

- New wildflower meadows or changing short mown grass into a meadow area.

We want to increase tree canopy cover across the district, currently well below the national average. We also want to help get 30% of our land managed for wildlife by 2030 (30 by 30 national initiative). We are doing what we can on the council's land but need help on other land to be really successful. This can include parish land, school grounds, recreation grounds, land open to the public regularly, millennium greens and community spaces. If in doubt, ask.

If you have a site or sites you want to do something on to help wildlife or know of groups within your area that may want to get involved (schools, environmental groups, community groups, charities, etc.), get in touch with us or feel free to pass this on to others.

Details on the scheme, along with the application form, are available here:

<https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/environment/planting-schemes/trees-hedgerows-and-wildflowers-scheme/>

The Council provide all plants and protection (canes, stakes, ties and tree guards). Please note, it cannot provide labour or cover the cost of planting and watering afterwards, but it can give advice on how to plant and look after the scheme.

4. County Councillor, Robert Lindsay's report

Report for Preston St Mary Parish Council by Robert Lindsay, Suffolk

County Councillor for 26 Sept 2023

20mph limit Bildeston being installed, Lavenham ongoing.

As I write, 20mph signs are being installed in Bildeston, the result of a campaign I began back in 2010. There will be an extended 30mph buffer zone a few hundred metres out of the built up part of the village at the north and south ends. A 20mph limit for Lavenham is still awaiting design work. Disappointingly, Police have objected to 30mph extensions on Brent Eleigh Road and Melford Road to help act as buffer zones. I am asking Highways to over-ride these objections. Lower speed limits A1141 Hadleigh to Semer Earlier this year I commissioned an officer report on reducing the speed limit on the road between Stone Street and Letts swimming pool from 60mph to 40mph. The officer's report says the issue is "finely balanced" but allows that it could be possible. It will be submitted for decision by end of September. Coincidentally, a separate request to change the speed limit on Stone Street, at the Hadleigh end of the A1141, from 40mph to 30mph has recently been approved. Footpath between Nedging and Chelsworth On 14 th September I'm pleased to say that the county council's footpath committee agreed with me that public access to a footpath that runs from Nedging Mill to Parsonage Lane, Chelsworth, be protected. The officer had been recommending refusal of an application to put it on the Definitive Map for rights of way which legally protects public access. This should ensure that is is signposted as a footpath. Council warns over £30 million deficit predicted for current financial year. The latest prediction, based on the first quarter of the year is for a 4% deficit on the £688m budget the council set itself in February. This is not unexpected but the council has chosen to press release this now and state that their current answer of seeking more cuts and dipping into reserves to finance shortfalls is not sustainable. All the cost pressures, inflation and interest rates were known about when the council set its budget in February and raised council tax by 4% rather than the full 5% allowed, as the Green and Lib Dem opposition had proposed. Our amendment was voted down by the Conservatives. The overspend comes largely in costs for children in care with complex needs and for taxi transport to special needs schools, also the growing costs of elderly care.

5. Minutes of meeting s

Minutes of meeting held July signed by chair

Signed.....

Date.....21/11/23.....