

SUDBURY TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PLANNING DEVELOPMENT AND HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD IN THE TOWN HALL ON MONDAY 20TH OCTOBER 2025 COMMENCING AT 6:30 PM

Committee members present: Mr N Bennett – the chair
Mr J Collier
Mr A Osborne
Mr T Regester
Mr A Stohr
Mr N Younger

Officers in attendance: Mr C Griffin – Town Clerk

1. SUBSTITUTES AND APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors Ms J Carter, Mr S Hall and Miss A Owen. Councillor Mr J Collier was the substitute for Miss Owen.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Mr A Osborne and Mr T Regester declared they were Babergh District Councillors.

3. DECLARATIONS OF GIFTS AND HOSPITALITY

There were no declarations of gifts or hospitality.

4. REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION

No requests for dispensation had been received.

5. MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 6th October 2025 be confirmed as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

6. REVIEW OF ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The Town Clerk informed members that there were two main actions from the previous meeting.

Bus Services - Representatives of Konectbuses (a subsidiary of the Go-Ahead Group which had recently been acquired by Transport Made Simple) had been invited to join the meeting to discuss the new bus routes in and around Sudbury. Two representatives of Transport Made Simple, the Managing

Director and the Engagement Office, joined the meeting by telephone to answer members questions. The main points were;

- There would be consultation with the Town Council over future changes to bus services and Transport Made Simple had appointed an engagement officer for this purpose.
- The bus operator was required to give 10 weeks' notice of changes, so there would not be time to consult on the immediate changes that were required to be implemented in January 2026, however, they would be able to consult over the next tranche of changes planned for April 2026.
- The route of the hopper bus (49 bus service) could be altered to include the Health Centre and Waldingfield Road, but there would be potential disadvantages for some passengers. The current service operated every 30 minutes, but if the desired route was in excess of 30 minutes, it would not be possible to have 2 buses every hour. Alternative options could be considered in the consultation for the April 2026 changes.
- A new circular bus service for Great Cornard could reduce the economic viability of the exiting bus service through Great Cornard. This would have to be assessed before any new service could be introduced.
- The lack of a bus service to Haverhill was noted and, now that Transport Made Simple had taken control of the various bus operators, it should be easier to improve connections between towns.
- The issue with short notice cancellations was being addressed by Transport Made Simple through recruiting and training more drivers. They had their own driver trainers and examiners, so they hoped to be able to have reserve drivers available to fill short notice gaps.

The Committee thanked the representatives from Transport Made Simple and looked forward to the consultation over future improvements to the bus services around Sudbury.

York Road Junction with Melford Road – The Principal Transport Planner from Suffolk Highways joined the meeting to discuss the new design for the York Road junction with Melford Road. He explained the various features of the design including;

- Narrowing of the roads to allow space for cycle paths on the pavement.
- Transition routes for cyclists to move from the road onto these cycle paths.
- How the Copenhagen crossings would operate during rush hour and when school buses were exiting from York Road.
- The choice between closing the whole road whilst the works took place or keeping the road open with restricted traffic for a more extended period.
- That the warning triangle symbols on the designs only related to the build phase, not to any long-term risk.

Members asked about the future of the Town Council property that was in the vicinity of the junction, including the bus shelter on Melford Road and litter bins, as well as three trees which the Town Council had originally funded. It was agreed that there should be further discussion between officers to resolve the details, but that at this stage, no problems were foreseen with repositioning the current assets in similar positions, although some movement would be necessary to accommodate the changes to the road layout.

Some members remained concerned that this scheme was not the best use of the funding to promote cycling in Sudbury as improvements to the path from the Kingfisher to Bakers Mill were a higher priority and would have greater impact. However, Suffolk Highways believed that they had carried out the necessary consultation on this scheme in 2022 and had made the decision to implement it; work was expected to start in 2026.

7. **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

DC/25/04445 **Proposal:** Application for works to Trees subject to Tree Preservation Order WS175/A3 - Reduce 1 No. Oak Tree to red line in photograph.
Location: 6 Elizabeth Way, Sudbury, Suffolk, CO10 7PG

RESOLVED – To recommend refusal on the following grounds;

- Insufficient information provided to assess the impact of reducing this tree, which is not visible from the public road.
- Request that the Babergh District Council Tree Officer visit the site and check the tree before making a decision.
- To support the decision of the Babergh District Council Tree Officer once the tree has been examined.

DC/25/04411 **Proposal:** Full Planning Application – Construction of WBAC (Sui Generis) and associated signage.
Location: Sainsbury's Supermarket Ltd, 66 Cornard Road, Sudbury, Suffolk, CO10 2XB.

RESOLVED – To recommend approval.

DC/25/04412 **Proposal:** Application for consent to display an Advertisement(s) - Display of various non-illuminated, non-reflective, printed vinyl fascia signs on external pod.
Location: Sainsbury's Supermarket Ltd, 66 Cornard Road, Sudbury, Suffolk, CO10 2XB.

RESOLVED – To recommend approval.

DC/25/04413 **Proposal:** Application to determine if prior approval is required for a proposed: Change of Use of Buildings on Agricultural Units and former Agricultural Buildings to Dwellinghouses (Class C3), which may include extension of the building and/or building operations reasonably necessary for the conversion. Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 (as amended) - Schedule 2, Part 3, Class Q - Conversion of Agricultural Barn to 4no dwellings.
Location: Barn At Brundon Hall Farm, Brundon Lane, Brundon, Sudbury, CO10 1XR.

RESOLVED – To recommend refusal on the same grounds as the last time that this was proposed. This would be a major change to the farm and should be subject to the full planning process.

DEVELOPMENT

8. TO NOTE THE UPDATE ON THE BRAMFORD TO TWINSTEAD PROJECT FROM NATIONAL GRID

Members looked at the Bramford to Twinstead project on the National Grid website.

RESOLVED

To note the update on the Bramford to Twinstead project from National Grid.

HIGHWAYS

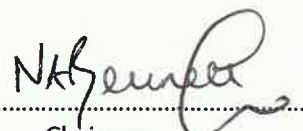
9. TO DISCUSS THE HIGHWAYS LIST

Members discussed the following points;

- **York Road junction with Melford Road** – This had already been discussed under item 6.
- **Chaucer Road link with Clermont Avenue** – Cllr Ms J Carter had passed on confirmation from Suffolk Highways that the widening works, fencing and new bollards to try to prevent unauthorised access to the grassed areas and footways in the Chaucer Road link with Clermont Avenue, had been ordered, but were still awaiting a works start date. The Manchester bollard was designed to be locked up in the vertical position to prevent access through the bus link if there was no scheduled bus service. However, as the 49 bus service had started using this route in September, it will naturally be left locked in the down position when fitted.

The meeting closed at 7:58pm.

Signed


Chairman