

## Reydon Parish Council report from Michael Ladd Suffolk County Councillor

### New electric vehicle charging points to be installed in Suffolk

Plug In Suffolk, launched earlier this year, is a project run in partnership with Suffolk County Council, Stowmarket-based EO Charging, and renewable energy provider, Bulb. It aims to install up to 400 EV charging points across the county at 100 business premises, car parks, hotels and anywhere that EVs could park for a short amount of time. This will make Suffolk a national leader in EV infrastructure.

The fast charging points supplied by Plug In Suffolk do not require any registration, membership or apps - drivers simply park, plug-in and charge using contactless payment.

The overall cost to businesses is negligible and, if used regularly, can even generate a small income. For further information or to apply to join the 'Plug In Suffolk' network head to [www.pluginsuffolk.org](http://www.pluginsuffolk.org)

### Conversations start as county council seeks solutions to bus funding challenge

On 19 June, Suffolk County Council met with representatives from Suffolk's bus operators to see whether they can run a number of bus services without public subsidy. This follows a reduction in the amount of public money available.

The meeting, involving 11 of Suffolk's biggest bus operating companies, follows decisions taken in February 2019 on how to save £13 million from Suffolk County Council's budget, including £340,000 from the authority's passenger transport budget.

This led to a cross-party policy development panel being set up to agree how decisions should be made about the funding of services. A new, fair and thorough set of criteria was adopted in May 2019, including passenger numbers, subsidy per single ticket, integration with other services, the number of entitled students using a service, and the percentage of journeys made by concessionary pass holders.

Of the 211 bus routes currently operating throughout Suffolk, 61 are subsidised by public money. 23 of these will have their public funding removed. This does not mean that these services will necessarily end, just that public funding is no longer affordable.

In 2017/18, the 23 services were responsible for 107,624 single journeys out of a total of 14.9million journeys made across the county. This means that the services are responsible for only 0.7% of journeys per year.

A full list of the affected routes has been published on Suffolk County Council's website [www.suffolkonboard.com](http://www.suffolkonboard.com) and includes services where the council is currently paying a subsidy of £12.64 per single ticket which equates to over £25.00 per round trip.

## **Lake Lothing Third Crossing project hosts successful suppliers' event**

On 6 June, over 100 attendees from local, regional and national businesses gathered in Lowestoft to hear how they could be involved in the supply chain for the Lake Lothing Third Crossing.

This nationally significant project will see a much-needed bridge connect the north and south of Lowestoft, if consent to build it is given later this year.

Attendees were given an update on the progress of the crossing, and details on how to register their interest to be a supplier and how they will be able to submit quotations for potential work.

## **Suffolk pothole repair scheme to go countywide**

A trial scheme to tackle potholes swiftly has been so successful it is being rolled out across Suffolk.

The Suffolk Highways scheme, which started in Ipswich in October 2018, changes how potholes are categorised.

The new system allows engineers to repair potholes close to each other during the same visit, tackling smaller potholes before they can expand.

Previously, they fixed larger holes first and smaller ones at a later date.

The new policy reduces the amount of time workers have to travel between jobs.

## **Highways matters**

Cllr Brian Bailey met with the SCC Road Safety engineer regarding Halesworth Road audit and the report is currently being produced. The new and correct sign when travelling East approaching the bend at Keens Lane is on order and will be replaced shortly.