

Good evening and Happy New Year to everyone.

**Get Voting! Please would you put the following on your website/social media -
Vote for Your Favourite Community Project in Suffolk Coastal Business &
Community Awards**

As part of the Suffolk Coastal Business & Community Awards, the public are invited to vote on the Enabling Communities Award. The finalists for this award have been shortlisted from all the community projects that have received funding from the Suffolk Coastal Enabling Communities Budget or Exemplar Grant over the past 18 months. Voting is open to the public until 28th February 2018. **Cast your vote online at scbca.co.uk/enabling-communities**. The winner will be announced at the awards dinner at The Hangar, Kesgrave Hall on 15th March.

Cllr TJ Haworth-Culf, cabinet member for Customers, Communities and Leisure at Suffolk Coastal, said: "Since we launched our Enabling Communities Budget scheme in December 2013, we've supported over 750 projects and community initiatives and 23 projects through our Exemplar Grants programme.

"Our four finalists represent just a handful of the diverse projects we've helped support in the last year and together support the breadth of our communities, including young and older people, protecting heritage and teaching crucial life skills. It's now over to the public to vote for their favourite and decide which project has benefitted their community most."

To find out more about our funding opportunities, visit:
www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/community/community-grants-and-funding

Overview of the finalists

Melton Community Farm

Melton Community Farm works with young people to build awareness and understanding of how food is produced. They work with schools and families and creates opportunities for disadvantaged individuals to gain social and practical skills by undertaking tasks on the farm. The Trustees and volunteers have taken a piece of land and worked hard to develop the facilities and stock for visitors and those undertaking skills training on the farm.

The Long Shop Museum in Leiston

The Long Shop Museum has safeguarded the industrial heritage of the Garrett works in Leiston. It has become a significant tourist attraction, drawing many visitors to the town. This is complimented with a number of community events including a beer festival. Alongside this piece of Suffolk heritage, the museum takes a proactive role in projects that greatly benefit different sections of the community. For example, it supported the creation of a Men's Shed where men can come together to share their skills and collaborate on projects. They have also attracted funding to set up a young persons' group to tackle social, physical and mental health difficulties using the museum's workshops.

Kesgrave Computer Club

The community driven club started earlier this year and is run by four volunteers, meeting every Thursday morning. According to the Club Coordinator it provides a safe community space where local people could meet in a friendly setting and share

their experiences, problems and issues concerning the use of computers in everyday lives.

The group can help with everything from how to set up a new email, setting up a new computer, how to use the web safely and how to make better use of an iPad or a tablet. Anyone can come along and it's free to attend.

Aldeburgh Play Area Project

This project involved developing King's Field Aldeburgh as an activity hub for the town. Many community events are held on the field, attracting visitors from afar. The play equipment is in close proximity to the community centre and on the home route for many local school children. The vision for King's Field is for the area to act as a community hub, with new children's play equipment, an outdoor gym, community centre and sports facilities.

New plans published for Leiston Leisure Centre

New plans have now been published for Leiston Leisure Centre (link: <http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/leisure/sportandleisuredevelopment/suffolk-coastals-leisure-centre-redevelopment-programme/leiston-leisure-centre/>) and Suffolk Coastal are now looking for feedback from the community.

Leiston is the second leisure centre in the district to be revitalised following the completion of Deben Leisure Centre in Woodbridge this summer, with work planned to start this autumn.

The improved leisure centre has been designed with the Council's leisure development partner, Pulse Fitness and will continue to be run by Suffolk Coastal's operational leisure partners, Places for People Leisure.

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, including cardiovascular, strength, resistance and functional zones.

Improvements will be made to the changing areas, providing high quality village wet changing facilities with family friendly parent and child cubicles, separate changing for schools and individual wet-side changing cubicles and showers.

A new health suite containing a sauna, steam and ice room with heated beds, a feature shower and relaxation area is being created, accessible from poolside.

The facility will include a new entrance space, with a café and an enhanced pool viewing area featuring a soft play area for children.

The community will be able to access more fitness classes with the addition of two new dance studios and a group cycling studio, which will also serve as multi-use bookable rooms.

Through listening to initial feedback and advice from Sport England, the two squash courts are being retained.

Improvements will also be made to the lighting in the pool area and the front car park will be resurfaced.

Work is planned to start in autumn, with an initial closure needed to undertake structural work for a short period. The leisure centre will then partially open to give access to parts of the facility during the work.

