**Parish Council Briefing**

**November 2017**

|  |
| --- |
| **Dog Control - Public Space Protection Orders:** Although a non-key decision, this month’s paper on dog controls in the district will consider the outcomes from the pre-consultation exercise and the public consultation on the introduction on the draft Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) which outline dog controls in the district.  Town and Parish Councils and the public have now been consulted on the seven proposed PSPOs which replace the existing by-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. The benefit of this approach is that controls, such as the prohibition of dogs on certain beaches during the summer months, can be more effectively enforced through the issue of Fixed Penalty Notices rather than by way of prosecution.  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. |

**Other News**

**Woods Lane – Planned Closure:** A drop-in session was held at East Suffolk House by Bloor Homes and their contractors to give people the opportunity to find out more about the Longwood Fields development in Melton and the associated road closure of Woods Lane.

Councillors and staff from Suffolk County Council and Suffolk Coastal joined the event which gave the public information about the closure and diversion routes, along with the extra efforts being made by the developer while Woods Lane is closed, which include additional 'businesses open as usual' signage, speed monitors and how updates on progress will be communicated to those interested.

Bloor Homes is the developer and Palmer Fencing Ltd is responsible for the traffic management on the closure and diversion. Their telephone number is 01473 834 960, if you received any questions or comments about the closures.

The diversion route can be seen on [www.roadworks.org](http://www.roadworks.org) by changing the dates viewable and ensuring Road Works and Road Closures and Diversions layers are visible. For help using [www.roadworks.org](http://www.roadworks.org) please see here: <https://www.elgin.org.uk/support>

Bloor Homes has therefore applied for the road closure in two parts:

* Phase 1: 6 Nov – 30 Nov – This first closure will be to construct new footpaths, bus stops and prepare for the more substantial works after Christmas.
* Phase 2: 8 Jan – 13 April 2018 - The second closure will be to install 500 metres of sewer pipes and connections, running beneath the middle of Woods Lane, at a depth of two metres. They will also be giving utility companies the opportunity to make their own connections.

Issues with the works should be directed to Bloor Homes on [woodslanehighwayworks@bloorhomes.com](mailto:woodslanehighwayworks@bloorhomes.com)  
Issues with access or egress or closure/diversion signs should be directed to Palmer Traffic Management Ltd. [01473 834960](javascript:void(0)) or [info@thepalmergroup.co.uk](mailto:info@thepalmergroup.co.uk)

**Merger:** Suffolk Coastal Council Leader Ray Herring recently joined Cllr Mark Bee, Leader of Waveney District Council, Peter Aldous,

MP for Waveney, Terese Coffey, MP for Suffolk Coastal and Dr Dan Poulter MP for Central Suffolk and North Ipswich to meet Rt Hon Sajid Javid, the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government to discuss our plans to merge and form a new East Suffolk Council.

We are now waiting for formal backing from him in a ‘minded to’ decision before seeking

Representations on the proposal and his team of civil servants can begin the legal process of creating new laws to bring the new council into existence.

We then hope to conduct a six week consultation on the merger with our stakeholders, partners and communities.

**Bell Lane Kesgrave appeal dismissed:** We welcomed the decision by the Planning Inspectorate on the dismissal of the appeal for the Bell Lane Development in Kesgrave last month.

Persimmon Homes’ plans to build 300 homes at the Greenfield site off Bell Lane and Foxhall Road were dismissed by inspector Paul Clark who said the development “would not be in a sustainable location because it is distant from opportunities to undertake day-to-day activities.”

We’re pleased to see the appeal’s dismissal as we believe along with Kesgrave Town Council and their residents that the site is in an unsuitable location and we will continue to challenge applications which do not consider their impact on local infrastructure and the wider community.

To view the details in full, visit the Planning Inspectorate’s [website](https://acp.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/ViewCase.aspx?CaseID=3160194&CoID=0).

**East Suffolk Report 2016-2017:** The 2016-17 East Suffolk Report which takes a snapshot of activities and outcomes in the last financial year, has now been published.

The report reflects our achievements against key projects and ambitions contained within the East Suffolk Business Plan.

