

Colin Hedgley
Geoff Holdcroft

Patti Mulcahy

Suffolk Coastal District Councillors

for

Woodbridge Ward.

(Woodbridge, Hasketon, Gt Bealings, Little Bealings)



Annual Parish Meeting Report - 2014/15

This report is to provide a brief overview of Suffolk Coastal District Council key challenges and achievements 2014/15.

Some interesting Suffolk Coastal District statistics: figures: population of 124,600 (Children 16%, 16-64 59% over 65 25%, there are 58,600 dwellings - includes 6280 housing assoc, large rural district- 88,938 hectares, 76km of coastline, 5730 businesses - energy, telecoms, port, tourism, food, art, small business.

Elections 7th May 2015 & the Electoral Review

Suffolk Coastal District elections on the 7th May delivered a new council of 37 Conservative, 2 Lib Dems, 2 Independent & 1 Labour Councillors.

The recent Electoral Review reduced the number of Suffolk Coastal Councillors by 13 from 55 to 42 at the current election. This retains enough Councillors to ensure strong community leadership, while also making the council leaner and reducing costs. The Councillors represent eleven single-member wards, fourteen two-member wards and one three-member ward across the district - 26 electoral wards in total.

Council Tax Frozen - for the last 5 years

Suffolk Coastal District Council has worked to continue streamlining its services, driving down costs and becoming more efficient, while maintaining essential frontline services.

This has allowed Suffolk Coastal to freeze its portion of the Council Tax for the fifth consecutive year.

Suffolk Coastal was one of the first councils in the country to provide shared services, with our partners Waveney District Council, reducing our combined workforce by about 40% since 2008. This, along with improved use of technology and other partnership working, has enabled us to make £10million worth of efficiency savings since 2010.

As a result, the District Council's part of the Council Tax bill has remained at the same level as 2010/11 - with a Band D home paying £149.40.

Benefice Magazine Report 2014

The religious wing of the village reports to the secular core primarily because the Parish Council kindly pays a contribution to the Magazine, for which many thanks.

The Magazine Fund was managed as part of the broader Benefice Fund and, as in, previous years 10 copies of the magazine were delivered, one per month, apart from August and January, to every household in the Benefice. A number of regular advertisers were joined by a few newcomers and in all £1,320 was raised from advertising. The four Parish Councils continued their support for the magazine as did Bealings WI. Printing costs amounted to £1,349 with a further £331 still to be paid for the November and December editions. There was a small excess of receipts over payments for the year which brought the magazine reserve to £1,348. We do ask that readers of the Magazine support advertisers as and when appropriate.

Heartfelt thanks go to the band of volunteers who keep the magazine in print: the editorial team, Tim Llewelyn who prepares the copy for the printers and Peter Carr's team who collect the magazines from the printers and deliver them across the villages.

Other items of village interest which can be formally brought to the notice of the Parish Council because they may be considered to be part of the fabric of village life are:

The Parish/Benefice spent the year in Interregnum. Happily we managed to appoint a new Priest before the end of the year, and we are delighted that Rev Celia Cook, having been formally licensed on February 24th this year, is now in post, and living in the Rectory in Playford.

The parish has established a good reputation for putting on high quality concerts in conjunction with the Friends of Great Bealings Church. The Stella Quartet played in the church before Christmas and the Brook Street Band gave a concert in the Village hall on February 28th of this year. The appeal of these concerts spreads way beyond parish boundaries.

The village progressive Dinner Party again took place and more than 40 people participated.

We held a very successful Open Gardens event in June.

On August we had a special service for the Benefice to commemorate the start of WW1. The service included readings and music, and there was an exhibition of WW1 memorabilia. Roger Roseboom arranged a Quoits afternoon, in homage to men of the

1913 Suffolk Champions Quoits team, two of whose names appear on the war memorial. The spirit of the time was recreated.

The church is currently in the middle of a £40000 refurbishment and redecoration programme. Thanks to Charles Barrington and Adrian Melrose much of this money was raised from external sources: Viridor, the Suffolk Historic Churches Trust, the John Belstead Trust, and a special donation from Michael Kersey. The Friends of Great Bealings Church have continued to support the church generously and we pay tribute to the hard work of Chairman, Sue Prentice. Some £1500 had to be raised from individuals to procure the Viridor grant.

Our annual Plant Sale brought in £1750, divided between the two Bealings Churches. This is an event which brings people together, from both villages in a collective enterprise.

We draw the attention of parishioners to forthcoming events:

1/ A visit by church historian Clive Paine on Friday June 5th on behalf of the SHCT. So much of the history of the village is enshrined in the history of the church.

2/ This being the year in which we celebrate the 500th anniversary of the birth of Thomas Seckford we are holding a celebratory dinner in Seckford Hall Hotel on Saturday November 14th including speaker Mark Mitchels, and a special church service on Sunday November 29th.

We have also had the inaugural meeting of a wildlife group, the purpose of which is to encourage appreciation of our local environment, and to offer informal support to the objectives of the Village Plan. 30 people attended that first meeting, and further meetings are planned.

