

Report for Nedging PC 9.9.25 by Robert Lindsay, County Councillor

40mph and 30mph signs now up on A1141 at Union Hill through Semer and Kersey

As you will have seen these signs have now been installed. I have contributed to these— as I did the 60mph to 30mph at Nedging Tye – because I believe it will make it easier, quieter and safer for residents and businesses along that road as well as safer for drivers going through it.

Daily Hadleigh to Stowmarket Bus route

Although, as I said in my last report, the funding for this has been allocated, at this stage the officer has focused on other routes and not yet got around to drawing up a timetable. Ideally it would be peak hours and fit in with the existing routes operated (461 and 462 which stops at Naughton) by Hadleigh Community Transport. However, until the timetable has been drawn up it is not possible to say whether HCT will. If not the council will have to put the route out to tender by other operators but that the tender would not be for existing routes that HCT runs, making the offer less attractive to other operators.

Leaflets promoting Conservatives' "one Suffolk" funded by council taxpayers.

The Conservatives who control Suffolk County Council are estimated to have so far spent more than £100,000 of council tax payers' money on selling their proposal for a single Suffolk mega unitary and attacking the district councils' rival proposals for three unitaries. Half of this went on a social media campaign and the other half through the costs of delivering a leaflet to every household.

When this came to light, the Government issued a letter to all chief executives of local authorities saying:

"We would like to also take this opportunity to remind you of your responsibilities under the Code of Recommended Practice for Local Authority Publicity. Please do take care in having regard to ... the principles of objectivity and even-handedness and particularly paragraph 16 which states that local authorities should not use public funds to mount publicity campaigns whose primary purpose is to persuade the public to hold a particular view on a question of policy."

More on three unitary plan

Our political group at the county recently were briefed early September about the rival three unitaries plan that districts are proposing by two chief executives from two of the district councils (Babergh and E. Suffolk). They pointed the many benefits for citizens in having services like social workers and adult care devolved down to a level closer to communities. For example: staff teams, managers and social workers serving smaller area are likely to have more resilience to pressures than ones trying to cover the whole county. A smaller authority also ought to find it easier to find school places for children with special needs closer to home rather than send them in taxis long distance. It will also be easier for a smaller authority to combine its housing expertise with serving the elderly who need sheltered accommodation, rather than them having to rely on them going into care homes.

County council AND Mayoral Elections May 2026

The Government's official position since December 2024 was that county council elections would be postponed for 12 months until May 2026. There was much speculation that this would be cancelled because people would only be electing a body that lasts for two years before being dissolved. However as that date creeps ever closer, without any change of heart from Government, it is looking more and more likely that Suffolk County Council elections will be held then, at the same time as the Norfolk Suffolk Mayoral elections.

Progress on recycling household waste

New Government rules coming into force next year insist councils must now collect and recycle glass and foodwaste and more plastics from the doorstep.

District councils are responsible for collecting the rubbish and the county council has to handle it at the depots.

On Tuesday 15 July, the administration decided to put £5.9m into updating the recycling centre at Great Blakenham so that it can handle more recyclable waste.

Biffa runs the centre and this means it will charge them less for the service.

Separately, the council has signed a four-year contract to process all the county's food waste collected from the kerbside from next year at Adnams' anaerobic digestion plant near Southwold. The waste will be used to generate biomethane as a fuel and turned into soil fertiliser.