



District Councillors Report to the meeting of Great Bealings Parish Council

May 2020

Cllr Tony Fryatt

Cllr Colin Hedgley

As the Annual Meeting is on hold I thought I would include a round up of the the Past Year as well as the normal news.

NRR

The past Year has seen a number of high profile challenges for this area the most important of which was undoubtedly the proposal for a Northern Relief Road.

Its seems a long time ago now that myself and Cllr Fryatt met at Dan Poulter's office in Framlingham along with Nick Green and Nick Deacon in order to decide the best way to go about opposing the recently published plans for a Northern Relief Road.

We formulated a rough plan and then set about it with the two Nicks fronting the organisation. The rest as they say is history. But it should be noted that Little Bealings Parish council was the first Parish Council out of the blocks so to speak, with some parish councils not declaring a view until a couple of months later.

New Council

District Council Elections were held in May of last year and the new council took over a couple of weeks later. I was voted in as the first Chairman of East Suffolk Council for the year May 2019-May 2020. I also sit on the Planning Committee and the Licensing Committee.

Climate Change

Climate Change went to the top of the agenda on most local councils and a harder line is now being taken over waste put out in wheelie bins, fly tipping and dog fouling. The council is now carrying out a review of all its actions and operations to identify energy and material savings. We now consider ourselves in the fore-front of defining all our actions by environment issues.

We have even for the last year been purchasing tea and coffee only if it is Fair Trade.

Enabling Communities Budget

I had £7500 this Financial year to spend within my community area.

12th July 2019

£1,000 Tuddenham St Martin Village Hall Committee. Funding to purchase a defibrillator for the village hall.



18th July 2019

£1,000 Dalinghoo Parish Council. Funding to purchase a notice board for the main village.

26th July 2019

£500. Great Bealings Parish Council. To help fund the planting of new trees (replacing missing or dying trees).

6th August 2019

£1,340. Project 21uk. Funding to support musical theatre workshops for Downs Syndrome people.

7th November 2019

£500. Just42 To purchase a projector and carry case for the group.

19th November 2019

£750. Playford Parish Council. To help funding towards a local history project - Playford Stories.

10th December 2019

£1,500. Hasketon Parish Council. Funding to upgrade the playing field equipment.

17th December 2019.

£910. Tuddenham St Martin Parish Council. To help funding towards the replacement of the safety area under the swings in the playground.

Bealings Village Hall

Also after a plea from Keith Beaumont to myself and Tony Fryatt, Tony managed to find just over £1000 for the installation of Broadband and Wi-Fi in the hall, so hopefully very soon Parish Council meetings will be transformed.

Exemplar (no longer available for 2020-2021)

In addition to the ECB there was also a budget called the "ExemplarFund" whereby projects that required larger sums could apply for up to £10,000. However a good case had to be made and there were plenty of organisations within the East Suffolk Area that applied. The important thing to remember is that any application had to be supported by the local District Councillor who had to write a letter of support and an explanation why he or she believed that a particular project deserved financial support.

I am pleased to report that both the ACH and the Hub were successful in their bids and both received sums in excess of £8000. So Bealings received £16,000 out of the £100k that was available.

Statement from the Leader, Cllr Steve Gallant on Ipswich northern bypass

Having studied the findings from the strategic outline business case and the public consultation, I can confirm that East Suffolk Council does not support the proposals for the new Ipswich Northern Route.

I have been clear throughout this process that impacts on communities in our district would



have to be taken into consideration and I do not believe our residents' interests would be best served by continuing with the project.

The reality is that this new road will only happen if additional homes are built to justify it and, at the moment, a figure as high as 15,000 new properties would be required to make it financially viable. According to standard Planning estimates, this could lead to a new settlement with a population greater than Felixstowe and three times the size of Woodbridge, with a further 20,000 additional cars on the road.

It is clear that new homes are needed in the district. However, the required growth has already been carefully considered and is laid out in our Local Plans. East Suffolk has a duty to represent the interests of our local residents and the significant extra housing that this project demands would place a genuine strain on existing communities and their quality of life.

