



October 2019 Parish Newsletter

Cllr Karen Soons

07864 601 887

karen.soons@suffolk.gov.uk

Bus route updates

Joint working has paid off. Working together with Parish Councils and officers of Suffolk County Council we have been able to create a new bus route to partially replace the old 377 bus route. The new route 377 – started on the 23rd of Sept from Bradfield St George, Rougham, Skyliner Way, Sainsbury's, West Suffolk Hospital and on to Bury St Edmunds Bus Station. The new development of Larks Grange on Moreton Hall will be included as the final phases are completed.

We currently working on finding a funding solution to the 375 route through Hawstead & Nowton together with Mary Evans, Cabinet Member for Highways and both Parish Councils. This route has been served notice to stop in early November. Home to School Transport routes are unaffected.

Boundary Commission meeting Endeavour House, Ipswich.

The Brecks Fen Edge and Rivers Landscape Partnership Scheme wins £2 million National Lottery grant

Communities, schools and the landscape of the Brecks will benefit from another series of exciting landscape and heritage conservation projects.

On 30 September, Suffolk County Council and The Brecks Fen Edge and Rivers Landscape Partnership announced that the proposal for a £3.5 million landscape conservation scheme to follow hot on the heels of the popular Breaking New Ground Landscape Partnership Scheme has been successful.

Made possible by National Lottery players, the £2 million grant will unlock a further £1.5 million in match funding from partners and volunteers, and will engage local communities, schools and like-minded organisations to understand, reveal, celebrate and protect the lost heritage of the Brecks Fen Edge and Rivers over the next five years.

Rated as one of Britain's top three landscapes for freshwater wildlife, the Brecks are home to nature as significant as that in the New Forest and the Broads. Across the scheme area lie biodiverse chalk streams and networks of ancient Pingo ponds.

Commenting on the award, Councillor Richard Rout, Suffolk County Council Cabinet Member for Environment and Public Protection, said:

"I am delighted that we have been awarded this significant amount of funding for the Brecks Fen Edge and Rivers Scheme, as it demonstrates The National Lottery Heritage Fund's continued confidence in Suffolk County Council and its partners to deliver high quality landscape scale heritage conservation projects. This is excellent news for the Brecks and Suffolk as a whole."

Conservation efforts have long-focused on the internationally important heaths and forests, but legacy development work from the Breaking New Ground Landscape Partnership identified significant risks and opportunities relating to this lesser-known watery landscape, which includes unique geology - the UK's only six fluctuating meres, and a significant percentage of nationally rare species.

The Brecks Fen Edge and Rivers Landscape Partnership Scheme will bring to the fore how the Brecks fenland fringe, freshwater habitats and river corridors provided the conduit for biodiversity and early settlement of a hostile landscape. Although the area is famed for being sandy and dry, it is the watery landscapes that are the driving force behind the area's unique biodiversity, and its history of human settlement.

Anne Jenkins, Director, England: Midlands and East, The National Lottery Heritage Fund, said:

"Characterised by fascinating features such river valleys, chalk streams, nationally rare Pingo ponds and fluctuating meres, it is no surprise the Brecks are rated within the top three of the UK's freshwater habitats. We know that National Lottery players hold natural heritage projects, such as this ambitious Landscape Partnership Scheme, in high esteem and I am sure that many of them will be delighted to learn more about the area and its hidden natural treasures. We are also heartened by Suffolk County Council's commitment to preserving and exploring their natural heritage, and that our funding will enable their work and passion to continue and benefit the communities of the Norfolk and Suffolk Brecks."

The scheme will enable the partnership to capitalise on the successful Breaking New Ground Scheme which ended in 2017, and engage local communities and partners in telling the story of the Brecks and to develop a sense of pride and belonging to this fascinating landscape that will translate into a long lasting legacy.

The Hold Topping Out ceremony

Construction of 'The Hold' archives and heritage centre has reached its highest point.

On 25 September, contractors R G Carter, along with senior officers from Suffolk County Council, the University of Suffolk, Ipswich Vision and the National Lottery Heritage Fund, celebrated the official 'Topping Out' of the new building.

Located on the campus of the University of Suffolk, within Ipswich's unique and regenerating Waterfront, the building will house the majority of Suffolk's nationally and internationally significant archives.

More than just a new building, 'The Hold' project will also be the engine for a transformed, audience-focused Archives service reaching out to diverse communities in Ipswich, the county and the nation, through its activity and digital programmes, engaging people in new and exciting ways.

Paul West, Cabinet Member with responsibility for Heritage, said:

"We're delighted to have reached this exciting milestone in the project's development.

