

Nedging with Naughton PC 14.1.20

Report from County Councillor Robert Lindsay

Budget 2020-21

Council precept to rise by 4% (2% general and 2% social care)

This leaves slight surplus for “investment” of £3.5m – available this year only.

- £3.0m – Suffolk 2020 Fund - Investment available for projects related to carbon reduction, carbon offset, road safety, natural environment, built environment, innovation and use of technology. Must have a cabinet member sponsor.

- £0.5m – Highways Investment Fund - Improving road sign and marking visibility, Refreshing road markings along main routes through villages and those supporting sustainable transport options such as cycling in urban areas. Minor repairs and resetting of twisted signs

Citizens Advice – another stay of grace

Rather than remove the Citizen’s Advice grant (currently £0.184m) entirely in 2020-21, as last planned, the Council has committed to provide £0.12m each year for the next three years. Citizen’s Advice will also receive a second year of funding from the CCGs, which equates to an additional £0.184m for 2020-21

Future bus project

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.

Buses under threat

I have reopened my request for the new cabinet member of transport Andrew Reid to meet bus passenger representatives of the routes 461/2, 112 and 110, though he is currently resisting this and wants to seek other solutions.