

Bildeston Parish Council report by Robert Lindsay county cllr 2.3.26

New bus 51 Hadleigh and Stowmarket

I have no new info on this timetable but , the number and timing of services is limited because it is just one driver operating one bus going to and fro, And by law a single driver's shift is limited. The operator TMS apparently is prepared to flex the timings once the service is underway, within these limits, depending on demand. Apparently HCT is not willing to ticket share on the route. I hope this may change if the route becomes successful.

County council elections back on

As you probably heard, last month the Government suddenly U-turned on its move to scrap county council elections and they are now back on with v little notice.

This is owing to a legal challenge which the Government found it could not defend against, although before its lawyers saw the challenge the government was adamant that it had legal precedence on its side.

All in all this strikes me as representative of the cavalier way local government changes are being pushed through.

Vehicle Removal Trial for Resurfacing Works

Often road works have been delayed and extra costs added because people fail to heed the warning to move their cars beforehand. Suffolk Highways have announced that they will trial towing away vehicles that have not been removed between March and June this year for about 19 specific planned resurfacing works. The council will a fortnight before place cards placed under windscreens and through residents' doors. Two days before the works are due to begin, cones will be put out along with signage warning that it will become a towing zone on the day. If there are cars parked on the road on the day, officers will knock on doors to try and find the owner and as a last resort, vehicles will be moved. There is a £70 fine to get it back. Essex County Council has been doing this for about a decade and found that it has worked to cut costs of road works.

County Council chief executive quits with no new job to go to

On 13 February, it was announced that Nicola Beach, the Chief Executive of Suffolk County Council, would be resigning after six years at the end of March. Because the council will be dissolved in May 2028, the administration will be appointing two existing directors – Andrew Cook (currently deputy CEO) and Mark Ash (currently director of local government reorganisation) – into new joint chief executive roles for the remaining two years of the council's existence.

Suffolk Sustainability Initiatives Nominated for Awards

Suffolk County Council is one of 24 UK local authorities to be shortlisted for the first APSE Energy Awards, which are held in partnership with the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero. The nomination recognises the council's Warm Homes Suffolk Loan Scheme, and the Suffolk Public Sector Leaders group's Home Energy Efficiency Assessment Scheme (administered by Reed In Partnership). Both these schemes were a result of declaring a climate emergency. However the county has removed the word "climate" from its policy to deal with national strategic infrastructure projects.