

District Councillors

Report to Little Bealings

Parish Council



February and March 2018

Supporting the East Suffolk Visitor Economy: The current three year agreements with Destination Management Organisations (DMO) the Suffolk Coast and Visit Suffolk are coming to an end in March 2018 and we're taking this opportunity to review future agreements.

In this report we will be recommending that we continue to support the Suffolk Coast DMO with an agreement for a further three years with the same financial contribution to reflect their new three year business plan. It will also be recommended that the Visit Suffolk agreement will be for a further 12 months due to the changing landscape in Suffolk, with new DMOs formed in Ipswich and Bury St Eds.

East Suffolk Performance report – quarterly performance: The latest East Suffolk Performance report has been produced, providing an overview of the Council's performance and progress in the East Suffolk Business Plan for Quarter 3, from 1 October to 31 December 2017. Positively, the report shows that the Councils continue to make significant and positive progress in delivering the objectives set out in the Business Plan. Where performance is not adequately meeting targets, these are highlighted, showing the actions being taken.

Draft General Fund Budget: In this report, the Cabinet will be asked to consider and make recommendations to Full Council regarding the proposed budget for 2018/19 and the impending Council Tax Base for the next financial year. We are anticipating a balanced budget with a 3.25% Council Tax increase, without any cuts in council services, and the expected income from the collection of garden waste from homes during the next financial year (2018/19) helping us to achieve this. This report will also consider the invitation from central Government in December, for local authorities to pilot 100% Business Rates Retention in 2018/19 and to pioneer new pooling and tier-split models.

Other News Registration open for Garden Waste scheme: People can now sign up to register an interest in joining Suffolk Coastal's Garden Waste Collection Service. At Cabinet in December 2017, Suffolk Coastal decided to introduce a charge for collecting garden waste from homes during next financial year (2018/19). People in Suffolk Coastal will be given the option of paying an annual charge of £43 per garden waste bin (the equivalent of paying about £1.65 per fortnightly collection). This is a completely voluntary scheme, which people will have to opt to join (rather than residents automatically becoming part of the scheme). The first paid-for collections are scheduled to start from the beginning of May 2018, with local residents able to subscribe for the new service from 1 March 2018 and we will email them when the subscription service is live. However, in the meantime, people can [register their interest by completing a simple online form](#).

Celebrating the success of our Enabling Communities Budget: We're celebrating the success of our Enabling Communities Budget this month as funding pumped into communities reaches over £1 million, since we launched the scheme in December 2013.

So far, councillors have supported over 750 projects and community initiatives which equals to £1,038,048. Support has also been given to 23 projects through Suffolk Coastal's Exemplar Grants programme, amounting to £187,940.

The budget has supported everything from new play areas, improvements to community buildings, charities which help the youngest and oldest members of our communities, sports clubs and activities which cater to all ages, community tree planting and lifesaving defibrillators – with the list continuing to grow as Enabling Communities funding reaches communities.

New Beach Huts for Felixstowe: 23 new potential sites for beach huts have been identified in Felixstowe as part of Suffolk Coastal's long term plans to create more sites across the district.

Planning applications have been submitted for the consideration of the Planning Committee for 23 new sites in Felixstowe, split between two sites – 17 in The Dip, Cliff Road, and 6 on South Beach. Suffolk Coastal owns 918 beach hut sites in Felixstowe and Sizewell, with the vast majority (906) being in Felixstowe and 12 at Sizewell Beach. 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 by at least 10% by 2019'.

The beach hut programme aims to deliver new huts in a number of locations in Suffolk Coastal. Phase 1 of this programme is the identification of the 23 new hut sites in two locations in Felixstowe which are subject to the current planning applications. While the sites are out to consultation, we are continuing to work with current beach hut owners on the changes introduced to the retained licence system which comes into effect on 31 March 2018.

