

Report to Great Bealings Parish Council



July 2016

Extraordinary Meeting of Council – Thursday, 30 June: This extraordinary meeting was dedicated solely to allowing us to examine and debate the new, improved devolution deal for this area.

There are now two deals. One for Norfolk/Suffolk and the other for Cambridgeshire/Peterborough, which council leaders and LEPs believe is the best way to get the most benefit for the people, places and businesses across East Anglia.

A summary of the key elements of proposed Norfolk/Suffolk deal are:

- £25m funding each year for the next 30 years (£750m) to support economic growth, development of local infrastructure and jobs (this will increase the local economy to £43bn and create 95,000 jobs by 2026).
- £130m investment over five years to support the building of new homes across Norfolk and Suffolk (including £30m across Ipswich and Norwich). This will enable around 10,300 homes to be delivered
- Over the lifetime of the deal around 200,000 homes could be delivered
- Control of a £225m guaranteed transport budget for the next four years
- Control of an existing c£20m annual adult skills fund to ensure the training offer matches the needs of local businesses and the local labour market
- Control of an existing c£2m annual Apprenticeship Grant for employers
- Greater control over who (and how) delivers transport services in Norfolk and Suffolk, ensuring that transport integrates better and there are more options for local residents
- More control and influence over investment in key roads across Norfolk and Suffolk, thus ensuring maintenance and improvements can be prioritised locally, rather than having to compete with other works across the country
- A commitment to providing superfast broadband and improved mobile phone reception in more communities, particularly in rural areas
- That the relevant councils will work with the NHS to bring together health and social care services to provide a more joined up, single service for residents
- Relevant authorities and partners take an Norfolk/Suffolk wide approach to flood and coastal risk management to better protect people, property and land from flooding

Each deal would have a Combined Authority and a Directly Elected Mayor but there would be joint working across East Anglia to improve transport and other infrastructure.

The Combined Authorities would decide the most effective and efficient level to deliver services to ensure the best possible outcomes for communities.

Government has been clear that councils need to approve the proposed deals before they will formally agree them. So, like us, all councils and both LEPs across East Anglia are currently in the process of debating this matter before the end of June.

Public consultation will take place during July and August.

Views from public consultation are reported to the Secretary of State for him to consider before creating combined authorities and putting in place arrangements for mayoral elections in May 2017.

The full council approved the continuing negotiations with the government on the proposed deal.

Special Meeting of Cabinet – Thursday, 30 June: Immediately after the extraordinary full council meeting, the Cabinet met to consider the Full Council’s decision and formally support and approved continued work towards the implementation of the Norfolk/Suffolk Devolution Agreement.

Cabinet – Tuesday, 12 July: Because of the tight deadlines and requirement to deal with the Devolution issue as a matter of urgency, along with the timing of this year’s LGA Conference, July’s normal Cabinet meeting has been put back until Tuesday, 12 July.

Other News:

New website: Our new website has now been launched. As the single home for all Suffolk Coastal and Waveney news, information and services, www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk is clearer and more accessible through smartphone devices and tablets. Importantly, local people should find it far easier to carry out transactions on-line, saving time or the need to call us.

The previous council websites (for Suffolk Coastal and Waveney) have been closed and this one, combined platform, reflects the way that the Councils deliver services, in partnership, across East Suffolk.

With a fresh, contemporary design, the new site retains content from the existing Suffolk Coastal and Waveney sites; although, wherever possible, this has been combined to present a single, easily accessible home for information about the Councils' services.

Anyone trying to visit pages on the old sites will be redirected appropriately, although this process may take a few hours to bed in, entirely. If you have any questions or feedback regarding the new site, please email: web@eastsoffolk.gov.uk

Enabling Community Roadshows: As you know, developing our enabling communities programme is a key priority within the East Suffolk Business Plan.

We want to help create a diverse mix of resilient and supportive communities that feel engaged, valued and empowered, where people's needs are met and where they can make a difference to their community.

In support of this, Suffolk Coastal and Waveney are now staging two roadshows in July to engage with our town and parish councils. The events are being held at the Riverside Centre, Stratford St Andrew on Tuesday, 19 July and on Monday, 25 July, at Lowestoft Community Church, Lowestoft. They both run from 9.30am to 12.30pm.

For the Enabling Community Roadshows to be successful, it is imperative that as many Town and Parish Councils attend and are represented as possible. There will be two parts to each roadshow:

The first part will showcase the excellent community-led initiatives serving as good practice across East Suffolk, to encourage, empower and enable other communities to also work together to build their resilience.

