



## **Councillor's monthly newsletter – September 2019**

**Welcome to the September edition of my monthly newsletter, aimed at keeping Town and Parish Councillors up to date with the main news stories from East Suffolk and, where possible, give you a head's up on issues which are emerging.**

**As always, I will make every effort to attend Town and Parish meetings and events in the coming weeks. The summer period has been understandably quiet but I have been pleased to attend meetings with Framlingham Town Councillors, and Parish Council meetings in Kettleburgh and Great Glemham, meetings with Brandeston and Kettleburgh Village Hall Committees and wondered at the enthusiasm and fitness of the runners in the Framlingham 10k run. My Enabling Communities Budget has supported more community projects and more applications are now under consideration. I am also anxiously waiting for news of applications for Exemplar Funding for projects in the Framlingham and Villages Ward, due later this month.**

**As always, if there is any matter with which you think I can help, please do not hesitate to contact me.**

**Kind Regards,**

**Maurice**

### **New Felixstowe Leisure Centre gets the go ahead**

At East Suffolk's Cabinet meeting, held on 3 September, it was agreed that a new leisure centre for Felixstowe would get the go ahead to bring a single destination facility to the town, which will serve the community and also attract people from further afield.

In November 2017, East Suffolk Council (then Suffolk Coastal District Council) published its Felixstowe Leisure Vision document, which showcases the potential for a multi-million pound sports and leisure development, highlighting the opportunity we have to re-vitalise our leisure facilities. Separately, the District Council has also embarked on a Leisure Redevelopment Programme to redevelop its leisure centres. Deben Leisure Centre and Leiston Leisure Centre has already been completed and work will start at Bungay Leisure Centre on 12 September.

The existing Felixstowe Leisure Centre was built in 1985 and Brackenbury Leisure Centre, also in Felixstowe, operated by the Council from the 1990s. Both facilities would need a significant amount of money spent on them to maintain their current offer.



### **Next Steps**

- The Council pursues the delivery of a new wet and dry destination facility in north Felixstowe.
- Council officers will report back to Cabinet when the RIBA stage 2 design-work is complete, including a full build programme for the works and the facilities that will be included within a new 'destination' facility.
- Council Officers will also bring to Cabinet a Business Plan for a new 'destination' Felixstowe Leisure Centre to support the project.
- An East Suffolk Built Facilities and Playing Pitch strategy will be produced following the updating of the current ones. This will also support the producing of a new East Suffolk Leisure Strategy.

### **Community invited to identify potential wildlife areas**

On Tuesday 3 September, East Suffolk Council's Cabinet agreed to two trial schemes, in Southwold and Saxmundham, which will see reduced grass cutting and strimming during 2020.

Residents in both towns are invited to suggest open spaces, owned by East Suffolk Council, which they feel would benefit from less intensive grass cutting and which could then become bio-diversity areas.

At present, grass in public open spaces across the District is cut four times each year, between March and October.

In response to the wishes of residents and as part of its focus on environmental issues, the Council is now reviewing its grounds maintenance programme, aiming to make it more environmentally-friendly. Reduced grass-cutting and strimming in specific areas not only creates spaces for wildlife but also reduces carbon emissions.

The trials in Southwold and Saxmundham will be evaluated by East Suffolk Council, East Suffolk Norse, expert bodies, the respective Town Councils and the community. It is hoped that the results will then determine a more environmentally focused grounds maintenance programme which can be rolled out across the whole of East Suffolk.

Suggestions for Southwold should be emailed to [admin@southwoldtowncouncil.com](mailto:admin@southwoldtowncouncil.com) and for Saxmundham to [townclerk@saxmundham.org](mailto:townclerk@saxmundham.org)

### **Boost for new Woodbridge cultural event**

A new music and arts festival, featuring live music, art, an eco-zone, children's activities, yoga and more, took place in Woodbridge on Saturday 31 August after receiving a funding boost from Cllr Rachel Smith-Lye, who allocated £1,3000 from her 'Enabling Communities Budget' to support the event.



East Suffolk Council's Enabling Communities Budget supports activities delivered by community, voluntary and social enterprise organisations. A total of £412,500 has been allocated for 2019/20 from the New Homes Bonus, funding generated through new houses built in the district.

### **Town centre toilets to undergo major refurbishment**

Visitors to Lowestoft's town centre will soon benefit from improved public conveniences, with refurbishment work on some of the most frequently used facilities scheduled to start next week.

East Suffolk Council will be carrying out improvement works to the public conveniences at Gordon Road in Lowestoft, including the addition of a new baby changing unit which will be accessible to all. The public toilets will be closed temporarily from Monday 9 September whilst the works are carried out. The disabled toilet, next to the Wilko entrance, will remain open during the works, which are expected to take between 4 to 6 weeks.

It is estimated that over 145,000 people use these toilets each year and as a result, it is essential the facilities are kept in good working order.

Refurbishments include relocating the male toilets to create a more usable space and, in response to public requests, the addition of a separate baby change unit which can be accessed by all.

Energy efficient lighting will be installed as well as water-saving equipment which will conserve an estimated 150,000 litres of water per year.

During the closure, visitors are advised to use alternative facilities at The Triangle Market or the Gordon Road bus station.

### **Foxhall Planning Application withdrawn**

An Outline planning application for 2,700 homes in Foxhall, known by the applicants as 'Orwell Green Garden Village', was submitted by Gladman & Orwell Settlement Trustees to East Suffolk Council on 15 May 2019.

An extended consultation period took place in June and July and following consideration of consultation responses and feedback from the council the applicants choose to withdraw the application on 22 August 2019.

