



## March 2018 Monthly Parish Newsletter by Karen Soons

### Suffolk Highways goes to war on potholes

Suffolk Highways has declared war on the potholes which are opening up on the county's roads, following one of the worst winters in recent years.

Since the start of 2018, Suffolk Highways has received in excess of 11,000 customer reports, which compares with approximately 6,000 reports in the same period last year. This demonstrates the impact the bad weather Suffolk has experienced since November has had on the county's road surface.

Suffolk Highways has put in place the following measures with immediate effect to help cope with the demand:

- Deploying additional gangs to undertake pothole and road repairs across the county.
- Switching to a different temporary material to repair emergency potholes which, although slightly more expensive, provides a longer-lasting repair in damp conditions.
- Considering for large areas of intervention-level pothole defects whether 'making safe' (through organising traffic management and temporary road closures) is required in advance of making extensive repairs.
- Bringing in extra resource to undertake larger-scale patching works as part of a planned programme for dealing with sites on which traffic management or road closures have been arranged or areas where small-scale repairs will not sufficiently address the road deterioration.
- Moving internal resources from other teams to support the inspection of customer reports, particularly from staff with previous experience of dealing with customer reports and inspections.

This extra push to repair the high volume of potholes in the county is being assisted by the extra £21 million funding which has been borrowed to resurface a quarter of all roads managed by Suffolk Highways, by 2021.

## **Funding for transport schemes to bring forward housing**

The government has announced that Suffolk County Council's bids to the Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF) have successfully got through to the next stage.

This is an important step forward for the bids which have been supported by Ipswich Borough Council, St Edmundsbury Borough Council and Suffolk Coastal District Council. It means that the schemes have been considered attractive enough to be shortlisted and will subsequently undergo further development work.

The £5 billion Housing Infrastructure fund (HIF) forms part of a comprehensive programme to enable the government to fulfil its commitment to build 300,000 homes a year by the mid-2020s.

The HIF aims to support the development of infrastructure which will enable the development of new homes. In Suffolk's case the HIF would be used to construct enabling road infrastructure in Bury St Edmunds and to the east of Ipswich. The council's bids are for:

- £15 million - East Ipswich junction and capacity improvements on or near to the A12 corridor between A14 and A1214.
- £12 million - Improvements to A14 Junctions 43 and 44 near Bury St Edmunds.

The next stage will require the councils to work with Government officials to further develop the bid and a final decision on the bid is expected later in 2018.

## **Fourth progress report on Upper Orwell Crossings ground investigations published**

The latest ground investigation report on the Upper Orwell Crossings was published on 23 Mar 2018.

The ground investigation works as part of the Upper Orwell Crossings project are now in their final phase, following the completion of works within the highway.

These works were completed on time last week and those who were affected are thanked for their patience while this important work was carried out.

Investigations have now moved into their final locations, in the area of Felaw Street and within ABP's site near Cliff Quay, and are scheduled to be completed early next month.

Download the [latest report](#) (PDF, 16KB).

## **Suffolk Waste Partnership awarded £10,000 to help tackle blight of litter**

Suffolk Waste Partnership have been awarded £10,000 from the Government's Litter Innovation Fund to run innovative local projects aimed at reducing litter.

Suffolk Waste Partnership's member authorities are responsible for clearing litter from public land and highways, with the cost of removing litter from Suffolk's major A-roads the A14, A12 and A11 standing at £300,000 per year.

The Suffolk Waste Partnership's project will:

- Work with businesses such as drive-throughs, service stations, garages and logistics firms to seek their support in promoting responsible attitudes to litter disposal.
- Trial new style litter bins at key layby locations and improve labelling and signage of litter bins along the A11, A12 and A14 in Suffolk.
- Trial new remote monitoring technology to help councils coordinate litter bin emptying more efficiently and effectively.
- Ensure that any person taken to court and convicted for a littering offence anywhere in Suffolk is named and shamed publicly.
- Run an awareness campaign to remind residents and visitors alike about the issues and the consequences of littering.
- Educate residents and businesses about how to prevent their waste inadvertently escaping their control and ending up as litter.

## **Volunteers needed to help Suffolk get composting**

Suffolk Master Composters are inviting green minded enthusiasts to join their ranks and master the art of composting this spring.

New volunteers will receive expert training from the Suffolk Waste Partnership and Garden Organic to enable them to act as composting ambassadors – encouraging the public to compost.

The next free two-day Suffolk Master Composter foundation course is on Friday 13 and Saturday 14 April 2018 at the Meeting Place, Limerick Close, Whitehouse, Ipswich, IP1 5LR from 9.30am – 4.30pm.

Composting resources and ongoing support will also be provided throughout the volunteers' involvement. In return volunteers are asked to commit a minimum of 30 hours to the scheme – promoting the composting message through talks to local organisations, visits to schools, writing articles and running information stalls at public events. No experience is required to join the scheme – all that is needed is an interest in composting and a desire to support your local community. More information on the Suffolk Master Composter scheme and the training course is available at [www.suffolkrecycling.org.uk](http://www.suffolkrecycling.org.uk).

## Residents are invited to take part in Suffolk's biggest walking festival to date

With up to 125 walks on offer, this year's Suffolk Walking festival is shaping up to be the biggest yet.

Whether young or old, a novice or an expert, there is something for everyone! You could kick start your day on a Dawn Chorus walk or end it on a Twilight Safari. You can have a go at Nordic Walking and realise the power in your legs or spend a day discovering GeoCaching and seek out the treasures dotted around the landscape.

The festival launches with two walks at St Peter's Brewery in Bungay, on Saturday 12 May, each walk including a brewery tour.

Once again, the festival will include a challenge walk and this year's walk covers over 60 miles in just four days. The walk explores The Sandlings, a landscape of sandy soils, heathlands and forests stretching between Southwold and Ipswich.

This year also sees the launch of the Festival Fringe, a series of events that get you close to nature in the very heart of Suffolk's countryside. Fringe highlights include "Twilight Safari", where you'll experience night life waking up in an ancient woodland; "Suffolk Sketchbook" where you can learn to sketch in the iconic setting of Snape Maltings; and "Iconic Images", a series of photography workshops with one of Suffolk's leading professional photographers.

Tickets for the events and walks are now on sale. Buy tickets at [www.suffolkwalkingfestival.co.uk](http://www.suffolkwalkingfestival.co.uk).

## Suffolk to host opening stage of OVO Energy Women's Tour

The OVO Energy Women's Tour will return to Suffolk this June, as the county hosts the opening stage to the UCI Women's World Tour race on Wednesday 13 June.

Over 100 of the world's top cyclists will race from Framlingham to Southwold, home of race sponsors Adnams, taking in a 130-kilometre route through Suffolk, including Wickham Market, Woodbridge, Ipswich, Stowmarket and Halesworth.

It will mark the fourth time that Britain's biggest women's cycling event has returned to the county, and in a boost for fans there will also be a chance to ride much of the route, in the OVO Energy Tour Ride sportive event supporting Breast Cancer Care on Sunday 1 July.

In total 17 teams will compete in the 2018 OVO Energy Women's Tour, including four British squads, Wiggle HIGH5, Trek Drops, WNT Rotor and Storey Racing, with the riders set to compete in the race being announced during the early summer.

You can find further details of the [OVO Energy Tour Ride](#) supporting Breast Cancer Care on their website, including how to enter.