

# District Councillors Report to Great Bealings Parish Council



**May 2019**

**Cllr Colin Hedgley   Cllr Tony Fryatt**

## **Last Full Council Meeting.**

The last Full Council meeting of Suffolk Coastal District Council took place on the evening of 28<sup>th</sup> March 2019.

The council heard from Mr Phillip Ridley, Head of Planning and Coastal Management, of the scheme for attracting more people into the planning service nationally but particularly in this area. He went on to describe the Planning apprenticeship Scheme initially developed by SCDC which now has Government backing.

Also an extremely interesting and detailed presentation was given explaining the plans for the Lowestoft Tidal Barrier.

## **First New Full Council Meeting.**

The first meeting of the new East Suffolk Council will be on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May at 1900 at East Suffolk House.

## **New Council, new number**

The new East Suffolk Council, which replaced Suffolk Coastal and Waveney on 1st April, has a new phone number.

It replaces the old number used to contact the main switchboard and our customer services team operating across both councils.

The new number, 03330 162 000, is now live and covers all of East Suffolk. It is non-geographic, meaning that calls will be charged at a local rate wherever they are made in the East Suffolk area.

## Funding boost for Leiston

Leiston is celebrating receiving a financial boost to roll out new information points for visitors and residents.

Leiston Town Council, in partnership with Leiston Together, has been granted £43,850 from the Coastal Revival Fund, to create information points for visitors and residents in the heart of the town.

Coincidentally, the building adjoining Leiston Film Theatre, both owned by the Town Council, recently became vacant and it was decided that the ground floor space would be used to extend the theatre's foyer, so the new information points can be located in the popular venue.

Elsbeth Gibson, Leiston Change Manager, said:

“We are really excited about this development which means that we can create a central point for visitors and residents to find all the information they need - something that has been on our agenda for quite some time.

“Tourism is an important part of our local economy and we are now able to offer visitors a information point where they can find everything they need to make the most of their visit to this beautiful part of Suffolk.

“The central location also means that it is a great opportunity to create a community information point where residents can easily get all the relevant community news and information in one place.”

John Rayner, Leiston Town Clerk, said:

“Leiston Film Theatre has over 30,000 visitors each year, many of them tourists, so this is the perfect location for the new information points.”

Work to complete the project has already started, with the ground floor wall between the two buildings having been knocked down to expand the theatre's foyer.

The project is expected to be completed and running by late spring / early summer – just in time for the holiday season.

Visitors and residents can also visit [www.visit-leiston.co.uk](http://www.visit-leiston.co.uk) to find information such as events, accommodation, food and drinks, shops and more.

## European Parliamentary Elections

The European Parliamentary Elections are being held on Thursday 23 May and unless the United Kingdom leaves the European Union prior to that date, voting to elect MEPs **will** take place in this country.

Therefore, while an agreement to leave the EU could yet be reached, councils must prepare for the election as normal.

Poll cards will be sent out to households in East Suffolk from Thursday 25 April. This will also include cards for those who have chosen to vote by post – and these will be clearly marked.

EU nationals resident in this country, and who are eligible to vote in the European Elections, will be required to complete an application form if they wish vote in the UK, rather than their home country. This application form has also now been despatched and deadline for its return is Tuesday 7 May.

Other key deadlines are as follows:

<b>Application</b>	<b>Deadline for receipt</b>
New applications to register to vote	Tuesday 7 May 2019
New applications to vote by post or to cancel or amend an existing postal vote or proxy appointment	5pm on Wednesday 8 May 2019
New applications to vote by proxy	5pm on Wednesday 15 May 2019
Emergency applications to vote by proxy	5pm on Thursday 23 May 2019

## **Coastal Team celebrates Arts Centre funding**

Southwold Coastal Community Team is celebrating after receiving another financial boost to support the development of projects contained within their Economic Plan.

Supported by the Coastal Community Team (CCT) and East Suffolk Council, Sole Bay Arts CIO has secured funding of £35,000 from the recent round of Coastal Revival Fund. This will support their ambitions for Southwold Arts Centre, based at St Edmunds Hall, to become a sustainable artistic, cultural and community venue for the town and surrounding local area.

