09:23:28  From  3 - Andreas MacFarlane : In terms of infrastructure, (and this is probably a sensitive subject especially with climate concerns at the moment), what are the benefits to the region if the A14 were convernted into the M14? Particularly with reference to Felixstowe.

This would give much swifter, safer and more efficient access to the rest of the country.

09:24:48  From  3. Caron Betts : Is Suffolk's broadband capability adequate if we continue to have elements of working from home? There seems to be suggestions that employers may allow this working model to continue in 2021.

09:24:48  From  3 - James Tucker : I think it is very difficult to say what the region's traditional infrastructure requirements will be with the inevitable increase in home working post-Covid.  What is certain is the need for a 21st century broadband coverage for all.  As Doug mentioned we have a fantastic tech sector in the region which needs to be propagated as well as enabling other businesses to operate without technical barriers wherever they are.

09:26:15  From  3 John Ogden : Who's keeping EDF's feet to the fire over opportunities for Suffolk's supply chain and not just bringing Hinkley's across from the SW?

09:26:20  From  3 Karen Sharpe : I’m hearing a lot from the press about the problems Felixstowe port is experiencing - is that causing local businesses problems? And what measures can be taken to support them, especially in the event of a disorderly Brexit?

09:27:02  From  3 - James Tucker : With a 90% effective vaccine only 60% of the population needs to be vaccinated to achieve 100% herd immunity.  The markets were pricing in a 60% effective vaccine which required 100% coverage, hence the leap when the trial results were announced a couple of weeks ago.

09:27:46  From  3 James Austin : I would agree with James Tucker's comments.  Although the move to working from home has in the main been much easier than many would have expected there are still significant pockets in the County where effective working from home is not a realistic long term option without significant further investment.

09:27:58  From  3. Caron Betts : Do we have the skill set to continue developing alternative energy sources?  What can we do to a) attract the necessary talent to the area, and b) what training can our local colleges provide for (young) people wanting to move into the industry?

09:28:36  From  3 Karen Sharpe : High skilled jobs - this is really important for us. Agricultural jobs, traditionally considered to be low skill, are no longer so. STEM subjects really needed. Ag tech needs very highly skilled staff - the region as a whole will need to support this.

09:29:52  From  3 Luke Coppen : I echo your point on Felixstowe's troubles, Karen. We've recently experienced delays and where our key KPI is on time delivery this has a significant impact on our customer service. Support may be required.

09:32:18  From  3. Caron Betts : How will the Suffolk High Street survive with the loss of big retailers? Supporting small retailers is a great initiative but without large stores to attract shoppers into town centres isn't there a risk that shoppers will switch to online?

09:32:56  From  3 John Ogden : But was that 60% investment in surviving or thriving ie really pivoting?  This is key if SMEs are going to be encouraged to really invest for growth.

09:36:53  From  3 Clive Mitson : We need to find ways to bring people in to our towns and keep the high street alive. With the trend to more online shopping there is a risk we will see ghost towns with large empty retail units.

09:37:15  From  3 Andy Walker : Back - and in the joy of replying to comments on internet and the need to upgrade digital infrastructure our home wifi went down!

09:37:30  From  3 - James Tucker : What we need is some certainty as to what the business tax environment looks like.  The cancelation of the autumn statement was a mistake and the last minute extension of the AIA a good move but too late.  The uncertainty around CGT for business disposals is highly destabilising.

09:37:48  From  3 Doug R Bentley : I wonder if significant changes on CGT will kill the deals market in the short term and actually have the opposite impact to that which RS will intend?  Perhaps an easy political win though

09:39:10  From  3 : John Cockburn-Evans - IoD : clive mitson, we need self-sustaining eco buggles around the towns and population centres, which gets around the problem of elongated infrastructure. This is a medium / long term plan

09:43:35  From  3 Paul Copsey - Auditel : Town centre's were already under pressure before 2020 and every large retailer that disappears makes things harder but I believe there is a place for a broader experience including more leisure, some independents alongside some chains, markets, events, and quality residential supporting the evolving town centre community.

09:46:17  From  3 Karen Sharpe : It’s not about fishing really though, is it? It’s about sovereignty

09:49:57  From  3 Karen Sharpe : Can’t reinforce enough - STEM skills are vital, including for Agriculture.

09:50:58  From  3 : John Cockburn-Evans - IoD : agreed

09:51:53  From  3. Caron Betts : There may need to be additional training from school leavers affected by impact of COVID on their education.

09:52:55  From  3 : John Cockburn-Evans - IoD : Caron Betts.  I can connect you with Catherine Duffin. This is  clearly on their agenda.  Virtual Work Experience

09:53:35  From  3. Caron Betts : Thanks John

09:54:05  From  3 : John Cockburn-Evans - IoD : https://www.linkedin.com/in/catherinelang/

09:54:10  From  3. Caron Betts : Great to be part of the Suffolk group.  We are a fab county!