving on streets or through bus gates where private motors have been banned. It intends to pilot four roads in Ipswich to start with. Each camera costs around £20k plus £5k annual maintenance fee and it wants the fines at each site to at least cover the costs at each site.

### **Budget Survey**

Suffolk County Council is asking residents for their thoughts on the upcoming 2023/24 budget. It will consider a summary of responses when deciding how to spend your money. With inflationary pressures, it is unlikely the government will leave out local authorities from spending cuts – meaning council reserves may have to be used.

I recommend you share your thoughts on how the Council should spend their money, as well as highlight vulnerabilities you see in your communities that need further addressing.

For a link to the online survey, click here: <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/7BQY0J/>

### **Suffolk Cabinet approves more spending for special needs education**

The Cabinet met on October 11 for the first time since the summer political recess. The Cabinet agreed to spend £2m on a special school for Children and Young People in Felixstowe. In addition, SEND services received £10m to provide more specialist units in Suffolk. This is good news as it should help remove the number of families travel cross-county for support.

The Suffolk Local Access Forum submitted their annual report, which included their concerns about Sizewell C and its effect on green networks and Rights of Way. My political group have strongly campaigned in support of the Forum’s position, and we will continue to voice concerns over the damning effects of nuclear power on our coastal landscape and biodiversity.