



## **Councillor's monthly e-newsletter – February 2020**

*(Please circulate electronically and post to your websites. Print only if necessary.)*

Welcome to the February 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.

January was a busy month for me preparing and presenting a number of financial reports to committees and Cabinet in preparation for delivering the Budget to Full Council later this month. In recognition of this work I am proud to have been appointed Cabinet Member for Resources and look forward to working with my excellent Office team to deliver a very exciting programme of projects in the future. In addition, I have attended Town and Parish Meetings in Framlingham, Saxtead, Rendham, Dennington, Brandeston, Easton and Letheringham.

There has been much interest in the recycling opportunities outlined in the Greenprint Newsletter which I circulated last month. Brandeston PC are leading the way and will soon be taking delivery of four boxes for the recycling of different waste products. I have also been made aware of other recycling opportunities across the Ward and, when I have collated sufficient information, I will circulate a list in a future newsletter. It is well worth Councils considering joining in with this initiative as, in addition to supporting the East Suffolk environmental programme, there is income to be made!

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

Kind Regards,  
Maurice

### **Statement from the Leader, Cllr Steve Gallant on Ipswich northern bypass**

Having studied the findings from the strategic outline business case and the public consultation, I can confirm that East Suffolk Council does not support the proposals for the new Ipswich Northern Route.

I have been clear throughout this process that impacts on communities in our district would have to be taken into consideration and I do not believe our residents' interests would be best served by continuing with the project.

The reality is that this new road will only happen if additional homes are built to justify it and, at the moment, a figure as high as 15,000 new properties would be required to make it financially viable. According to standard Planning estimates, this could lead to a new settlement with a population greater than Felixstowe and three times the size of Woodbridge, with a further 20,000 additional cars on the road.

It is clear that new homes are needed in the district. However, the required growth has already been carefully considered and is laid out in our Local Plans. East Suffolk has a duty to represent the interests of our local residents and the significant extra housing that this project demands would place a genuine strain on existing communities and their quality of life.

The primary purpose of a new road would be to cut down congestion elsewhere, however the potential volume of new and additional traffic is worrying. In addition, the cost estimates are troubling and even without any legal challenge we would not see a road built before 2027.

The focus of East Suffolk in respect of transport infrastructure improvements needs to focus on potential projects which have the greatest positive impact on our district. These include improvements to the Orwell Bridge, The Copdock and Seven Hills junctions, and enhancements to the A12 from Felixstowe to Lowestoft, including campaigning for the re-trunking of this strategic road.

East Suffolk Council entirely supports infrastructure projects which provide clear, unarguable benefits to our local communities and businesses. We fully support the decision by Suffolk Public Sector Leaders to complete this study and



public consultation. However, it is clear from the outcome that there will be significant impact on residents in the south of our district and I remain unconvinced that the benefits will outweigh a range of negative effects.

### **Funding secured to help rough sleepers in East Suffolk**

East Suffolk Council has secured over £600,000 to help support rough sleepers in the district.

Following a successful bid to the Government's Rough Sleeping Initiative, the Council has been awarded an additional £693,735 to support work with rough sleepers over the next year. The national initiative has allocated £112million to help get people off the streets and into safe accommodation.

The East Suffolk funding will enable the employment of new street outreach and a specialist to work with vulnerable adults. The funding will also enable the council to retain the services of a rough sleeper coordinator, specialist mental health workers and ensures the continuation of an eight-bed rapid assessment hub. Staff will be solely focused on working with those sleeping on the streets, providing increased support and helping to find accommodation for those in need.

### **Improvements in sight as date agreed for plans to tackle Suffolk's parking problems**

Council's in Suffolk are ramping up activity in order to take on responsibility for local parking management from 6 April 2020 in a bid to improve parking locally and drive down nuisance and unlawful parking.

Traditionally, roadside parking offences were a matter for the Police. However, this has become lower priority for them, so Suffolk County Council is transferring this responsibility to local district and borough councils under the process known as civil parking enforcement, or CPE.

Suffolk Constabulary is supportive of the move because the transfer of responsibilities will enable them to spend additional time on keeping communities safe and arresting and bringing offenders to justice.

### **Community groups help keep East Suffolk clean**

East Suffolk Council is keen to encourage, enable and reward people to show more love for the environment we live in, and as part of the 'Love East Suffolk' scheme, community groups have a winning way of cleaning up their neighbourhood while helping themselves.

Last year a total of 170 litter picks were carried out in East Suffolk by 133 community groups. Under the 'Love East Suffolk' scheme, funded through the Council's partners East Suffolk Norse, those that carried out litter picks between 1 March and 31 May 2019 were entered into a prize draw with the chance to win £200 for the benefit of the community.

The winners were drawn earlier this month by Cllr James Mallinder, Cabinet Member for the Environment and they are: North Cove & Barnby WI, St Margaret S.E. Village Hall, Pakefield Park Litterpickers, Ashby Herringfleet and Somerleyton Parish Council, Priority Court Resident's Association, Martlesham Parish Council, Thorpeness Beach Baggers, Dennington Parish Council and Blaxhall Commons & Open Spaces.

The Love East Suffolk scheme will be repeated again this year and any community groups that take part will receive £20 for their nominated community fund or charity and will also be entered into a £200 grand prize draw. More details will be released in the spring.

### **Suffolk to host final stage of The Women's Tour 2020**

The world's top cyclists will return to Suffolk this June as the county hosts the final stage of The Women's Tour on Saturday 13 June. It will be first time that Suffolk has hosted the final stage of the tour since 2014, with riders tackling a route from Haverhill to Felixstowe.

To mark the announcement, Cllr Letitia Smith, Cabinet Member for Communities, Tourism and Leisure, joined the organisers and other Suffolk partners at the Port of Felixstowe, which will feature in the closing kilometres of the race. Felixstowe last hosted the race in 2014, when Stage Three began in the town.



### **What communities really need: Innovative approach to funding gets underway**

An innovative and progressive scheme, established to provide critical funding for projects which local people want and need most of all, will begin allocating money this month.

The East Suffolk Community Partnerships have been created to “bring ideas to life” and eight separate partnership groups, covering the whole district, will now each decide who to spend £10,000 this year and a further £25,000 for each of the next three years, based on one or more priorities which were agreed at a series of community workshops.

In addition, an overarching pot of £150,000 this year and £300,000 for each of the next three years will be available for the partnerships to bid for.

The eight partnerships cover the whole of East Suffolk and are based on natural grouping of communities, using the new East Suffolk Council ward boundaries as building blocks. Working alongside East Suffolk councillors will be County and town & parish councillors, the police, health bodies, community groups, businesses and other key organisations.

### **Diary dates**

- 11<sup>th</sup> February: 2pm – Planning Committee North (Riverside)
- 25<sup>th</sup> February: 2pm – Planning Committee South (ESH)
- 26<sup>th</sup> February: 6.30pm – Full Council (Riverside)