

Report for Nedging PC from County Councillor Robert Lindsay 12.7.25

Hadleigh – Stowmarket bus services

I'm pleased to say that the funding for daily services between the two key market towns in our area was officially announced Tuesday 8 July. Although I had already been told by an officer that they have the money from Government the fact that this specific project is now in a press release makes it more likely to happen. That said, the bus officer was away when I asked for an update. The table of bus projects includes this entry.

Hadleigh Community Transport	461, 462	Hadleigh - Whatfield - Bildeston - Stowmarket	Increase to daily operation and add more journeys
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They have a total £2.8m to spend on bus services – being shared amongst this and around 20 other projects across the county and they have announced a further £5.2m from Government which has to be spent on capital infrastructure (basically bus stops and bus stop improvements). They have yet to allocate that, so if Nedging PC feels the need to update its bus stops in light of the extra services, now is the time to ask!

County bows to pressure to lower 20mph hurdles

For many years the county council have had an extremely tough set of hoops and hurdles that local communities are forced to negotiate before they can get a lower speed limit.

This month a Mid Suffolk councillor and myself and a LibDem County Councillor colleague simultaneously told the Conservatives that run the county that we would be proposing motions at both Mid Suffolk Council and the County Council that called on the county to make it easier for communities that want reduced speed limits to get them.

The county council Cabinet Member for Highways Strategy told the press in response that he was doing just that, the first time this had ever been revealed.

Unfortunately, however, the Conservatives were ordered to vote against both the motion at Mid Suffolk and on July 10th, and the motion I seconded at the county council.

Our motion at the county council was asking the county to consult publicly, cross party and to review the criteria for ALL speed limit changes (so those for going from 60mph to 40mph for example) and adopt Vision Zero goals, which would require them to set a timeline to achieve reductions in Suffolk's mounting toll of road deaths and serious injuries.

The rejection of our motions leads me to fear that communities trying to get reduced limits may not notice any real attitude change from Highways after what is likely to be a behind - closed-doors review.

Black bins random search

The county council is conducting a “composition sampling” of black bin contents to enable them to work out what is currently being sent to the incinerator that could be recycled after the changes due to come in 2026.

On collection day the sampling company will come beforehand and empty some bins at random into their own van which will be taken to a recycling centre for sorting into different categories of materials each of which will be weighed.

Householders do not need to change anything in the way they dispose of things, ahead of this survey. Nor should they because they want an accurate picture of the normal contents.

Libraries were taken in-house by county council Sunday June 1

The county is renaming the service, **Suffolk Community Libraries**, and is introducing a new logo. A new website was also launched this week at www.suffolkcommunitylibraries.co.uk, with anyone visiting the existing site redirected to the new site. The county insists nothing is changing for library users. All 45 libraries will remain open, with the same staff, services, opening hours, activities, and the Spydus reservation system. The Spydus system, coincidentally, crashed a few weeks ago but I am assured it is now back working. It is provided by a third party company, not the county council.

Local Government Reorganization latest news

The county cabinet on Tuesday 17th June approved setting aside a £1.9 million fund to allow the county council's officers to draw up a business case for having a single Suffolk wide unitary authority. It must submit this before September. This is on top of the salary for their new senior officer in charge of reorganisation. The full cost is expected to be in the tens of millions.

Mayoral elections are due to be held in May 2026, with the mayoral authority set up a few months earlier, in February. The government has provided £1m towards the costs of the mayoral authority, which Suffolk County Council and Norfolk County Council have agreed to split between them. The government has also allocated £290k for Suffolk towards Local Government Reorganisation (LGR), which is to be shared with the other councils who are also preparing their proposals for the government to consider in September.

The Government announced 10 July that the Mayoral elections will revert to a supplementary voting (SV) system, - as Police and Crime Commissioner elections have been - instead of the first past the post system originally planned, though the minister admits that they have decided this too late to legislate the change in time for our May 2026 Norfolk/Suffolk mayoral election.