

# District Councillors Report to Great Bealings Parish Council March 2019



## **Play Areas**

**Asset Divestment/Disposal – Two Play Areas, Felixstowe** – As part of our on-going Enabling Communities agenda, we are planning to transfer of two play areas to Felixstowe Town Council.

Allenby Park and Ferry Road/Gosford Way Park were historically acquired by the Council through Section 106 Agreements. The proposal is to transfer the freehold of two parks to the Town Council, subject to the imposition of a covenant restricting their use to the current recreational use. Under the terms of the leases the Town Council will be responsible for all future grounds maintenance and play equipment maintenance costs.

The transfer of these parcels of land meets the Council's Business Plan objective to "Empower local town and parish councils by continuing to transfer amenity and community assets to them with their agreement".

**East Suffolk MyGo Youth Employment Service** - Young people not engaged in employment, education or training (NEET) continue to be a challenge within Suffolk generally and East Suffolk in particular relative to the country as a whole.

As part of East Suffolk's twin objectives of supporting economic growth and enabling communities it is imperative that we continue to address this problem by supporting young people to access employment, education and training opportunities. This is of benefit to the individual, local employers and the families and communities within which these young people live.

This paper sets out the current issues and proposes an initiative to tackle these. The purpose of the paper is to gain approval for East Suffolk, in partnership with Suffolk County Council, to procure a service that will proactively support young people to become positively engaged within the local economy.

**Adoption of the Private Sector Housing Strategy and Associated Policies** - In 2017, the Council adopted the East Suffolk Housing Strategy which set out joint ambitions for Housing, across Suffolk Coastal and Waveney. This high level strategy provides the overarching framework for all housing services.

The Private Sector Housing Strategy is the more detailed review and plan for this service area. It identifies the challenges facing the sector, identifies what we have achieved to date and specific actions detailing how we will deliver solutions to the most pressing issues between now and 2023.

**Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government External Funding to Prevent Homelessness** - The Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 requires Suffolk Coastal to develop and provide enhanced, tailored housing pathways for groups of people that maybe more vulnerable to homelessness than others (i.e. people with mental health issues, victims of domestic abuse, former prisoner and care leavers).

The Government has acknowledged that these extra duties will require additional resources if local authorities are to fulfil them.

The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) has invited local authorities to apply for grant funding to address some of the gaps in homelessness service provision.

**Local Planning Enforcement Plan** - In order to be prepared for the new East Suffolk Council on 1 April, we are required to ratify all our existing policies.

This report is put before Members as consultees requesting authorisation for formal adoption of the new Local Planning Enforcement Plan for East Suffolk Council.

The proposed Local Planning Enforcement Plan aims to set out how enforcement action will be taken in East Suffolk by taking into account both the common issues that require planning enforcement action and the resources at the Council's disposal.

**A Special Meeting of Cabinet – is being held in the Deben Conference Room, East Suffolk House, on Monday 11 March 2019 at 6.30pm.**

This special meeting is being held to consider Suffolk Coastal's response to two high-profile important consultations which are currently being held. These are:

1. **East Anglia One North and EastAnglia Two Offshore Windfarms Phase 4 - Consultation from Scottish Power Renewables**
2. **Sizewell C Stage 3 Public Consultation**

The papers for this meeting will be published on Friday (1 March). The Council will also be issuing a press release on each.

### **Other News:**

**Briefing sessions ahead of May's elections** - Prospective candidates and agents for the new East Suffolk Council are invited to attend briefing sessions ahead of the elections on Thursday, 2 May.

The first sessions are taking place on Tuesday, 5 March, at East Suffolk House between 2pm and 4pm and Friday, 8 March, at Riverside between 10am and 12pm.

These sessions will provide useful information on local arrangements and the election timetables, as well as information on the required qualifications, disqualifications, nominations, agents and the key contact details.

The second sessions are taking place on Tuesday, 16 April, at Riverside between 10am and 12midday and Wednesday, 17 April, at East Suffolk House between 2pm and 4pm.

These sessions will focus on agents, postal votes, what happens on polling day and how the verification and count process will work.

