

Suffolk County Council meeting Thursday 17 October 2024, vote taken on Motion 2.

Motion – Proposed by Councillor Ruth Leach and seconded by Councillor Keith Welham.

Motion Text:

‘Suffolk County Council takes seriously its responsibilities to create and maintain routes and facilities that are safe and accessible for pedestrian traffic.

Within the context of the new government’s recent announcement of ‘unprecedented levels of funding’ to encourage active travel, more people will be walking, wheeling and cycling to meet the active travel objectives. Almost three quarters of trips in England are less than five miles long and the goal of the government’s executive body, Active Travel England, is for 50% of trips in the country’s towns and cities to be walked, wheeled or cycled by 2030.

Therefore, meeting the statutory responsibility to maintain pavements to accommodate this increased pedestrian usage and to reduce risk for footpath users, is imperative.

We acknowledge the commitment of the Cabinet member and officers in maintaining our highways, footways and cycleways within the restrictions of a necessarily frugal budget.

However, this council also takes into the account the duty of care it has to residents.

To encourage active travel in line with the council’s objectives, footways and pavements need to be made safe, maintained fit for purpose and given a higher level of priority than has been the case in the past. This is particularly important given the ageing population of the county.

Councillors will have examples where the defect criteria outlined in the Highways Maintenance Operational Plan has not adequately protected Suffolk residents from injury when walking.

This council therefore agrees to an urgent cross-party review of the Highways Maintenance Operational Plan under Matrix K (Footway Potholes) and Matrix L (Footway Level Difference) relating to footways in urban and busy pedestrian areas, especially where a recent fall has been reported. It is vital that both the baseline for defect intervention (currently 20mm) and the category of response time for repair is reviewed.’

Total results	
For	19
Against	39
Abstain	

Conservative Group

Councillor's Name	For	Against	Abstain
Edward Back		Against	
Peter Beer			
Bobby Bennett		Against	
Stuart Bird		Against	
Elaine Bryce		Against	
Stephen Burroughes			
Nadia Cenci		Against	
Jenny Ceresa			
Chris Chambers		Against	
Judy Cloke		Against	
Andy Drummond			
Robert Everitt			
Philip Faircloth-Mutton		Against	
James Finch		Against	
Jessica Fleming		Against	
Mick Fraser		Against	
David Goldsmith		Against	
Georgia Hall			
Liz Harsant		Against	
Ryan Harvey			
T-J Haworth-Culf		Against	
Matthew Hicks		Against	
Rachel Hood		Against	
Beccy Hopfensperger		Against	
Michael Ladd			
Stuart Lawson		Against	
Henry Lloyd		Against	
Joe Mason		Against	
Debbie McCallum		Against	
Patti Mulcahy		Against	
Sam Murray		Against	
David Nettleton			
Alexander Nicoll			
Colin Noble		Against	
Kay Oakes		Against	
James Reeder		Against	
Andrew Reid		Against	
Debbie Richards		Against	
David Roach		Against	
Keith Robinson		Against	
Richard Rout		Against	
Richard Smith MVO		Against	
Karen Soons			
Heike Sowa		Against	
Joanna Spicer			
Lance Stanbury		Against	

Jamie Starling			
Melanie Vigo di Gallidoro		Against	
Paul West		Against	
Steve Wiles		Against	
Nathan Wilson		Against	

Green, Liberal Democrat and Independent Group

Councillor's Name	For	Against	Abstain
Seamus Bennett	For		
Jessie Carter	For		
Annette Dunning	For		
Simon Harley	For		
Richard Kemp			
Ruth Leach	For		
Ash Lever	For		
Robert Lindsay	For		
Inga Lockington	For		
Victor Lukaniuk	For		
Andy Mellen	For		
Penny Otton	For		
Keith Scarff	For		
Andrew Stringer	For		
Caroline Topping			
Keith Welham	For		

Labour Group

Councillor's Name	For	Against	Abstain
Sarah Adams	For		
Rob Bridgeman	For		
Peter Byatt	For		
Elizabeth Farrow	For		
Sandy Martin	For		
Lucy Smith			

Ungrouped Independent Councillor

Councillor's Name	For	Against	Abstain
Peter Thompson			

Ungrouped Reform UK Councillor

Councillor's Name	For	Against	Abstain
Christopher Hudson		Against	