

District Cllrs Report to GT Bealings Parish Council



September 2018

Landguard Governance Review: Suffolk Coastal are the lead partner in the Landguard Partnership. It has been recommended that the Partnership should be reviewed. It is estimated the cost of the Review will be in excess of £50,000 and approval is being sought from Cabinet for the proposal that Suffolk Coastal acts as the applicant for a Heritage Lottery Fund Resilient Heritage Grant (HLFRHG) to provide funding.

100% Business Rate Retention Pilot – Place Based Funding: As we explained in last month's briefing, Suffolk is one of only 10 places in the country that is taking part in a one-year pilot, known as the 'Business Rate Retention' programme, which allows us to retain 100% of growth in local business rates, to invest in projects that boost economic growth and support communities in Suffolk.

This means we get to keep an extra £10.4 million worth of money collected from local businesses in Suffolk in 2018/19, which would normally be passed to Central Government. One of unique features of the Suffolk pilot was its focus on "Inclusive Growth" which proposed a placed-based approach to allocation of additional business rate income. This approach introduced a more collaborative working arrangement between the County Council and the District and Borough Councils.

Cabinet is asked to note the potential income of £3.6m of additional funding for projects through the 100% Business Rate Retention pilot (£1.1m for Waveney and £2.5m for Suffolk Coastal) and recommends that this additional funding stream be reported to Full Council. Cabinet is also being asked to consider the list of district projects that have been put into the programme and recommend approval of these to Full Council.

East Suffolk Food and Health and Safety Service Plan 2018/19: The Council is required to produce a Food and Health and Safety Service Plan by the Food Standards Agency (FSA). The Service Plan must be submitted for member approval. This year's Service Plan includes information on the Council's performance in meeting targets, set out in the Service Plan for 2017/18, and recommends to Council the approval of a Food and Health and Safety Service Plan for 2018/19.

East Suffolk Performance Report – Quarterly Performance Quarter 1 2018/19: The East Suffolk Performance Report is a joint report for both Councils and provides an overview of the Councils' performance and progress against the deliverables within the East Suffolk Business Plan.

This Quarterly Performance report covers Quarter 1, the period from 1 April to 30 June 2018. Overall the Council continues to make significant and positive progress in delivering the Business Plan objectives. If there are any instances where performance is not adequately meeting targets, these are highlighted in the report detailing the actions being taken.

Other News:

Garden Waste Scheme Goes Hi Tech: Suffolk Coastal's successful Garden Waste Scheme will shortly go hi tech. Special ID tags - similar to the staff security badges some companies use to allow entry to buildings - will be embedded in the new, bigger green bins, before they are delivered to scheme members that have opted in for the upgrade.

The hi tech tags - radio-frequency identification (RFID) tags, to give them their official name - work in a similar way to barcodes and smart labels. A small amount of data (a unique identifier) is encoded in each tag which can be "read" by a special device that the bin lorry crews will have. We will record which bin has been delivered to which property using the unique identifier.

Staff will also be going round to fit the ID tags to the smaller brown bins where people have not opted for the upgrade and want to stick with their existing bin.

The first paid-for collections of garden waste began in May, after Suffolk Coastal District Council introduced a £43 a year charge for collecting garden waste.

One of the benefits of joining the Suffolk Coastal Garden Waste Scheme is that subscribers can get a free upgrade - receiving a larger (240 litre) green bin for their garden waste (240 litres is the most common wheeled bin size, but the current brown organic waste bins in Suffolk Coastal are 140 litres).

About 32,600 households (or about 56% of homes) have now signed up for the Garden Waste Scheme. Of these, 80% have opted to get the new, larger green bins.

The main delivery of the new larger green bins will start in October and will be carried out area by area, to households that have subscribed to the garden waste scheme and opted for the upgrade. These bins will already have had the tags fitted and an address/bar code sticker fixed to them. We will also be carrying out a phased 'retro-fit' of the tags to the brown bins, where people have joined the garden waste scheme but have not opted to have one of the new larger green bins.