The funding will enable the Arts Centre to install retractable seating to provide a multi-use and accessible venue, as well as increase its capacity from 220 to 260, whilst keeping the flexibility required for cabaret-style, church and community events.

Peter Adshead, Centre Manager, said: “This award marks the beginning of a new phase in the arts centre’s development and coincides with the appointment of

new trustees, drawn from a broad spectrum of the local community, along with a new management board to deal with all operational aspects of the venue, with the required skills to enable the full community benefit to be fulfilled. Not only will the greater capacity enable the centre to attract more mainstream artists and theatre companies but will also lay the foundations for our planned business expansion into conference and larger cinema / theatre projects. Following consultation with hall users, the new seating will also improve accessibility for wheelchair users who will no longer be marginalised on the edges of the auditorium.”

This recent funding follows the announcement earlier this year that £15,000 of Coastal Revival Funding was awarded to Southwold Town Council for a feasibility study for the Southwold Boating Lakes; this project is also contained with the CCT’s Economic Plan.

The CCT, formed in 2017, is led by a steering group comprising representatives of Southwold Town Council, Reydon Parish Council, Southwold and Reydon Society, East Suffolk Council and other key business and community representatives.

The Coastal Revival Fund is intended to help improve the economic sustainability of coastal assets and coastal communities more broadly.

## **New beach huts for sale in Felixstowe**

More people are being given the chance to enjoy the unique ‘beach hut experience’ in Felixstowe – with sale of new beach huts at The Dip.

Three new huts are now on site and available to buy at the cost of £18,000 at The Dip on Cliff Road, Felixstowe, by East Suffolk Council.

They are the first brand new sites to be offered by the local authority in this area for many years and are situated in a prime sea view location in Old Felixstowe.

In the long term, East Suffolk Council, which is the landowner and runs the beach hut and chalet service, hopes to create more new beach hut sites across the District.

The Dip area has space for 17 beach hut sites. Of these, one is being reserved for the exclusive use of the windsurfing club and another will be used by an existing beach hut owner relocating to The Dip, so in total 15 new beach huts could eventually come on to the market.

“East Suffolk Council is committed to making beach huts more accessible to a wider range of people. These new huts at the Dip are accessible and represent a fantastic opportunity for people to enjoy the unique beach hut experience in Felixstowe,” said Kerry Blair, East Suffolk Council’s Head of Operations.

“The two main drivers of the beach hut review were to improve equality by increasing the opportunities for residents to have access to a beach hut, while

also maximising the income generated from this resource to invest in core services.”

“The creation of new sites will provide additional funds to the council, thus reducing the burden on the East Suffolk tax payer.”

East Suffolk Council owns over 900 beach hut sites in Felixstowe.

During 2016 and 2017, a review was carried out of the service in support of the East Suffolk Business Plan aim to ‘Increase the number of beach huts provided in the District’.

The beach hut programme aims to deliver new huts in a number of locations in Suffolk Coastal. Phase 1 of this programme was the identification of the 17 new hut sites at The Dip, Felixstowe, which received planning permission in autumn 2018.

There is a good access to this area from the public highway and the huts will be sited close to the sea front promenade. The huts would be of the same standard size, design and construction as existing huts in the area.

The approved planning application also allowed ESC to build a new car parking area on the land adjacent to the boatyard, which has space for a small number of vehicles allowing water sport enthusiasts to unload their equipment and provide easy access to the beach.

Full details of the new beach huts for sale can be found on the Scott Beckett Estate Agents website.

## **District Council Election Results**

As you are now aware the Conservative Party gained the most seats in the new East Suffolk Council and will form the new Council. Tony Fryatt and Colin Hedgley were returned as members for the Carlford and Fynn Valley Ward.

There are 19 Parishes for us to represent. It goes without saying that we will have difficulty in attending every Parish Council meeting and staying for the whole of each meeting bearing in mind that many PCs will be holding their meetings on the same day. However one of us will attend even if it's only for half an hour or perhaps less. One of us will always send a report and you have our e mail address below.

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