

Monthly Round-Up Newsletter

Suffolk County Council launches competition to crown the county's Most Active Community for 2015

This competition gives people the chance to celebrate the great work taking place in so many communities across the county. Encouraging and supporting people to live active lifestyles in their communities is incredibly important because it keeps them healthy and independent in the short and long term. The awards are about recognising the fantastic work of communities right across Suffolk so whatever your communities are doing - whether it's dog-walking, new walking or cycling routes, yoga, football or zumba, please make sure that SCC's Most Active County team are informed.

Anyone in the community can enter the competition either online at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MACTV2015> or via telephone on 01473 260722 to request a paper application form.

The closing date for applicants is 5 February 2016 so please encourage your own communities to take part.

The application form and a list of frequently asked questions is also available to download via www.mostactivecounty.com/community_activity

Consultation to shape the future of Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service – public meetings announced for 2016

In last month's newsletter, details were given on the public consultation to shape the future of Suffolk's Fire and Rescue Service. As part of this consultation looking at the future provision for Suffolk's fire service, a timetable of Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) hosted public meetings has been set for early 2016 to enable people to hear directly about what is being proposed, and have their say, as well as completing the online questionnaire.

SFRS officers are encouraging people to attend these meetings across the county so that their views can be taken into account before the proposals are finalised and any decisions are made. **The consultation closes on 22 February 2016.**

These public meetings are as follows:

- 6 Jan 2016 - Bury St Edmunds – West Suffolk House, 6.30pm-8.30pm
- 14 Jan 2016 – Ipswich – Endeavour House, 6.30pm-8.30pm
- 03 Feb 2016 – Sudbury – Town Hall, 6.30pm-8.30pm

If anyone you know would like to attend, please encourage them to email fireservicedesign@suffolk.gov.uk confirming which meeting date and venue they would like to attend.

Suffolk embarks on second round broadband deployment: bringing superfast broadband to even more homes and businesses in the county

In December, the county council announced that it has started the second round of Superfast Broadband deployment ahead of schedule. The £30m contract with BT is part of the Government's Broadband Delivery UK (BDUK) programme, and the aim is to extend coverage of Superfast Broadband to 95% of Suffolk premises by 2019, as the next major step in our plans towards full coverage by 2020.

Details of the coverage planned up until September 2016 have now been released on the Better Broadband for Suffolk website at: www.betterbroadbandsuffolk.com.

Details of coverage planned for later phases will be released in due course - initially it had been hoped that full details of the phased rollout of the scheme could be announced in autumn 2015, but these are still being finalised.

Please note that further information on fibre network is available at www.communityfibre.bt.com. It is important for all residents and businesses to understand that where high speed broadband service is available, they must contact their service provider to make the switch. The switch to superfast is **NOT** an automatic process.

Parents in Suffolk are being encouraged to get "Sugar Smart"

Parents in Suffolk are being encouraged to get "Sugar Smart" and take control of their children's sugar intake as part of a new campaign. Supported by Public Health Suffolk, the Change4Life campaign follows revelations that 4-10 year olds consume an estimated 5,500 sugar cubes a year (22kg), weighing the same as an average five-year-old.

Currently 20.9% of four to five-year-olds in Suffolk are overweight or obese, increasing to 31.8% in 10 to 11-year-olds. This means they are more likely to become obese adults who are more prone to a range of serious health problems, including heart disease, some cancers and Type 2 diabetes.

To help parents take control, a new Sugar Smart app has been launched to help show how much sugar there is in everyday food and drink. Change4Life Sugar Smart app can be downloaded free of charge via the App Store or Google Play. The 'Change4Life' website also offers lots of free support, tips, ideas and recipes.

Change4Life has also created a short film, which warns parents about the health harms of eating and drinking too much sugar, including becoming overweight and tooth decay. The film can be found on the Public Health Suffolk YouTube channel: <https://youtu.be/Tk05krUxjr4>

In addition to the video, five million Sugar Smart packs will be given away to primary school children and their families via schools and retailer. There will be 25 Change4Life Sugar Smart roadshows, taking place across the country from January to March.

Deadline for Suffolk Primary Schools place application - 15 January 2016

Parents and carers who need to apply for a full-time place for their child at their preferred primary school for the 2016/2017 school year have until **Friday 15 January 2016** to do so.

Applications can be made for up to three schools, in order of preference, and the county council recommends that applications are made online at www.suffolk.gov.uk/admissions Once the application has been submitted, parents will receive confirmation that the county council has received their application.

Any parents or carers who have not yet applied for a school place should be encouraged to apply online or download an application form at: www.suffolk.gov.uk/admissions or contact Suffolk County Council immediately on 0345 600 0981.

Significant improvements confirmed for Suffolk's schools at Key Stage 2

It has been confirmed that the percentage of pupils in Suffolk primary schools achieving expected levels in reading, writing and maths is continuing to rise, according to latest data from the Department for Education.

Verified results released last month confirm that 77% of 11 year olds achieved level 4 or higher in their SAT tests in the three subjects in 2015 – a 3% rise from 2014.

These results clearly demonstrate that education standards in Suffolk are continually improving as a result of the Raising the Bar programme, alongside the efforts of teaching staff, students and parents across the county.