

District Councillors report for March 2017

To Great Bealings Parish Council

Cllr Hedgley

Cllr Holdcroft

Cllr Mulcahy

Deben Leisure Centre Redevelopment – The redevelopment of Deben Leisure Centre is the start of a major programme for Suffolk Coastal to review and upgrade our leisure offering across the district. This links to one of the 10 critical success factors within our Business Plan, which is to provide ‘increased access to quality leisure, cultural facilities and activities that support and promote healthier lifestyles’. The preparation ahead of the work starting on site is reaching a critical stage, so it is essential people are aware of this project and its implications.

Felixstowe Pier Plaza – Although the current Felixstowe pierhead redevelopment is a private business venture, it will obviously have wider implications for the town and the area around the pierhead. This report looks at the proposals to develop the land, owned by this council, immediately in front of the pierhead in Felixstowe.

Beach Hut Review Consultation: As you are aware, the six-week public consultation on the Beach Hut Review has now been completed. We received well over 700 responses. These are now being analysed and the information will be used to help formulate a new report on this issue, with proposals for the way forward. Cabinet will then consider the new report, complete with the consultation responses, later in the year. In the interim, can you please stress to people that no decisions have been taken on how the beach hut service will be managed, or what charges will be levied, in the future. The responses to this consultation will be invaluable in assisting Suffolk Coastal to shape the future of this service and make decisions on this issue. Because the consultation period covered the time when existing beach hut owners would normally be asked if they wanted a licence for the coming financial year, the decision was also taken to issue an annual licence for a further year (2017/18), with the charges increasing by the same rate as the Council Tax for Suffolk Coastal (3.25%), while the longer term future of the service is properly debated. The beach hut service is just one of many being reviewed by the Council. We are faced with ongoing reduction in support from central Government and are seeking to protect the local council tax payer, by getting making sure we maximise the contribution we get from our publicly owned assets and the services we offer.

Support Armed Forces Day: A celebratory event to show appreciation of the work of the Armed Forces is to be held in Felixstowe this year.

2017 marks the 350th anniversary of the Dutch attack on Landguard Fort in Felixstowe and to mark the occasion, and to recognise the huge contribution made by our servicemen and women from the past until the present day, Felixstowe has been chosen as the venue for Suffolk Armed Forces weekend. A weekend of action-packed entertainment is planned for Saturday 24 and Sunday 25 June 2017 and plans to be a high profile, one off free event for all age groups.

There will be a unique package of entertainment including music from choirs and military bands to an evening of pop and rock, military displays, food stalls, children's activities and fireworks, and some thrilling battle re-enactments between the Dutch and English with cannon, muskets and swords. All this by Felixstowe's fantastic seaside with all that has to offer as well! The event is being organised in partnership by organisations including the Suffolk Armed Forces Covenant Group, the Landguard Fort Trust, Royal Marines Association and Royal British Legion, with assistance from local authorities and military units. To make this an event we can all be proud of we need the support of businesses, organisations and individuals who understand and value our armed forces, our community and our history. If you would like to talk more about how you could be involved, please feel free to give our project officer Paul Grant a ring on 07850 427928, or email: paul.grant@eastssuffolk.gov.uk

New Volunteering Website: There is a new and easy way to discover volunteering opportunities in Suffolk, thanks to the Volunteer Suffolk website. The site has been created as a one-stop shop for people to discover how they can gift their time, and for local organisations to advertise their volunteering opportunities. The website already boasts more than 100 volunteering opportunities, added by local organisations and charities. These range from short-term and one-off roles, to temporary positions and long-term roles. Current opportunities include being a tour guide for the Tide Mill in Woodbridge, a marshal at the Midnight Walk in aid of St. Elizabeth Hospice, preparing animal feeds at Banham Zoo and assisting with play sessions for children who have suffered from domestic abuse or violence at home. There are also "10 minute volunteer" opportunities on offer which simply involve sharing a Facebook post to raise awareness, sourcing a raffle prize or putting up a poster at work. The website also provides helpful volunteering tips, latest news and volunteers' stories. Volunteer Suffolk is a product of the Suffolk Volunteering Strategy and was made possible thanks to a steering group of representatives from Suffolk's public, private and voluntary sectors. For more information visit www.volunteersuffolk.org.uk