To read the report in full, visit: [www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/features/east-suffolk-report-2016-2017](http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/features/east-suffolk-report-2016-2017)

# Spedeworth fined for Health and Safety failings: Spedeworth International was fined for a number of Health and Safety charges for failures which put visitors at risk at Foxhall Stadium.

The company that promotes stock car racing at the stadium were ordered to pay fines and costs totalling £118,000 at Ipswich Magistrates Court on Thursday 19 October.

In April 2016 a member of the public contacted the Council to say they had attended an event and the emergency exits had all been locked.  When Environmental Health Officer visited Foxhall Stadium on 30th April 2016, the eight emergency exits were found to be locked whilst racing was taking place.

At a hearing on 25 July 2017, in a prosecution brought by Suffolk Coastal District Council, the company pleaded guilty to four charges under the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 in relation to:

* Emergency exits;
* Structural stability and maintenance of the grandstands;
* Failure to comply with an improvement notice requiring safety improvements to the grandstands; and
* Having eight emergency exits locked at a stock car race meeting.

When sentencing Spedeworth International (East Anglia) Ltd on 19 October 2017 for the four charges, District Judge Celia Dawson referred to Sentencing Council Definitive Guideline for Health and Safety Offences and considered the degree of culpability to be high in all four charges before assessing the likely harm arising from the company’s failings.

The breakdown of the fine included £20,000 for the lack of maintenance resulting in the stands being found in an unsafe condition, £27,000 for failing to comply with the Improvement Notice that required additional work to ensure the stands were safe, £20,000 for not having an adequate evacuation plan in place in October 2015 and £33,000 for holding a race meeting in April 2016 whilst eight emergency exits were locked.

The Council was awarded £18,000 in costs.

Canvassers calling: **Official canvassers are now calling on Suffolk Coastal residents who have not yet responded to their annual voter registration form.**

The forms, which are pre-printed with the names of any occupants currently registered to vote at each address, were sent to all Suffolk Coastal households earlier this year. Residents are legally required to confirm or update the details of anyone at the address who is eligible to vote in the UK to ensure they remain registered to vote for future elections.

Over 88% of households have now responded, with 7,000 households yet to reply who will be visited by an approved Suffolk Coastal canvasser.

Anyone concerned about the identity of a canvasser can contact Suffolk Coastal Customer Services on: 01394 383789.

Canvassers will never ask residents for money, and anyone claiming to be a canvasser who is asking for money should be reported to Suffolk Police by calling 101.

Residents are still able to respond to their form themselves, which will remove the need for a visit from a canvasser. The simplest way to respond is online, by text or by calling the free-phone number.

If there are no changes to be made, there are 3 different ways to confirm your details:

* Go to [www.elecreg.co.uk/suffolkcoastal](http://www.elecreg.co.uk/suffolkcoastal)
* Call free-phone 0808 284 1563
* Text 07537 410063
* Sign and return the form using the enclosed envelope

To change the details on your form:

* Go to [www.elecreg.co.uk/suffolkcoastal](http://www.elecreg.co.uk/suffolkcoastal)
* Amend, sign and return the form using the enclosed envelope

Once responses have been received by all properties, an up-to-date Register of Electors can be published.

**Cycling on the prom:**The year-long trial which allowed cycling on Felixstowe Promenade ended at the end of October and will continue temporarily until a formal decision is made by Full Council this month.

The byelaw which prohibited cycling on the Prom was lifted last year to allow for safe and considerate cycling for a period on 12 months and this period will be extended until a formal decision is made later this year.

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.

The report will consider feedback received on the trial by Felixstowe Forward and Felixstowe Town Council.

# Residents asked to have say on Parliamentary constituency boundaries: The [Boundary Commission for England](https://www.bce2018.org.uk/) (BCE) has now launched its third and final consultation on changes to Parliamentary constituencies in England which are intended to come into effect for the next scheduled general election in 2022.

This is the last opportunity for the everyone to have a say on decisions which could affect our area. The proposals published are a result of feedback from public consultations in September 2016 and March 2017.

Following a decision by Parliament to reduce the number of constituencies in the UK to 600 from 650, and to ensure that the number of electors in each constituency is more equal, the Boundary Commission for England is conducting the necessary review of all English constituencies.