The length of this report reflects the active life of this community.

Norman Porter. May 2015.

SAVID ANNUAL REVIEW - April 2014 to March 2015



Early in 2014, informal meetings took place between representatives from the villages of Burgh, Boulge, Charsfield, Clopton, Debach and Great Bealings to discuss common problems in relation to speeding in our villages.

In the period April 2014 to March 2015, the group achieved the following:

Internal matters:

- Established a group name (SAVID - Safer Village Driving)
- Established Aims and Objectives for the group. These were also approved by the Parish Councils and Village Meetings which the group represents.
- Written a Constitution for the group in order to be formally recognised and to enable applications for funding. Again, this has been approved by the Parish Councils and Village Meetings which the group represents.
- Established and filled the posts of Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Treasurer and Secretary.
- Researched various approaches to tackling speeding, including the purchase of a Speed Indicator Device.
- Expanded to include Otley. Two further villages have now expressed interest in joining SAVID so as to reach our stated limit of a nine-village group.

External matters:

- Developed relationships with the Police and received their endorsement.
 - Gained support from Community Action Suffolk.
 - Written, designed and had printed an information leaflet for issue to formal public bodies.
 - Issued the information leaflet to various bodies including Suffolk County Council (Highways), Suffolk Coastal District Council, Police and Crime Commissioner, Suffolk Association of Local Councils, Suffolk Preservation Society. All these latter have expressed their support for our campaign.
 - Enabled Debach to have a speeding survey undertaken by the Police. The survey revealed 60% of traffic was speeding and 25 % were exceeding the prosecutable level.
 - Purchased, and disseminated to village residents, wheelie bin stickers reminding drivers of the 30 mph speed limit.
 - Met with the Police and Crime Commissioner and received his agreement that speeding must be accorded a priority in police activity.
 - Researched various funding options for the group, including applications for grants.
 - Applied successfully for funding for a formal launch in 2016 from Suffolk Coastal District Council Community Enabling Funds.
 - Started preparations for a formal launch of the group in June 2015. This has included approaching local primary schools to solicit interest in a poster competition, the development of posters for display at the launch venue, researching venues, etc.
- In the past year, we have achieved a great deal and have established a good foundation for future development. We have reason to be pleased. However, it will be important in the coming year to build upon our successes in a way which is tangible to our fellow village residents.

Don Taylor
Chairperson
SAVID

Speedwatch

For just over a year Great Bealings Parish Council has been part of the Speedwatch initiative.

We have three operatives, Eric Barnett, Craig Robinson and Colin Hedgley.

Camera

We have the Speedwatch camera for 3 days per month and we stand at Police Approved Positions within the Parish and note the details of speeding cars. This information is logged on special forms and returned to police HQ.

So far this year in Suffolk 1961 cars have been reported as speeding, 1284 letters have been sent out by police, 504 drivers have been visited by the police and 1 driver has been taken to court.

VAS (vehicle activated sign)

We also have, for three days per month, a VAS which again is sited at any of the Police Approved Positions and acts as a deterrent to speeding motorists.

Colin Hedgley.



Twelve Parishes Together (12PT).

12PT is a Parish/Police forum in which issues of crime and policing of common interest to the Parishes of this area are discussed. The 12PT meets every three months.

The police report to us on the crime rate and areas of concern and the Parish representatives put forward matters raised by their respective Parish Councils.

At the end of each meeting the Parish representatives decide on the priorities they wish the police to concentrate on.

Historically this usually, but not always, results in Priority One being the prevention of anti-social behaviour in and around the shopping areas of Kesgrave Tesco, Martlesham and Rushmere, plus the disruption of teenage gangs etc .

Crime "surges" such as vehicle contents theft or "pass-by" breaking and entering result in a Priority Two.

For the last two years I have consistently pressed very hard for Priority Three to remain speeding and dangerous driving through Gt Bealings.

The police report that they are continually visiting surrounding villages with their speed cameras but the best way forward is for all villages to take part in Speedwatch,- which this Parish Council does.

Colin Hedgley

Gt Bealings representative on 12PT

REPORT FOR GREAT BEALINGS PARISH COUNCIL

The Village Hall has had a successful year with regular hirers throughout, there have also been Fundraising events organised which has raised additional funds towards the upkeep of the village hall and playing field.

The income from Children's parties has doubled in the last year with many repeat bookings and new hirers from the Kesgrave and Martlesham area. The sports court was also regularly booked last summer with new subscribers joining.

On the playing field it is hoped to replace the wooden toddler maze which has suffered from the effects of the weather and vandalism with additional seating in the form of two picnic tables made of recycled plastic to match the existing benches and table. The stand alone goal area has been reseeded and a new goal net will be purchased.

Arrangements are being made for the village hall to be redecorated this summer by the Community Payback team, and work should start later this month. New front of stage curtains purchased with a grant from the former District Councillor Tony Fryatt have improved the look of the main hall.

The Trustees of the Village Hall greatly appreciate the donations given each year by Great Bealings Parish Council towards the upkeep of the hall and playing field.

Margaret Wilson
Secretary
Bealings Village Hall Trust