The primary purpose of a new road would be to cut down congestion elsewhere, however the potential volume of new and additional traffic is worrying. In addition, the cost estimates are troubling and even without any legal challenge we would not see a road built before 2027.

The focus of East Suffolk in respect of transport infrastructure improvements needs to focus on potential projects which have the greatest positive impact on our district. These include improvements to the Orwell Bridge, The Copdock and Seven Hills junctions, and enhancements to the A12 from Felixstowe to Lowestoft, including campaigning for the re-trunking of this strategic road.

East Suffolk Council entirely supports infrastructure projects which provide clear, unarguable benefits to our local communities and businesses. We fully support the decision by Suffolk Public Sector Leaders to complete this study and public consultation. However, it is clear from the outcome that there will be significant impact on residents in the south of our district and I remain unconvinced that the benefits will outweigh a range of negative effects.

Other News

TV Series East Suffolk Council starred in a brand new series for BBC daytime TV. The new series of *Britain's Housing Scandal* which was shown daily (Mon-Fri) from Monday 24th February at 09.15 on BBC One.

Presenter Matt Allwright, and crew, shadowed our Housing Team last Autumn and learned more about our efforts to improve outcomes for tenants and communities through improved housing offering and enforcement. The East Suffolk Council stories featured in episodes 2, 3, 7 & 9. For further information on the programmes, visit

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b0c3gjh0/episodes/guide>.



If you were unable to see them live, they will of course be on the iplayer for a period after broadcast.

Funding secured to help rough sleepers in East Suffolk

East Suffolk Council has secured over £600,000 to help support rough sleepers in the district.

Following a successful bid to the Government's Rough Sleeping Initiative, the Council has been awarded an additional £693,735 to support work with rough sleepers over the next year. The national initiative has allocated £112million to help get people off the streets and into safe accommodation.

The East Suffolk funding will enable the employment of new street outreach and a specialist to work with vulnerable adults. The funding will also enable the council to retain the services of a rough sleeper coordinator, specialist mental health workers and ensures the continuation of an eight-bed rapid assessment hub. Staff will be solely focused on working with those sleeping on the streets, providing increased support and helping to find accommodation for those in need.

Improvements in sight as date agreed for plans to tackle Suffolk's parking problems

Council's in Suffolk are ramping up activity in order to take on responsibility for local parking management from 6 April 2020 in a bid to improve parking locally and drive down nuisance and unlawful parking.

Traditionally, roadside parking offences were a matter for the Police. However, this has become lower priority for them, so Suffolk County Council is transferring this responsibility to local district and borough councils under the process known as civil parking enforcement, or CPE.

Suffolk Constabulary is supportive of the move because the transfer of responsibilities will enable them to spend additional time on keeping communities safe and arresting and bringing offenders to justice.

Community groups help keep East Suffolk clean

East Suffolk Council is keen to encourage, enable and reward people to show more love for the environment we live in, and as part of the 'Love East Suffolk' scheme, community groups have a winning way of cleaning up their neighbourhood while helping themselves.

Last year a total of 170 litter picks were carried out in East Suffolk by 133 community groups. Under the 'Love East Suffolk' scheme, funded through the Council's partners East Suffolk Norse, those that carried out litter picks between 1 March and 31 May 2019 were entered into a prize draw with the chance to win £200 for the benefit of the community.

The winners were drawn earlier this month by Cllr James Mallinder, Cabinet Member for the Environment and they are: North Cove & Barnby WI, St Margaret S.E. Village Hall, Pakefield Park Litterpickers, Ashby Herringfleet and Somerleyton Parish Council, Priority Court



Resident's Association, Martlesham Parish Council, Thorpeness Beach Baggers, Dennington Parish Council and Blaxhall Commons & Open Spaces.

The Love East Suffolk scheme will be repeated again this year and any community groups that take part will receive £20 for their nominated community fund or charity and will also be entered into a £200 grand prize draw. More details will be released in the spring.

