



August 2018 Monthly Parish Newsletter

On 21st August 2018.

I have a meeting with Gordon Jones, Portfolio Holder for Education and Children's Services to find out what the school transport changes will mean for our villages in Thingoe South. Please send me your queries via email until 12 noon on mon 20th August.

Plan for £6million upgrades to Suffolk recycling centres

On 24 July, Suffolk County Council's Cabinet approved a plan to invest £6million into upgrading Suffolk's recycling centres.

The plan has earmarked £3m for the Foxhall Recycling Centre – Suffolk's busiest with 20% of all recycling waste in the county – and £1m for Haverhill for "urgent improvements". The plans will see improvements to traffic access at Foxhall and measures to prevent people from having to climb steps to dispose of their waste in the containers. Existing planning permission for work expires in March 2021.

At Haverhill, the site has to be closed when containers are emptied because of space, so the funding aims to double the size of the site and prevent such closures.

Elsewhere £1m has been earmarked for a site to replace the Portman's Walk Recycling Centre in Ipswich town centre, and a further million for the same in Stowmarket.

The existing Ipswich and Stowmarket sites are considered to be severely constrained for space, with no expansion opportunities available and the surrounding roads not offering a safe area to queue onto the facility.

Detailed designs and planning applications will be drawn up this year, with the aim of securing land sites and carrying out necessary ecology and archaeology work this year as well. Construction for improvements is expected to get underway in 2019/20.

Sporting memories set to be discovered across Suffolk's care homes

On 24 July, a ground-breaking project was launched to provide regular sports-based reminiscence activities for care home residents and visitors.

Sporting Memories Network CIC, in partnership with the Suffolk County Council led Most Active County Partnership, has developed a unique opportunity to enable care homes across Suffolk to deliver award-winning sporting reminiscence activities.

Staff and volunteers from a range of care homes will receive training, resources and advice to equip them to deliver sporting reminiscence activities over the next 12 months and beyond. The impact of the activities on residents, their families and staff will be evaluated to gauge success.

Initially staff from 10 homes will be trained to take part in the project with it being extended to further homes in the future. The homes will have access to local and national archive images, reports and memorabilia inspiring older people to talk about their own favourite stars or teams and those special moments in sport that stay with them, whether as a spectator or as a participant.

Suffolk leaders approve £225,000 grant to create one-stop point for domestic abuse victims

On 16 July it was announced that Suffolk leaders have granted a six-figure sum to improve domestic abuse support services in the county – including plans for a dedicated contact point.

The Suffolk Public Sector Leaders group agreed funding of £225,000 to be awarded to the Safer and Stronger Communities Group (SSCG) for three key developments in domestic abuse support.

Around £100,000 of that will create a Suffolk Co-ordination Centre, which will be a single point of contact for victims of domestic abuse as well as their family members, friends and others with concerns.

It comes in response to feedback that services for victims were fragmented and did not work together well enough.

Elsewhere, £65,000 will develop a domestic abuse champions network where industry professionals will train organisations in spotting the signs of domestic abuse earlier.

The remaining cash will be used to help support joint schemes in tackling abuse.

Suffolk firefighters busy as extreme weather continues

Suffolk Fire and Rescue have been working tirelessly to tackle a large number of open air fires as a result of the recent hot weather.

The team received over 60 calls over the weekend of 14 July, more than double what they'd usually expect to get. Thanks to the professionalism and dedication of firefighters, on-call firefighters and control room staff they successfully managed to respond to the fires and keep Suffolk safe.

As the sunshine looks set to stay, the public is urged to be fire aware and remember to:

- Put cigarettes out completely
- Refrain from throwing cigarettes onto grass verges
- Use barbecues on a hard, flat surface, away from grass, shrubs or fencing
- When camping, not leave a campfire unattended and ensure the campfire is out completely before you leave it.

Lake Lothing Third Crossing takes another step forward

The next major milestone has been reached in the construction of the Lake Lothing Third Crossing in Lowestoft.

On 13 July 2018, the formal planning application for this much needed bridge was delivered to the government's Planning Inspectorate. Last month, the Suffolk County Council Cabinet considered the results of the public consultation and decided unanimously to make the submission.

Countless boxes and files have been handed over, following close work with councils, residents, businesses and local communities to understand what is important to those who may be affected.

The Planning Inspectorate has 28 days to consider the application for acceptance. If accepted, an examination in public will be carried out by the planning inspectors later this year.

£1 million funding to boost youth employment in Suffolk

On 13 July, public sector leaders in Suffolk gave their backing to a major financial boost to help more young people in Suffolk get into education, employment or training.

An extra £200,000 has been agreed by Suffolk's council leaders and the Police and Crime Commissioner, with a further £200,000 agreed in principle for a second year. This is on top of £600,000 committed by Suffolk County Council - £1 million in total.

