**Parish Council Briefing**

**September 2017**

There is a lot going on at the moment, with several major developments out to consultation in the local community – so anything you can do to encourage participation would be greatly appreciated.

We have a busy start to this coming month in Suffolk Coastal District Council with a Simultaneous Cabinet meeting with Waveney on Monday (4 September) and our own Cabinet meeting on the next day (Tuesday, 5 September).

**Simultaneous Meeting of** **Suffolk Coastal District Council and** **Waveney District Council Cabinets – 6.30pm on Monday, 4 September.**

**East Suffolk Commercial Investment Strategy:** In November 2015, the Council approved the first Joint East Suffolk Business Plan 2015 – 2023.

The Commercial Investment Strategy is intended to play an important part in delivering the objective of Financial Self Sufficiency by providing a robust and viable framework for the acquisition of commercial asset investments and to enable the councils to trade commercially for net income.

**Discretionary Business Rates Relief Scheme:** In the March 2017 budget the Chancellor announced that the Government would make available a discretionary fund of £300 million over four years from 2017-18 to support businesses that face the steepest increases in their business rates bills as a result of the revaluation. The Government has allocated a share of the £300m to each billing authority. Funding was allocated on the basis of how many properties in the Local Authority area with a rateable value under £200,000 were subject to increases of more than 12.5% before other reliefs. The paper before the joint Councils lays out how this money will be allocated by Suffolk Coastal and Waveney.

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| **East Suffolk Tourism Strategy:** The visitor economy is a major economic driver of the East Suffolk economy. It generates over £0.5bn of economic value and accounts for 13% of total employment in the two districts. In order to maintain and enhance this important sector, the Council needs a robust strategy which exploits the many strengths we have and also addresses the key challenges. This report sets out a proposed Tourism Strategy for East Suffolk and an associated delivery plan. |

**East Suffolk Food and Health and Safety Service Plan:** The councils are required to produce a Food and Health and Safety Service Plan by the Food Standards Agency (FSA) and the Health and Safety Executive (HSE). This years’ Service Plan includes information on the Councils’ performance in meeting targets, sets out in the Service Plan for 2016/17, and the Food and Health and Safety Service Plan for 2017/18.

**East Suffolk Performance Report – Quarter 1 2017/18:** Overall, the councils continue to make significant and positive progress in delivering the Business Plan objectives.

**Suffolk Coastal Cabinet – Tuesday, 5 September.**

**Beach Hut Review 2017:** A review of the beach hut service provided by Suffolk Coastal District Council was carried out in 2016.

In line with the East Suffolk Business Plan, this review aimed to gain a better understanding of the service, including identifying any potential service efficiency gains and development opportunities.

The review report was taken to Suffolk Coastal Cabinet on the 6th December 2016, where it was agreed that no decision could be taken on the key recommendations, until public consultation had been carried out.

This consultation was carried out at the beginning of 2017 and the results have informed the drafting of a new report, with amended recommendations. As Cabinet will see from this report, the Council has modified its recommendations significantly following the consultation.

The 2017 Beach Hut Review now seeks to provide a way forward for the Council, to cover its costs and provide a commercial return on this non-statutory service, while balancing the wider views of the beach hut owner community.

**Disabled Facilities Grants – Amendment to Policy:** The district and borough councils across Suffolk work with Suffolk County Council and Orbit East Home Improvement Agency to deliver Disabled Facilities Grants (DFG) to residents whose homes require adaptations. There have been concerns about performance. The application process can be bureaucratic, leading to delays in completion of works. This report examines the problems with the existing system and explains the need for a more flexible approach to DFGs. It sets out a policy to develop a more efficient and effective service for residents in our area needing disabled adaptations.

**Civil Penalties – Introducing a Policy to Impose Civil Penalties under the Housing and Planning Act 2016:** This report explains new powers under the Housing and Planning Act 2016 to impose civil penalties on private sector landlords who breach certain enforcement provisions. It sets out a proposed matrix for the imposition of different levels of civil penalty commensurate with the severity of the offence. The recommendations is that the information in this report forms the basis of new Council policy in relation to civil penalties.

**Proposed Consultation on the Future Management of Off-Street Car Parks and On-Street Parking Restrictions:** Suffolk County Council is producing a county-wide Parking Strategy and we are being encouraged to produce Area Parking Strategies to sit underneath this strategy.

