

Report for the Annual Parish Meeting of Great Bealings Parish Council



The responsibilities of the Cllrs elected for Woodbridge Ward , of which there are three, covers the Parishes of Hasketon, Great Bealings, Little Bealings and the wards of Martlesham North, Farlingaye, Kyson, Riverside and Seckford. The three Councillors are Cllr Hedgley, Cllr Holdcroft and Cllr Mulcahy.

Presently the Councillors sit on the following committees at Suffolk Coastal District Council,

Cllr Holdcroft.

Deputy leader of the Council. Responsible for resources and IT.

Planning

Sizewell C Task Group

Outside Bodies

Felixstowe Forward sponsor group.

Local Government Special Interest Group

Cllr Hedgley.

Licensing and Health (Chairman)

Scrutiny

Audit and Governance.

Planning (first reserve)

Outside Bodies

Suffolk Police and Crime Panel (representing SCDC).

The East Suffolk Internal Drainage Board. (Representing SCDC)

Cllr Patti Mulcahy

Policy development Task Group

Sizewell C task Group.

Audit and Governance

Outside Bodies

East Suffolk Travellers Association (First Reserve)

Each Councillor also serves on a number of voluntary organisations and committees.

.....

Suffolk Coastal District Council General Report for April 2017.

Suffolk Coastal has vowed to develop a more commercial approach to providing services, in order to protect the local tax payer. At its Full Council meeting on Thursday, 23 February 2017, Suffolk Coastal District Council agreed its budget and set its portion of the Council Tax for the coming financial year. The Members decided that, in order to continue to provide high quality services, the Council would increase its part of the Council Tax bill for 2017/18 by 3.25% .In real money, this equates to a rise of less than £5 for people living in a Band D property, with the Council Tax on Band D increasing by £4.95 from £152.37 to £157.32 a year.....or by less than 10p a week.

While east Suffolk has a robust economy, the Council has recognised the need to adopt a more commercial approach to providing services. We need to make sure we get a fair market value for services, if we are to keep council tax down and protect the tax payer. No one wants to pay more for services or pay more council tax. But we are faced with dwindling financial support from central Government, so we have a difficult balancing act to ensure everyone pays their fair share to support the services we provide to the community.

By being more commercial in our approach, we create the funds to be able to invest in important community projects, such as improving our leisure centres, as well as continuing to deliver our Enabling Communities agenda to provide essential grants and support in order to help make our communities stronger and more able to do things for themselves.

Through its partnership working with Waveney District Council, Suffolk Coastal has already drastically reduced its staffing numbers and made joint saving of over £16million since 2010. These savings have been achieved while safeguarding frontline services provided by the Council. And the two councils recently became the first in the country to voluntarily vote to merge, since the local government re-organisation in the 1970s. Once the plan gets the go-ahead from the Secretary of State, Suffolk Coastal and Waveney could merge to create a 'super district council' to provide services across east Suffolk. There are financial challenges ahead, but we are confident we can deliver quality services, while continuing to make efficiency savings and investing in the future. Suffolk Coastal District Council has an annual budget of about £12 million. About £7.7million of this comes from Council Tax. Although Suffolk Coastal collects the Council Tax (on behalf of Suffolk Coastal, the County Council, Police and Town/Parish Councils), only about 10p in the pound goes towards providing our district council services. We are also facing a steep reduction in central Government grants. Grant income from central Government has dropped from **£7.4million in 2010/11 to £600,000 in 2017/18 – and is projected to fall even further in the future.** Because the district's economy is so strong, the Council has benefited from what is called 'incentivised income', through New Homes Bonus and business rate retention, although there is still a projected budget gap of £2.1 million in 2018/19.

Rather than make cuts to services, Suffolk Coastal is committed to reducing its dependence on central Government grants by becoming more financially self-sufficient, through reduced spending and becoming more business-like in order to generate the income we need to make up this shortfall.

.....

Other News

Leisure Project Boost - The Deben Leisure Centre redevelopment project in Woodbridge has been given a major boost by Sport England National Lottery Funding.

Sport England National Lottery Funding awarded £500,000 from their improvement fund to support Suffolk Coastal in improving the leisure centre as part of the Council's wider commitment to improve its leisure centre offer and to encourage more people to become fit and active.

The funding enhances Suffolk Coastal's investment of £2.5M in the project, which in total is set to cost £3M. This funding announcement follows the project gaining planning approval in February and Cabinet signing off the business case earlier this month (March).

Work on Deben Leisure Centre is planned to begin in September 2017 and will last for approximately 10 months. During this time, a full closure is required, due to the nature of the site and the work being undertaken. It's hoped that works will be completed by summer 2018.

Plans for the leisure facility, which has been designed with the Council's leisure development partner, Pulse Fitness, which is operated by Places for People Leisure, include a new gym which has been designed to be more spacious, featuring modern equipment and the pool area will feature a new health suite with a steam room, sauna and ice room.

The plans also include the addition of a new floor to be added to the front of the building, with purpose built family changing areas and separate changing facilities for use by schools and the provision of two studios, one to incorporate a spin room and the other for fitness classes, which will also be available for community hire.

