

Southwold Town Mayor's report

including Town Council meeting on Jan 29th 2019

Bailey Bridge

The Bailey Bridge reopened the week before Christmas. We are grateful to the County Council for dealing with this reasonably promptly. This was a good example of what parishes can achieve when they work together. It's not obvious the outcome would have been the same without the concerted pressure from Walberswick, Southwold and Reydon.

Harbour

The Joint Harbour Committee, representing Waveney District Council and Southwold Town Council, consultation has continued with drop-ins at the Sailing Club on Jan 19th and at the Methodist Hall on Jan 26th. About a hundred residents attended a public meeting on the future of the Harbour at St Edmunds Hall on Wednesday Feb 6th. Mark Bee, Leader of Waveney District Council, outlined their broad ideas for a Management Committee with strong local representation and assured questioners that the Harbour Lands would not be sold to a third party and that the income from the Harbour Lands would be used for the Harbour and Estuary.

Budget

The budget was set for 2019-20, with the precept remaining at the same level as in the previous two years. The single largest items of Revenue Expenditure were staff salaries and the PCSO.

Parking

As requested at the public meeting the Highways and Footpaths working group met informally with members of Reydon Parish Council on Feb 1st to discuss how Southwold's parking problems impact on Reydon. The working group continues to explore both an integrated parking scheme, which would depend on the County and District Councils, and a more limited scheme which could be introduced by Southwold Town Council and the Common Trust.

Station Yard

The design and business plan have progressed considerably and a detailed bid to Stage 2 of the Coastal Community Fund was submitted on Jan 21st. The outcome of this bid is expected by the end of March.

Bus service

Councillors were dismayed by the news that KonectBus are intending to terminate the 88 and 90 bus services to Halesworth, Beccles, Bungay and Norwich. The reason given was insufficient passenger numbers. STC will write to KonectBus about this. Cllr Ladd reported that the County Council are exploring other ways of providing transport for local communities. The 99 service to Lowestoft and the 146 service to Beccles and Norwich are not affected.

Cllr Michael Rowan-Robinson (Southwold Town Mayor)