

## Report from Cllrs Haworth-Culf & Jones – February 2017

Cllr Jones sends her apologies and I have come down with an awful cold which I do not want to pass on to anyone.

There has already been a hectic start to 2017 – and this pace looks set to continue. Operationally, our staff and communities involved did a fantastic job, linking to the emergency services and local communities, gearing up to deal with the tidal surge. Although the predicted flooding did not materialise, it was a very useful exercise in showing we are prepared to effectively set up the rest centres and other facilities which would be needed during a major incident. We would also like to thank all volunteers involved with the sad incident at Thorpeness

We have also had the historic decision to move forward with the proposals to merge with our partners in Waveney, to create the largest district council in the country. The next step will be to seek the approval of the Secretary of State on the proposals, before hopefully moving forward to make this a reality at the next elections.

However, ahead of that, there is still a lot of work to be done, before we know what the new '*super district*' will look like. And, with the county council, we have also provided our response to Phase Two of the consultation on the proposed Sizewell C nuclear power station. It is fair to say, we have been disappointed with the amount of information EDF Energy have provided. Although we do support the project in principle, we cannot give it our full support without more detailed information. The onus is now on EDF Energy to provide more information about the project, and to demonstrate it has listened to our feedback (and the responses from all our communities)

The pace looks set to continue through to this month, with February being a month for another round of major decisions: Cabinet on Tuesday, 7 February re: Implementation of Civil Parking Enforcement in East Suffolk: We had a key decision to make on whether we should take over responsibility for parking enforcement. Suffolk is one of the few counties in England where district councils do not have this responsibility, and parking enforcement is still carried out by the police.

The lack of enforcement action is seen in communities across the district, with mounting discontent over 'unpoliced' illegal parking – in particular at pinch points around schools. There are significant safety issues associated with this and, under current arrangements, District Councils are powerless to enforce a solution. CPE would provide those powers. The law permits the responsibility for parking enforcement to be transferred from the police to local authorities and income from tickets stays with the authority, potentially enabling self-funding.

This proposal includes a range of options such as on-street pay and display or the development of new car parking facilities, and putting in place a very streamlined enforcement operation, fully integrated with our current off street parking enforcement service.

East Suffolk Environmental Policy: We were also asked to approve the revised East Suffolk Environmental Policy, which aims to bring the policy in line with the priorities set out in the recently adopted East Suffolk Business Plan. The new East Suffolk Environmental Policy evaluates the current priorities within both local and national government and applies them to the environmental agenda within East Suffolk. The policy sets out the Councils' priorities and current objectives, with an action plan to monitor future progress towards achieving the objectives.

Draft Social Value Policy: Social Value is about maximising the impact of public expenditure. It is a way of thinking about how our scarce resources are allocated and used. There is an opportunity for Suffolk Coastal District Council to ensure that the impact of public expenditure is maximised for community benefit. This policy will provide the framework for Suffolk Coastal to help achieve a wider community benefit from its spending and investment, which can help support the Enabling Communities activities of the East Suffolk Business Plan.

East Suffolk Performance Report: This is a very positive joint report for Suffolk Coastal and Waveney as it provides an overview of the Councils' performance and progress against the East Suffolk Business Plan. This Quarterly Performance report covers Quarter 3, the period from 1 October to 31 December 2016. Overall the Council continues to make significant and positive progress in delivering the Business Plan objectives.

Treasury Management and Investment Strategy for 2017/18: Each year, every local authority must approve a policy strategy, which governs its day-to-day treasury management objectives for that year. The overriding principle is ensuring the security of Council's money. This report sets out the Council's Treasury Management Policy Statement, Investment Strategy and Prudential Indicators for 2017/18 and recommends they are approved and adopted.

Draft General Fund Budget 2017/18: This report not only sets out the proposed Council Tax for this district for next year, it also gives an overview of our financial position against the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS). Cabinet is asked to consider and make recommendations to Full Council regarding the: - proposed Budget for 2017/18, and to note the position with regard to future years; - assessment of reserve and balance movements

#### Other News

Planning documents approval – We have now formally agreed to adopt the recently Planning Inspectorate approved planning documents which set out site allocations for new homes in the district over the next 10 years. The Site Allocations and Area Specific Policies Development Plan Document and the Felixstowe Peninsula Area Action Plan will together establish and agree the most suitable land to meet the forecast demand for housing in the district as well as considering the requirements for employment land, town centres, open spaces, infrastructure and other land use planning issues as the Council seeks to implement the Core Strategy. The documents will now become part of Suffolk Coastal's Local Plan alongside the Council's Core Strategy which was adopted in July 2013.