Help Us Keep Standards Up: Please make people aware of our search to appoint a new 'independent person' to help maintain the high standard of conduct of local councillors across both councils. We are looking for independently minded people, with a strong sense of what is right or wrong. The role involves helping deal with any complaints about councillors' conduct, as well as providing advice to any councillors who have been complained about. To ensure the independence of the role, you cannot be appointed if you are currently a councillor, coopted member or officer of that council, or have been within the last five years. Neither can you be a relative or close friend of such a person. The successful applicant will be given training and will also be paid a nominal sum (of £300 a year, plus £50 with expenses for each complaint they investigate). It is estimated that the time commitment would be about three hours a month. Anyone interested should apply at:

www.suffolkjobsdirect.org/administration-business-supportcustomer-service-independent-person/43965.job The closing date for applications is Friday, 10 March 2017, with interviews scheduled to be held on Thursday, 23 March 2017

'Love East Suffolk' returns: The 'Love East Suffolk' litter pick scheme is back for 2017 to encourage, enable and reward people to show some love for the environment we live in.

Last year the incentive based community litter pick scheme helped clean up over 7.6 tonnes of waste across Suffolk Coastal and Waveney whilst also giving groups funding to spend in their community. In 2017 both Councils hope to encourage even more groups to take part – beating the 2,035 people who got involved during 2016. To incentivise more groups of volunteers to help litter pick in East Suffolk, the Love East Suffolk scheme offers a £20 payment to all groups who register their litter pick to take place between 1 March to 31 May 2017. All registered groups who carry out their pick during this period will also be entered into a prize draw, with prizes of £200 awarded to winning groups in each of five “neighbourhood areas” in Suffolk Coastal and in each of four “neighbourhood areas” in Waveney with funding once again provided by Norse. Both Suffolk Coastal Norse and Waveney Norse can provide volunteers with equipment including sacks, disposable gloves, 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. For more information, visit: www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/waste/litter/love-east-suffolk

Return, recycle, reuse: The NHS has launched a community equipment amnesty across Suffolk to get people to return as much unused NHS equipment as possible during March. Anything including crutches, walking frames and mattresses, can be returned easily as part of a month-long NHS amnesty from 1 to 31 March 2017. Last year local health services issued over 100,000 NHS community equipment items to Suffolk patients in need at a cost of more than £8.5m. By the end of the year nearly 40,000 items, costing £3.4m, had not been returned to the contractor Medequip. While some patients need equipment for long periods of time, NHS services lose thousands of pounds each year due to missing equipment. Some of the equipment the NHS is keen to get back includes alternating air mattresses, which cost £1,650 each, and wheeled adjustable frames, costing £12.70 each. In one month alone last year, nearly £8,500 worth of wheeled adjustable frames and nearly £600,000 worth of air mattresses were issued by Suffolk NHS services. NHS equipment can be returned to any of the Medequip locations listed below, Monday to Friday from 8.30am to 5.00pm. As part of the month-long NHS equipment amnesty the Medequip sites will also open every Saturday 8.00am to 2.00pm. Bury St Edmunds Depot ,Unit 3 Bunting Road Bury St Edmunds Suffolk IP32 7BX

Ellough Depot Unit 1a, The Moor Business Park Benacre Road Ellough, Beccles Suffolk NR34 7TQ

Ipswich Depot Unit 31, Bluestem Road Ransomes Europark, Ipswich Suffolk IP3 9RR

For those unable to drop off at collection points, Medequip will collect items for free. Contact Medequip on 01473 351805 to arrange a suitable time for collection. The Medequip collection service is available long-term, alongside its weekly openings at its depots, and not only as part of the March amnesty.