

District Councillors

Report to Great Bealings

Parish Council



November 2018

Cllr Colin Hedgley
Cllr Geoff Holdcroft
Cllr Patti Mulcahy

Transformation Funding – Acceptance of Grant - Suffolk Coastal District Council, on behalf of all the Suffolk Authorities, has been awarded a grant of £87,500 to deliver a pilot scheme supporting patients with housing needs when they are discharged from hospital, as well as reducing the chance of them being admitted to hospital.

Based upon the successful Warm Homes Healthy People model, the funding will pay for a housing co-ordinator to work in Ipswich Hospital and the local community to resolve complex, housing-related patient issues.

The project includes the lease of two “halfway home hubs” to provide temporary accommodation for patients, who are medically fit for discharge but cannot return home until a housing issue is resolved. The project will give practical assistance to resolve problems that prevent patients from returning or remaining in their homes.

Result -consultation on the draft East Suffolk Area Parking Plan -

The Secretary of State for Transport expects every local authority to have clear parking policies. Cabinet approved stakeholder consultation on the content of the draft East Suffolk Area Parking Plan (ESAPP) at its June meeting and stakeholder consultation took place during July and August 2018. There were 75 responses, which is considered good for this type of consultation. Overall, every policy principle was supported with the highest level of support being 92% and lowest 61%, so an average of 72% in support of the policies. The detailed results of the stakeholder consultation are summarised in the report and any proposals for changes to the text are set out in the main body of the report.

Proposed simplification and alignment of the Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District car park tariffs to enable the creation of a single East Suffolk tariff structure - In anticipation of the adoption of civil parking enforcement (CPE) and the creation of a single new authority (East Suffolk), it is desirable to produce a single new off-street parking places Order and associated single tariff structure.

The Member Working Group at its October 2018 meeting endorsed the creation of a single new East Suffolk Car Park Order and tariff structure. The vast majority of the alignment objectives are administrative and can be achieved by adopting standardised terminology or involve a change in the presentation of the information.

Ward boundaries finalised for new East Suffolk Council - Ward boundaries for the new East Suffolk Council have been published by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England.

The Commission’s final recommendations propose that East Suffolk’s 55 councillors should represent eight three-councillor wards, ten two-councillor wards and eleven one-councillor wards.

Professor Colin Mellors, Chair of the Commission, said, “We are grateful to everyone who took the opportunity to have their say on how they should be represented in the future. We looked carefully at every submission we received before finalising the recommendations. “We think this pattern of wards strikes the right balance between delivering fairness for voters as well as reflecting the shape of communities across East Suffolk.”

In response to local feedback during the public consultation, the Commission has changed some of the proposals it put forward in July, as well as changing the names of some proposed wards as a result of local suggestions. The full recommendations are available on the Commission’s website at www.lgbce.org.uk.

The proposed new arrangements must now be implemented by Parliament. A draft Order – the legal document which brings into force the recommendations – will be laid in Parliament in the coming weeks. The draft Order provides for the electoral arrangements to come into force at the authority’s first elections in 2019.

Free Parking Announced To Support Good Causes - The east Suffolk councils are playing their part in supporting good causes – by offering free car parking at key times. Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Councils are planning to provide free parking at their car parks across east Suffolk on Armistice Day and in the build up to Christmas.

Armistice Day Parking: This is the 100th Anniversary of the 1918 Armistice, and many people across the district are planning commemorative events.

This year, Armistice Day (11th November) also falls on a Sunday, so the events are likely to attract large crowds to commemorate the sacrifice of all those in the armed forces who died during World War One.

This year (2018) is a particularly significant date, as it marks the 100th anniversary of Armistice Day. The councils want to support people who want to commemorate this significant day.

The councils are offering free parking at every car park across Suffolk Coastal and Waveney for the entire day, as there are parades and events being staged in different places throughout the day.

Christmas Events: The councils are also supporting shoppers and traders in the build up to Christmas, particularly with events such as Christmas markets and Christmas lights being switched on.

Obviously, in the build up to Christmas, there is a larger variety of events being held over a longer period of time. However, we would still like to do our bit in supporting the community events and are getting into the festive spirit by offering periods of free parking during the weeks leading up to Christmas.

Suffolk Coastal and Waveney have decided to offer two-hour blocks of free parking to support local shops and community organisations, which can be used to link to specific events twice during the build up to Christmas (so two sessions of free parking in the four-week period before Christmas).

Town and Parish Councils can decide which days they would like to operate the two-hour’s free parking, and in which car park(s) across east Suffolk, then contact Sue Keeble at Norse to express their interest and take up the offer.

Sue can be contacted at: Susan.Keeble@ncsgrp.co.uk

Getting Suffolk Coastal Connected - Work is now beginning to improve the broadband service in the rural areas of Suffolk Coastal.

“We believe having access to high speed, affordable broadband internet services is essential for the continued economic growth of our district and important to our communities, particularly in the more rural areas,” explained Suffolk Coastal’s Leader, Cllr Ray Herring.

