

District Councillors Report to Great Bealings Parish Council

August and September 2017

Melton Hill: You will have seen there has been considerable coverage from the community and in the press regarding the planning application for the Melton Hill site for which we invited the public to consult on for 21 days last month.

The negative comments have partly centred on our role as the planning authority making the decision on the project and the link between the sale of Melton Hill and our new headquarters at East Suffolk House.

However, as we are the local planning authority, it is entirely correct, in accordance with the regulations, that the Council's Planning Committee consider and determine the application.

The Planning Committee will receive a very detailed report of the proposals from the Head of Planning and Coastal Management setting out all the required material planning issues, alongside reporting all the issues that have been raised in consultation, and then appraising all of the material issues in coming to a reasoned impartial recommendation based solely on planning judgements. This is entirely appropriate and does not put the Council at any undue risk.

The sale of Melton Hill does not directly fund the purchase of East Suffolk House as it was funded through existing resources, without incurring borrowing. Instead, the capital receipt of the Melton Hill complex assists in supporting the Council's capital programme, and the new, more efficient accommodation has the benefit of reducing our running costs to save us an estimated £200,000 a year, rising to £500,000 a year in the longer term which importantly helps us keep Council Tax down.

You can read answers to FAQs at: www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/yourcouncil/headquarters-accommodation-project

Other News

East Suffolk House art commissioning project: Local artists now have been asked to enter their ideas for a piece of work to be displayed in East Suffolk House. The project aims to find a new piece of art for the Council's headquarters in Melton and in return, give a local artist some recognition for their work. The artwork will be displayed in the reception area of East Suffolk House and the Council is looking for something which reflects Suffolk Coastal as a district, drawing on aspects of the East Suffolk Business Plan and compliments the architecture of the building.

Tour of Britain engagement: We're now gearing up our promotion of the OVO Energy Tour of Britain over the summer period to encourage our communities to get behind the Tour coming to the district on Friday 8 September.

Bike trail: One of the things we're launching is the bike trail which is coming to seven towns in the district.

In each town, the public can find a bike character in 10 locations; Phil McBucket in Aldeburgh, Speedy Sprinter in Framlingham, Eileen Yuleen in Leiston, Buster Record in Saxmundham, Patchy O'Puncture in Snape, Bea Mx in Wickham Market and Old Rusty in Woodbridge.

These characters will feature on window stickers which will be displayed in 10 windows of businesses and shops in the town. Once they've found all 10 window stickers, they will then

get a sticker of that bike to collect on their trail map. Once all seven stickers are collected they will win a Tour of Britain goody bag.

Trail maps can be picked up at a central location in the seven towns, downloaded online and also our customer services within Felixstowe and Woodbridge Libraries and reception at East Suffolk House. We hope this will be a bit of fun for children and families both living and visiting the district and create a buzz on social media.

Taste of the Tour: To engage food and drink businesses in the district with the Tour, we have been asking them to think creatively with their menus and come up with dishes and themes to link with the cycling race. We hope this will bring them some extra publicity and in turn encourage members of the public to come out and support the race on the day. A number of businesses have already got behind the idea and we hope this will build as we get closer to September.

Women on Wheels: We're linking our promotion of the Tour with Women on Wheels which returns to Rendlesham for the second year in October. Two rides are taking place at Army Rock Barracks, Sutton on Sunday, 1 October, offering an opportunity for all women and girls (of all ages) to get on their bikes to take on a challenge and have some fun.

Women on Wheels events are mass participation female only rides, raising money for local charities, that put a strong focus on the fun, friendly and inclusive aspects of cycling. They are very much aimed at non-cyclists and existing cyclists alike, with routes of an achievable distance, and are open to all ages.

Last year, a number of WoW events took place throughout Suffolk and rides are growing with popularity linking to the arrival of the Women's Tour and Tour of Britain (which comes to Suffolk on Friday, 8 September).

The 5km starts at 11:30am for £5 and the 15km ride starts at 10:30am for £15. Under 16's are free if accompanied by an adult. Females of all ages can register for the event at: www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/leisure/sportandleisuredevelopment/women-on-wheels

Felixstowe open-air cinema: Over 1,000 people turned up at our free open-air cinema on Saturday 29 July in Felixstowe. The public were asked to send in their film ideas and they were decided to be Finding Nemo, the Goonies and Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl. Feedback from the public was really positive, with everyone asking when it would be happening again. The free, one-day event was supported by Felixstowe Town Council's Youth Forum who have provided £2,000 in funding. We hope the event will help to promote the Beachside Events Area which completed last September, has hosted a number of local events including the circus, Suffolk Armed Forces Weekend and the Carnival.

