

Ward Councillor Report



February 2019

Local Plan and Full Council Meeting.

Before the plan was submitted I and another District Councillor held a number of meetings with planning officers with regard to the inclusion of the Innocence Lane site. We tried very hard to get it removed and replaced with other sites we deemed more appropriate. Your concerns along with other Councils on the peninsula were aired with officers, the size of the site has been reduced by about half however there are still many unanswered questions regarding this site so I voted **against** the local plan on this issue at the Full Council Meeting.

Affordable Rented Homes

The site known as Walton South will be providing 61 affordable rented homes; the rent is set at 80% of the local private sector rent. These homes will soon be available and offered to local people on the housing waiting list they consist of 1, 2, 3 and 4 bedroom homes.

Suffolk Coastal Cabinet – 6.30pm on Tuesday, 5 February 2019, in the Deben Conference Room, East Suffolk House:

Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards for Private Rented Properties: The Government has introduced Regulations to penalise landlords who rent out properties that are the worst performing in terms of energy efficiency. This report outlines the content of the Regulations and seeks delegation to enforce these Regulations, using compliance and penalty notices as part of a balanced enforcement vs educational approach.

Extension to Conservation Areas: The Conservation Area Management for Melton, Earl Soham, Peasenhall and Sibton, Westleton, Orford and Grundisburgh states that ‘on completion in 2010/2011 of appraisals for all 34 of the District’s Conservation Areas a review will be commenced of their boundaries as a separate exercise’. This review has been completed and proposals for the extension of the boundaries of all of the above, except Grundisburgh, are proposed.

The report recommends the extension of the existing Conservation Areas in Melton, Earl Soham, Peasenhall and Sibton, Westleton and Orford; and the adoption of an Inventory of ‘Unlisted Structures Which Make a Positive Contribution to the Conservation Area’ as a Supplementary Planning Document for Melton, Earl Soham, Peasenhall and Sibton, Westleton, Orford and Grundisburgh.

Acceptance of Funding Awards from Ipswich and East Suffolk Clinical Commissioning Group Transformation Fund and Suffolk Transformation Challenge Award: Suffolk Coastal District Council has recently led two bids on behalf of public and voluntary sector partners for Social Prescribing across the non-Ipswich part (Suffolk Coastal, Babergh and Mid Suffolk districts) of the Ipswich and East Suffolk Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) area.

Both bids were successful and together have secured a total of £686,767 funding, made up of £549,507 from the Ipswich and East Suffolk CCG Transformation Fund and £137,260 from

the Suffolk Transformation Challenge Award (TCA). The proposal is that this funding will be allocated to Voluntary and Community Sector organisations through a procurement process to be led by Suffolk Coastal District Council.

Public Space Protection Orders – Dog Controls: Following the adoption of a number of PSPOs in November 2017, the Council received some further requests from Town and Parish Councils for additional PSPOs for the control of dogs in public open spaces within their areas.

In response to these requests Cabinet approved a public consultation on the following draft PSPOs:

- Dogs on Leads on Charsfield Recreation Ground
- Dogs on Leads on Martello Park Gardens, Felixstowe
- Dogs on Leads on Felixstowe Town Hall Gardens
- Dogs on Leads on Felixstowe Seafront Gardens
- Exclusion of Dogs from Langer Park Children’s’ Play Area
- Exclusion of Dogs and Dogs on Leads on Defined Areas of Thorpeness Beach from 1 May to 30 September

The consultation closed on 21 December 2018 and the majority of responses supported the introduction of the PSPOs.

East Suffolk Performance Report – Quarterly Performance Quarter 3 2018-19: This joint report for Suffolk Coastal and Waveney provides an overview of the Councils’ performance and progress against the deliverables within the East Suffolk Business Plan.

This Quarterly Performance report covers Quarter 3, the period from 1 October to 31 December 2018. Overall the Council continues to make significant and positive progress in delivering the Business Plan objectives. If there are any instances where performance is not adequately meeting targets, these are highlighted in the report detailing the actions being taken.

Other News:

Councillor information days – The search is on to find people who want to become a District Councillor for the new East Suffolk Council, with two information days being held next month (February).

Elections to the new Council will be held on 2 May 2019 and the new district will be served by 55 councillors, each representing a ‘ward’, with 29 separate wards in total.

Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Councils are hosting two special information events in February open to anyone interested in becoming an East Suffolk councillor, regardless of experience.

Those interested are invited to book a 30 minute appointment with council officers where they will have the opportunity to ask any questions they have about what the role of a councillor involves and how to stand for election.

The information days take place on:

- Thursday 21 February – Riverside, 4 Canning Road, Lowestoft, NR33 0EQ
- Friday 22 February – East Suffolk House, Station Road, Melton, Woodbridge, IP12 1RT

Appointments are available between 9am and 4.30pm on both days – click here to [Book your preferred location and time](#)

Evening appointments are also available on request. To arrange an evening time slot, please email newcouncil@eastsoffolk.gov.uk or call 01502 523213.

To be eligible to stand for election, applicants must be: 18 years or over; and a UK, EU or Commonwealth Citizen; and either be registered to vote on the current register with the local council; or have either worked or lived in the council's area for one year; or have been an owner or tenant of any land or premises in the council's area for one year

Local Plan – Published for Final Comments - Suffolk Coastal has taken its next step towards finalising its Local Plan.

The Final Draft Local Plan has been published to provide stakeholders and the public with a final chance to comment on the plan.

A six-week consultation was launched on Monday, 14 January, and runs to Monday, 25 February, with people being given the opportunity to have their say on the soundness of the plan, after it was agreed at an extraordinary meeting of the Full Council on Thursday, 3 January 2019.

The Local Plan sets out the policies which will guide development in the District over the period to 2036, and contains policies which will be used to determine planning applications. The plan identifies how much growth should take place and where this should be located.

This consultation is designed to bring in comments in relation to the soundness of the plan and whether legal and procedural requirements have been met.

Following this, the draft Local Plan, along with the comments made during this consultation, will be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate and an Examination will be conducted by an independent Planning Inspector to determine whether the Plan can be adopted.

This Examination will include a Public Hearing, which will be held by the Planning Inspector, where people who have made written responses to the consultation will have the opportunity to discuss their comments.

The Council has arranged three drop-in sessions which are open to anyone to attend to find out more about the Final Draft Local Plan and how to respond.

These will be held at:

- Suffolk Coastal District Council, East Suffolk House (Deben Room), East Suffolk House, Station Road, Melton, IP12 1RT – Wednesday 30th January, 3pm – 7pm
- Felixstowe Town Hall (Council Chamber), Undercliff Road West, Felixstowe, IP11 2AG – Monday 4th February, 3pm – 7pm

- Saxmundham Market Hall, 29 High Street, Saxmundham, IP17 1AF – Wednesday 6th February 3pm – 7pm

The Final Draft Local Plan and supporting documents are available to view at www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/finaldraftlocalplan.

Copies of the Final Draft Local Plan are also available at local libraries across the District. Copies are also available for inspection at the Council's Customer Service Centre, Woodbridge Library, New Street, Woodbridge, IP12 1DT.

All comments must be received by 5pm on Monday, 25 February 2019.

Enabling Broadband Programme Update –

Under this programme, the Council had allocated substantial funding to fund wireless broadband provision in order to cover those 2% of properties across the District that won't benefit from the Suffolk Better Broadband scheme -these properties will be predominantly be in rural areas.

We have issued contracts with two local companies (Fram Broadband and RADE) to build the necessary infrastructure we need in the District.

Those companies have now begun purchasing, and siting, additional equipment to enhance the service to residents, businesses and visitors alike.

Fram Broadband has extended the coverage in the Framlingham, Saxtead, Bruisyard and Gt Glenham parishes. Similarly, RADE has enhanced the coverage in the North of the District, along the Blyth Valley and Leiston/Theberton areas.

We will obviously keep you updated on the infrastructure build, as it progress. However, if you or anyone you know is experiencing difficulties accessing highspeed broadband from traditional providers, do contact these operators to see if you can benefit from a highspeed service as part of this investment by your District Council.

We are putting this investment in because we want to ensure that on one is left behind, as highspeed broadband is essential to the prosperity of our District.

Businesses invited to knowledge-sharing event - As part of the ongoing work between Innovation Martlesham and Suffolk Coastal District Council, local businesses are invited to a knowledge sharing event in February.