Cllr TJ Haworth-Culf, cabinet member for Customers, Communities and Leisure, said:

“I really want to thank the community for their support for the improved leisure centre so far, as their initial input has helped us to rethink the design of Leiston and ensure that the modernised facility will cater for all members of the community.

“We want to create a fun and contemporary centre that boosts vitality for everyone and we believe the designs reflect this. The centre is in need of modernisation and the improved facility will help more people become fit and active as well as providing a contemporary space for the community to enjoy.

“We’re now looking for final feedback from local people on the design and functionality of the building so we’re ready to start working on the project later this year.”

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. If you are a community group, local club or team and would like to have a chat with the Leisure Team, please email: leisure@eastsoffolk.gov.uk

Primary school application deadline approaches

Parents and carers have until Monday 15th January to make their application to secure their child’s place at a Suffolk Primary, Infant, Junior or Middle school for September 2018.

Any child born between 1st September 2013 and 31st August 2014 is due to start primary school from September 2018. An application for a full-time school place must be made, even if a child is already attending a nursery class in an infant or primary school, a pre-school or a children’s centre next to a school site.

Information to help parents and carers make their application is available on the [Suffolk County Council website](#).

Fully funded first-time central heating systems for Suffolk residents

Suffolk’s local authorities are now able to provide fully funded central heating systems* to 514 fuel poor households across Suffolk over the next three years. Around 4 million UK households are in fuel poverty, unable to affordably heat their home to the temperature needed to stay warm and healthy. As well as being on low incomes many of these households are also faced with the additional burden of relying on heating systems that are inefficient and expensive to run. Please see the website for more details.

Cabinet Meeting 02.01.18

Amendment to Renovation Grant Policy – Introduction of Warm Homes Grant: Suffolk Coastal District Council is the lead authority, on behalf of all the councils in Suffolk, in relation to programmes that help to alleviate fuel poverty, including bidding for and administering funding under the name of Warm Homes Healthy People. SCDC and Suffolk County Council recently submitted a joint bid of £4.3m to National Grid's Warm Homes Fund, to operate a first time central heating programme for households in fuel poverty. The bid was successful and Cabinet is being asked to approve changes to the current policies to ensure the smooth rollout of the scheme.

Response to Second Stage Consultation on the future management of off-street Car Parks in preparation for Civil Parking Enforcement, and next steps: The paper identified the off-street parking orders which need to be prepared ahead Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE) transferring from the police to the Suffolk local authorities . The implementation of CPE is planned for April 2019 but there is some uncertainty from Central Government about the exact timing due to pressure on their legal resources due to Brexit. The off-street orders need to be amended in April 2018 for any changes that are desirable between now and April 2019 as there will be a freeze on any changes from April 2018 to April 2019 while the CPE legal work is being carried out. Thank you to the 3 in Aldeburgh that contributed to the consultation.

Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2018/19: Each year, we are required to review our Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme. This report advises Cabinet about the conclusion of the 2017 annual review and the resultant proposals for the LCTRS scheme to take effect from 1 April 2018.

Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2018/19: Each year, we are required to review our Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme. This report advises Cabinet about the conclusion of the 2017 annual review and the resultant proposals for the LCTRS scheme to take effect from 1 April 2018.

Other News

I (TJ) was honoured to have been invited to the Grand opening the RDA's new premises in Clopton before Christmas; opened by HRH Princess Royal and also to the naming ceremony for the Rugby Club pavilion "The Jimmy Robinson Pavilion" opened by Tina Robinson on Saturday 6th January. I was also invited to the grand opening of Aldeburgh Town Councils new play area on the 12th December.

Reminder Please - Improving access to broadband – **Please help** - Suffolk Coastal has earmarked £250,000 in funding to work with communities to ensure that businesses and residents can access Superfast Broadband in the future because at the end of 2019 it is expected that 2-3% of all properties won't have access to superfast broadband. The funding is to provide infrastructure so that Superfast Broadband is available to those remaining properties because we recognise that it's essential for business growth, educational attainment and increasingly a key means for residents to access services. Suffolk Coastal wants to work with local communities and wireless operators on projects to ensure total coverage. If your community is experiencing poor access to broadband we would like to hear from you, so we have an accurate picture of provision across the District. Contact us at broadband@eastsoffolk.gov.uk, with your broadband speed, postcode and landline telephone number so we can map the location. We'll then use that information to work with broadband operators to try and improve the service. For more information, visit: www.eastsoffolk.gov.uk/community/enabling-betterbroadband-in-suffolk-coastal. To find out if your area has been upgraded or what the upgrade timetable is go to: www.betterbroadbandsuffolk.com

Best wishes

TJ & Maureen.