Full details of the applications are on the Public Access planning portal and open for consultation ahead of being considered by the Planning Committee, at:
www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/planning/planning-applications/publicaccess

Felixstowe to become a dementia friendly town: Felixstowe is working to become the first dementia friendly town in the district to help make lives easier and make support more accessible to people affected by dementia. With an estimated 12,800 people in Suffolk currently living with dementia, Felixstowe hope the introduction of support groups and information sessions to businesses and individuals will help improve the community's understanding of dementia. Two new dementia support groups in the town were officially launched on 19 January with support from the Felixstowe Dementia Action Alliance and Suffolk Coastal, and aim to identify priorities for people affected by dementia in the town and to look at what improvements can be made to help those people. The launch event also recognised organisations in the town that have committed to making Felixstowe a dementia friendly community:

- The Memory Lane Dementia Support Group meets every Friday from 11am to 2pm at the Salvation Army, Cobbold Road.
- The Felixstowe Parish Dementia Support Group meets the second Wednesday of every month at St Johns Parish Church, Princes Road from 10am to 12noon.

If you would like to get involved with the Felixstowe Dementia Action Alliance, email: fxttaa@gmail.com or phone 07717 150993.

New plans published for Leiston Leisure Centre: The public are being invited to have their say on new plans for Leiston Leisure Centre, with work to improve the facility starting in the autumn.

Suffolk Coastal hope the major investment in the leisure centre will help encourage more people to become fit and active. The enhanced facility will be given a new, first floor area which will feature a large gym with modern equipment, improved changing facilities, a new health suite and a new entrance space which will include a coffee shop and a soft play area for children. The facility will also benefit from two new dance studios, the squash courts will be retained and improvements will also be made to the lighting in the pool area and the front car park will be resurfaced. The Leisure Team spent 16th January in the town's Coop store, talking to the public about the plans for the new facility and hope to speak to local groups and clubs soon too. The plans can be viewed online at: www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/leiston-leisure-centre The Leisure Team will be contacting and speaking with a range of groups, leisure centre users and other key stakeholders in the next two months. Please do encourage community groups, local clubs or team to get in touch with the team at: leisure@eastsuffolk.gov.uk.

Consultation for Felixstowe Leisure Vision starting soon: In November we published our Felixstowe Leisure Vision document which showcases the potential for a multi-million pound sports and leisure development and highlights the opportunity we have to re-vitalise our leisure facilities. We want to bring state-of-the-art leisure facilities to Felixstowe and we're just about to launch a consultation to ask the public for their feedback and ideas on how these facilities could look. So far, no decisions have been made on the current leisure facilities in Felixstowe, so at this initial stage, we're asking the public to have their say on what leisure facilities they would like to see and how they would like to use a new leisure facility. Further details will be available online at: www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/leisure

Public invited to take part in broadband survey: We're asking local people to give us their views and experiences with their broadband.

People are invited to take part in our short survey, which asks for their postcode and landline number to allow us to map the quality of services across the district and help us respond.

The public can also send us their information by email to: broadband@eastsuffolk.gov.uk

The survey is online at: www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/community/enabling-better-broadband-in-suffolk-coastal

Microbusinesses survey: Microbusinesses in east Suffolk are being invited to take part in our survey to enable us to understand more about their needs around recruitment and retention with a view to shaping future support to this business sector.

The research being undertaken by Dr Wil Gibson of Wil Gibson Consultancy, takes less than 15 minutes and the data will be used to help shape support for microbusinesses which employ 0-10 people.

Please do invite any microbusinesses you know to take part:

www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/BusinessSurvey2018

East Suffolk Partnership launches final round of funding for youth activities

programme: The East Suffolk Youth Priority Action Group (ESYPAG)'s award-winning youth holiday activities programme is now welcoming applications for its sixth and final round of funding.

The programme which has been running since 2016 to improve the variety of opportunities available to young people aged between school years 7 – 13 (ages 11-18 years) in east Suffolk, thanks to £50,000 in funding from the East Suffolk Partnership.

This round of funding will be used to organise projects taking place during May/June half term and the school summer holidays 2018 and can be applied for by youth organisations across east Suffolk.