“Our Enabling Communities agenda is all about helping our communities to grow and prosper. We believe providing better broadband is central to the success of this priority.”

Suffolk Coastal is an active partner in the county-wide, Suffolk Better Broadband Programme which has the aim of providing 100% superfast fibre broadband coverage across the county.

But it is recognised that there is likely to be 2-3% of properties that will be without access to reasonable broadband services when the existing programme ends in 2020. In rural areas, the percentage without access is expected to be much greater.

So, in support of our Enabling Communities priority, a Suffolk Coastal Enabling Broadband Programme Board was established in June 2017 with the aim of supporting those communities which are likely to be in that 2-3% that will not have access to an affordable high speed broadband service.

Initially, work was carried out with local communities to identify the worst affected areas and to map out what work needed doing. Then, in May this year, Suffolk Coastal's Cabinet threw its weight behind the scheme – and put aside £250,000 to pay for the work.

Now the contracts have been awarded and work has begun to provide the improved coverage in the worst hit areas, across over 50 parishes across the top half of the District (in an area north of a rough line across from the Orford Peninsula).

For more information, see our website at:

<https://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/community/enabling-better-broadband-in-suffolk-coastal/>

Support available as Universal Credit rollout continues - The rollout of Universal Credit continues across Suffolk Coastal, but local people are being reassured that there is support in place to help them through the transition. In the Suffolk Coastal area the final Jobcentres to move over to Universal Credit Full Service were Leiston, Felixstowe and Woodbridge, which became Full Service Jobcentres in October.

Universal Credit, which is assessed and awarded by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) is a new single benefit which brings together six of the existing 'legacy benefits' - Jobseekers Allowance, Income Support, Employment and Support Allowance, Housing Benefit, Working Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit.

It aims to simplify the benefits system and help ensure people are better off in work. It is paid as a single monthly payment, direct to the customer, similar to a wage.

The changes mean that any new claims for older-style legacy benefits made by people under pension age will now need to apply for Universal Credit instead, which has to be applied for online.

We recognise that this is a period of uncertainty for people and want to make sure are supported through the application process as well as having all the information they need about the benefit changes.

A huge amount of information is already available on our website. We are also working with a whole range of partners to make sure that people in this area can access the support they need to take the worry and uncertainty out of the change to Universal Credit.

The support available through Suffolk Coastal includes:

- Help is available for people needing to make or maintain their online claim – they can visit us at one of our customer service centres across East Suffolk where staff are on hand to help, as well as public access computers being available;
- We can also help people applying for Universal Credit who want to look into how they can make the most of their new single monthly payment. Suffolk Coastal is working with Felixstowe Citizens Advice and Leiston, Saxmundham and District Citizens Advice to offer free personalised financial advice. This can be accessed by speaking to their work coach or talking to Citizens Advice directly;
- Suffolk Coastal's Housing Benefits and Housing Options teams are preparing for Universal Credit by working with Felixstowe, Leiston and Woodbridge Jobcentres, sharing our knowledge of Housing, Homelessness, Discretionary Housing Payments, help with making and maintaining an online claim and help moving over to a single monthly payment;

- We are also working with Citizens Advice, Flagship and the Disability Advice Service to help people make or maintain the online Universal Credit claims;
- A Private Landlords' guide to Universal Credit has also been produced, following comments made in the Waveney area when Universal Credit was rolled out there. This is on our website at: www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/universal-credit
- We have worked with North East Suffolk and Felixstowe Citizens Advice to produce a social media video to help people prepare for UC – on our website at www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/universal-credit or on Youtube.

Find out more about Universal Credit at: www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/universal-credit

Green Bin Rollout & Removal of Unwanted Brown Bins - Phase one of delivering the new garden waste bins to homes in Suffolk Coastal is now nearing completion, although we will continue to deliver the new bins to those who signed up for the scheme later on.

We are now starting the process of collecting all unwanted brown bins in the district. This is being done area by area, according to the normal routes and dates for collection.



A week before the removal of the brown bins, our refuse crews will leave a hanger on all grey bins when they empty these. The hanger will explain what to do and when to put the brown bins out for us to take away.

If the brown bin is no longer required, households are being asked to put the unwanted bin out with their blue bin on the normal collection day, and re-use the bin hanger. Please securely attach the hanger to the unwanted brown bin so that the 'tick' is clearly visible.

You can also put a note on any unwanted brown bin, asking for it to be taken away. Just make sure it is securely attached and clearly visible.

On collection day, the refuse crews will empty ALL brown bins as well as green bins. Any unwanted brown bins will then be sprayed with temporary paint and left on the side of the road. The removal crews will pick these up later on the same day.

The removal crews will only take the bins with the sprayed marking. If there is any doubt as to whether the bin is wanted or not, it will not be removed.

We don't know how many households want to keep their brown bins for repurposing and how many will need to be removed. Therefore, it is hard to set a timescale of the operation, but we estimate that around 40,000 unwanted brown bins will be removed.

We will try to publish a weekly schedule on our website of the roads we will be collecting from. This may change, depending on how many bins are left out for removal.

