

# September 2017 Report for Parishes.

## Representatives come together to officially open Bury St Edmunds Eastern Relief Road

Those delivering a crucial relief road to the east of Bury St Edmunds have celebrated its official opening.



Last week I attended the opening of this newly constructed, £15million - Bury St Edmunds Eastern Relief Road, funded by the New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership, St Edmundsbury Borough Council and Suffolk County Council, began in March 2016.

This new road was delivered on time and on budget. It began it's developed around 10 years ago, and economically unlocks a 67-hectare area for business development and the potential for 15,000 jobs in the area. Details available on [www.buryerr.co.uk](http://www.buryerr.co.uk)

The road, Rougham Tower Avenue, built by J Breheny Contractors, also provides a viable alternative route for those travelling from Moreton Hall to the A14, as well as creating an access to the Sybil Andrews Academy.

As part of these works, junction 45 of the A14 has been upgraded to be able to cope with the expected additional traffic and 600 metres of Sow Lane has been reconstructed.

Connections to utilities have also been provided for anticipated development sites. Work has also been undertaken to create tree protection zones and build badger tunnels. Bat mitigation has also been planned, to protect the wildlife in the area.

The opening of the road now facilitates the next planned phase of works, on the footway and cycleways along the new route and in General Castle Way.

These works include finalising the pedestrian and cyclist provision and associated landscaping. All works are anticipated to be completed by October 13.

## Suffolk Highways Update

Suffolk Highways Transformation Phase 2 of the Suffolk Highways organisational change process has now been completed and the new structure was launched on Monday 4 September.

All Suffolk Highways staff are now located in one of three service delivery centres at Phoenix House in Ipswich, Rougham Depot and Halesworth Depot. Teams worked hard to ensure that the buildings and ICT were ready in time to accommodate staff, with significant changes in layout, improvements to facilities and upgrades in ICT taking place in all three locations. The new structure brings together Kier and SCC staff into integrated teams under the Suffolk Highways banner, working as 'one team' to deliver the priorities and objectives of the service. Thingoe South is serviced by Rougham.

In the first instanced report all defects on line on [www.highwaysreporting.suffolk.gov.uk/](http://www.highwaysreporting.suffolk.gov.uk/)  
Or by phone on 0345 606 6171.

Defect criteria can be found on  
[www.suffolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/highway-maintenance/how-highways-are-maintained/](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/highway-maintenance/how-highways-are-maintained/)

ICT teams in both SCC and Kier have been working together to find solutions to make joint working simpler and easier for councillors and all staff, including moving to a single email domain for all staff; ability to share outlook calendars across the two organisations and opening up IT systems for use by all staff.

In order to support and oversee the ongoing transformation and improvement works, the Suffolk Highways Senior Leadership Team are now meeting regularly with the Cabinet Member and Members with Special Responsibility for Highways. The joint meetings focus on issues, risks, and opportunities affecting all areas of the service.

## Suffolk County Council Guidance on Neighbourhood Planning

Suffolk County Council Guidance on Neighbourhood Planning In recent months, there has been a significant uptake in local communities beginning work on neighbourhood plans across Suffolk. Their principal engagement is with District Councils. However, many of the issues raised in these plans relate to County Council services from education through to the rights of way network. Therefore a document has been prepared giving guidance on the impact that neighbourhood plans may have on matters that are this Council's responsibilities. For each topic there are sections on: • What does the national policy say? • What can a neighbourhood plan do and how we can help? • What have others done? It is intended that this will prove useful for those groups developing neighbourhood plans and provide a more focussed discussion with County Council officers.

## News regarding recruitment process for Suffolk County Council's Chief Executive

A full day of interviews and assessments took place on Monday 11 September 2017 in the search for a new Chief Executive for Suffolk County Council.

The council are looking for a candidate to succeed Deborah Cadman who has moved to work for the West Midlands Combined Authority.

The field of candidates for the Suffolk role was very strong and each person was put through a range of assessments, presentations and interviews as part of the process.

As a result of this very thorough assessment, it was decided that there was no clear candidate that met the exceptionally high standards expected for the role at this time. Therefore no appointment has been made at this time.

Corporate Director Sue Cook is currently acting as interim Chief Executive and will continue to do this whilst decisions are made about the next steps in the recruitment process. Sue will continue to be well supported by other members of the corporate management team.

## Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service launches 'escape plan' campaign

The Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service has launched a new safety campaign and website highlighting the importance of fire escape plans.



Visitors to the campaign website [fire.suffolk.gov.uk](http://fire.suffolk.gov.uk) will be able to:

- take a quiz to test how prepared they are to escape a fire
- create their own escape plan for everyone in their household

The campaign addresses the fact that every year there are 40,000 accidental house fires in the UK. Having an escape plan will allow Suffolk residents to escape the fire quickly and safely. The 'escape plan' fire campaign will run until **31 October 2017**.