"The Hold will not only transform our ability to care for and showcase our county's records and collections, but it will also engage audiences right across the county, bringing local and nationally significant exhibitions to all Suffolk Archives branches, state of the art research facilities and more access than ever before to digital collections.

"The county-wide activity plan which comes hand in hand with The Hold building, is already enabling us to deliver many more archive-related events, learning activities and digital programmes, across the whole county, meaning more people can truly connect with Suffolk's unique and fascinating history than ever before. This includes the Sharing Suffolk Stories programme and new schools resources being developed.

"The Hold is set to open its doors next spring and we can't wait to see you there!"

To mark the topping out of The Hold, local heritage charity, Suffolk Archives Foundation, launched its 'Make your Mark' campaign to encourage public support for the project and through this give Suffolk's colourful past an exciting future.

Funds raised will go towards meeting remaining construction costs at The Hold and the fitting-out of the interior of the building to the high standards that visitors from all walks of life deserve.

Peter Gray, Chair of the Suffolk Archives Foundation, said:

"The 'Make Your Mark' campaign provides an opportunity for people across the county to get involved in The Hold right from the outset. We really hope anyone with an interest in local history will want to add their names to a specially crafted donors' book, which will be kept and displayed at The Hold. This book has been hand made by local company Owl Bookbinding and it will itself become part of Suffolk's historical archives."

Bravery, fundraising and commitment recognised at fire awards in Ipswich.

On 18 September, firefighters, non-operational staff and volunteers from Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service were recognised for their bravery and commitment.

A special award was also presented to 15-year old, Harry Hall. He came to the aid of a friend who had lost control of their bike and fallen over the sea wall in Lowestoft.

Despite the immediate dangers, Harry jumped down to his friend and kept their head above the rising sea water until the emergency services arrived. Harry was presented with a Certificate of Merit for his actions.

Michael Edmondson-Bloom, firefighter at Newmarket Fire Station was presented with the prestigious Silver Axe. This award is presented to the individual judged to have had the best performance of all those who completed the new firefighter recruit 'Approved to Ride' course in the last year.

Ken Ashby, the service's on-call firefighter liaison officer, received the Paul Proctor Award for his outstanding professional contribution. Ken started as a firefighter and has completed over 42 years' service, raising over £250,000 for the Firefighter's Charity, thanks largely to the car draw which he founded in 1987 at Newmarket fire station.

Over 40 awards were given to the Service's firefighters and staff, including those for good conduct and long service, charity fundraising, teamwork, and actions at 999 emergencies.

Councillor Rout, Suffolk County Council's Cabinet Member for Environment and Public Protection, said:

"Events such as this are a humbling experience, reminding us all of the selflessness and professionalism of Suffolk's firefighters and staff. This commitment extends to the way they engage with their local communities, such as attending events, fundraising and delivering prevention messages."

Suffolk, How Are You?

On 17 September, Public Health Suffolk and Ipswich and East Clinical Commissioning Group launched a campaign focused on wellbeing and healthy weight.

Suffolk How Are You? looks at improving wellbeing and maintaining a healthy weight through eating well, moving more and sleeping well.

Residents are encouraged to complete the How Are You? quiz, linked to the national 'One You' campaign, which assesses different aspects of a person's lifestyle and helps to identify ways to improve emotional and physical wellbeing.

For those who complete the How Are You? quiz, there is a prize draw to win 1 year's subscription to Spotify. The prize draw is open until 10 March 2020.

Throughout the campaign there will be lots of exciting opportunities to take part in various activities linked to moving more, eating well and sleeping better.

Those who take part in Active Suffolk's This Girl Can, Health Walks, or RED January could be in with a chance of winning a Fitbit. People can also send in their #5adaysuffolk photos via Twitter and Instagram. Be sure to tag @SCCPublicHealth or @OneLifeSuffolk in your posts to be in with a chance of winning a cookbook. There is also a place up for grabs on a 1-hour workshop on sleeping well with Suffolk MIND. Visit www.suffolkhowareyou.co.uk for further details of the competitions.

Coming up in November, there will be three exciting light displays which will take place in Stowmarket, Ipswich and Felixstowe at their Christmas lights switch-on events.

Councillor James Reeder, Suffolk County Council Cabinet Member for Public Health and Prevention, said:

"We know that eating well and exercising regularly can have a positive impact on our weight, but it can also improve our mood and wellbeing.

"Try the activities highlighted in the campaign to move more, eat well and sleep better and see the difference that incorporating them into your daily routine will make - just walking for 10 minutes a day is a free and simple way to increase physical activity and it can have a great impact on your emotional and physical wellbeing."

Visit www.suffolkhowareyou.co.uk to complete the How Are You? quiz.

Window now open to apply for primary and secondary school places

Parents and carers can now apply for primary and secondary school places for September 2020.

