

We have had another busy month especially the start to month, with a Simultaneous Cabinet meeting with Waveney on Monday (4 September) and our own Cabinet meeting on the next day (Tuesday, 5 September), amongst many others.

Simultaneous Meeting of Suffolk Coastal District Council and Waveney District Council Cabinets – 6.30pm on Monday, 4 September 2017:

East Suffolk Commercial Investment Strategy: In November 2015, we 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. It is recommended that a Local Authority Trading Company, wholly owned by the councils, is created. The draft strategy outlines some principles in respect of Commercial Investment and a proposed approach. Development of this approach needs to be undertaken in a range of areas, and all elements would benefit from external review and advice. It is proposed that external specialist advice be engaged as a key next step in this work, particularly legal advice in respect of company formation, and property investment advice in respect of portfolio development, risk management, and market awareness.

Discretionary Business Rates Relief Scheme: In the Budget in March, 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. This paper lays out how this money will be allocated by Suffolk Coastal and Waveney.

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, we need 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 – 6.30pm on Tuesday, 5 September East Suffolk House
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. The key recommendations from the report are: – the 916 existing beach hut sites in Felixstowe and Sizewell are kept on a licence system, with a 3-year licence being issued (covering from 1 April 2018 until 31 March 2021) to existing beach hut site owners – the current system of licence fees is streamlined into a two-tier system, defined as Premium and Standard, based on front row (premium) and non front row (standard), with the fees for 2018/19 being set at £500 (inc VAT) for Premium sites and £400 (inc VAT) for Standard sites – the fees will be increases by 10% in Years 2 and 3, then reviewed. – there will be a set administration fee for issuing new licences be charged at £600 (inc VAT) to cover administration costs, with a discounted fee of £120 (inc VAT) available to beach hut owners transferring ownership to an immediate family member.

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 OnStreet 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 onstreet 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 proposals.

Other news etc

Work to start to transform Deben Leisure Centre

Work has started 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. We have been working with nearby businesses to minimise any disruption. During the closure the Community Hall will remain open as usual and access to the skatepark is not affected.

Cllr TJ Haworth-culf, cabinet member for Customers, Communities and Leisure, said: "We're excited to be starting work this September to reinvent Deben Pool, which marks the start of our complete redevelopment programme. "The new and improved leisure centre is set to reopen next summer and will offer the whole community modern facilities and the latest equipment, that come at no additional cost to the tax payer. "We would like to thank members of Deben Pool for their support for the redevelopment so far. During the closure, members and visitors can use our other facilities at Leiston, Felixstowe and Brackenbury. "A key part of our

Business Plan focuses on increasing access to quality leisure facilities and activities as part of our commitment to getting more people fit and active. We hope Deben will be the ignition for our complete leisure redevelopment to create facilities our communities can be truly proud of.”

Background Information:

One of Suffolk Coastal’s 10 priorities in its Business Plan focuses on the need to provide high-quality, modern leisure centres that the whole community can enjoy, with state-of-the-art equipment, that come at no additional cost to the tax payer. The work builds on the progress made by the Leisure Strategy formed in 2014, which sets out how improvements to the leisure provision will be made across the district, over the next 10 years. A five year programme is now being launched, with Deben Leisure Centre as the first facility to be upgraded, followed by Leiston and then Felixstowe. Suffolk Coastal is working closely with its operational leisure partners, Places for People Leisure, to ensure that disruption is kept to a minimum and existing users receive regular communications and updates.

If you would like to stay up to date with the progress of the Leisure programme, sign up to receive our regular newsletter by contacting: leisure@eastssuffolk.gov.uk

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 exist 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/environmentalprotection/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/localplans/suffolk-coastal-local-plan/local-plan-review/ Any comments email to suffolkcoastallocalplan@eastsuffolk.gov.uk or send a letter to Planning Policy & Delivery Team, East Suffolk House, Station Road, Melton, Woodbridge, IP12 1RT.

Adult Learning in east Suffolk: Suffolk Coastal and Waveney are finding out how adult learning can be improved in east Suffolk. Led by our Economic Development Intern, Christopher Elmer who was recruited 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>

Tour of Britain

I think you will join with me in hailing the arrival of the OVO Energy Tour of Britain in Suffolk Coastal last week as a great success!

Although the wet and windy conditions made the ride through Suffolk challenging for the riders, it did not put off the crowds – with thousands of people braving the conditions to line the course.

Stage Six of the Tour arrived in Suffolk last Friday (8 September), starting in Newmarket and finishing in Aldeburgh, with live coverage of the whole race on ITV4, as well as great coverage on the radio, on regional TV news, in the East Anglian Daily Times (where the first 11 pages were devoted to the success of the Tour on Saturday) and on social media.

