

Report for Nedging PC 12/9/17 Robert Lindsay County Councillor

Highways reshuffle

A highways reshuffle means the usual points of contact for you and me have gone and we are being asked to report standard defects on the Highways reporting tool and more complicated issues by emailing or phoning the Phoenix House “service delivery centre”. PhoenixHouseSDC@suffolk.gov.uk 0345 606 6171

30mph speed limit extension on B1078 to Wallow Lane junction

Cllr Anne Whybrow from the next door division has agreed to finance a report to be brought before the county’s speed limit panel to request this extension. I have asked to see the report and to be kept informed of the timing so that I can back the call and give my and Nedging’s views, given that this road is within our division.

Secret cabinet committees

Suffolk County council at their July meeting proposed new cabinet committees which would have seats for councillors from all three political groups. However, the final proposal was that these committees would sit in secret. I introduced an amendment to say they should be in public as are all other council meetings. This was defeated by Conservative councillors who were ordered to vote against. The unamended motion was then carried. I will be sitting on one of the four cabinet committees and am quite prepared to report anything significant to you and my constituents.

Cabinet members vote to boost their allowances

The council in July also proposed to increase the allowance for cabinet members, but for no other councillors. I and most of my group, voted against this. Again the Conservative majority were ordered to vote it through. I believe councillors need to make the arguments over allowance increases after they have served four years, not just after they have been elected.

Cutting of free school buses and post 16 travel subsidy

Schools cabinet member Gordon Jones is brought before cabinet today [Tuesday] a plan by which from Sept 2019.

1. Free travel for primary and secondary pupils would no longer be provided, where a student is not attending their nearest school (even if that school is their catchment school).
2. Subsidised travel for 16-18 year olds would no longer be provided.

There will be 789 pupils in Cosford affected. For secondary school pupils, our division will be the worst hit in Suffolk with 37% having their free bus withdrawn and parents facing with the choice of changing school, having to arrange their own car sharing transport or purchasing tickets on a commercial service – if one is available. This move will disproportionately hit rural areas across the county, and amounts to an attack on rural communities. This was only announced last week but from what I

have heard from my fellow group members so far, I am hopeful there will be enough support to call this ill-thought decision in to scrutiny. It also goes against Government guidance on changing school transport which recommends a phase-in to allow children to continue their education uninterrupted. I would like to see the council make an effort to make routes to school safe and thereby cut the cost of taxi transport for primary children deemed to have unsafe routes.