Stephen Baker, Returning Officer for the East Suffolk Council elections, said: “It is important that everyone wishing to take part in the elections attend these briefing sessions – even people who have been candidates and agents before, as some things have changed significantly since the last local election.

“The sessions will provide updated and details information on the whole election process and give prospective candidates and agents the opportunity to ask any questions they may have and hopefully make the process easier to understand.”

Anyone wanting to attend should inform Karen Last on [Karen.last@eastsoffolk.gov.uk](mailto:Karen.last@eastsoffolk.gov.uk) or tel 01394 444324; or, Tim Willis on [tim.willis@eastsoffolk.gov.uk](mailto:tim.willis@eastsoffolk.gov.uk) or tel 01502 525253.

**Use of Council Resources and Publicity during the Pre-Election Period (also known as**

**‘Purdah’**): This guidance applies to the elections to East Suffolk Council (ESC) and also to any Members of Suffolk Coastal District Council (SCDC) and Waveney District Council (WDC) or the Shadow East Suffolk Council (SESC) who may be standing as candidates for any Town and Parish Council elections in the Districts. The Elections for East Suffolk Council, and all of the Towns and Parishes in its area, will be held on Thursday 2 May 2019. The pre-election period (PEP) – which is also known as ‘purdah’ - starts on Friday 15 March 2019, when the Notice of Election will be published. It lasts until the close of polls at 10.00pm on 2 May 2019.

**Business as usual** - For the district councils, it is business as usual during the PEP. However, SCDC and WDC will cease to exist on 31 March 2019.

The SESC will continue until the elections to the new ESC have taken place, on 2 May 2019, and the Members elected to it take office, on 6 May 2019. During this time, the public will not notice any difference and Council officers will continue to operate and provide services for the people of the district(s).

**Communities benefit from new developments** - Local communities in east Suffolk are seeing the benefit from new developments happening across the District. Since the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) scheme was introduced in east Suffolk, over £4.5 million has been collected from commenced and completed developments.

Of this, over £2.1 million has been distributed or earmarked to help deliver infrastructure projects to facilitate growth currently taking place across the District. In most circumstances it replaces or complements the traditional Section 106 process of securing developer contributions towards infrastructure.

Parish and Town Councils receive 15% of CIL funds which are collected from development in their area.

A further 10% is available to the councils which have introduced the Neighbourhood Plan. So separately, a total of just over £700,000 has been paid to Parish and Town Councils in east Suffolk.

CIL is a tool for local authorities in England and Wales to help raise funds to deliver the infrastructure, facilities and services which are needed to support new development in the area.

CIL is non-negotiable and any funds not spent, are banked for future infrastructure projects to support development in the District.

Some of the projects which have been allocated CIL funds include:

- £122,400 towards expansion of Framlingham Medical Practice
- £188,800 towards pre-construction costs for a new Youth, Arts and Community Centre in Woodbridge
- £45,000 towards a new pedestrian crossing outside the primary school in Trimley St Mary

To see the CIL reports and details about all the projects, go to:

Suffolk Coastal: <http://apps.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/committeeminutes/showagenda.asp?id=23116>

For more information on the CIL scheme, go to

[www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/planning/community-infrastructure-levy/](http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/planning/community-infrastructure-levy/)

**Suffolk to host opening stage of 2019 OVO Energy Women's Tour** - Suffolk will host the opening stage of the 2019 OVO Energy Women's Tour on Monday, 10 June, marking the fifth time that the race has visited the county.

The county also becomes the first venue to be confirmed for the 2020 edition of the race, with the news that Suffolk County Council and East Suffolk Council will partner with event organisers SweetSpot Group in a two-year deal to bring the UCI Women's WorldTour event to the county in both 2019 and 2020.

In its four previous visits to Suffolk, the OVO Energy Women's Tour is estimated to have attracted in excess of 250,000 spectators to the roadside and created a net economic impact for the county's economy of in excess of £3.5 million.

Almost 70% of spectators surveyed following last year's opening stage, between Framlingham and Southwold, said that the event inspired them to cycle more often.

