



Councillor's monthly e-newsletter – March 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.

February was another busy month in Council with the Civil Parking Enforcement, the Budget Statement for 2020/21 and the new East Suffolk Strategic plan all passing through Cabinet and Full Council respectively. I have also attended meetings with residents and Parish Councillors in Framlingham, Letheringham, Gt Glemham, Sweffling and Kettleburgh in addition to attending a very useful meeting of the Framlingham and Wickham Market Community Partnership.

As the end of the Financial year approaches, I am pleased to have joined with Cllrs Taylor and Poulter in providing grants from our Enabling Communities Budgets to the Hour Charity for a Motorcycle Rickshaw project and FAYAP to re-commence their 'Amplifier' Music project for young people.

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

Cllr Maurice Cook.

Coronavirus/Covid-19

Unfortunately this virus outbreak is still a growing problem and has the potential to affect us all if we do not take sensible precautions. The very latest advice can be found at NHS England at the following link:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19>

Whilst there is no need for panic measures at this stage, I have taken the personal decision to limit my travel and with effect from Monday 9th March, propose not to attend any Town or Parish meetings unless absolutely necessary.

This is because I obviously do not wish to come into contact with the virus, should it spread to our area, if at all possible and I certainly would not want to be responsible for passing it on! I propose instead to be available via SKYPE or Microsoft Teams to join meetings visually as required and I should be pleased to establish these contacts with Clerks prior to your meetings. If there are any potential issues for my attention, due to be discussed at your meetings, please do get in touch.

First Light to return to Lowestoft this summer Coronavirus/Covid-19

First Light, the 24-hour, non-stop multi-arts and science festival will be returning to Lowestoft in 2020. Event will begin on Lowestoft's sandy South Beach at noon on Saturday 20 June and will run continuously until midday on Sunday 21 June.

£200,000 of funding had already been agreed by East Suffolk Council and now Arts Council England have confirmed their support with an additional £198,000.

The festival programme will be launched at the end of March at the CEFAS building in Lowestoft, details to follow.

Refilling your weekly shop without unnecessary plastic is getting easier in Suffolk

A number of shops in Suffolk are offering refills for a host of household items in a bid to cut down on the amount of plastic and packaging we use.

The Suffolk Waste Partnership has launched a handy online directory which lists the shops, businesses or charities that host refill points for items such as cleaning products, toiletries and dried foods, such as rice or oats and even loose-leaf tea and chocolate. At the moment there are 22 organisations which stock refills, but the partnership is encouraging other businesses to consider introducing similar schemes. If any retailers or businesses would like to offer refill services and get listed on the online directory please contact Waste.Management@suffolk.gov.uk. The directory can be found here

<https://suffolkrecycling.org.uk/reduce-your-waste>

Climate Change Forum addresses need for collaborations to tackle changing environment

A fully booked Climate Change Forum, titled 'A 20:20 Vision on Climate Change' took part earlier this month in Lowestoft. It explored ideas for positive actions in the face of a changing climate and how communities, individuals and others can do their bit to take action towards better, more sustainable ways of living while adapting to the impacts of climate change.

The Forum was organised by the East Suffolk Greenprint Forum and East Suffolk Environmental Task Group as part of the Council's commitment to inform and engage with the public. It includes talks by Cllr James Mallinder, Cabinet Member for the Environment, Peter Aldous, MP, Karen Thomas, Head of Coastal Partnership East, Tom Bryant, Founder of TFB Consulting and Ian Rowlands, Director at Incredible Oceans.

Local organisations and initiatives were also being promoted at the Forum, with stalls from Greenprint Forum, Plastic Action Champions, Suffolk Waste Partnership, Suffolk Coast & Heaths AOBN, Climate Associates Ltd, Lowestoft Climate Action Group, Greener Fram and Fram Climate Change Action Now, Transition Woodbridge, Friends of the Earth, Coastal Partnership East and Groundwork East.

Help your community become 'plastic clever'

Volunteers are being asked to step forward to help their local community take a smart approach to plastic waste by joining a network of Plastic Action Champions.

The Plastic Action Champions scheme aims to encourage more people to learn about their environmental impact, take action to reduce their plastic waste and spread the word on environmental issues.

The role of a Champion includes volunteering in their local community for a minimum of 20 hours annually. The role is fully flexible and how Champions use those 20 hours is up to you, examples can include reaching out to local community groups and businesses, exhibiting at local events, blogging about relevant topics, and organising litter picks and surveys.

Those interested in becoming a Plastic Action Champion are invited to book a place at one of the following sessions (subject to demand):

- Monday 2 March – Riverside, Canning Road, Lowestoft (4.30-7pm)
- Wednesday 4 March – East Suffolk House, Melton (6-9pm)
- Monday 10 March – Riverside, Canning Road, Lowestoft (4.30-7pm)

Love East Suffolk this spring

The 'Love East Suffolk' litter pick scheme returns this week to encourage, enable and reward people to show some love for the environment we live in.

The scheme gives community groups a winning way of cleaning up their neighbourhood while helping themselves by offering £20 to their nominated community fund or charity for litter picks carried out between 1 March and 31 May 2020.

All registered groups who carry out their litter pick during this period will also be entered into a £200 grand prize draw, with prizes provided by the Council's partners, East Suffolk Norse.

East Suffolk Norse can provide equipment, including sacks, to groups on request and will also arrange for gathered litter to be collected. Litter pick sticks, bag hoops and green vests can also be loaned out, subject to availability.

For more information and to register a litter pick, go to www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/waste/litter/love-east-suffolk/

Diary dates

- 9th March: 10.30am – Strategic Planning Committee (Riverside)
- 10th March: 2pm – Planning Committee North (Riverside)
- 16th March: 6pm – Community Partnership Board (ESH)
- 17th March: 2pm – Licensing Sub-Committee (Riverside)
- 18th March: 6pm – Framlingham, Wickham Market and villages Community Partnership (Dennington Village Hall)
- 24th March: 10am – Anglia Revenues and Benefits Partnership Joint Committee (Breckland House)
- 24th March: 2pm – Planning Committee South (ESH)
- 25th March: 6.30pm – Full Council (ESH)
- 26th March: 6.30 pm - Scrutiny Committee (ESH)
- 30th March: 6.30pm – Audit and Governance Committee