

Hawstead Report for November 2014

Football Ground on Moreton Hall. Suffolk FA has withdrawn £250k from the Bury Community Football Project when it was decided to combine the football ground with playing fields of the projected new secondary school. The reason was spiralling costs of the project. The FA felt that it was no longer a stand alone project and so they withdrew their support.

SEBC have said it will look to offer the FC a longer lease at Ram Meadow whilst different sources of funding are explored to improve the facilities at Ram Meadow.

Demolition of the gasholder in Tayfen Road is due to start soon. It is the first step in the redevelopment of that part of Bury. The demolition had to be the first part of any scheme to avoid other more lucrative building to take place and the gasholder being left as an eyesore.

The Anglia Revenues Partnership, which collects taxes raised by SE Cambridgeshire, SEBC, Forest Heath, and Fenland is to expand to include Waveney and Suffolk Coastal. The aim is to increase efficiency and to continue to save us money.

Gypsies and travellers. Gypsies are still occupying land at Ottewill Road. They must move from there by the 11th of December.

Bury Bus Station. The Bus Station costs the tax payer £250,000 per year to run, hence a consultation exercise to find ways to reduce this amount. Various options are possible and nothing has yet been decided.

Tourism. A new initiative in Bury St Edmunds will see businesses and organisations work together to determine the long term strategy for tourism.

OurBuryStEdmunds and Bury St Edmunds Town Council have both agreed to fund £3,000 each towards the creation of a Destination Management Plan for Bury St Edmunds, with St Edmundsbury Borough Council meeting the remaining £9,000 of the costs.

A Destination Management Organisation, (DMO), a new partnership made up of local businesses and organisations which will set out an aspiration for how it wants to grow the town's tourism for the future. The DMO will work to redress

an imbalance in tourism seasonality, so that the town attracts a strong number of visitors throughout the whole year, rather than a concentrated number in the summer months and around the Christmas Fayre.

It will also lead to the improvement of the town's unique attractions for the benefit of tourists. As a result, residents and businesses will benefit from a vibrant town economy which will also lead to more employment opportunities.

A Boards. For years St Edmundsbury Borough Council has been looking into how best to tackle the issue of A-boards, recognising the needs of businesses are finely balanced against the safety risks and visual impact of large numbers of A-boards cluttering shopping areas. SEBC is now proposing to introduce a system of enforcement meaning any posters, illuminated signs, or A-boards will need the council's planning consent.

This way, the council can ensure that mums with pushchairs, wheelchair users, people who are visually impaired, and other people, are able to walk about our towns and shopping areas safely, without the risk of them colliding into one of these boards or being forced to walk out into the road.

It gives the council control over the clutter of signs that can sometimes damage not only the character of an area, but also the footfall that traders naturally crave. At the same time it strikes the balance by recognising that these signs, posters or illuminated signs have a part to play in helping our shops and businesses attract new customers and grow their income.

Recycling Initiative. It has been estimated that it costs £1.4 million every year to collect and dispose of recyclable items that are put in black bins.

A new contract between the West Suffolk Waste Partnership and Viridor will allow more items to be recycled. From the beginning of November householders can put food and drink cartons, aerosol cans, books, metal pots, pans and trays in their recycling bin. We already recycle 53% of our rubbish and it is hoped this percentage will be increased.

New Council Website is now live. Go to www.westsuffolk.gov.uk

Angela Rushen

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