Detailed rollout plans for the delivery of the new bins and retro-fitting of ID tags to brown bins will be publicised in September. So people do not have to do anything at this time.....we will publicise the plans on our website once they have been finalised.

Councils Call For Power Companies to Coordinate: Suffolk local authorities have used the response to Scottish Power Renewables current consultation to call for energy firms to co-ordinate their work plans better – to reduce the disruption of their project on local communities.

In a joint response, Suffolk County Council and Suffolk Coastal District Council have highlighted the power company's plan to site a substation in Friston, despite fierce local opposition, as an example of the piecemeal approach to the planning of these projects – and how local needs are being ignored.

East Suffolk is becoming increasingly important nationally for providing electricity for the nation – with a series of major projects in the pipeline. Estimates suggest that this area will be responsible for a quarter of the country's electricity supply by the 2030s.

But the infrastructure projects to generate and produce this electricity obviously have a major effect on the environment and the local communities.

Now, in responding to the current consultation being run by Scottish Power Renewables, the local authorities have highlighted the cumulative effect of all these projects – and appealed for the power companies to work together to minimise the disruption.

The local authorities have also raised the issue directly in a very positive meeting with Rt Hon Claire Perry MP, Minister of State for Energy and Clean Growth and the local MP Therese Coffey.

In addition to the existing Sizewell B nuclear power stations and sub-stations for the Galloper and Greater Gabbard offshore wind farms, the area is now expecting the Sizewell C nuclear power station plus two sub-stations for Scottish Power Renewables East Anglia Offshore 2 and 1 (North) schemes; two inter-continental connector converter stations for National Grid Ventures and a single major National Grid Transmission substation connecting these to the pylon lines.

The issue has been particularly highlighted during this round of consultation by Scottish Power Renewables, which is ignoring calls by the local authorities to review its decision to place its substation in Friston – meaning 5 miles of countryside will needlessly have to be dug up for cables to reach the substation and there may be multiple huge buildings.

Suffolk County Council and Suffolk Coastal have worked together to prepare this joint response to the Scottish Power Renewables consultation.

These developments are seen very much as game changers, as part of a wider package of economic development investments in the area that the Councils want to embrace and support whilst acknowledging that to do this comprehensively, for the future benefit of the area needs the support of Government to help get it right.

To read the full joint response to the consultation, see:

<http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/assets/Planning/Offshore-Windfarms/Response-on-Stage-2-SP-2018-08-23.pdf>

Leiston £3.5 million refurbishment to start: Work is starting to transform Leiston Leisure Centre into an exciting, modern facility. The centre has closed to undergo a £3.5 million refurbishment, with the gym on Thursday 30 August, and the rest of the facilities on Friday 31 August.

The work will be completed over several stages with an initial closure period of about six months needed to undertake structural work. The centre will partly reopen once the first stage is completed, and we expect the whole centre to be fully reopened in summer 2019.

The new leisure centre was designed with the Council's leisure development partner, Pulse Design & Build and operators, Places Leisure, and includes a new spacious gym with modern equipment, and a new health suite by the pool area.

The plans also include a high quality village style changing area by the pool. This will be family friendly with cubicles for parent and child, separate changing areas for groups, which can also be used by the public when empty and individual changing cubicles and showers. More fitness classes will be available with two new dance studios and a group cycling studio, which will also serve as multi-bookable rooms.

The refurbishment is part of the Council's five year programme to improve leisure facilities for the district and encourage more people to become more active.

Rat Issue in Felixstowe – Update: We have reviewed our plans for taking further action on the rat problem in the Sea Road area of Felixstowe. Having looked into the issue in more detail and taken expert advice, we have been informed that poisoning the rats, by inserting gas pellets into the nests, is not a practical or safe option. The proximity of the treatment to human activity would create a health risk to people and their pets in the area.