.....

Cycling on the Prom Trial - As we approach the summer tourist season, the year-long trial allowing cycling along Felixstowe's Promenade is going well. But Suffolk Coastal has repeated our appeal for people using the Prom to take extra care, as the shared space become busier. The trial to allow cycling on the Prom was officially launched in mid-October 2016, when the byelaw which prohibited cycling was lifted to allow cycling for a period of 12 months. Temporary signs have been installed to promote the trial and inform both pedestrians and cyclists that the Prom is now a shared space, with cycling permitted. The signs stress the need for cyclists to be mindful of pedestrians and to dismount in crowded or narrow areas. Since the trial was launched, Felixstowe Forward has only received three complaints and one comment to date. All of which came in within a few weeks of the launch. These related to concerns around the introduction of cycling on the Prom, the need for cyclists to dismount in congested areas and one highlighting a near miss between a pedestrian and cyclist. The trial has been put in place, following a request from Felixstowe Town Council. This led to a public consultation, conducted by [Felixstowe Forward](#) in 2016, which showed that the majority of people would like to see cycling allowed along [Felixstowe's Promenade](#)

The trial period will continue to be monitored throughout the year and a final report will be prepared at the end of this period to determine the trial's success and give recommendations for the future. Any comments should be sent [Felixstowe Forward](#).

.....

Walking Festival – Continuing on the leisure theme, the 10th Suffolk Walking Festival kicks off in May with over 100 walks organised across the county, from Saturday 13 May to Sunday 4 June!

The festival officially launches at Sutton Hoo on Saturday 13 May and over the three weeks, offers walks to suit beginners and experienced walkers, with many also incorporating other activities and opportunities for people to learn new skills. On the day of the launch there are an exciting 11 walks on offer, which all explore the Anglo-Saxon royal burial site. With 10 of the walks including admission to the exhibition and burial mounds, the walks give everyone the chance to find out more about the history as well as its importance for wildlife in the area. Once again, there are walks to suit everybody, including families with pushchairs and young children, wheelchair users, dog owners as well as people who want to try out more advanced types and routes. Many of the walks are also themed to attract specific people's interests such as wildlife, health, history and art. To view the full Walking Festival programme and to book tickets, visit: www.suffolkwalkingfestival.co.uk

New Electronic Recycling Points - It is now even easier for residents in and around Woodbridge and Saxmundham to recycle their electronic waste. Collection containers for small electrical and electronic appliances have been placed at the Market Place car park in Saxmundham, and the recycling centre behind the Deben Pool swimming pool in Station Road, Woodbridge. The new facilities enable residents to deposit waste items such as hairdryers, kettles, toasters, electric clocks, irons, food mixers, DVD players, radios and small electrical hand tools and will be serviced by our partners, Suffolk Coastal Norse. Households in the UK have an average of 25 electrical and electronic items and, currently, only 10% of them are recycled when they reach the end of their useful life. These items should not be placed in any of the wheeled bins that residents have at home, as they contain a mixture of materials, including metals that can be harmful if not disposed of correctly, but which are valuable if recycled. Electrical items are one of the common contaminants found in the blue-lidded recycling wheeled bins, causing problems at the recycling sorting facility at Great Blakenham. Electrical and electronic waste can already be recycled at the County Council's Household Waste and Recycling Centres at Leiston, Foxhall and Felixstowe.

New Visitor Information Service - In a ground-breaking new partnership, Suffolk Coastal has joined with the Aldeburgh Cinema Trust to launch a new Visitor Information Service in Aldeburgh. The Aldeburgh Tourist Information Centre was closed at the end of September 2016, due to reduced demand. However, at the time we gave a commitment to continuing to provide some form of a visitor information service in the town. Now it has announced the new service will be run through Aldeburgh Cinema to provide the public with information on local events, places to visit and offer local knowledge and advice. This will be based from a self-help service area in the foyer of the cinema which will include an interactive terminal for the public to use to access key tourist information websites, with cinema staff and volunteers on hand to provide assistance to the public. The new service starts on Saturday, 1 April 2017. The cinema will now be open longer hours during the day from 10am-5/6pm (depending on the time of year).

Support Suffolk's Armed Forces Day: Just to remind you of the Suffolk Armed Forces Day happening on Saturday 24 and Sunday 25 June. 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. 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.

So far Suffolk Coastal have underwritten the event up to £25,000, sponsored the VIP area on the Saturday as well as providing a children's activities area. £13,439 has also been provided from Cllr enabling budgets. 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@eastsuffolk.gov.uk

Volunteer Website - There is a new and easy way to volunteer in Suffolk, thanks to a new website.

Volunteer Suffolk 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. 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

Enabling Communities Budget increase -We are pleased that the council will be increasing this year's Enabling Communities Budgets, giving each Councillor £6,500 to spend on new or current community projects for 17/18. Last year, 185 different projects were funded and 164 organisations were supported and there have been some fantastic examples of people working together to support local projects. We hope this year, the increased allocations will enable us to support even more.

Cllr Geoff Holdcroft

Cllr Colin Hedgley

Cllr Patti Mulcahy.