The deadline for applications to secure a place at a Suffolk secondary school is Thursday 31 October 2019 and for a primary school it is Wednesday 15 January 2020. Secondary schools include high and upper schools and primary schools include infant, junior and middle schools.

Last year, Suffolk County Council received nearly 16,000 applications. 92% of applicants received offers for their first preference school and nearly 98% of applicants received an offer for one of their top three preferred schools.

Parents and carers need to be aware that some schools have their own admissions policy which sets out how places will be prioritised, so it is important to check each school's admissions policy before applying.

When applying for their preferred school parents and carers also need to consider how they will get their child to and from school. To find out more about SCC's school travel policy please visit www.suffolkonboard.com/schooltravel.

Councillor Gordon Jones, Suffolk County Council's Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Skills, said:

"Making the right school choice is one of the most important decisions a parent makes on behalf of their child.

"I would urge all parents and carers to complete and submit their application by the closing date of 31 October 2019 for a secondary school place and 15 January 2020 for a primary school place to give their child the best chance of getting in to one of their preferred schools. We will process all of the applications received by these dates at the same time using schools' oversubscription criteria to prioritise applications when necessary.

"Parents and carers can list up to three schools on their application form and we recommend applying for more than one school."

Parents and carers should apply online at www.suffolk.gov.uk/admissions as they will receive confirmation that we have received their application. If for any reason parents and carers are unable to apply online they should apply on a paper CAF1 application form. Suffolk County Council is unable to acknowledge receipt of paper applications and therefore suggest that proof of posting is obtained.

A completed application must be submitted for every child wanting a secondary school place or a primary school place from September 2020. If you are planning to move house or you think your circumstances may change before September, it is still important to make an application on time. Advice and guidance about this process is available at www.suffolk.gov.uk/admissions.

Newmarket sets out rail vision.

On 6 September, representatives from Suffolk County Council, West Suffolk District Council and the Newmarket Racecourses met with stakeholders from the horse racing industry and Members of Parliament to call for more investment in passenger rail services in Newmarket.

The delegation listened to a series of speeches on Newmarket's rail priorities from the Newmarket Racecourses, Suffolk County Council, West Suffolk District Council, Railfuture, the Department for Transport and Network Rail. The priorities include demands for a half-hourly passenger rail service to Cambridge and direct rail connectivity with Oxford, London, the Midlands, the North of England and Scotland.

Information was also presented on the new East West Rail Link, a rail project that will connect Suffolk and Norfolk with Oxford via Cambridge. Delegates learnt how local authorities across Suffolk are working together with key stakeholders in Norfolk

and Cambridgeshire, and with the East West Rail Consortium, to improve rail connectivity in the East of England. Investment is considered vital to achieving more frequent passenger rail services at Newmarket and provide wider rail connectivity to the rest of the UK.

Councillor Mary Evans, Suffolk County Council’s Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member responsible for Highways, Transport and Rural Affairs, said:

“It is critical that we all work together to give the message that we are serious about seeing rail investment in Suffolk. We are delighted that Suffolk is getting brand new trains, which will do great things for the county, but we also need government to invest in our railway infrastructure.

“Such investment will deliver more frequent services and make towns, such as Newmarket, more accessible to the rest of the UK. I am really pleased that working with the Jockey Club we have been able to bring together key stakeholder to push this rail agenda forward.”

Rt Hon Matt Hancock MP for West Suffolk, said:

“The Newmarket Rail Meeting was extremely positive. We have a clear message that key organisations across Suffolk and Norfolk must continue to work together to make the case for improved rail connectivity in the East of England. I will continue to press the government and Network Rail to invest in more frequent passenger rail services at Newmarket and provide wider rail connectivity through East Anglia and the UK.”

Amy Starkey, Regional Director for the Jockey Club’s East Region, said:

“Rail has played a crucial role in the history of horseracing in Newmarket and it is has a vital part to play in its future too. We have exciting ambitions for the town but in order to ensure that our growth is sustainable, we need a high quality and well-connected transport system to make our town more accessible to our community, visitors, racegoers, employees and investors.

“The horseracing and bloodstock industries are a significant contributor to the regional and national economies, generating £242 million in gross value added to the UK treasury in 2016 and jointly provide over 8,500 jobs to local people.

A plan will now be developed to set out actions and timescales for delivering rail improvements, with further meetings scheduled to discuss progress.

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 September:

- Saxmundham, forecourt in front of Market Hall: 11am-1pm, Wednesday 9 October
- Hadleigh, Marketplace: 11am-1pm, Friday 18 October
- Ipswich, Marketplace, outside Barclays Bank: 11am-1pm, Thursday 24 October