



Council 1 March 2011

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) Bury St Edmunds

- (i) In the town centre a number of temporary road closures and other measures are planned to allow a major programme of gas main replacement work to be undertaken over the next 12 to 18 months. The works are scheduled to commence in April 2011. The Borough Council has been working with Suffolk County Council and National Grid on a launch event to engage with key stakeholders.
- (ii) At the request of the Police, consultation has undertaken into the provision of additional parking signing in the vicinity of the Angel Hill war memorial. A suitable design in keeping with this area has been agreed and will be installed shortly.
- (iii) A follow up survey has been undertaken in the York Road/Queens Road area regarding the recently introduced extension of the Zone H Neighbourhood Parking Scheme. The outcome of this survey will be reported to the next meeting of the Bury St Edmunds Area Working Party.

(b) Haverhill

- (i) Following further consultation and surveys it has been decided that there would be no benefit to residents in Broad Street from the introduction of a Neighbourhood Parking Scheme. A letter informing residents of this has been sent to all properties in the area.

1.2 Capital Works

(a) Bury St Edmunds

- (i) A new footway has been installed on the edge of the playing field alongside the Moreton Hall Community Centre car park. This addresses a long standing concern about the need to traverse this grassed area which can become very muddy during the winter months.
- (ii) Residents of the Horsecroft Road area have been consulted about the introduction of traffic calming to improve conditions for pedestrians. The Bury St Edmunds Area Working Party has agreed to the introduction of the traffic calming and a 20 mph zone.
- (iii) Workshops have been held to discuss the management of traffic within St Andrews Street South. The outcome of these will be considered by the Bury St Edmunds Area Working Party on proposals for additional physical measures and changes to the access arrangements.

(b) Haverhill

- (i) The works to create a plaza adjacent to the Haverhill Multiscreen cinema have been completed.

1.3 Highways Maintenance Works: Bury St Edmunds

- (a) Considerable effort has been put into repairing the potholes and footway defects which arose for the cold weather before Christmas.
- (b) Extensive patching work to Nowton Road between Plovers Way and Fox and Pin Lane has been undertaken.

1.4 Car Parking: Bury St Edmunds

- (a) The national Park Mark accreditation for safer parking has been awarded to the Cattle Market/arc car park, Bury St Edmunds. The Parkway multi-storey has been re-accredited. ParkMark, which used to be known as The Safer Parking Scheme, is a prestigious award which is issued by the Police and the British Parking Association. They only award car parks where measures are clearly in place to create a safer environment for both the customer and their vehicle. Typically these measures relate to well managed sites with regular patrolling, low crime figures and a perception from the customer of a safe environment.
- (b) Parking events in Bury St Edmunds in December 2010 were 11.5% up compared to December 2009.
- (c) A survey of Vinery Road car park established usage patterns and availability of parking. The result is that no change to management of this car park is proposed.

2. Planning Policy

- 2.1 The adoption of the Local Development Framework Core Strategy by the Council on 14 December 2010 provided the catalyst for commencing work on the detailed Vision documents for Bury St Edmunds, Haverhill and the Rural Area. The process for preparing these documents reflect the aspirations of the Government's recently published Localism Bill, which encourages local communities to take a major stake in shaping the neighbourhoods in which they live and work. The first stage involves asking people that have an interest in the area what they see to be the issues it faces either now or in the future. The preparation of these documents includes the first stage in shaping the new areas of growth around Bury St Edmunds and Haverhill. Starting from the high level aspirations in the Core Strategy, prospective developers are holding community engagement events where those with an interest in the development can get involved and identify their concerns and aspirations for the development. These will contribute to the preparation of outline proposals that will be the subject of further consultation later in 2011, as part of an incremental process of working up the detail. Once again, this reflects the aspirations of the Government in enabling local people to have a greater say on the shape of new development. The initial information gathering stage for Bury St Edmunds and Haverhill concludes at the end of April 2011, while work on the rural area issues will continue beyond this period. The Vision documents will cover issues that affect the services and facilities in the local communities and not just planning designations. Members are, therefore, encouraged to get people involved in the process.
- 2.2 The Council has also agreed to join with Forest Heath District Council to prepare a joint Local Development Framework document covering Development Management Policies. These are the day-to-day planning policies that are used in determining the majority of planning applications. This joint working is expected to realise efficiencies and savings, especially in relation to the costs of consultation and independent examination.