Attendees of this event will benefit from the knowledge Innovative Martlesham (IM) has gained from working with over a hundred companies, who are part of the IM cluster at Adastral Park, Ipswich.

The session will provide a good overview of the key issues for anyone planning to build a public image for their company and establish confidence in potential customers and partners.

The event will feature guest speakers Dr Nick Milner - CEO and Founder of Milner Marketing Ltd, Mike Ward – Marketer and ISO Auditor, Mark Pendleton - Immediate past Chair, New Anglia LEP & Deputy Lieutenant of Suffolk & Chair Suffolk Lieutenancy Business & Enterprise Group and Andy Brown - Head of Sustainability, Anglian Water.

The event is taking place on Tuesday, 19 February 2019, between 10:30am - 12:30pm at Adastral Park.

Numbers are strictly limited, so make sure you don't miss out by booking your space now at www.innovationmartlesham.com/events/company-credibility-smoke-and-mirrors-or-the-real-deal/

Parking boost for Woodbridge - The first phase of work to create much-needed extra car parking spaces in Woodbridge has been completed on time.

Work at The Avenue car park in Woodbridge started in November 2018 to create an extra 13 parking spaces and new bike racks. The car park has also been tarmacked, relined and swept to improve the appearance. It was re-opened to the public from Tuesday, 15 January 2019.

Most of the vegetation in the area has been retained and will be subject to landscaping and updating of the bollards at a later date, to tie in with the rest of the project.

In the second phase of the project, improvements will be made to the Station Road car park in Woodbridge to create an extra 50 parking spaces and add speed humps, electrical car charger for two cars and new bike racks.

The walkway between The Avenue car park and Station Road car park will remain closed during the work, so there will be no access to the river or Kingston Park via this route for the duration of the project.

Reaction to Sizewell C stage 3 consultation - Community leaders from across east Suffolk met members of the Sizewell C Joint Local Authorities Group (JLAG) on Tuesday, 22 January, to discuss their views, raise questions and offer initial observations on EDF Energy's Sizewell C Stage 3 Pre-Application consultation.

Over 100 attendees, representing around 30 town and parish councils were represented at the busy event, attracting an energetic atmosphere with a constant buzz of discussion and examination. Many aspects of EDF Energy's consultation proposals were raised during question and answer sessions and round table discussions.

The main message that came across loud and clear from the meeting was that EDF Energy has taken on the feedback given by local communities as part of their Stage 2 consultation and has provided much more detail at Stage 3 in regards to their mitigations and proposals.

However, there are some aspects that still lack clarity, and this level of detail is needed to ensure local communities have all the information required to respond in a full and considered way to their proposals. Elements of mitigation where further information would be beneficial primarily focus transport and accommodation.

There is also a clear sentiment that EDF Energy need to do more to try and make a marine-led strategy work as a preferred option.

Other key areas raised by the community during discussions were:

- **Pylons** – Concerns about increasing number required and how / where they will be sited
- **Design of station** – Appearance of the buildings are not in keeping with surrounding natural environment, do not necessarily complement appearance of existing stations and there is concern that more buildings are proposed than are actually required
- **Scale of construction** – Concerns that EDF Energy has dropped the marine-led transport option for getting construction materials to site far too eagerly without thorough consideration and that the rail-led option may not be their next preference
- **Economy** – It is still not clear how much benefit will come to local population as a result of such upheaval, with so much disruption. Skilled jobs on site may well be at the cost of skilled labour currently at other local businesses which will struggle to recruit if they lose their workforce
- **Transport** – There remains strong support for SEGway (4 Village Bypass), including from both councils. Concerns continue in regards to the impact on existing road infrastructure which is close to capacity in many places
- **Pressure on local services** – There is a strong feeling that local health, police and support services may come close to breaking point with so many coming to area for concentrated period of time. There remain question marks around how EDF Energy will maintain staff presence at proposed accommodation points
- **Legacy** – Will the area be left better or worse off once the station is built and in operation? There is concern that EDF Energy's plans do not go far enough to give real long-lasting positive socio-economic positive impact

To review the joint response previously submitted to EDF Energy at Stage 2, visit:
www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/planning/sizewell-nuclear-power-station/stage-two-consultation/

To view EDF Energy's Stage 3 consultation materials visit:
www.sizewell.edfenergyconsultation.info/

I hope you find this information useful.

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