Currently in Suffolk 7% of 16 to 18 year olds are not in education, employment or training (NEET) and 12% of the county's 66,000 16 to 24 years olds are unemployed. Suffolk's youth unemployment position is in line with the national picture, but Suffolk continues to be challenged by significant volumes of young people who are wasting their talent and potential and are not able to enjoy the benefits that work can bring.

The investment will support local projects to reduce the number of young people who are NEET or unemployed, including programmes to prepare young people to benefit from local Apprenticeship opportunities. Suffolk County Council will work with district and borough councils, local education providers and the voluntary and community sector to develop the programmes.

Suffolk's Annual Public Health Report wins 3rd place in national competition

On 12 July, it was announced that Suffolk's 2017 Public Health Report has won third place in the Association of Directors of Public Health Annual Report Competition, from 54 UK entries.

The most recently published report for 2017, 'Working for Wellbeing', focused on inclusive growth and the links between health and work. Prepared and published by Suffolk County Council's Public Health team, the report was commended for its ease of reading, accessibility and relevance.

The Suffolk Annual Public Health Report is a statutory duty for the Director of Public Health and Protection. It is an independent health status assessment report, that allows the Director of Public Health and Protection to explore a topic or area of strategic focus that is of importance to Suffolk.

Suffolk County Council called on expertise from partners across the Suffolk system to help author the report. The full report, as well as the video that asks Suffolk residents about their experiences of living and working in Suffolk, can be viewed on the Healthy Suffolk website: <https://www.healthysuffolk.org.uk/jsna/reports/annual-public-health-report>

The 2018 report will focus on end of life care. Members of the Public Health team have already started work on gathering data and information, and will be talking to colleagues across Suffolk to develop content. This important subject will also be the focus of the Suffolk Health and Wellbeing Board's annual conference in September at Wherstead Park, Ipswich.

Changes to school travel to go ahead

On 9 July, the decision on the future of school and post-16 travel, made by Suffolk County Council's Cabinet on 19 June 2018, was considered by the Scrutiny Committee.

The committee found that the decision was made in accordance with Scrutiny Procedure Rules and the decision made by Cabinet stands.

On 19 June, Suffolk County Council's Cabinet agreed recommendations to introduce a phased change to its school and post-16 travel policies. This followed a major review involving months of detailed discussions with schools, a comprehensive public consultation, detailed analysis and financial modelling. The new school and post-16 travel policy will be in place from September 2019.

The recommendations agreed include:

- **Providing children aged 4-16 years with transport to their nearest school with an available place, but phasing in the policy from September 2019.** This would only apply to children starting a new school, or moving home, and would be based on the current minimum distance criteria (i.e. over 2 miles for those under 8 years old and 3 miles or over for 8-16 year olds).
- **Giving priority to Suffolk schools**, allowing those whose nearest school is over the county boundary the option to choose transport to their nearest Suffolk school if they meet the criteria.
- **Providing travel for 4 year olds**, known as 'rising 5s'.
- **Requiring parents whose children qualify for funded travel to opt in each year**, reducing the number of seats paid for by the taxpayer but not used.
- **Offering students who are nearest to a three-tier school the option of travel to the nearest two-tier school**, if they meet the criteria.
- **Retaining the current Post-16 Travel policy**
- **Offering unallocated seats on school buses for pre and post-16 students to buy on a first come, first served basis** at £750 in September 2019 with phased in increases of £30 per term (£90 per year) to reduce the public subsidy Suffolk County Council provides.
- **Continuing with the current cost increase of £10 per term** (£30 per year) **for unallocated seats to pre and post-16 students with special educational needs** (in September 2019 this will be £690).
- **Implementing a revised individual exceptions policy for both school and post-16 travel**
- **Working with schools and communities at a local level to implement a range of local solutions**, e.g. changing school start and finish times, putting

in place hub collection points, implementing ride and stride schemes and increasing the size of the vehicles used.

- **Agreeing the anticipated overspend in the 2018/19 budget will be funded from the council's reserves**
- **Providing an additional £3.025 million for the school travel budget from 2019/20 onwards.** This will help the service cope with increasing demand forecast in the next decade.
- **Allocating £4.7 million from the council's reserves to fund the new policy being phased in over seven years and reduce impact on families**
- **Reviewing the inflation and demand pressures annually**
- **Continuing to implement a series of savings** to reduce the cost of transporting children with special education needs
- **Establishing a group of stakeholders to monitor the impact of the new policy**

Upcoming We Are Listening events

Suffolk residents are invited to come along and chat with the Leader of the Council, other county councillors and senior managers about their concerns and ideas for the county of Suffolk. The following We Are Listening events are scheduled for the remainder of 2018:

- **Framlingham:** Tuesday 18 September
- **Bury St Edmunds:** Wednesday 26 September
- **Haverhill:** Friday 12 October
- **Ipswich:** Thursday 25 October