

## **Nedging with Naughton PC 10.3.20**

### **Report from County Councillor Robert Lindsay**

#### **Buses latest**

I have recently communicated with Hadleigh Community Transport, they are still seeking community contributions to keep the 461/462 running from Hadleigh to Stowmarket and the 120. The county is refusing to provide any money, and is not using a newly available £500,000 bus grant for Suffolk for any services that it has pulled the subsidy from. I and my fellow county councillor Mick Fraser have already pledged £1000 each towards this service, but this on its own will not be enough.

Meantime, I have been working with Sudbury GoStart to provide a 112 replacement from Bildeston to Sudbury. GoStart have now applied for a section 22 licence to do this and they believe things should be ready to start operating the service when the 112 ends at end of March. .

At a Scrutiny meeting in December, the deputy cabinet member for transport announced that the council was planning to bid for around £20 million from the Department for Transport for an electric bus pilot scheme. If the bid is successful, the council has said that it plans to launch the pilot scheme within 12-18 months in the Bury St Edmunds area.

#### **Review of school transport policy implementation highlights 19 failings**

Suffolk County Council has undertaken an internal review of the implementation of its new school transport policy. The report from the review group identified nineteen failings and was discussed by the Scrutiny Committee on 12 February.

The report highlighted a number of concerns, including: the policy was implemented at the same time as a new IT system and staff restructure; there were insufficient staff numbers to cope with the increased workload; the policy was poorly communicated to parents and schools; the application and appeals processes were too complex; and the wellbeing of parents and children suffered as a result of the poor implementation.

The Scrutiny Committee has agreed to review the policy itself before the end of 2020.

#### **Ipswich Northern Route scrapped**

SCC cabinet this week agreed to scrap the project to build a £550m road north of Ipswich. It agreed that the public support was not there, particularly for all the new houses that would be required to support it and particularly given the council has declared a climate emergency.

### **LED street lighting project**

The county will spend £9.8m converting existing street lighting units to LED with the capability for dimming by up to 50% where there is lower traffic. About 27% of the county's 60,000 street lights were already converted to LED in an earlier project. The project is expected to begin this autumn and take about two years. The idea is to save money from power costs and save carbon emissions.