### **Women on Wheels Kesgrave was a great success**

The first ever Women on Wheels Kesgrave event took place on Sunday 1 September and saw girls and women of all ages and abilities get on their bikes to raise over £460 for charity. Local groups and businesses also got involved with the Grundisburgh and Tuddenham WI's providing cakes and volunteers for the refreshment stops and the East of England Coop providing teas and coffees for everyone involved. All the profits from the entries go towards



supporting two nominated charities; Fresh Start New Beginnings and Lighthouse Women's Aid.

### Voting now open for the Enabling Communities Award

As part of the East Suffolk Business & Community Awards, the public are invited to vote on the Enabling Communities Award. The finalists for this award have been shortlisted from all the community projects that have received funding from the Enabling Communities Budget or Exemplar Grant over the past 18 months.

Voting is open to the public until Monday 30 September. The winner will be announced at the awards dinner at The Hangar, Kesgrave Hall on 3 October. For an overview over the finalists, go to [www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/voting-now-open-for-the-enabling-communities-award/](http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/voting-now-open-for-the-enabling-communities-award/)

### Do you have a Community Emergency Planning Group?

East Suffolk Council are encouraging Town and Parish Councils to have such a planning Group and to identify individuals who could attend Rest Centre Training sessions for either first time or renewal training. The requirement for volunteers is to attend a theory session prior to attending the practical session. So, whether it's attending for refresher training – i.e. more than 30 months since you last attended training, or for wholly new volunteers, please advise names of attendees, venue, date and either am or pm session you or your colleagues are able to attend. The schedule of sessions is as follows:

Date	Location	Address	0930-1230	1330-1630
26/09/19	Melton	East Suffolk House (Alde Room), Riduna Park, Station Rd, Melton, IP12 1RT	RC Theory	RC Theory
04/10/19	Kessingland	Spinnaker Room, Marram Green, Hall Rd, Kessingland, NR33 7AH	RC Theory	RC Practical
15/10/10	Felixstowe	Town Hall, Undercliff Rd (West), Felixstowe, IP11 2AG	RC Theory	RC Theory
15/11/19	Kessingland	Spinnaker Room, Marram Green, Hall Rd, Kessingland, NR33 7AH	RC Theory	RC Practical
19/11/19	Felixstowe	Town Hall, Undercliff Rd (West), Felixstowe, IP11 2AG	RC Theory	RC Theory
10/12/19	Felixstowe	Town Hall, Undercliff Rd (West),	RC Practical	RC Practical



		Felixstowe, IP11 2AG		
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30/01/20	Melton	East Suffolk House (Alde Room), Riduna Park, Station Rd, Melton, IP12 1RT	RC Theory	RC Theory
10/02/20	Hollesley	Village Hall, Heath Rd, Hollesley, IP12 3RQ	RC Practical	RC Practical
19/03/20	Lowestoft	Waterlane LC (WLLC), Water Lane, Lowestoft NR32 2NH	RC Theory	RC Theory
02/04/20	Wenhaston	TBC Wenhaston Village Hall, Narrow Way, Wenhaston, Halesworth, IP19 9EQ / WLLC	RC Practical	RC Practical
12/05/20	Melton	East Suffolk House (Deben Room), Riduna Park, Station Rd, Melton, IP12 1RT	RC Theory	RC Theory
21/05/20	Melton	East Suffolk House (Deben Room), Riduna Park, Station Rd, Melton, IP12 1RT	RC Theory	RC Practical

## PCC says it's your police service – tell us what you think

Suffolk's Police and Crime Commissioner, Tim Passmore and Chief Constable, Steve Jupp are staging a series of public meetings across the county and are encouraging Suffolk residents to attend. There will be a meeting in each of the three policing command areas, in Ipswich, Bury St Edmunds and Lowestoft. The meetings are an opportunity for the public to ask questions and to find out more about policing in the county.

Tim Passmore said: "Public engagement is hugely important in this role and I make myself available to anyone who needs to speak to me through one-to-one surgeries and directly via e-mail and on the phone, but it is equally important to have these bigger meetings where people can question me in a more open forum. I do hope people will accept this invite to come and find out more about policing. Steve and I will be pleased to discuss any matter that arises."

Each meeting will involve a quick overview from the PCC and the Chief Constable, then the public will have an opportunity to ask questions. There will be a senior police officer, responsible for policing in the local area, to add operational context.



The south area meeting covers Ipswich and the towns of Woodbridge, Felixstowe and Hadleigh and surrounding towns and villages will be held on **Thursday 31 October at the Ipswich Community Church, Wilberforce Street, Ipswich.**

All meetings start at 7pm and there is no need to book.

## Diary dates

- 9<sup>th</sup> September: 10.30am – Planning Committee (ESH)
- 10<sup>th</sup> September: 2pm – Planning Committee North (Riverside)
- 11<sup>th</sup> September: 3pm – Licensing Sub-Committee (Riverside)
- 16<sup>th</sup> September: 6.30pm – Audit and Governance Committee (ESH)
- 17<sup>th</sup> September: 10am – Anglia Revenues and Benefits Partnership Joint Committee (Breckland House)
- 19<sup>th</sup> September: 10am – Licensing Sub-Committee (Riverside)
- 23<sup>rd</sup> September: 10am – Licensing Sub-Committee (ESH)
- 23<sup>rd</sup> September: 6.30pm – Cabinet (ESH)
- 24<sup>th</sup> September: 2pm – Planning Committee, South (ESH)
- 25<sup>th</sup> September: 6.30pm – Full Council (ESH)
- 26<sup>th</sup> September: 6.30pm – Scrutiny Committee (Riverside)



**Cllr Maurice Cook**  
**Framlingham and Villages**  
**Assistant Cabinet Member - Resources**

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East Suffolk Council is a new district authority which, from April 2019, delivers services for the residents, businesses and communities previously served by Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Councils

