



District Councillors Report to Great Bealings Parish Council

March 2020

Cllr Tony Fryatt

Cllr Colin Hedgley

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.

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.

Suffolk to host final stage of The Women's Tour 2020

The world's top cyclists will return to Suffolk this June as the county hosts the final stage of The Women's Tour on Saturday 13 June. It will be first time that Suffolk has hosted the final stage of the tour since 2014, with riders tackling a route from Haverhill to Felixstowe.

To mark the announcement, Cllr Letitia Smith, Cabinet Member for Communities, Tourism and Leisure, joined the organisers and other Suffolk partners at the Port of Felixstowe, which will feature in the closing kilometres of the race. Felixstowe last hosted the race in 2014, when Stage Three began in the town.

Planning permission granted for flood defences

Planning permission for the construction of flood defences, which will reduce the risk of tidal flooding for people and properties in Lowestoft, has been granted by East Suffolk Council's north planning permission. Two applications were approved; one for tidal flood walls around the Outer Harbour and another for Listed Building Consent, relating to alterations required to the site of the Grade II listed Royal Norfolk and Suffolk Yacht Club as part of the works.

The flood walls will run around the Yacht Club and South Pier, with glass tops to allow unrestricted views across the yacht basin and from the Yacht Club building. Solid walls will



be built around the north of the harbour, north of the Hamilton Dock basin and to the south of Hamilton Road.

The flood walls are part of the wider Lowestoft Flood Risk Management Project (LFRMP) which will also see construction of flood walls and a pumping station to reduce the risk of flooding from the river and from extreme rainfall. Find out more at lowestoftfrmp.org.uk

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.



Work officially begins at the UK's most easterly park

Work has officially started at 'The Ness', the most easterly park in the UK.

The site of the park, next to Birds Eye on Whapload Road in Lowestoft, will be regenerated with £1m secured from the Coastal Community Fund in 2017.

The Ness, which is being delivered by Lowestoft Town Council, East Suffolk Council and Concertus Design and Property Consultants working in partnership, will celebrate Lowestoft's maritime heritage and feature a picnic and play area, a bespoke bridge to the sea wall as well as interactive and educational information. The site, which will be sensitively landscaped to protect the area's unique flora and fauna, also includes the seafront walkway and the most easterly point in the UK, Ness Point.

An official 'sod-turning' event was held on Wednesday 22 January to mark the beginning of the works, which are being carried out by Blakedown Landscapes and are expected to be completed by early summer.

TV Series

East Suffolk Council will be starring in a brand new series for BBC daytime TV, which gets underway soon. The new series of *Britain's Housing Scandal* will be 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 feature in episodes 2, 3, 7 & 9. For further information on the programmes, visit

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

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