Flower Club helping community to grow

Following a successful funding application to East Suffolk Council, a local flower arranging group has successfully hosted a wreath-making workshop to bring the Kesgrave community together.

East Suffolk ward councillor for Kesgrave, Cllr Debbie McCallum, donated £1,000 from her Enabling Communities Budget to the Orwell Flower Club to support an intergenerational event run with Kesgrave High and Health Primary Schools.

Students from the two schools were invited to attend a Christmas wreath-making workshop, held at the Royal British Legion Hall and organised by the Orwell Flower Club. Using materials supplied by the Flower Club, the students each worked with an older member for the community to create a wreath.

The Council's Enabling Communities Budgets support activities delivered by community, voluntary and social enterprise organisations. A total of £412,500 has been allocated for 2019/20 from the New Homes Bonus, funding generated through new houses built in the district.

What communities really need: Innovative approach to funding gets underway

An innovative and progressive scheme, established to provide critical funding for projects which local people want and need most of all, will begin allocating money this month.

The East Suffolk Community Partnerships have been created to "bring ideas to life" and eight separate partnership groups, covering the whole district, will now each decide who to spend £10,000 this year and a further £25,000 for each of the next three years, based on one or more priorities which were agreed at a series of community workshops.

In addition, an overarching pot of £150,000 this year and £300,000 for each of the next three years will be available for the partnerships to bid for.

The eight partnerships cover the whole of East Suffolk and are based on natural grouping of communities, using the new East Suffolk Council ward boundaries as building blocks.

Working alongside East Suffolk councillors will be County and town & parish councillors, the police, health bodies, community groups, businesses and other key organisations.

Help available to those struggling with hoarding

East Suffolk Council has been awarded £56,950 from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government to trial an innovative approach for housing tenants who may be hoarding items in their homes and neglecting their health and wellbeing.



Working in partnership with Lofty Heights, Access Community Trust and Flagship Housing, the Council's Private Sector Housing Team will work with tenants and landlords to address poor housing standards in properties where the tenant is showing signs of hoarding and self-neglect.

The trial will offer support to tenants through the decluttering process as well as help to improve their mental wellbeing, addressing the causes of their hoarding and reducing the risks of hoarding recurring in future. Following the clearance of hoarded items, any underlying housing issues and hazards will be addressed by the Private Sector Housing team to ensure the home provides a good standard of accommodation.

As well as supporting vulnerable residents, Access Community Trust will also operate a fortnightly 'Tenant Tuesday Café', providing a safe space for tenants in need of further support. Training will also be available in Lowestoft and Saxmundham for landlords who want to learn more about supporting vulnerable tenants, such as those leaving care.

Refilling your weekly shop without unnecessary plastic is getting easier in Suffolk

A number of shops in Suffolk are offering refills for a host of household items in a bid to cut down on the amount of plastic and packaging we use.

The Suffolk Waste Partnership has launched a handy online directory which lists the shops, businesses or charities that host refill points for items such as cleaning products, toiletries and dried foods, such as rice or oats and even loose-leaf tea and chocolate. Now there are 22 organisations which stock refills, but the partnership is encouraging other businesses to consider introducing similar schemes.

Peter Stevens, Chairman of the Suffolk Waste Partnership, said: "These refill points allow people to make a decision about what plastic they use. Of course, we have a long way to go before these refill points replace our weekly shop, but it is absolutely fantastic that Suffolk is showing such initiative in beginning the process. This is exactly the kind of 'green' thinking we welcome and encourage. I would ask everyone to have a look at the directory and see what is offered in their neighbourhood."

Residents can search their local area on the directory to find where their nearest refill point is.

If any retailers or businesses would like to offer refill services and get listed on the online directory please contact Waste.Management@suffolk.gov.uk. The directory can be found [HERE](#).

Lockdown News

The Council do realise the inconvenience to the public regarding the non collection of green bins. However the decision had to be made due to the Refuse Collection workforce reducing to 80% because of self isolation etc. Everything is being done in order to keep main collections going. Green bin collection will resume as soon as is possible.