Town and Parish Councils have local knowledge and ideas that should feed in to the thinking.

The Off-street charging structure needs reviewing to ensure that, when combined with on-street charging, the revenue generated covers the cost of Civil Parking enforcement in the same way as off-street parking charges cover the cost of the current service. The report recommends consultation on the proposal

**Other News**

**Work Starting On Deben Leisure Centre:** We are just days away from work starting to transform Deben Pool into an exciting, modern leisure centre. The project to reinvent the leisure centre is set to cost over £3 million as part of Suffolk Coastal’s plans to invest in its leisure centres to encourage more people to become fit and active.

Deben Pool closes at 10pm on Thursday 31 August, with work to start from Monday 4 September for a 10 month period to transform the facility into a state-of-the-art leisure centre.

The new leisure centre has been designed with the Council’s leisure development partner, Pulse Fitness and operators Places for People Leisure and includes a new, spacious gym, 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.

Suffolk Coastal’s investment of £2.5 million in the new leisure centre has been boosted by £500,000 in Sport England National Lottery Funding.

The work to develop the leisure centre is part of the Council’s five year programme to improve leisure facilities for the district and to encourage more people to become more active.

All current members at Deben have now been contacted by Places for People Leisure regarding their membership during the closure period.

The full closure of Deben means that during this time our operators, Places for People Leisure will be relocating as many staff as possible. The new facility opening next summer will create more job opportunities, with people being recruited 2-3 months prior to opening.

During the refurbishment work there will be some loss of car parking, reducing by 27 spaces (23 in front of the Community Hall and 4 spaces elsewhere in Station Road car park) and there will be no access to the front and left-hand side of the leisure centre.

**Get Ready for the Tour:** A series of events are being organised to welcome the OVO Energy Tour of Britain to the area. Stage Six of the Tour arrives in Suffolk in Newmarket and finishes in Aldeburgh next Friday, 8 September, with live coverage of the whole race on ITV4.

The [route](http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/assets/Stage-6-route.pdf) arrives in Suffolk Coastal at Dennington and follows onto Framlingham Castle, Wickham Market, Grundisburgh, past Kesgrave High School, through Woodbridge and our Council Offices in Melton. It then travels through Rendlesham, past Snape Maltings and finally finishes on Aldeburgh’s high street, outside the Golden Galleon at an expected time of 3pm.

Live coverage of the race will be screened on the Market Hill at Wickham Market, as well as there being a pop up bar, refreshments, food and entertainments throughout the day. For more information, visit: [www.cyclewickham.co.uk](http://www.cyclewickham.co.uk)

Leiston will also be showing coverage of the race, with a BBQ being supplied by Sizewell Sports & Social Club from 1pm and there will be plenty going on in the High Street.

At the finish line, as well as seeing some of the world’s best cyclists, there will be an opportunity for the Community to take part in a Cycle ride that will see the riders finishing on the finish line. To book your place, visit: www.eventbrite.com/e/ovo-energy-tour-of-britain-stage-6-community-ride-tickets-36520006322

The spotlight will then be on children from Aldeburgh Primary School who took part in a competition to design posters to celebrate the arrival of the Tour. Pupils from the school were asked to design posters and decorate wooden bikes which will be placed in local shops in the town. Prizes will be awarded by the Chairman, Cllr Chris Blundell, on the day of the Tour in Aldeburgh at 12:30pm on the podium.

Suffolk Coastal has also teamed up with Infotex to bring a fun bike trail to the towns and villages to celebrate the tour. Seven towns are taking part in the trail, with a different bicycle character in each location for children to find: Phil McBacket in Aldeburgh; Speedy Sprinter in Framlingham; Eileen Yuleen in Leiston; Buster Record in Saxmundham; Patchy O’Puncture in Snape; Bea Mx in Wickham Market; and, Old Rusty in Woodbridge.

Each bike can be found on 10 window stickers in each town, placed in shop and business windows. Once they’ve found all 10 window stickers in a town, they will then receive a sticker of that bike from a central location. Once all seven stickers are collected they will be entered into an OVO Energy Tour of Britain prize.

For more information and to download trail sheets online, visit: [www.tasteofthetour.co.uk/bike-trail](http://www.tasteofthetour.co.uk/bike-trail)

And, to get in the party spirit, we are calling on towns and villages in the district to get their glad rags on!

