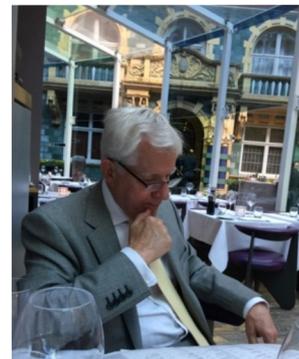


Barry Stone - County Councillor for the Loddon Division

Parish Council Briefing Note - September 2018



Dear All

I will be using these notes as the basis for my report to your Parish Council.

Chairman of Business and Property

Following the change of leadership at the County Council the new Leader has appointed me as Chairman of the Business and Property Committee — Major aim is Revenue Generation and helping to reduce the deficit by property asset sales.

Adult Social Care

We need to save £95m over three years improving services and delivering them in a better but at a reduced cost.

Adult Social Care needs to reduce costs by £54.241m over the next four years so we need to find a better way of funding and delivering services.

Care in the home a top priority with various tax raising proposals explored and to this end a Green Paper has been produced by the LGA and a consultation process is underway, closing on 26th September

Can be found at www.futureofadultsocialcare.co.uk

The government has been promising a Green Paper for some time and it is now expected in the autumn

Hospital admission reduction initiative

A £2.6m cash injection has been pledged to lift pressure on the NHS over the winter and to cut hospital admissions.

Five clinical commissioning groups in Great Yarmouth & Waveney and the rest of Norfolk are providing funds .

A key move is to extend the early intervention vehicle (EIV) - an ambulance to assess people who fall at home to see if they need hospital care.

A six-month trial on the EIV last winter helped bring admissions down from 78% of emergency calls to 23%.

From October, the service will run seven days a week all year round, instead of the four days a week seen last winter.

I presume from this that there is only one EIV.

Loddon Roundabout

The latest email to me from Matt Tracey includes the following:

“I am optimistic of a resolution having just met with Halsbury’s new highways consultant to discuss an alternative to the approved roundabout design (avoiding the gas main, etc). We’re currently awaiting the submission of the preliminary design, taking in to account the necessary safety and capacity considerations we’ve raised as part of the ongoing ‘Developer Design & Build’ S278 process. Whilst at an early stage I’m confident this is a positive step forward to enable the committed highways scheme to be finalised and subsequently programmed.

We're obviously doing all we can to support the developer deliver as quickly as possible and have reiterated that we'd be happy to step in to complete the design and then construct on their behalf if they so wish."

Environment Development and Transport

Consultation regarding proposals for the Western Link to the NDR across the Wensum Valley completed. Absolutely essential and support by most people and the Hospital (NNUH) in particular. Environmentalist still resistant.

Member Highways Budget

I have £6,000 available again this year for safety improvements in my Division, see attached criteria.

Local Member Highways Budget

Background

A new fund has been created to provide each local Member with an annual budget of £6,000 to be used on highway work within each financial year. This offers flexibility to progress small highway projects at Members discretion based upon local need.

What can the money be spent on?

The funding can be spent on a wide variety of highway related aspects. Typical uses could include:

- Advisory signs i.e. "Unsuitable for HGV's and advisory speed limits i.e. 20mph signs outside schools would be possible.
- Small footway extensions and modifications
- More significant work to public rights of way
- Minor drainage work
- New non-regulatory signs and replacement of existing signs and road markings. Possibly some new road markings such as "SLOW".
- Feasibility work or investigations that cannot be resourced by existing front line budgets.
- Minor traffic management projects including Traffic Regulation Order related works. However, it should be noted that these works can cost between £3,000 and £5,000 each and may be difficult to deliver within a 12-month timescale.
- Day rates for gangs to carry out additional maintenance to areas of the highways that a local Member would like improved i.e. public footpaths or verges.
- Other highway improvements - improved visibility splays, junction improvements, kerbing, work in conservation areas.
- Capital grants to parish councils for highway maintenance related equipment such as grass cutting or footway gritting equipment.

What is excluded from the fund?

Illuminated signs, street lighting or reflective bollards are not included in this initiative. This aligns with NCC energy saving objective of 50% by 2020, based on 2007 baseline.

In addition, the budget of £6,000 is not to be exceeded. Any schemes which are likely to exceed this amount will not be taken forward, unless other funding streams are confirmed.

Who can help provide advice on what can be delivered and how?

Your local Highways Area team can provide the necessary help and advice on what the engineering solutions to any given problem may be. These options will be location specific and will usually involve a site visit to fully understand the issues and identify the optimum solution.