In Suffolk Coastal, the race snaked through Dennington, onto Framlingham Castle, Wickham Market, Grundisburgh, past Kesgrave High School, through Woodbridge and our Council Offices in Melton. It then travelled through Rendlesham, past Snape Maltings up through Leiston before finally finishing on Aldeburgh's High Street – so the entire District was put in the national and regional spotlight.

Despite the weather, the thrill of the race has brought the crowds out all along the route and here for the fantastic finish in Aldeburgh High Street. I would like to personally thank all the businesses and community for their support on the day and in the lead up to the event including Ruth, Lori, Roger, our mayor and ATC for everything regarding for the tour.

This has been a real community effort across Suffolk Coastal. I would like to especially mention those involved in the Community Ride, the schools whose pupils lined the route and everyone who helped decorate bikes - we couldn't do this without you! Our thanks also go to Aldeburgh Tesco's who kindly donated all of the volunteer refreshments for the day.

The only sour note in the whole fantastic event was the rather disappointing negative feedback from a couple of Aldeburgh businesses. My concern is that this does not reflect well on the town and does little to send out the right message about what a wonderful, welcoming town Aldeburgh is.

Our aim in bringing the Tour to Aldeburgh was to build on the success of the Women's Tour by attracting great media coverage to promote this area, as well as bringing in extra business and tourists at the end of the season. People who visited

for the Tour are likely to come back, as repeat visitors, helping build Aldeburgh's reputation as a destination for tourists all year round.

We can only apologise to those that did not embrace or enjoy the prestigious event going to the town but would like thank all those who really got behind the event showing in many different ways what they have to offer.

Take part in Women on Wheels Rendlesham!

Women on Wheels (or WoW for short) Rendlesham is back for a second year, an opportunity for all women and girls to get on their bikes to take on a challenge and have some fun!

WoW events are mass participation female only rides, raising money for local charities, that put a strong focus on the fun, friendly and inclusive aspects of cycling. They are very much aimed at non-cyclists and existing cyclists alike, with routes of an achievable distance, and are open to all ages.

The Rendlesham ride will take place at Army Rock Barracks, Sutton on Sunday 1st October with two rides taking place using the airfield and Rendlesham Forest to raise funds for the Suffolk Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.

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.

WoW Suffolk Coastal is hoping to see many women register and inspiring others to join in the fun on Facebook.

If you sign up online by Sunday 24 September, you are guaranteed a goody bag and will be entered into the prize draw.

Cllr T-J Haworth-Culf, Cabinet Member said "We had a lot of fun in Rendlesham last year with women who said they hadn't been on their bikes since being at school and bringing with them their children who want to give it a try, as the two rides take place on the airfield at Rock Barracks, it's a safe and quiet place and we're not looking for professional cyclists but rather those who would like to get back into cycling"

Free energy support for East Suffolk businesses

Business owners in East Suffolk are encouraged to take advantage of free support to help increase energy efficiency and reduce running costs.

The Business Energy Efficiency (BEE) programme provides free support to eligible organisations in Suffolk and Norfolk to help them become more energy efficient. Thanks to changes in European funding rules, retail businesses are now eligible for this support too.

The support can be:

- an energy review, where experts from BEE will conduct a free impartial assessment of a premises and identify the most appropriate cost and energy-saving opportunities.
- grant funding to support businesses to implement energy efficiency measure
- help to gain Carbon Charter accreditation
- help for businesses to develop travel plans to reduce their environmental impact.

44 East Suffolk businesses have so far received advice and over £235,000 of potential savings have been identified, as well as a saving of 1,082 tonnes of carbon. Five businesses in the area have received grant funding exceeding £29,000.

Cllr Geoff Holdcroft, Suffolk Coastal District Council's cabinet member for Economic Development and Cllr Michael Ladd, Waveney's cabinet member for Tourism and Economic Development said:

"East Suffolk is home to an abundance of small independent businesses, many of which are in the retail sector. Saving money through energy efficiency measures is a straightforward way to reduce costs and help businesses, and the local economy, to thrive. We would encourage any eligible business to contact BEE Anglia to find out more about the support and funding available."

Adrian Sampson from Little Beck Properties in Bungay said:

"Within 48 hours of contacting BEE, advisor Ollie Taylor visited our Bungay site and made a comprehensive analysis of one of our buildings. This showed that by replacing our gas-fired boiler there would be significant savings in gas used each winter for our tenant and a well worthwhile reduction in CO2 emissions to the atmosphere. A win win!"

Grant Hardy from Liquid 11 in Lowestoft said:

"BEE Anglia offered great advice and practical help with our projects. I'd recommend any business take the time to see how BEE can help their business".

