



Council 14 December 2010

CABINET MEMBER REPORT TO FULL COUNCIL

Written report by Cllr Terry Clements, Transport & Planning Portfolio

Portfolio includes:

- Highways Agency;
- Engineering;
- Conservation of the built environment;
- Car Parking;
- Transportation policy;
- Bus station and public transport;
- Planning Policy;
- Development Control and Enforcement;
- Building Control;
- Local Land and Property Gazetteer; and
- Local Land Charges.

1. Transport and Engineering

1.1 Traffic Management Schemes

- (a) A further survey of the parking problems in the Mill Road and Broad Street areas of Haverhill has been undertaken at the request of residents. This showed that the parking in Mill Road area was not significantly higher on a market day and confirmed there was little benefit in pursuing a permit parking scheme further. In Broad Street a questionnaire regarding parking will be distributed shortly.
- (b) The following temporary road closures in Bury St Edmunds are planned:-
- Thursdays 16 and 23 December 2010 : Town Centre, late night shopping.
- Sundays 23 and 30 January 2011 : Angel Lane, removal and replacement of BT pole.
- (c) The rearranged surfacing works in Orchard Street/Cannon Street and Glastonbury Road will require road closures.
- (d) Haverhill road closures:-
- Friday 10 December 2010 : Town centre, family night with fireworks.
- Friday 24 December 2010 : High Street, street market.

1.2 Capital Works

Bury St Edmunds

- (a) The St Olaves Precinct ground painting is ready for completion subject to favourable weather conditions.
- (b) The new zebras crossing in Out Northgate near the railway bridge has been commissioned and well received by residents.
- (c) The relaying of the block paving in St Andrews Street South, adjacent to arc, was completed in October 2010.
- (d) The necessary civil engineering works to School Yard West to allow this area of car parking to be brought back into use were completed in time for the Christmas Fayre.
- (e) Works to address anxiety about vehicles leaving the carriageway on a bend in St Olaves Road have been completed.

Haverhill

- (f) The works to create a piazza adjacent to the Haverhill Multiscreen cinema have been commenced.

1.3 Highways Maintenance Works: Bury St Edmunds

- (a) The footway on Barton Hill has been resurfaced.
- (b) Salisbury Green, Runnymede Green and Canterbury Green have seen thorough cleaning of the existing soakaways and installation of new ones to address a long standing concern of residents.
- (c) Additional drainage has been installed in Barton Road to deal with a local flooding problem.
- (d) The works to resurface Orchard Street and parts of Cannon Street and Glastonbury Road during week commencing 29 November 2010 were deferred owing to adverse weather conditions. These will be rescheduled for the New Year.

1.4 Car Parking

- (a) The build up to the Christmas parking peak demand has seen growth in events of around 9% compared to last year. The Cattle market/arc car park has seen higher growth of about 18%.
- (b) I helped launch two new electric car charging points within the multi-storey car park in Bury St Edmunds. The equipment has been provided free of charge by our pay machine supplier, and this facility is on a 6 month trial.
- (c) A new 38 space car park has been opened at School Yard West in Bury St Edmunds, this will be used as a premium weekly ticket facility Monday to Saturday and a pay and display car park on Sundays.

- (d) The Bury St Edmunds Christmas Fayre saw a very successful weekend with all of the Parking Services Team assisting with the management of traffic seeking to access the car parks. The team will be deployed in a similar manner each weekend up to Christmas to help manage demand. Greene King kindly allowed public use of their 350 space staff car park over the weekend to help cope with the demand.
- (e) In Haverhill parking events have been affected by the introduction of free parking at Tesco with events being down on previous years.
- (f) The temporary park and ride facility for the Bury St Edmunds Christmas Fayre again proved very popular. The figures for 2009 and 2010 are given below:-

	Saturday 2009	Saturday 2010	Sunday 2009	Sunday 2010
Kempson Way	700	774	300	461
Olding Road	475	462	220	441

2. ***Planning***

- 2.1 Following a meeting with the landowners' agents, local representatives and officers, an amendment has been proposed to the adopted North-West Haverhill Masterplan to enable lower density development to take place that will enable an element of larger homes to be built. The landowners are currently consulting the local community on these amendments prior to submitting the amendments to the Borough Council for consideration.
- 2.2 The sixth Local Development Framework Annual Monitoring Report, for 2009/2010, has been prepared and considered by the Sustainable Development Working Party in November. The key headlines in the report include:-
 - (a) a slight increase in housing completions across the Borough compared with the previous year, but still 25% lower than the long term average;
 - (b) nearly 57% of new homes built in 2009/2010 were on previously developed land, significantly above the Local Plan target of 40%;
 - (c) a slight decrease in unemployment levels, with percentages remaining below the county averages;
 - (d) the proportion of the population in the Borough classified as beyond working age is set to increase by two-thirds by 2030, compared with a 7 per cent increase in the number of children and 3 per cent increase in the number of working age residents; and
 - (e) the gross average weekly wage in the Borough, at £439 remains below the regional and national average. In Suffolk, only Forest Heath District Council and Ipswich Borough Council local authority areas are lower.
- 2.3 The Growth Area Partnership Board has recommended the allocation of funds for the delivery of new infrastructure projects, including green infrastructure projects in Haverhill and contributions towards the construction of the Bury St Edmunds Eastern Relief Road.