We’re inviting shop-owners and businesses to decorate their windows with a Tour-related theme to welcome the race coming through the district on Friday 8 September.

The winning individual business will receive two tickets to the VIP hospitality for the finish of the race in Aldeburgh. The overall best dressed community will win £500 to spend in their area.

**Have Your Say On Dog Controls:** The public is being urged to have their say on proposed changes to dog controls in the district to introduce Public Space Protection Orders.

Currently, there are several bye-laws, enactments and a local ‘order’ in the Suffolk Coastal District which impose requirements on dog owners. As well as updating controls, PSPOs also provide a more effective and efficient way of dealing with these types of offence through the issue of a Fixed Penalty Notice.

Earlier this year, Suffolk Coastal originally contacted Town and Parish Councils to ask for their views. Now, we are consulting with the public on the proposal to find out their views

The proposed Public Space Protection Orders (which largely reflect what is currently in place) include:

• Excluding dogs from designated areas of Aldeburgh beach from May to September – These controls already existed and are being translated into a PSPO

• Excluding dogs from designated areas of Felixstowe beach from May to September – These controls already exist but there is a slight change to the designated area

• Making it an offence not to clear up after your dog if it fouls in any open space in Suffolk Coastal – These controls already exist and are being translated into a PSPO

One of the areas where Suffolk Coastal wants to explore public opinion is a wider set of controls relating to dogs on public land such as:

• Keeping dogs on a lead on the highway and roadside footpaths and verges, along with pedestrianised urban areas, sports grounds, cemeteries, churchyards, burial grounds and allotments – These are new controls to address nuisance dogs where they may cause public safety issues close to the highway or public health issues in allotments

• Excluding dogs from all fenced and gated children’s play areas – This is a new proposal to protect child safety and health

• Dogs to be kept on leads in a designated area south of Shingle Street from May to September – This is a new proposal to protect ground nesting birds in a specified area and will only apply during the nesting season

• Keeping dogs on a lead in the designated area at Landguard Point Nature Reserve – These are new controls amongst other things to protect ground nesting birds and other wildlife in the nature reserve

The changes are being made to the dog controls to ensure they are up to date to reflect today’s requirements and enable the use of Fixed Penalty Notices to help us deal more effectively with offenders

This isn’t about banning dogs everywhere. It’s about replacing the existing laws to protect specific places where problems have been raised, with a more effective way of ensuring people control nuisance dogs. For instance the new proposals for Shingle Street and Landguard Point Nature Reserve are to protect the ground nesting birds.

The vast majority of dog owners exercise their pets in a responsible manner, but we need to make sure we have measures in place to take action against those who do not.

While there are some significant changes in some areas, there are only minor changes in others and some of the controls are staying the same, so we would ask that everyone read the proposals in detail.

Ultimately we want to ensure everyone can enjoy our public spaces, including dog owners, without people being bothered by nuisance dogs, so the proposed changes need to reflect a fair balance.

To take part in the consultation, visit: [www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/environment/environmental-protection/animals/dog-control/public-space-protection-orders](http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/environment/environmental-protection/animals/dog-control/public-space-protection-orders)

If you wish to comment on these proposed new Public Space Protection Orders, please do so by emailing: environment@eastsuffolk.gov.uk

Or in writing to: PSPO Consultation, c/o Environmental Protection, Suffolk Coastal District Council, East Suffolk House, Station Road, Melton, Suffolk, IP12 1RT

Comments should reach us by Friday 22 September 2017.

**Help Plan Future Development:** Suffolk Coastal residents are being asked for their views on a draft plan, which will shape where residential and commercial development could be located during the next 20 years.

The 10-week consultation was launched in mid-August on the draft Local Plan for Suffolk Coastal which, when finalised, will be used as a guide for future planning decisions and highlights areas within the district which have the potential for growth.

The draft document is presented in two parts. Part 1 has been prepared in conjunction with Ipswich Borough Council to identify the strategic cross boundary issues affecting the two local authorities. Part 2 focus on issues specific to Suffolk Coastal.

The consultation closes on Monday 30 October.