Pier reopening: The new pierhead building opened ahead of schedule on the same day. The multi-million pound building features the new Boardwalk Café and Bar and new amusements Arcade. Work is soon to be completed to raise the level of the prom this month. This will see the promenade sloping in both directions to be the same height as the top of the sea wall.

So far there has been good feedback from the public and positive coverage by local media.

Parking terminals upgraded: Parking meters in Felixstowe, Framlingham and Aldeburgh have now been upgraded to accept new £1 coins to pay for parking. The Parkeon Strada Rapide terminals comprise of a mix of solar powered and mains operated machines and make payments easier as well as capturing more detailed information about parking trends across the district. All of the new terminals are linked to Parkeon's Smartfolio central management system, enabling the councils to monitor the terminals remotely and obtain detailed analysis of parking and payment data, which will help towards its future parking strategy.

High food ratings: More food businesses in Suffolk Coastal gained the highest marks for Food Hygiene in June. Inspections in June by Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Council's Food and Safety Team saw a total of 33 local businesses receiving Food Hygiene Rating Scheme (FHRS) ratings of '5/very good', highlighting their dedication to hygiene and excellent approach to food safety: Overall, Suffolk Coastal 99.4% of businesses achieve a 3-5 food hygiene rating. To see the full list of business, visit: www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/news/east-suffolk-boasts-high-food-hygiene-marks

And finally...

East Suffolk Photo Competition launched: A new photo competition has been launched for Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Councils for the public to take part in this summer.

Linking with our work to create a new, single 'super district' council for east Suffolk, the competition aims to celebrate east Suffolk as a great place to live, work and visit.

The competition has three categories:

- Living in east Suffolk
- Working in east Suffolk
- Explore east Suffolk
- Under 16s (in any category)

Competition winners will be featured on the Councils' combined Instagram account (@eastsuffolkcouncils). According to GovRank, which monitors the digital performance of over 400 local authorities in the UK, @eastsuffolkcouncils is consistently featured amongst the best-performing council Instagram accounts.

Entries can be submitted via Instagram by tagging @eastsuffolkcouncils and using #EastSuffolkPhotoComp or by emailing photos to communications@eastsuffolk.gov.uk

The winner in each category will receive a shopping voucher and a framed copy of their photo which will also be displayed at the Councils' East Suffolk House or Riverside offices.

The winners will be chosen by a panel of judges in October. One winner and one runner-up will be chosen for each category and winners will be informed directly and announced through social media, press and online coverage. The competition closed on **Monday 4 September 2017**. Judging will take place in October. For more information, visit: www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/leisure/east-suffolk-photo-competition

Work to start to transform Deben Leisure Centre

We are just days away from work starting to transform Deben Pool into an exciting, modern leisure centre.

The project to reinvent the leisure centre is set to cost over £3 million as part of Suffolk Coastal's plans to invest in its leisure centres to encourage more people to become fit and active.

Deben Pool closes at 10pm on Thursday 31 August with work to start from Monday 4 September for a 10 month period to transform the facility into a state-of-the-art leisure centre.

The new leisure centre has been designed with the Council's leisure development partner, Pulse Fitness and operators Places for People Leisure and includes a new, spacious gym, featuring modern equipment and the pool area will feature a new health suite with a steam room, sauna and ice room.

The plans also include the addition of a new floor to be added to the front of the building, with purpose built family changing areas and separate changing facilities for use by schools and the provision of two studios, one to incorporate a spin room and the other for fitness classes, which will also be available for community hire.

Suffolk Coastal's investment of £2.5 million in the new leisure centre has been boosted by £500,000 in Sport England National Lottery Funding.

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

All current members at Deben have now been contacted by Places for People Leisure regarding their membership during the closure period.

The full closure of Deben means that during this time our operators, Places for People Leisure will be relocating as many staff as possible. The new facility opening next summer will create more job opportunities, with people being recruited 2-3 months prior to opening. During the refurbishment work there will be some loss of car parking, reducing by 27 spaces (23 in front of the Community Hall and 4 spaces elsewhere in Station Road car park) and there will be no access to the front and left-hand side of the leisure centre.

We have been working with nearby businesses to minimise any disruption. During the closure the Community Hall will remain open as usual and access to the skatepark is not affected.

Cllr Colin Hedgley
Cllr Geoff Holdcroft
Cllr Patti Mulcahy.

Councillors for Woodbridge Ward.