The second part will encourage communities to consider their community strengths and assets; who are the leading 'movers and shakers'; how can they be supported to build on what's already good; and, how can they build their capacity and resilience.

If any of your town/parish councils or stakeholders wants to attend either event, please ask them to contact: Julia Catterwell at: Julia.Catterwell@eastsoffolk.gov.uk

Part-Night Lighting: The move across to part night lighting, introduced in the District at the beginning of June, appears to have been very successful.

This 'invest to save' initiative will reduce running costs and cut light pollution. It also brings Suffolk Coastal in line with other Councils, including Suffolk County Council/Highways Agency which is responsible for the main Highway or 'road standard' street lighting.

Older people will remember that we used to have part-night lighting in the 1990s, but this was abandoned because of the expense of running the system.

Suffolk Coastal District Council is responsible for 1,735 footway standard lighting units in towns and parishes across the District. The move to part-night lighting, following the installation of an intelligent lighting system, is expected to save the Council about £30,000 a year and reduce CO2 emissions by 125 tonnes a year.

We have invested about £90,000 to install the intelligent lighting system for the Council's lighting. The installation investment expenditure should be recovered in approximately three years due to reduced energy costs.

Other benefits include the ability to control and monitor the units remotely, providing greater energy efficiency and flexibility of operation.

With the introduction of part-night lighting, the majority of the Council's lighting units will be switched off between the hours of midnight and 5.30am, with the exception of:

- Lighting where sheltered accommodation for the elderly - to remain as all-night lighting.
- Alleyway linking residential street or at bus stop - to remain as all-night lighting.
- Car park lighting - to remain as all-night lighting.
- Bus stops - to remain as all-night lighting.

If you want to check whether your area is affected, check out the Suffolk Coastal website at: www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/environment/street-lighting-in-suffolk

Reminder to Dog Owners to Clean Up: Dog owners are reminded of the need to clear up after their pets – or face a fine.

In March, a man walking a dog on land between Sizewell power station and the beach at Sizewell, near Leiston, was spotted failing to clear up after his dog. Suffolk Coastal Norse traced the dog walker, who then paid a Fixed Penalty Notice. Now Suffolk Coastal is repeating its warning to dog owners – clean up after your dog or face the consequences!

Failing to clean up after your dog on any relevant public land is a criminal offence under the Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996, and the maximum penalty that a Court can impose on conviction is a fine of £1,000, together with a criminal record. However, the Council may offer an offender the opportunity to pay a Fixed Penalty Notice of £80 (£60 if paid promptly), which, if paid, discharges the offender from liability to prosecution.

When walking your dog, always remember to take a bag with you to pick up the mess and always pay attention to what your dog is doing at all times – not having a suitable bag, or not noticing that the dog had fouled, is no excuse for failing to clear up after it.

And remember - any bin will do! Dog waste must always be picked up and placed in either a dog waste bin or litter bin, or taken home and placed in your grey-lidded wheelie bin.

Anyone who observes an offence of dog fouling, littering or fly-tipping, and has any information (for example, the name and address of an offender if known, or the registration number of their vehicle) that would help us to investigate and identify those responsible is urged to “tip us off” by contacting us on: **01394 444000**. Any report made will be treated with the strictest confidence.

And Finally.....

Last Chance to Nominate Local Heroes: Time is running out to nominate people for the Suffolk Coastal Business & Community Awards, before the deadline of 30 June.

There are thirteen awards designed to recognise the contributions, initiatives and successes of businesses, groups and individuals within the Suffolk Coastal District over the past 18 months.

People can enter the awards online at: www.scbca.co.uk or request an entry form from Sarah Shinnie at Suffolk Coastal District Council on **01394 444652**. The deadline for entries is Thursday 30 June, with the winners announced at a black tie dinner in September.

The Business and Community Awards give local people a unique opportunity to celebrate what is great about Suffolk Coastal and to recognise those people who hard work and dedication makes this such a fantastic place to live and work. We all know businesses, clubs and individuals who just go that extra mile to make a difference in the community. Now is your chance to say ‘thank you’ by ensuring their commitment is recognised by nominating them for an award on: www.scbca.co.uk.

Please take every opportunity to involve yourselves in the decision-making process and to inform your local communities about our progress by attending Cabinet or speaking to either myself or the Cabinet Members dealing with the issues.

Colin Hedgley
Geoff Holdcroft
Patti Mulcahy

District Councillors for Woodbridge ward.