

REPORT TO HADLEIGH TOWN COUNCIL - 19TH OCTOBER 2017

Cllr Mick Fraser – County Councillor for Hadleigh Division

Dear Madam Mayor,

Highways

During this period, I have dealt with the following highways issues of interest within our division:

1. Benton Street Safety Project. I met with the SCC Highways officers who have conducted a detailed camera survey at distinct positions along Benton Street. The data collected along with the very high number of questionnaire returns, was used to design several engineering proposals, which can now be considered for possible implementation in order to improve safety along this road. Most of these options can be experimental and therefore can be removed should they prove ineffective. I would like to suggest that these options be presented to the Council at some appropriate opportunity for your consideration.
2. Stone Street. I have approved the proposed remedial safety measures design along the A1141 Stone Street and authorized funding of £1974.65 from my Local Highways budget for it. It is anticipated that these works should be completed within 14-weeks.
3. Lady Lane Road Safety Measures. I am pleased to report that the traffic management measures have now be installed on Lady Lane industrial estate in the vicinity of the Celotex works.
4. Suffolk Highways Transformation. The new structure of Suffolk Highways (SH) was launched on 4th September after phase 2 of its organizational change. All SH staff are now located at one of three service delivery centres and the new structure brings Kier and SCC staff together to work as one team. Highways in Hadleigh Division will be maintained by personnel operating from Phoenix House. Initial customer feedback has been promising and has improved since the organizational changes.

Planning

Hadleigh Quarry. Due to the number and strength of objections submitted regarding the application for an aggregates wash plant with associated silt lagoons, I have requested that this application is considered by the full Development and Regulation Committee, rather than by a delegation officer.

News from Endeavour House

1. Chief Executive Officer. The search for the new CEO continues after a full day of interviews, presentations and assessments failed to identify any clear candidate who met the exceptionally high standards expected for this role. Therefore, no appointment has been made at this time and the recruiting process will start again, probably in December 2017. Corporate Director Sue Cook is currently acting as interim Chief Executive and will continue to do this whilst decisions are made about the next steps in the recruitment process.
2. Budget. SCC is now its 7th Year of making savings and it will be an immense challenge of identifying further cost savings across the county of £28.5M in the next FY, 2018/19.

3. Schools. I am incredibly please by the news from our young people, in that more students in Suffolk have achieved expected levels of GCSE attainment in English and Maths this year. Figures suggest more than 2% more students have achieved the expected standard for English and Maths, compared with last year. Also, A level figures show that Suffolk pupils have once again performed well with the number of A*-E grades awarded above the national average. 77% of A level grades achieved were within the A*- C bracket, in line with national figures and a 1% increase on last year's results. Overall education standards have improved with Suffolk is up 24 places to 85/151 of counties and districts across the country for GSCE, whilst Essex and Norfolk standards have dropped. 88% of Suffolk schools are rated as good or outstanding by Ofsted.

I have nothing further to report.

Yours Sincerely

Michael Fraser

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