

Nedging Parish Council report by Robert Lindsay county cllr 14.7.26

No room for crossing

Sadly the community liaison engineer went out to measure up the verge by the bus stop on Ipswich Road by Nedging Tye and found that it was 70cm wide and bounded by a ditch. This makes it too narrow to allow the creation of a footway there that could lead to a zebra crossing in a safe location. It is a pity because it was a good idea, in principle, and it if had been practical would make life safer for anyone walking in the village.

Resurfacing of Bildeston High Street

Highways have listened to my repeated requests to take advantage of the road closure to resurface 80% of the High Street. They are not doing some bits – ie south of Ipswich Road turnoff and the north end just beyond Wattisham Road turnoff but I have pointed out there are humps and bumps and potholes here too.

Daily 111 bus via Bildeston to Ipswich

The 111 bus is continuing to operate during the road closure. However for the duration of the closure it now starts at the bottom of the Ipswich Road in Bildeston, rather than in Hitcham

Two 51 buses during road closure

Very pleased to hear that the county council, AW and Konect have agreed to operate two buses 51 and 51S between Hadleigh and Stowmarket, with one plying to and fro between Stow, Hitcham and Bildeston and the other going between the two towns but bypassing the High Street closure and Hitcham to go via Needham.

As you are probably aware, the closure began today (Monday 13th July) having been delayed by a fortnight to allow the High Street to be used as a diversion route for a closure to mend a gas leak elsewhere. The news came too late to alter the new bus timetables which began a fortnight ago.

I have asked that Konect install timetables at the bus stops where they can, since the only one I know of on the route was posted up by Bildeston PC. They say they will do this “as soon as possible”.

Week-long Ipswich Road closure now over

I did get requests from a couple of residents of Nedging Road for extra signage to detour rat-running traffic which could no longer use the Ipswich Road, but I explained that the Ipswich Road was due to re-open the following day and there have been no further complaints.

51 Bus stop timetables

Legal challenge to three unitary decision

On Monday (30 June), I attended the emergency cabinet meeting called by Reform's leader Michael Hadwen at which the cabinet nodded through his decision to mount a judicial review.) I and colleagues from all opposition parties have signed a "call in" request to the monitoring officer to have this decision reviewed by scrutiny committee. I have yet to hear the outcome, however even if the call-in goes ahead, it is unlikely to prevent the judicial review being launched.

The legal challenge will cost up to £500k and that will have to come from the already tight reserves budget. It is far from clear that Reform can win this challenge. Hadwen has said his goal is to prevent any change from happening from the existing two-tier structure.

While I am not a big fan of the changes imposed on us, I can't help thinking that things have got too far down the road to change that now, but I may be wrong.

The risk is that the change to three unitaries still goes ahead but that we are not ready because of the distraction caused by this legal action. I also pointed out to Cllr Hadwen that Reform do not have a mandate to take this action which, if it wins, will prolong his term of officer from two years to four years. It formed no part of Reform's manifesto at the election. Cllr Hadwen said he had a mandate to make any decision because Reform won the election and that planning for three unitaries is going ahead in parallel with the action.

SEND update

My last report noted that inspectors had found many issues the county's send service still needs to address.

A paper to cabinet this week recommends the county spend £19m on expanding local specialist provision over next four years, with 168 new places in specialist "bases" linked to mainstream schools and 80 linked to existing specialist schools. The idea is to cut down on the expensive and disruptive taxi trips for many pupils to specialist schools many miles

away.