

District Councillors Report to Great Bealings Parish Council for July 2018.

Clr Colin Hedgley

Clr Geoff Holdcroft

Clr Patti Mulcahy

Deben Leisure Centre is now open for business - bringing state-of-the-art leisure facilities to Woodbridge. The centre was closed in September 2017 to undergo a £3.5 million refurbishment, and is the first project to be completed in Suffolk Coastal's five year programme to improve leisure facilities and encourage more people to become active. Cllr TJ Haworth-Culf, Suffolk Coastal's Cabinet Member for customers, communities and Leisure, said: "It is very exciting that the new Deben Leisure Centre is open to the public, and we hope we have created a facility that will be enjoyed by the community for years to come. "I would personally like to thank members of Deben Leisure Centre, and everyone in the area, for the support and patience while the work was done. "One of our key priorities is to get more people active. We hope the new Deben Leisure Centre will be an inspiration for the rest of the redevelopment programme." The new and improved leisure centre now features a bright and spacious gym with 58 work stations and the latest equipment. There are two new studios for group exercise and interactive cycling. These are also available for community hire. The pool area has been modernised and brightened. Accessible from there is a brand new thermal suite, featuring a steam room, sauna and ice feature, as well as a relaxation area. For more information and to sign up, go to www.debenleisurecentre.co.uk

Historic Aldeburgh house shortlisted for award The Red House, Aldeburgh, the home of the British composer and Suffolk hero Benjamin Britten has been recognised for its family offering and has been shortlisted, alongside 10 other museums nationwide, for the Kids in Museums Family Friendly Museum Award.

For the last two years the Britten-Pears Foundation has worked hard in broadening its audience base and making The Red House an important part of the community. Along the Suffolk Coast, rural isolation, poor public transport links and economic hardship create significant barriers to accessing cultural activities and we are taking an active role in developing opportunities and engagement with young people.

The Britten-Pears Foundation believes it is never too early to learn about music and history and offer a variety of free activities such as Mini Music Makers sessions for 0-5 year olds, family trails and activities during the school holidays, resources and exciting events to help families explore our beautiful site and exhibitions together.

Changes to Twitter As part of the ongoing work to create a new council for east Suffolk, a project to align the social media accounts for Suffolk Coastal and Waveney has been underway for some time. We already have single accounts for [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [LinkedIn](#) and the final task is to create a new standalone East Suffolk Twitter account. This will take place on Monday 18 June, from 1pm.

To achieve this, it has been agreed that we will simply rename and rebrand the [Suffolk Coastal Twitter account](#) as 'East Suffolk'. Meanwhile we will be directing all Waveney's Twitter followers and 'traffic' to the newly renamed feed. So, if you do not already follow

Suffolk Coastal, please do so now to ensure you keep up with all the latest east Suffolk news and information! [Follow Suffolk Coastal \(soon to be East Suffolk\) on Twitter now!](#)

Webcasting of Council Meeting – Although council meetings are open to the public to attend, actual attendance generally tends to be low except for those meetings involving high profile or contentious issues. Developments in video technology mean that providing a service to web cast meetings is now a more feasible option. Over 100 councils now regularly web cast some or all of their meetings, with many others providing audio recordings.

There are a range of benefits to be achieved from providing web casts of council meetings, such as increasing democratic engagement and debate on key local issues like planning as well as improving the transparency of council processes and decision making. It also enables members of the public, who are unable to attend a meeting, to see and hear the debates that influence the decisions the council makes.

In order to minimise the risk of disruption to the council's business, it is proposed that the implementation start date is brought forward from April 2019 to July 2018. This will enable work to commence on establishing, configuring and testing the necessary ICT infrastructure. It will also allow work to start on the evaluation and selection of desktop hardware meaning, that deployment of new devices could start by Sept 2018.

Proposed East Suffolk Area Parking Plan –Local authorities applying for CPE powers need to provide evidence of their parking policies and strategies. In order to fulfil the requirement the Suffolk Civil Parking Enforcement Working Group (SCPEWG) agreed a two-part process. The County Council will draft the Suffolk Parking Management Strategy (SPMS) as a high level policy document. While each enforcement district will produce their own Area Parking Plan.