Coastal teams for Leiston - The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) announced last month that two more coastal towns in east Suffolk have been awarded Coastal Community status. Leiston and Southwold have been selected to have their own dedicated Coastal Community Teams (CCT), bringing together local people, councils, volunteers and businesses to work together to drive forward future economic growth and prosperity in coastal areas. Leiston and Southwold CCTs will join three existing CCTs already working in east Suffolk; Deben, Felixstowe and Lowestoft. The Government is committed to supporting coastal communities and has so far funded 118 CCTs across the UK, giving £1.18m to help drive coastal growth. Leiston and Southwold CCTs will each receive £10,000 from the DCLG to help create an economic plan to provide a focus on prioritising the key economic issues facing the towns.

Car Park Improvements – The work to improve Melton Riverside Car Park has now been completed and will help provide better access for regular users of the Country Park as well as providing extra parking for those using the nearby facilities at the station and new district council offices, providing additional public parking at times of peak demand such as major planning meetings. The work has helped create an additional 20 parking spaces and makes the overall area look much tidier. Work has now started to Thorpe Road in Aldeburgh with the hopes of completion by Easter. TJ receives weekly updates re the works.

Melton Hill Furniture – We've been working hard to ensure that surplus furniture from our old offices at Melton Hill is reused as much as possible in the community. The majority has so far been donated to local charities, town and parish councils, and community groups. Staff have also raised a fantastic £874.98 for the East Suffolk and Ipswich branch of RSPCA by bidding on the furniture. We now want to encourage the reuse of as much furniture as possible by offering items to local businesses and anyone else that may have missed the opportunity. The furniture available includes desks, filing cabinets, and pedestals, meeting tables, shelving units and meeting tables. If you are interested in this opportunity, please contact Julie Carver, Customer Contact Manager to register your interest: [furniture@eastsoffolk.gov.uk](mailto:furniture@eastsoffolk.gov.uk). We will then provide interested parties with further details of when furniture is available for collection. Please do pass this message onto anyone you feel may welcome this opportunity.

Holiday Activities Funding Available - The East Suffolk Youth Priority Action Group (ESYPAG) has launched its latest round of funding to support providing school holiday activities for young people across east Suffolk (Suffolk Coastal and Waveney) during May half term and the school summer holidays. The fund is awarded by a panel of young people from Suffolk Coastal and Waveney who welcome applications for up to £1500. Please could you circulate to other organisations/ community members who you think would be interested in running some activities in the holidays. The closing date for applications is 5pm on Friday 10 March 2017. More information, including details of how to download an application form and supporting guidance notes, can be found by clicking on the following link. <http://www.eastsuffolkpartnership.org.uk/home/priorities/esypag/>

#### Aldeburgh Tourism Service

- On 7 Feb SCDC's Cabinet approved the recommendation to enter into a contract with a commercial organisation in the town to provide a physical tourist information service
- The contract is initially for 2 years and will lead to an enhanced physical tourist information service since it will be open all year round and will have extended opening hours during the summer months and during school holidays
- This will complement the various on line offerings which promote tourism on the Suffolk coast including the SCDC supported Suffolk Coast Destination Management Organisation
- There will be a media release in March which will identify the new operator and provide further details of the new service
- The new service will be launched on 1 April in time for the beginning of the new tourist season

#### **Scam warning to residents**

Suffolk Coastal are warning residents to remain vigilant following reports of possible scam attempts in the area.

One incident has been reported to the Councils which involved a customer receiving a call from someone regarding their Council Tax bill, stating they are entitled to a refund after being told they have been charged too much.

The telephone number involved was: 02037693102.

If you think you have been targeted by a scam, or know someone who has, then call Action Fraud on **0300 123 2040** or report it online. Action Fraud is the UK's national reporting centre for fraud and internet crime.

Also..Beware of Text Scam

A customer has reported receiving a text message, which claimed they were in arrears with their council tax and asking them to make payment through a 'lowesoft.gov' web address.

This is not one of our web addresses and we would never contact customers via text about any financial transaction – either to request funds or provide a refund. You should never give you bank details out over the telephone, email or text, unless you completely trust the source.

There are also reports of poor quality fish sellers doing the rounds again.

*And from Police connect today 15.02.17:*

***This message is being broadcast on behalf of Suffolk Trading Standards***

We have been advised by Essex Trading Standards that they have received three reports of roofers calling at homes, claiming to be from Trading Standards.

The callers are claiming that a roofer who recently carried out work is being investigated. The caller claims that they can carry out a survey of the resident's roof and that they will be able to claim compensation as part of the investigation. They are then asking the resident for sums of around £2,000.

Trading Standards Officers are highly unlikely to visit a consumer's home unless they have already been asked to by the consumer or a trusted friend or relative.

Trading Standards Officers will NEVER ask a resident for money.

There are certain precautions that can be taken to guard against doorstep callers:

- Fit and use a door security chain when you open the door.
- Check the identification of a caller by ringing their employer. Use the telephone number from your telephone book and not one they might supply.
- Do not let anyone to carry out work on your house until you get a second opinion and never agree to callers who say "we are only in the area today".
- Never keep large sums of money in the house and keep purses out of sight, not near the door.

