

## County Councillor Report – Harry Richardson

June 2026

<p><b>New administration</b></p>	<p>The new Reform UK administration has been announced at the County Council. The new Cabinet members and their contact details are below:</p> <p>Cllr Michael Hadwen – Leader of the Council        E: <a href="mailto:Michael.Hadwen@suffolk.gov.uk">Michael.Hadwen@suffolk.gov.uk</a></p> <p>Cllr Philip Fairthcloth Mutton – Deputy Leader &amp; Cabinet Member for Adult Care        E: <a href="mailto:Philip.Faircloth-Mutton@suffolk.gov.uk">Philip.Faircloth-Mutton@suffolk.gov.uk</a> T: 07494 758000</p> <p>Cllr Vicky Armstrong – Cabinet Member for Finance, Economic Development and Efficiency        E: <a href="mailto:Vicky.Armstrong@suffolk.gov.uk">Vicky.Armstrong@suffolk.gov.uk</a></p> <p>Cllr Simon Aalders – Cabinet Member for Children and Young People        E: <a href="mailto:Simon.Aalders@suffolk.gov.uk">Simon.Aalders@suffolk.gov.uk</a></p> <p>Cllr Tony Gould – Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and SEND        E: <a href="mailto:Tony.Gould@suffolk.gov.uk">Tony.Gould@suffolk.gov.uk</a></p> <p>Cllr Christopher Hudson – Cabinet Member for Transport and Highways        E: <a href="mailto:Christopher.Hudson@suffolk.gov.uk">Christopher.Hudson@suffolk.gov.uk</a> T: 07889 066211</p> <p>Cllr Tristan Gale – Cabinet Member for Planning, Devolution and the Fire Service        E: <a href="mailto:Tristan.Gale@suffolk.gov.uk">Tristan.Gale@suffolk.gov.uk</a></p> <p>Cllr June Mummery – Cabinet Member for Coastal Affairs, Communities and Public Health        E: <a href="mailto:June.Mummery@suffolk.gov.uk">June.Mummery@suffolk.gov.uk</a> T: 07889 066317</p>
<p><b>Local government reorganisation</b></p>	<p>The future of local government reorganisation in Suffolk is now uncertain given the new administration at the County Council have decided to launch a Judicial Review into the government’s support for the three-unitary-authority model. The precise implications for now are unknown.</p> <p>In the meantime, a new website has been launched to outline what the new unitary authorities will look like, and this can be found here: <a href="#">Home - Future Suffolk</a></p>
<p><b>A143</b></p>	<p>The damage to the A143 during hot weather in the May half-term week has been repaired. This was due to the membrane, which sits underneath the road surface, melting due to high road temperatures; this itself occurred as the membrane was damaged during installation last year.</p> <p>A permanent repair to the membrane itself will take place over the summer. Both the permanent replacement and the temporary repairs will be paid for by Milestone, the contractor, rather than the County Council (and by extension the taxpayer).</p>

	<p>I intend to have further conversations with officers over the summer on longer-term more sustainable diversion routes in the event that either the A1088 or A143 are closed, given the intolerable impact this is having on some villages currently.</p>
<b>Locality spending</b>	<p>I have received numerous requests for funding from my locality funding, so if you are aware of any other projects that may wish to apply for support then please do let me know as soon as possible so I can factor these in as best I can.</p> <p>For example, I am pleased to have provided funding for 195 primary school children across the division to participate in mental wellbeing and internet safety awareness sessions.</p>
<b>Highways engineer</b>	<p>Over the summer I will be visiting various parts of the division with our allocated community liaison engineer to identify priorities for the coming months, including for the usage of my local highways budget. Examples of what this can support include road signs, traffic calming, and Traffic Regulation Orders.</p> <p>If there are particular areas that you feel ought to be focused on then please do let me know and I will ensure these are assessed.</p>
<b>Bus routes</b>	<p>I am in active conversations with the County Council passenger transport team regarding the 332 and 73 bus services. The CENEX report in the latter is in the process of being finalised and I shall share this once published. Whether there is sufficient funding for the 332 to be extended to Thetford will become clearer later in the year.</p>

*N.b. please note this is not an exhaustive list, and does not reflect meetings I have scheduled about specific issues but have not yet occurred (e.g. Knettishall footbridge; Ixworth Primary School).*

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