

Report for Brettenham PC 10/5/18

It was recently reported that Suffolk County Council had repaired 6500 potholes since the start of the year. However, there are still a number of issues with the way Highways carry out their repairs, and this headline figure does not paint an accurate picture of the situation in Suffolk.

The Highways team are currently struggling to keep up with the need for repairs across the county, and so are resorting to temporary repairs which are quicker to complete than permanent repairs. They have recently introduced a more expensive temporary material that is supposed to last slightly longer. However, these pothole repairs will undoubtedly need to be repeated in the coming months as the temporary material deteriorates. Whether this represents value for money for Suffolk residents is an important question.

Suffolk Highways have also stated that they are “blitzing” whole areas of the road at once, rather than making multiple trips to the same area. However, it is important to note that they will only repair potholes that meet their intervention criteria.

Leadership of county

Since my last report about leader Colin Noble hiring consultants to look at creating a single or several unitaries across Suffolk, there has been a challenge to his leadership from within the Conservative group from Matthew Hicks. Mr Hicks told fellow Conservative councillors: “The leader’s role is not to dominate but to motivate; and to work collaboratively with the group, and even on occasion with the opposition.” Cllr Hicks does have a very different, more inclusive style to Cllr Noble but at this stage I do not know if there is any difference in their policies. Conservatives will vote on their leader tomorrow (Friday 11 May). If Mr Hicks wins, he says he will appoint Mary Evans as his deputy. Mary Evans is currently chair of the scrutiny committee and is generally seen as having done a good job in that role.

Robert Lindsay

County councillor Cosford