For further information or advice on consumer issues or rogue traders please use the following contacts:

Phone: 0345 4040 506

Email: [trading.standards@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:trading.standards@suffolk.gov.uk)

## **Reminder - Enabling Communities Exemplar Programme**

We are looking at two more applications this week and wanted to remind you about the Enabling Communities Exemplar Programme - grant funding to deliver new 'flagship' projects, which will have a positive impact across our communities at a ward, multiple wards and/or district level that need more funding than is available through the Enabling Communities Budgets.

The Exemplar Programme is a rolling programme, with no set application deadlines and you should receive a decision within 8 weeks of us receiving your complete application. Groups can apply between £1,000 and £10,000 to help fund a specific project or activity.

To be eligible for funding, the project must be supported by your local Ward Councillor or the relevant Cabinet Lead Member(s), for theme based projects covering a wider geographical area. A Letter of Support must be submitted from the relevant Councillor with your application relating specifically to the proposed project.

Details on our website.

## **Communities say 'yes' to Local Plans**

Three Suffolk Coastal communities last week voted 'yes', giving the go-ahead to their respective Neighbourhood Plans.

Neighbourhood Plans provide communities with the power to establish their own policies to shape future development in and around where they live and work.

The parishes of Great Bealings, Leiston and Framlingham had their say on Thursday 9 February and all passed with a large majority.

With the majority of people voting 'yes', Suffolk Coastal will use the Neighbourhood Plans to help it decide planning applications in the three parishes.

To complete the successful neighbourhood plan process and to give the Neighbourhood Plans their full statutory weight, Suffolk Coastal District Council will be recommended to formally "make" the Neighbourhood Plans having reference to the positive vote at referendum and being satisfied that it does not breach or be incompatible with any EU obligation or any of the Convention of Rights.

Once 'made' the Neighbourhood Plans will become part of the Development Plan. Planning law requires that applications for planning permission must be determined in accordance with the development plan unless material conditions indicate otherwise.

Cllr Tony Fryatt, cabinet member for Planning at Suffolk Coastal, said: "This result marks a major milestone in the development of these important documents.

"The Council will use these key documents as the starting point for the determination of planning applications in these areas in the future.

"This is an important stage in what has been a positive collaboration within the communities who must be congratulated on the enormous amount of time and effort they have put into making this exercise a resounding success."

## **Greenprint Forum events – Spring 2017**

A series of events are being staged to focus on green issues during the next couple of months.

### ***Funny Weather We Are Having***

Coining the much-used phrase in this country, the East Suffolk Greenprint Forum is holding an open meeting called 'Funny Weather We Are Having'.

As the title suggests, this meeting focuses on the issue of climate change and the action which is being taken.

The climate is changing. Action is being taken to reduce human emissions of greenhouse gases and land use that impact on our climate system.

But are we still 'setting the stage for the next meeting to discuss it' or are we all going as far as we can/need to? What more can we do?

This event will refresh our memories and update us on the latest UK projections, impacts and actions that are informing decision makers in businesses, charities, local authorities and communities.

It will share information on the action that is being taken to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Speakers include: Dr Trevor Bond, Senior Scientist, Environment Agency; John Hammond, Advisor (Civil Contingencies) Met Office and John Taylor, SCCP.

Funny Weather We Are Having is being held on Thursday, 2 March 2017, meet at 6.30pm, for a 7pm start (scheduled to end at 9pm) at Suffolk Coastal's offices at East Suffolk House, Station Road, Melton, Woodbridge IP12 1RT.

### **Out of sight, out of mind? Ever wondered what happened to your waste, after it is collected?**

In Suffolk, mixed recycling is collected by your council and is taken to the Viridor Waste Management Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) at Great Blakenham in Suffolk, for sorting, separating and baling.

This visit is a fascinating insight into the world of waste and makes you look at what you produce and what you throw away very carefully. Numbers are limited to 15, so book early to avoid disappointment.

The visit to the Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) at Great Blakenham is on Thursday, 30 March 2017, from 1pm - 4pm.

### **Visit to Suffolk's energy from waste facility**

On the subject of waste disposal, to reduce the amount of Suffolk's waste that goes to landfill and cut costs to council tax payers, the Suffolk energy-from-waste facility uses the waste left after recycling – from homes and some businesses across Suffolk – to generate enough electricity to power 30,000 homes.

This is a fascinating visit and a chance to understand what is a necessary part of our resource management process.

Please be aware on the plant tour, we will walk about 1.5km, there are over 300 stairs – up and down.

We will climb 23 levels and there are mesh walkways, so unfortunately this tour is not suitable for people with mobility issues or vertigo.

The visit to the Suffolk Energy-from-Waste (EfW) facility at Great Blakenham is on Wednesday, 26 April 2017, from 10.00 - 12.00

Numbers are limited to 20, so book early to avoid disappointment.

**Planning applications – reminder**. Maureen and I are here to assist with any planning applications, please do not hesitate to contact us but more importantly copy us in on any planning matters to SCDC.

Many thanks

TJ & Maureen.