If you are already a member of the scheme and haven't opted in yet, you can still change your mind. We will continue to provide the upgraded bins, free of charge, to anyone who is eligible, even after the autumn rollout.

Polling Station Review - Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Councils are currently reviewing the polling stations before the elections taking place in May 2019.

As part of the review, everyone has the opportunity to comment on the polling stations we use, and their suitability, facilities and accessibility.

The (Acting) Returning Officer (ARO), Stephen Baker, Chief Executive of Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Councils will publish his report and recommendations on 31 October 2018, which is open for public consultation until 30 November 2018.

The final proposals will be presented and considered at a full meeting of the East Suffolk Shadow Council on 28 January 2019.

Comments or representations can be made in writing to:

Electoral Services, Suffolk Coastal District Council, East Suffolk House, Riduna Park, Station Road, Melton, Woodbridge IP12 1RT

Electoral Services, Waveney District Council, 2 Canning Road, Lowestoft, NR33 0EQ or by email to elections@eastsoffolk.gov.uk

More details about the review and a schedule showing the current polling district areas and their allocated polling station venues can be found on the East Suffolk website:

www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/elections/review-of-polling-districts-polling-places-and-polling-stations-2018/

For more information, please contact the Electoral Services Team on 01394 444 685 or 01502 523 238.

Deben Leisure Centre officially opened – Deben Leisure Centre was officially re-opened after its £3.5 million redevelopment on Saturday, 6 October 2018.

Suffolk Coastal's Chairman, Cllr Nicky Yeo carried out the all important opening duties alongside Cllr TJ Haworth-Culf, Suffolk Coastal's Cabinet Member with responsibility for customers, communities and leisure.

Cllr Yeo, said: "This £3.5 million redevelopment is the first significant investment in the facility since a roof was added to the pool in 1984, and I think we have provided a fantastic facility that will serve the needs of the community for the foreseeable future.

"I would like to thank the Council's Leisure Development Partners, Pulse Design and Build, our operators, Places Leisure and Sport England for the £500,000 grant to help fund the facility.

After Cllr Yeo and Cllr Haworth-Culf cut the ribbon to declare Deben Leisure Centre officially open for business, our partners, Places Leisure staged a range of activities including personal trainer tasters, group exercise sessions and family fit exercise classes which were free for both members and non-members.

Honour Run 2018 success – Staying on the sporting theme, the first Honour Run proved to be a great success when it took place on Sunday, 21 October 2018.

Around 250 walkers, joggers and runners of all ages took part in the run and raised a total of £2,600 for the Suffolk British Legion Poppy Appeal, which supports serving and ex-serving men and women in the armed forces.

The event was organised by Suffolk Coastal District Council and Suffolk British Legion with thanks going to the Forestry Commission and Rock Barracks who supported the event by letting us use the facilities.

The run took place in Rendlesham Forest, which was established during the First World War when Britain had an increasing demand for timber.

The Royal British Legion is leading the nation in the Thank You movement – to say thank you to the WW1 generation who served, sacrificed and changed the world we live in today.

#Thankyou100

Woodbridge Skatepark set to expand - Plans are being developed to expand popular Skatepark in Woodbridge.

Following the recent refurbishment of the neighbouring Deben Leisure Centre, the area immediately behind the leisure centre became vacant. This area has now been earmarked to expand the space available at Woodbridge Skatepark.

Suffolk Coastal District Council wants to hear what the users would like to see in the additional space. To have your say, please email your ideas to leisure@eastssuffolk.gov.uk by 16 November 2018.

Seafront shelters returned to former glory - Two shelters at Felixstowe's iconic seafront are back to their former glory after a £150,000 refurbishment.

The timber shelters required a full refurbishment after suffering significant timber decay, vandalism and weather damage over the years, exacerbated by flooding during tidal surges.

The repair work was carried out by our partners, Suffolk Coastal Norse, who brought the project in on budget at £150,000. It was carefully planned to ensure the historic nature of the shelters were retained and sympathetic to their original character.

Crucial Crew helps children keep safe - Children in Suffolk Coastal were invited to learn more about safety in a fun and engaging environment at the end of October. Crucial Crew teaches Year 6 pupils (10 – 11 years) about staying safe in their everyday lives. Organised by the Suffolk Coastal District Council and the Suffolk Coastal Rotary Clubs, Crucial Crew is supported by a number of partnership agencies including the Police, Fire Service, Suffolk Coastal Active Communities Team, Suffolk County Council, Turning Point, Make a Chance Team and One Life Suffolk, with funding raised by the Rotary District clubs.

It teaches children how to tackle the dangers they may face in their everyday lives and helps to prevent them from becoming involved in crime. The scheme raises their awareness in a fun and effective way, so that they may be better equipped to increase their own and others safety.

This year's sessions runs from Monday 29 October - Friday 2 November at the Riverside Centre at Stratford St Andrew and the scenarios include first aid, fire safety, internet safety, healthy eating, road safety, anti-social behaviour, bullying and alcohol/substance misuse.