

Parish Report – October 2020

Councillor
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Proposed motion that would have seen speed limits lowered to 20mph across Suffolk

At Full Council on the 22nd October, the LDGI Group proposed a motion that would implement a default 20mph speed limit for roads in residential areas and communities across Suffolk's towns and villages, with 30mph limits to be retained only in exceptional circumstances. The motion was supported by both the LDGI Group and the Labour Group, and though some Conservative councillors privately expressed support, unfortunately they were whipped to vote against it.

Cllr Lindsay, the group's Spokesperson for Highways, Transport and Rural Issues, commented: "By rejecting this motion, the Conservative administration have lost a massive opportunity to improve the lives of their residents, to make the air cleaner, to get more people walking and cycling, and to reduce deaths and injuries on our roads."

SCC has separately announced a publicity campaign "to encourage walking and cycling" that will consist of posters and radio adverts, along with £235,000 funding for Quiet Lanes Suffolk, which parishes can apply for. My group has called for greater commitment from the administration to support walking, cycling and road safety.

Submitted response to 'Planning for the Future Consultation'

Following the Government's announcement of a consultation on their proposed reforms to the planning system, my group has submitted a response representing the issues of Suffolk's urban and rural areas. The key points of our response were:

- Planning decisions must be kept local, as local communities have unique circumstances that will not be reflected if all decisions are taken at a national level.
- Planning approval should not be automatic or determined by AI decision-making, which could lead to inappropriate development that does not meet the needs of the local community.
- The environment must be safeguarded.
- Quality must not be lost for the sake of speed.
- Affordable housing must be protected.

County Council AGM

This month saw the Annual General Meeting of the County Council, which I attended. The AGM should have taken place in May, but was delayed due to COVID-19. Cllr Graham Newman was elected Chairman of the County Council until the next AGM in May 2021. Cllr Louis Busuttil was elected Vice Chairman.

Cllr Brambley-Crawshaw, Leader of the LDGI Group, gave an executive speech praising the dedication of Suffolk County Council officers and public sector workers who have pulled together to combat the pandemic. She also called for more co-operation between local politicians to combat the issues of the pandemic and climate change.

Boundary review consultation on draft recommendations continues

Following a delay due to Covid-19, the Boundary Commission consultation on their draft recommendations continues. Recommendations include a reduction to 70 councillors. Any boundary changes will not be implemented until the 2025 elections.

The draft recommendations and boundary changes are available to view on the Boundary Commission's website: <https://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/eastern/suffolk/suffolk-county-council>

The consultation on these recommendations will run from 15 September – 23 November and can be found here: <https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/have-your-say/18495>