The East Suffolk Area Parking Plan (ESAPP) is a completely new parking policy document. It has been drafted with the objective of setting out the broad parking policy objectives that will be adopted by East Suffolk. It is based on the assumption that CPE powers will be granted to Suffolk and will be administered and operated by East Suffolk under an Agency agreement and Service Level Agreement with the County Council.

Suffolk Public Sector Leaders continue to lobby the Secretary of State for Transport to grant a CPE implementation date of April 2019. The County Council submitted the Application on the 25 April. The supporting documentation for the application should ideally be submitted by October 2018. This will need to include a copy of the adopted East Suffolk Area Parking Plan and a statement on the review process undertaken. In order to meet these deadlines, Cabinet will need to approve the content of the plan to enable public consultation to take place immediately afterwards.

Garden Waste Scheme Latest: Up to midnight on 22 May, the Garden Waste Scheme had received 26,993 sign-ups from households. This equates to approximately 46% of households have joined the scheme.

The Suffolk Coastal garden waste scheme has now exceeded the Waveney scheme for the total number of subscriptions in year 1, and the total continues to climb, with people continuing to sign up at a rate of over 200 subscriptions a day with no indication yet of a significant lessening in demand.

Suffolk Coastal's Last Chairman Elected – Those of us who attended the Annual Council meeting on Thursday, 24 May, witnessed a historic moment – when Suffolk Coastal District Council has elected its last Chairman! Councillor Nicky Yeo, who represents the Nacton and Purdis

Farm Ward, will be Chairman until the new East Suffolk Council is formed and a new chairman is elected in 2019. As such, Cllr Yeo will be the last person to hold this post solely for Suffolk Coastal.

Art comes to East Suffolk House – When you are next at East Suffolk House, take time to admire the new artwork that has been put up in reception. Local artist Emma Green has unveiled her artwork of the ever-changing scenery of the River Deben after winning our art commission competition, which was run as part of the accommodation project and our move to Riduna Park. The piece, entitled “Lingering Tide, Soft Light (The Deben)” reflects and celebrates Suffolk Coastal’s landscape and its natural elements, while complementing the building itself and its surroundings.

Make Use Of That Spare Room – We are running a joint scheme with Solo Housing, matching up householders with a spare bedroom with single people in need of affordable accommodation. The ‘Lodgings Service’ scheme aims to reduce homelessness by encouraging local people to become potential landlords. It was launched in 2017/18 and has now been extended into the current financial year. Suffolk Coastal householders with a spare room are being asked to consider whether they could become Lodgings Landlords. Support and information for new landlords will be provided by Solo Housing, including information on the rights and responsibilities of both landlord and lodger; advice on health and safety and other relevant regulations as well as a home visit. Solo will also provide the landlord with template documentation, advice about rent setting, collection of payments and most importantly, discuss with landlords about who they may like to share their home with to provide the best match between landlord and lodger.

Those in need of accommodation will be referred to the Lodgings Service by the Council and other agencies. A detailed assessment is then carried out, by Solo Housing, into the person’s needs.

In 2017/18, the Lodgings Service maintained or secured 51 lodging spaces in the Suffolk Coastal area. To find out more, see: www.solohousing.org or telephone 01379 640250.

Get snapping for the Felixstowe Photo Competition 2018 - The seaside town of Felixstowe in Suffolk is a unique, exciting and diverse location for photographic opportunities - seaside fun, beautiful gardens, huge container ships, historic buildings and rich wildlife habitats.

Now photographers of all ages and abilities are being invited to submit their favourite shots into the annual Felixstowe Photo Competition. Organised and supported by Visit Felixstowe, Felixstowe Town Council and the Landguard Partnership, entrants could WIN a prize of £100 to put towards photographic equipment.

There are three competition themes to choose from: Theme 1: Fun Felixstowe - on the beach, family days out, seaside amusements... Theme 2: Iconic Felixstowe - the pictures that ‘say’ Felixstowe. Theme 3: Undiscovered Felixstowe - let loose your imagination. Close ups, wildlife...

Entrants can submit their photograph by emailing: visitfelixstowe@eastssuffolk.gov.uk - including full name, age, contact telephone number and the theme you would like to enter.

Closing date for entry is 12pm on Wednesday 20 March 2019.

Full competition details, plus terms and conditions can be found on the Visit Felixstowe (www.visitfelixstowe.org.uk); Felixstowe Town Council (www.felixstowe.gov.uk); and Discover Landguard (www.discoverlandguard.org.uk) websites.