You can view the proposed changes and see what other people have already said about your local area [online](http://www.bce2018.org.uk/) until **11 December 2017**. You will find an interactive map that’s quick and easy to use to respond to the consultation in minutes.

# Helping those applying for Universal Credit: Two new public access terminals have been installed at Felixstowe Citizens Advice on Orwell Road in Felixstowe to give residents online access to apply for Universal Credit. They’re free to use, without a need for an appointment in the office's reception area.

The technology combined with support from Citizens Advice and public access terminals within Felixstowe and Woodbridge Libraries aims to help people make their application which can only be completed online.

Universal Credit is being introduced gradually and the Full Service is set to be rolled out across Suffolk Coastal from June 2018 and means that any new claims for older-style ‘legacy’ benefits would become claims for Universal Credit instead.

Currently the following post codes are covered by Universal Credit Full Service in Suffolk Coastal; IP18 6, IP19 0, 1P19 9, NR34 8.

Citizens Advice is also at Felixstowe and Woodbridge [Libraries](http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/contact-us/) every Monday morning from 10-12pm.

### Women On Wheels rescheduled for April 2018: A date has now been set for the rescheduled Women On Wheels event in Rendlesham after October’s event was cancelled due to bad weather – for Sunday 22 April.

The cycling event which supports the Suffolk Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal is open to girls and women of all ages and abilities and takes place at Army Rock Barracks, Sutton.

The 5km starts at 11:30am for £5 and the 15m ride starts at 10:30am for £15. Under 16’s are free if accompanied by an adult and all money raised from the event will go to the Suffolk Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.

To find out more and sign up, visit: [www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/leisure/sportandleisuredevelopment/women-on-wheels](http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/leisure/sportandleisuredevelopment/women-on-wheels)

**And finally…**

# Have you made your nominations for the SCBCA Awards?: There’s still time to make your nominations for next year’s [Suffolk Coastal Business and Community Awards](http://scbca.co.uk/) on 15 March.

Categories this year focus on teamwork, growth, services to the community, health & wellbeing, customer service and tourism and more!

Each award aims to recognise the contributions, initiatives and successes of businesses, groups and individuals within the Suffolk Coastal District over the past 18 months. The winners will be announced at a black-tie awards dinner at [The Hangar, Kesgrave Hall](http://www.milsomhotels.com/kesgravehall/) on 15th March 2018.

We’d like to thank our line-up of fabulous and generous sponsors includes: Christies Care, EB Carpets, EDF Energy, Gotelee Solicitors, Places for People Leisure, Suffolk Places, Ufford Park and Suffolk Coastal District Council and Suffolk Coastal Norse.

The full list of awards and sponsors is as follows.

* New Business of the Year sponsored by [EB Carpets Felixstowe](http://www.ebcarpetsandfloorings.co.uk/)
* Business Growth Award sponsored by [Suffolk Coastal District Council](http://www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/)
* Customer Focus Award sponsored by [Christies Care](https://www.christiescare.com/)
* Encouraging Tourism sponsored by [Suffolk Places](http://www.suffolkplaces.com/)
* Services to the community (group) sponsored by [Suffolk Coastal Norse](http://suffolkcoastalnorse.co.uk/)
* Services to the community (individual) sponsored by [Places for People](http://www.placesforpeople.co.uk/)
* Big Bang Award sponsored by [EDF Energy](https://www.edfenergy.com/energy/power-stations/sizewell-b)
* Club of the Year sponsored by [Ufford Park](http://www.uffordpark.co.uk/" \t "_blank)
* Great Idea Award sponsored by [Suffolk Coastal District Council](http://www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/)
* Food & Drink Retailer of the Year sponsored by [East Suffolk Food Trails](http://www.thesuffolkcoast.co.uk/east-suffolk-food-trails)
* Health & Wellbeing sponsored by [De Vere Care](https://www.deverecare.com/)
* People Development
* Team of the Year

[Check out the categories](http://scbca.co.uk/awards) and [enter here](http://scbca.co.uk/enter-now).

The closing date for nominations is **5 January 2018**.

Best wishes,

Cllr Carol Poulter

Councillor for the Hacheston Ward

Cabinet Member for the Green Environment.

Email [carol.poulter@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk](mailto:carol.poulter@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk)