

## **March Report for Hawstead – St Edmundsbury Borough Council**

**Travellers.** The Planning Application by a Travelling family for a permanent site off Rougham Hill was refused by the Development Control Committee last month. They are going to lodge an appeal.

**The Apex.** The Apex has announced the setting up a Youth Creative Board for young people between 14 and 21 who are interested in music and the arts to get involved in the arts and gain real live events and programming experience. Meetings are planned in the next few weeks..

Meanwhile sales of tickets at The Apex have increased by more than 50 per cent and more shows than ever have been sold out.

**West Suffolk Operational Hub** This is envisaged to bring together the Waste Recycling centre, waste transfer and depot operations to a site at Hollow Road Farm off Compiegne Way. Forest Heath would also relocate their operations to the site.

"Benefits of moving to a single site include:

- reduced taxpayers' cost by bringing waste operations together, close to the highest West Suffolk population concentration;
- reduced overall costs of running and maintaining buildings;
- sites released for redevelopment and new uses;
- creation of a modern facility, fit for operational requirements and with capacity to respond to population and business growth;
- a new household waste recycling centre where people do not have to climb stairs to dispose of their waste and recycling;
- a new vehicle maintenance workshop not only for council vehicles but for other operators as well;
- efficiencies in household waste collection by bringing waste collection vehicles to the same location;
- more capacity to collect business waste, again by bringing vehicles to the same location".

Public consultation on this exciting project began on March 6<sup>th</sup> and lasts for a month. A planning application is expected to be submitted to the planning

department in late spring. If all goes according to plan, the site could be operational later this year, or early 2016.

**Bin collections.** There will be some changes to collection days for brown bins, beginning in March. One lorry will not be needed as a result and therefore savings of £135,000 will be made. Hawstead collections will not be altered.

**Car parks.** Bury is set to lose 2 car parks through development schemes. Both are privately owned and leased to SEBC.

One is the 40 space car park next to the Records Office, and the second is behind the New Shire Hall part of which is being turned into a Premier Inn. It is hoped that some spaces may become available there again once the hotel is opened.

A complete review of parking in the Borough is being undertaken in the summer.

**Development Control.** We now have a new enforcement team, led by Andy Smith, in place within the Planning Department. The team will take over from the agency staff who have been working for the Council in the interim period.

**The Eastern Relief Road/Suffolk Business Park.** SEBC is to commit a loan of £4.58m for the provision of electricity to serve the Business Park. About £15m of public money has already been approved (from SCC, the New Anglia LEP and government sources), and the electricity infrastructure will enable the Park and Eastern Relief Road to move forward. The loan will be rolled out in stages and SEBC is confident that it will be repaid by the developers and inward moving businesses.

The Council have also approved the sum of £150,000, from reserves, towards the cost of specialist advice for the project. This is deemed necessary because of the scale and complexity of the scheme.

**Budget.** The Council have produced a balanced budget, with no increase in Council Tax for the sixth year in the last seven.

**Spring Conference.** This will be on March 26<sup>th</sup> at Honington and Sapiston village hall. There will be presentations from CAS and SCC Highways, also regarding the funding of community facilities.

**Next year's Mayor** will be Patrick Chung.

I have, yet again, reported the light in Whepstead Road which is always on, and hope that the water/foul water leak near Pipers has been resolved.

**Angela Rushen**

## **Suffolk County Council update – March 2015**

### **SCC freezes council tax for fifth year in a row**

SCC's share of council tax is to be frozen for a fifth year in a row. This means that Suffolk residents will not pay any more than they did in 2010/11. The council has successfully delivered savings in excess of £130m over the last four years. However, with the government's deficit reduction programme set to continue until at least 2018/19, there is a forecast of a further £120m budget shortfall that will need to be addressed over the next three years. The Council tax freeze was agreed as part of the budget proposals for 2015/16, which include savings of £38.2million, to be made across services delivered by the council during the financial year 2015/16. The bulk of these savings (£24.6m) will be delivered through wide-ranging transformation programmes which will result in the council becoming a leaner and more focused organisation. The remaining savings will be made by reducing previous contingency budgets, set aside for major projects and change management as well as making other budgetary savings from within service areas. Meanwhile, over the last five years, there has been a reduction of around 47% in workforce numbers across council services.

### **Young people in Suffolk running the risk of potential cyber attack**

Young people who share highly personal and/or explicit content with each other across mobile devices are vulnerable to harmful on-line content and aggression. This is one of the significant findings taken from the annual Suffolk Cyber Survey 2014. 2,988 children and young people aged from 10 years old and upwards took part in the survey conducted by e-Safer Suffolk to monitor trends in their online activity. The report is published on the e-Safer Suffolk website at: [www.esafersuffolk.org](http://www.esafersuffolk.org)

### **Have your say: County-wide adult autism survey launched**

The survey has been launched as part of SCC's commitment to empowering adults in Suffolk to live independent, healthy and fulfilled lives. The survey can be completed by adults with autism themselves, their carers, or, of course, together. Responses will help the county council learn more about what is important for people living in Suffolk with autism and help to ensure there are innovative and accessible local community-led support networks available. The survey can be found on-line at [www.surveymonkey.com/s/adultautismsuffolk](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/adultautismsuffolk) If a paper copy of the survey is required please contact: **Steven Emmerson** on **01473 265350**, or email [steven.emmerson@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:steven.emmerson@suffolk.gov.uk).

### **Suffolk's most active communities crowned**

SCC has crowned this year's winners of Suffolk's most active community competition. Active towns and villages across Suffolk were urged to come forward and shout about how they're championing sports and physical activity in their local community. Whether it is football, dog-walking, yoga, hockey or Zumba, the county council want to celebrate the hard work and commitment of these communities. The opportunities provided in communities across Suffolk are vital in helping us to achieve Suffolk's collective ambition of becoming the Most Active County in England."

### **Changes to children's centres get green light**

Children's centre services in nine areas across Suffolk will be made more accessible for those most in need. A review of children's centres in Suffolk, including a wide-ranging public consultation, was concluded earlier this year. It recommended that services in nine children's centres be moved from their existing locations to different settings, either using other local community facilities or neighbouring children's centres. This will save up to £265,000, thus putting the services on a more sustainable footing.

### **SCC backs proposal for joint depot, transfer station and household waste site**

SCC has been working in partnership with St Edmundsbury Borough Council and Forest Heath District Council to develop a joint waste-transfer site, council depot and household waste recycling centre. The favoured option is to create a West Suffolk Operational Hub (WSOH) for all these important services on land at Hollow Road Farm in Bury St Edmunds. The Hollow Road Farm proposal presents the opportunity for all three local authorities to develop services in the same location, saving money for local tax payers. Consultation on the potential WSOH takes place between Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March and Monday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2015. Information is available through the Forest Heath and St Edmundsbury Councils' website at [www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/wsoh](http://www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/wsoh). Comments and questions can also be emailed to [wsoh@westsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:wsoh@westsuffolk.gov.uk).

### **Applications invited for the Leading Lives Benefit Fund**

Applications are currently being encouraged for the Leading Lives Community Benefit Fund for 2015. Leading Lives is a Suffolk-based social enterprise, formerly part of SCC, which provides support for a wide range of people. This year, they are awarding grants of between £1,000 and £5,000 to Suffolk-based charities and community groups who support people with learning disabilities, older people with dementia, people with autism, young people in transition and family carers. This year's fund has been doubled in value to £30,000 to enable larger grants to be awarded and more projects to be supported. Criteria for funding and an application can be found on our website [www.leadinglives.org.uk](http://www.leadinglives.org.uk). Please share this information with organisations and individuals who you believe may be interested in applying.

### **Suffolk autism service up for national award**

An SCC service has been nominated for a national award in recognition of its innovative approach to supporting children and young people with autism at mainstream schools in the county. SCC's County Inclusive Resource is one of three schemes shortlisted as a finalist in the Award for Inspirational Education Provision – Other Education Provider category in the National Autistic Society's (NAS) Autism Professionals Awards 2015.