Tim Basey-Fisher, from St. John's Hall Storage in Beccles said:

"Having a BEE Anglia advisor come to our business and take the time to understand our individual needs and requirements was very valuable; the report that they produced for us has enabled us to prioritise improvements to our premises that will have the most significant energy and cost savings and reduce our carbon footprint. The fact they could then help us with a grant towards this was a very welcome bonus."

The BEE Anglia project is funded by the European Regional Development Fund and is delivered through a partnership of Suffolk County Council, Norfolk County Council, Groundwork and NWES.

To check whether your business is eligible, please contact BEE Anglia on 01473 350370 or visit www.beeanglia.org.

Consultation announced for A12 four village bypass as part of SEGWay scheme

Suffolk County Council is inviting people to have their say on proposals to build a bypass between Saxmundham and Wickham Market as part of Suffolk's Energy Gateway (SEGWay).

The four-and-a-half mile single carriageway section of the A12 between Saxmundham (A1094) and Wickham Market (B1078), links two dual carriageway sections of highway. Tourism is a highly important sector for the economy in this area of Suffolk. There is limited rail access and so resorts and popular cultural events in the area depend largely on the A12, resulting in high traffic volumes during the summer months.

At the end of 2016, Suffolk County Council successfully secured funding from the Department for Transport's (DfT) Large Local Major Schemes Programme to further develop the business case for a scheme which aims to deliver improvements to this section of the A12. The final case for government funding will be submitted before the end of the year.

The proposed scheme aims to build a bypass for Farnham, Stratford St Andrew, Glemham and Marlesford to deliver the following:

- Reduce congestion and journey delay
- Improve journey time reliability providing support for the local economy and improved productivity
- Reduce community severance
- Provide the capacity required to enable, support and deliver growth across all economic sectors, including the potential future construction and operation of Sizewell C nuclear power station.
- Reduce accidents
- Improve air quality and reduce noise impacts for communities alongside the A12
- Future proof the function of the A12 as part of Suffolk's emerging Major Road Network

The Council has developed the case for investment and is now sharing two possible route options with the public.

The options to be considered are as follows:

- Option 1: A single carriageway route that would begin at a new roundabout junction with the A1094 and the A12 Saxmundham Bypass at Friday Street. It would then run south, to the east of the A12 and the four villages of Farnham, Stratford St. Andrew, Little Glemham and Marlesford, crossing the rivers Alde and Ore. It would re-join the current A12 alignment where the current dual carriageway Wickham Market Bypass begins.

The new road would follow a relatively direct alignment, which reflects design standards for a 60mph single carriageway road.

- Option 2: A dual carriageway route that would begin at a new roundabout junction with the A1094 and the A12 Saxmundham Bypass at Friday Street. Like option 1, it would then run south, to the east of the A12 and the four villages, crossing the rivers Alde and Ore. It would re-join the current A12 alignment immediately to the north of the A12/B1078 Wickham Market interchange.

The new road would follow a more curved alignment, suitable for 70mph dual carriageway roads.

Councillor Alexander Nicoll, Member with Special Responsibility for Highways Information, said:

“I am delighted to be able to share the two options we have developed to build a new bypass between Saxmundham and Wickham Market.

“As part of Suffolk’s Energy Gateway, this scheme aims to improve the road network and support economic growth in east Suffolk. This will enhance the quality of life for local people and future generations. Both proposed routes provide significant environmental and economic benefits, improving transport links, air quality and road safety.

“It is vital that we understand and appreciate people’s views concerning this scheme before we submit our final case to Government. I urge all locally to have their say on this consultation.”

The consultation starts today and will run for six weeks until Wednesday 25th October. Full details of the proposals can be viewed online.

Two exhibition sessions will be held at the Riverside Centre in Stratford St Andrew (6 Great Glemham Road, Stratford St Andrew, Saxmundham, IP17 1LL) on the following days:

- Wednesday, 20 September, 2017 - 10am to 6pm
- Saturday, 23 September, 2017 - 10am to 6pm

Responses will be analysed following the consultation closure. The business case will then be refined and submitted to the Department for Transport. If approved, Suffolk County Council will embark on the planning process connected with the bypass in 2018.

Dog Bin, continuing issue.

With regard to the recent piece in the EADT complaining about the over flowing dog bin it is always important to either contact Norse directly and copy myself and Maureen in as letters to the editor are not always read and probably won't be responded to. However, I did pick this up and have asked SCN to look at this problem and will be copied in on the emails from the enforcement officers. Dog Bins are only for those who pick up their dogs mess whilst on walks, not for people to

clear their yard and then deposit into a dog bin. It should also be noted that dog poo bags can be out into normal rubbish collection bins.

As always please do not hesitate to contact us.

TJ & Maureen