Commenting on the announcement, OVO Energy Women's Tour Race Director Mick Bennett said, "We are delighted to be able to confirm that Suffolk will host the OVO Energy Women's Tour in both 2019 and 2020. Suffolk have been involved as a host venue since the first edition in 2014 so the extension of our partnership for a further two editions of the race shows the support in the county for the event and their aims to get more people more active."

This June will mark the fourth time that the OVO Energy Women's Tour has begun in Suffolk with Bury St Edmunds, Southwold and Framlingham having each hosted the Grand Depart of Britain's biggest women's procycling race.

Further details of the 2019 Suffolk stage, including the Start and Finish venues for Stage One, will be announced in early March, ahead of the announcement of the full route for the OVO Energy Women's Tour.

**Enabling Broadband Programme Update** – Last month’s bulletin contained an update on Suffolk Coastal’s Enabling Broadband Programme.

Under this programme, the Council had allocated substantial funding to fund wireless broadband provision in order to cover those 2% of properties across the District that won’t benefit from the Suffolk Better Broadband scheme - these properties will be predominantly be in rural areas.

We have issued contracts with two local companies (Fram Broadband and RADE) to build the necessary infrastructure we need in the District and these companies have now begun purchasing, and siting, additional equipment to enhance the service to residents, businesses and visitors alike.

Fram Broadband has extended the coverage in the Framlingham, Saxtead, Bruisyard and Gt Glenham parishes. Similarly, RADE has enhanced the coverage in the North of the District, along the Blyth Valley and Leiston/Theberton areas.

**Ipswich Northern Route Project Timescale** – The County Council has outlined the timescale for the next steps in producing the Strategic Outline Business Case to examine and ultimately clarify the feasibility of an Ipswich northern route.

The stage one study and report into possible highways options was completed in 2017, with the options assessment and development commissioned in May 2018 currently being evaluated and prepared for shortlisting, prior to consultation.

The timescale going forward is:

- Public consultation on the route details, alignment options and junction options with the A14 and A12 - to begin in the Summer 2019
- Completion of the Strategic Outline Business Case to be shared with government, local MPs and the public - Autumn 2019.

Suffolk County Council has been working with District and Borough Councils to develop the project and will continue to do so in the future.

Councillor Ray Herring, Leader of Suffolk Coastal District Council, said: “We welcome the publication of the timetable and the upcoming public consultation which will allow communities in east Suffolk to have their say on the possible routes. The Ipswich northern bypass will benefit many businesses in east Suffolk, particularly those along the A12 and those associated with the Port of Felixstowe. However, these benefits need to be balanced against the concerns of the communities that might be affected by any new route.”

For more information visit the County’s website: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/transport-planning/consultations-and-studies/>

**And finally....**

**Community groups help keep East Suffolk clean** - The winners of a prize draw held as part of a community litter pick scheme in East Suffolk have been announced.

Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Councils are keen to encourage, enable and reward people to show more love for the environment we live in. 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 94 litter picks was carried out in Suffolk Coastal by 1,928 volunteers and 38 litter picks was carried out in Waveney by 836 volunteers.

Community groups that took part between 1 March and 31 May 2018 were entered into a prize draw with the chance to win £200 for the benefit of the community and the winners have now been drawn.

Suffolk Coastal's prize draw winners are Martlesham Parish Council, Wickham Market Village Volunteer Group, Knodishall PC, Chediston & Linstead PC and 1<sup>st</sup> Old Felixstowe Guides. The rewards are funded through the Councils' partners, Suffolk Coastal and Waveney Norse.

The Love East Suffolk initiative 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.

Both Suffolk Coastal Norse and Waveney Norse can provide volunteers with equipment to groups on request and will also arrange for gathered litter to be collected. Litter pick sticks, bag hoops, and green vests can also be loaned out, subject to availability.

To register a community litter pick at any time, please visit: [www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/litter](http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/litter)

**Cllr Colin Hedgley**  
**Cllr Geoff Holdcroft**  
**Cllr Patti Mulcahy**