As such, our colleagues at Suffolk Coastal Norse are implementing a series of changes in the short-term. They will be carrying out a late night sweep of the area, emptying the bins and cleaning the Promenade, between 8pm and 10pm each day – to ensure there is no food waste left in the bins, or on the Promenade, overnight to attract rats and seagulls.

Twelve extra, large lidded wheeled bins have also been placed in the area, to try to reduce the ability for seagulls and rats to access food waste in the bins in the area.

We will also be running a poster campaign in the area to actively encourage people not to discard their food waste, and to make sure they treat food waste like other litter and put it in the bins provided. These posters will emphasise the need for people to ‘Respect our Resort’ by not dropping food waste that attracts vermin. This will be supported by a social media campaign.

These measures are in addition to those we had already carried out to address this issue, including carrying out extensive work to remove much of the low level vegetation along the Sea Road Gardens (near Manning’s fish and chip outlets) which provides cover for rats to nest in.

Norse has also placed 20 bait trap boxes along the Sea Road area, which are checked regularly by our pest control officer. These pest control efforts are being increased as a result of the recent rat sightings.

We have also bolstered our street cleaning efforts, in response to the thousands of visitors who have flocked to Felixstowe during the recent hot weather. Norse employs a team of street cleansing operatives in Felixstowe, which include both pedestrian sweepers and vehicle-based cleaners.

We continue to monitor the situation, while we look at longer-term solutions, and are also liaising with commercial pest control experts to see if a more resilient solution can be found.

We continue to work to be responsive to these issues. Anyone wanting to report an issue with rats or litter bin collections should contact, Suffolk Coastal Norse on 01394 444000 or email: scs@ncsgrp.co.uk

First Draft Local Plan Published: People only have a few days to respond to the consultation on the First Draft Local Plan. The Suffolk Coastal Local Plan is a framework document which will outline how the council sees the district developing over the next couple of decades.

This First Draft Local Plan covers the period to 2036 and contains the suggested planning policies, which will be used to determine planning applications in the area in the future.

Consultation on the First Draft Local Plan runs until 5pm on Friday, 14 September 2018.

Copies of the First Draft Local Plan can be found on the Council’s website at: www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/planning/local-plans/suffolk-coastal-local-plan/local-plan-review/

Copies of the document are also available at local libraries (including mobile libraries) across the district.

Comments on the First Draft Local Plan can be submitted via: The Council's online consultation portal: <http://consult.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/consult.ti> or Emailing: suffolkcoastallocalplan@eastsuffolk.gov.uk or writing to Planning Policy & Delivery Team, East Suffolk House, Station Road, Riduna Park, Melton, Woodbridge, IP12 1RT.

Beach Café proposal submitted for Martello Park: A planning application for a proposed exciting development in the heart of Felixstowe South Seafront has been submitted by Suffolk Coastal District Council.

The proposal sets out plans for a new beach café in the Martello Park, the design of which will be based around strong coastal themes and sympathetically balances its sensitive location whilst also being an iconic visual draw to this area.

To view the planning application, go to: <https://publicaccess.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/online-applications/> and search for 'DC/18/3173/FUL'.

A CGI video to illustrate the proposal has also been uploaded on our YouTube channel. To view, go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B2P6NxcVBWk&feature=youtu.be>

And finally....

Felixstowe Seafront Gardens wins prestigious award: Felixstowe Seafront Gardens have been awarded a Green Flag Award for the third year running and is officially one of the best parks in the world.

A record number of parks and green spaces in the UK will be flying the Green Flag this year, and the gardens sit among 1,883 others who have received the award.

The international award, now into its third decade, is a sign to the public that the space boasts the highest possible environmental standards, is beautifully maintained and has excellent visitor facilities. The gardens have also received the much coveted additional Green Heritage Site Accreditation for the management of the historic features.

Cllr Colin Hedgley
Cllr Geoff Holdcroft
Cllr Patti Mulcahy