**Report for Lavenham parish council 3/11/22 by County Councillor Robert Lindsay**

**Lady Street**

I have asked Highways if Lady Street can be resurfaced. The answer came back that Lady Street is currently ranked 711th in order of priority for resurfacing out 26,213 Suffolk roads. Prioritisation is based on the number of reports they get about potholes on the reporting tool and the number of potholes that meet their criteria – they have to be a certain width and depth.

This means that as a general rule, residents complaining about potholes should be encouraged to report them on the reporting tool, and this should help get the road up the priority list.

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**Pump Court**

I was asked to look at possible solutions to vehicles parking here and also damaging property. The solution Highways recommended was double yellow lines, but they will not fund it and they have a rough estimate of £8k to £10k cost, largely for the required TRO. I can contribute a little to this from my locality budget if the Parish Council want to pursue it, but my initial feeling is that yellow lines here do not justify the cost.

**Roundabout**

I have recently provided £4000 grant from my locality budget for the Roundabout magazine. The funds towards a new printer should help ensure the future of this magazine.

**Budget Survey**

Suffolk County Council is asking residents for their thoughts on the upcoming 2023/24 budget. It will consider a summary of responses when deciding how to spend your money. With inflationary pressures, it is unlikely the government will leave out local authorities from spending cuts – meaning council reserves may have to be used.

I recommend you share your thoughts on how the Council should spend their money, as well as highlight vulnerabilities you see in your communities that need further addressing.

For a link to the online survey, click here: <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/7BQY0J/>

**Suffolk Cabinet approves more spending for special needs education**

The Cabinet met on October 11 for the first time since the summer political recess. The Cabinet agreed to spend £2m on a special school for Children and Young People in Felixstowe. In addition, SEND services received £10m to provide more specialist units in Suffolk. This is good news as it should help remove the number of families travel cross-county for support.

The Suffolk Local Access Forum submitted their annual report, which included their concerns about Sizewell C and its effect on green networks and Rights of Way. My political group have strongly campaigned in support of the Forum’s position, and we will continue to voice concerns over the damning effects of nuclear power on our coastal landscape and biodiversity.

**Suffolk in talks to become investment zone**

Under the Liz Truss government, Suffolk County Council let it be known that it has agreed to start discussions with Government to become an investment zone as part of the PM’s new growth and investment strategy. Investment Zones were supposed to be areas where tax was removed and environmental and planning controls reduced. However the Sunak government is now thinking hard about its budget deficit and Michael Gove is reviewing the whole idea because it will cost the government large sums in foregone tax revenue. Talks about devolved Suffolk Government are still ongoing.

**County Council unveils first of its electric car fleet**

The first delivery of 16 electric vehicles (EVs) will be in November, as the council begins its program to upgrade all existing pool cars.

This is part of the council’s work to deliver on its climate emergency declaration, and ambition to protect and enhance the environment.

The Renault Zoe has been chosen as the first of the new vehicles, with 10 MG ZS to arrive in April 2023. The aim is to completely electrify the fleet by 2024.

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