

## **Nedging with Naughton PC 24.5.21 Annual report from County Councillor Robert Lindsay**

### **Foodbank expands to meet greater demand**

This group, which evolved out of the Bildeston community support group during the first lockdown was at its peak a month or so ago supporting 19 families in and around the village. That number has declined to around nine families as more are returning to work. I was pleased to be able to help them with an initial grant from Babergh and in March I contributed £1k from my Babergh awards budget to the foodbank.

### **GoStart rescues 112 bus route to Sudbury**

In March 2020, the then operator of the 112 bus pulled out because the county had withdrawn its subsidy. Despite protracted pleas and negotiations with me, the county refused to provide any more funding but luckily GoStart Community bus from Sudbury was able to step in. I contributed £1k at their launch in March 2020 and another £1k last month March 2021 from my locality funds from Babergh and Suffolk.

### **461/462 route from Hadleigh to Stowmarket**

This had been suspended during Covid restrictions. I did contribute £1k early on from my locality budget and more recently contributed £1k to their Wheels within Wheels service as the rules forbid me from donating twice to the same thing in one year.

### **Budget amendments**

Being part of a political group allowed us both at the county level and Babergh to put together a series of budget amendments and several motions over the year which although they were voted down by the Conservative administration, will have flagged up areas that need attention and some of which were later adopted by the administration.

### **Group Budget Amendment – floods**

One of many amendments our group at Suffolk County Council proposed in February was to fund an extra officer for the flooding team to help bid for funding and manage projects. At the end of March the flood risk scrutiny committee recommended to cabinet that the council hire extra staff to the floods team to help tackle the flooding backlog.

## **20mph motion Suffolk**

My feeling is that there would be enormous health and other benefits if residential areas in Suffolk were allowed 20mph limits by default rather than being forced to go through the hoops that Bildeston has. As a result I proposed earlier the year a motion that called for a scheme to reduce speed limits in all suitable residential areas from 30mph to 20mph, for a price of £4m. Communities would have been able to opt out. This was rejected with the administration saying that 20mph could not be enforced without expensive measures.

I also seconded a biodiversity motion for Suffolk that will implement a new biodiversity strategy. This was passed unanimously.

## **Pension committee**

I sat on the pension committee and during the past financial year the committee agreed, after much pushing from me, to move its entire passive equity fund into a low carbon fund. It represents about 10% of the total fund.

## **Cabinet approves 5-year cycling plan for Suffolk**

In June 2020 Suffolk's Cabinet approved a 5-year cycling plan for Suffolk, which identified 148 potential routes to be prioritised. This is as a result of a motion proposed by me in July 2018, which called on the council to produce a strategic costed 5-year cycling plan.

Funding has not yet been secured for these routes, but the cycling plan will provide a strong basis to bid for funding as and when it becomes available.

## **Climate emergency recommendations published**

In July 2020, Suffolk's Cabinet approved the recommendations of a cross-party policy development panel outlining how the council should respond to the climate emergency and reduce emissions. This followed a motion from myself and my Green colleague in March 2019, which declared a climate emergency and committed the council to be carbon neutral by 2030.