The deadline for applications is: **Friday 16 March at 5pm.**

See: www.eastsuffolkpartnership.org.uk/home/priorities/youth-holiday-activities-programme

Residents reminded that rubbish is their responsibility

Householders in east Suffolk are being reminded of their legal responsibilities to ensure their waste does not become fly-tipped, following the successful prosecution of a Suffolk resident. Donna Last of Riverside Road, Ipswich appeared at Ipswich Magistrates Court on 20 February, where she pleaded guilty for failing to fulfil her Duty of Care towards household waste contrary to Section 34(2A) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990. Ms Last was ordered to pay a total of £830. The case was brought to court by Suffolk Coastal District Council after several sacks of general, unsorted household waste were found fly-tipped at Monument Farm Lane, Foxhall in August last year. Upon investigation by Council officers, the waste was found to contain correspondence linked to Ms Last's previous address. When interviewed by Council officers, Ms Last stated that she was approached by unknown persons offering to remove waste metal from her property. She then asked them to take away her rubbish for a small payment. She admitted failing to ask what was going to happen to the waste, failing to take any basic details of the identity of the person, and crucially, failing to check that the person was an Authorised Waste Carrier.

In a joint statement, Cllr Carol Poulter, Cabinet Member for the Green Environment for Suffolk Coastal and Cllr Graham Catchpole, Waveney's Cabinet Member for Operational Partnerships said: "This case shows the serious consequences of failing to carry out basic legally-required checks before allowing someone to take rubbish away from your home. This carelessness led directly to a large quantity of waste being dumped in our beautiful countryside and resulted in significant court costs and a criminal record.

"We have no hesitation in taking action against anyone found responsible for despoiling our environment, as this case clearly shows. Residents are reminded that their rubbish is their responsibility and anyone arranging for any sort of waste to be taken away from their home by anyone other than the Councils' commercial service partners Suffolk Coastal Norse or Waveney Norse must check their waste carrier registration details to avoid being held responsible should their waste end up fly-tipped."

In court, Ms Last pleaded guilty to breaching her Duty of Care and was fined £50. She was also ordered to pay the Council's full costs of £650, £100 compensation, plus a victim surcharge of £30 – a sum totalling £830, which was ordered to be paid by way of deduction from benefits.

Residents are asked to remember the 'Scrap Code – Suspect, Check, Refuse, Ask, Paperwork' before allowing anyone to remove waste on their behalf:

- **Suspect.** Beware of rogue waste carriers – reputable companies do not usually make direct approaches. If in any doubt, do not allow them to take your waste. Always carry out your own research and choose who you wish to approach.
- **Check** – ask for their Authorised Waste Carrier Registration details, and verify them by checking the online register (environment.data.gov.uk/public-register) or by calling 03708 506 506. Always note down the registration number of the vehicle used to take your waste away.

- **Refuse** unsolicited offers to have any rubbish taken away. Always carry out your own research and choose who you wish to approach. Legitimate waste carriers are unlikely to seek business by going door-to-door.
- **Ask** questions. Always ask what is going to happen to your rubbish and seek evidence that it is going to be disposed of appropriately. A legitimate, professional waste carrier who wants your business should not object to being asked reasonable questions.
- **Paperwork.** Make sure you obtain a proper receipt containing the written information for your waste. This should include what has been removed, and where it will be going. Make sure the company or person's details are included.

Fly-tipping can be reported in confidence via www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/how-to-report-fly-tipping or by calling 01394 383789 (Suffolk Coastal) / 01502 562111 (Waveney) or emailing environment@eastsuffolk.gov.uk.

During 2017, Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Councils were called to 1,118 fly-tipping incidents.

In 2016/17 – Suffolk Coastal spent £13,963 clearing fly-tipping, with £32,653 spent in Waveney.

The Suffolk Waste Partnership has produced a video, emphasising the importance of the Duty of Care and how residents can prevent their waste ending up fly-tipped by rogue waste carriers: www.youtube.com/watch?v=a1X83ka_AqQ

Cllr Colin Hedgley

Cllr Geoff Holdcroft

Cllr Patti Mulcahy