A series of public exhibitions will give residents an opportunity to discuss the draft Local Plan with Planning Officers:

• Monday 11 September (4pm - 7:30pm) – Yoxford Village Hall (Main Hall)

• Thursday 14 September (4pm – 7:30pm) – Tower Hall, Rushmere St Andrew

• Monday 18 September (4pm – 7:30pm) – Felixstowe Town Hall (Council Chamber)

• Tuesday 26 September (4pm – 7:30pm) – East Suffolk House (Deben Room), Melton

• Wednesday 27 September (4pm – 7:30pm) Wenhaston Village Hall

• Monday 2 October (4pm – 7:30pm) Kirton Recreation Ground (The Pavilion)

• Wednesday 11 October (4pm – 7:30pm) Riverside Centre, Stratford St Andrew

Copies of the consultation document, Sustainability Appraisal documents and evidence base documents are available on the Council’s website at: [www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/planning/local-plans/suffolk-coastal-local-plan/local-plan-review/](http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/planning/local-plans/suffolk-coastal-local-plan/local-plan-review/)

Any comments amail to suffolkcoastallocalplan@eastsuffolk.gov.uk or send a letter to Planning Policy & Delivery Team, East Suffolk House, Station Road, Melton, Woodbridge, IP12 1RT.

**Air Quality Consultation:** We are alsoencouraging local people to have their say on two reports about the District’s air quality that have recently been approved by the Government.

The Council’s Annual Status Report is now produced every year and provides a public facing update on air quality across the entire district.

The report confirms that across the district our air quality remains generally good, with just two very specific areas of concern.These are the declared Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) in Woodbridge, and on the A12 at Stratford St. Andrew.

The second report produced is the draft Air Quality Action Plan for the AQMA at Stratford St Andrew which sets out measures to be put in place in order to reduce concentrations of nitrogen dioxide within the AQMA.

The Plan contains two short term, priority action measures and six longer term measures that may be considered in the future. The main priority measure for Stratford St Andrew is to move the 30 mph speed sign further along the A12, outside the village. It’s hoped the changes will be in place by the end of the year.

The reports, together with additional information, can be found online: [www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/environment/environmental-protection/air-quality/air-quality-consultations/new-draft-action-p-for-stratford-st-andrew-2017-and-annual-status-report-2016](http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/environment/environmental-protection/air-quality/air-quality-consultations/new-draft-action-p-for-stratford-st-andrew-2017-and-annual-status-report-2016)

Alternatively, hard copies can also be viewed at Customer Services in Woodbridge and Felixstowe libraries. Comments can be emailed to environment@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk or sent to: Environmental Protection, East Suffolk House, Station Road, Melton, Woodbridge IP12 1RT. The deadline for comments is Friday, 8 September 2017.

**Adult Learning in east Suffolk:** Suffolk Coastal and Waveney are o find out how adult learning can be improved in east Suffolk.

Led by our Economic Development Intern, Christopher Elmer who was recuited through Suffolk’s Rising High Internship programme, the work will be used to inform Suffolk County Council’s adult learning strategy.

The survey aims to understand the demand for adult learning from the public, what improvements could be made and whether they believe there is suitable provision in this area.

To take part in the survey, visit: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/B6ZQF63>

**And finally…**

**Last Call for Entries of Photo Competition:** The closing date for our new photo competition is approaching fast. We want to celebrate east Suffolk as a great place to live, work and visit with the new East Suffolk Photo Competition. The competition has three categories: • Living in east Suffolk

• Working in east Suffolk

• Explore east Suffolk

• Under 16s (in any category)

You don’t have to be an expert photographer to take part and entries are welcome from both amateurs and professional photographers and people of all ages.

Competition winners will be featured on the councils’ combined Instagram account (@eastsuffolkcouncils).

According to GovRank, which monitors the digital performance of over 400 local authorities in the UK, @eastsuffolkcouncils is consistently featured amongst the best-performing council Instagram accounts.

Entries can be submitted via Instagram by tagging @eastsuffolkcouncils and using #EastSuffolkPhotoComp or by emailing photos to communications@eastsuffolk.gov.uk

The winner in each category will receive a shopping voucher and a framed copy of their photo which will also be displayed at the Councils’ East Suffolk House or Riverside offices.

The competition closes on Monday 4 September 2017.

Best wishes,

Cllr Carol Poulter

Councillor for the Hacheston Ward

Cabinet Member for the Green Environment

Suffolk Coastal District Council

 email: carol.poulter@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk