

Cllr Maurice Cook, Cllr William Taylor; East Suffolk Council

Monthly newsletter – July 2019

We are pleased to send a further report into some of the highlights of the work of East Suffolk Council during the last few weeks.

We continue to attend as many Town and Parish Council meetings as we can, in addition to those of Council, and enjoy the Fetes and other events organised throughout the Ward. Having knives thrown at him at Rendham was a particular highlight for Maurice!

William's wife Abby is expecting to give birth to their second child any day this week. For this reason and a little extra pressure of work just now, William will not be available to support as much as he would like. Therefore, please forward all correspondence to Maurice for the time being and he will continue to respond in timely manner and to support as much as he can.

A number of applications to the Enabling Communities Budget and Exemplar funding are under discussion and applications being processed. Please do let us know if you are aware of local community projects with which we may be able to help with a little financial support.

First Light Festival a great success

The first ever First Light Festival, staged in Lowestoft last weekend, has been an incredible success, shining a sun-kissed light on Lowestoft, its creative communities and its beauty as a destination. Thousands of people enjoyed themselves and the response has been overwhelmingly positive.

The festival - which celebrates the first light of midsummer's weekend in Britain's most easterly town is a concept which evolved from the ongoing Lowestoft South Beach Vision project; a collaboration between internationally renowned designers HemingwayDesign (led by Wayne Hemingway MBE), East Suffolk Council and other local partners and businesses.

The bulk of the funding for the event has come from a £100,000 award from Arts Council England and £80,000 from East Suffolk with further contributions from the Council in subsequent years.

East Suffolk Council is committed to a bright future for Lowestoft and investment in this fantastic event is a real statement of intent. It has attracted national attention for the town and for the county and we are delighted that so many creative people and organisations are coming together to make this happen.

The festival grew out of the wider seafront strategy that Waveney District Council commissioned HemingwayDesign to carry out. The original plan was to help enable this event as part of a far wider strategy to reinvigorate the town and the work is only just beginning. But this is the very best possible start and efforts to secure the funding for the next First light Festival will begin almost immediately.

Suffolk's communities celebrate the return of the Women's Tour

The OVO Energy Women's Tour returned to Suffolk in June for its fifth visit to the county. In its four previous visits to Suffolk, the OVO Energy Women's Tour is estimated to have attracted in excess of 250,000 spectators to the roadside and created a net economic impact for the county's economy of in excess of £3.5 million.

Leiston Leisure Centre re-opens

Following an extensive refurbishment programme, Leiston Leisure Centre has re-opened!

The centre closed in August 2018 to undergo a £3.5 million redevelopment as part of East Suffolk Council's five year programme to improve leisure facilities and encourage more people to become active.

The centre partly reopened on Monday 17 June at 12pm, following the completion of Phase One. This includes the swimming pool, which has had many improvements, including new lighting and retiling of the pool surround. It also includes a brand new addition to the centre – a thermal suite with a sauna and steam room, feature showers and relaxation area.

The reception area has been completely rebuilt and has a much more attractive entrance to the centre with an enhanced view of the pool and a new enlarged soft play area.

The redevelopment is on schedule and Phase Two, which includes the sports halls, squash courts, fitness studio and dance studios, is due to reopen in August 2019.

New play area now open

A new children's play area along the seafront in Lowestoft is officially open. Following the allocation of funding from East Suffolk Council and a contribution of £10,000 from the Lowestoft Tourism Group, work to extend the play area at Royal Green began in April. These works, carried out by contractors Sutcliffe Play and delivered by East Suffolk Council in partnership with Sentinel Leisure Trust and East Suffolk Norse, have now been completed on schedule and ahead of this weekend's First Light Festival.

The extended play park offers a self-contained toddler play area with inclusive play equipment for disabled users. It is just part of our ongoing work to regenerate the seafront area; in addition, we have attracted a number of new seafront concessions and refurbishments to the former lifeguard station are now complete.

The seafront, in particular the South Beach, is the main tourist attraction for the town with the award-winning beach providing a huge draw to the majority of the 1.2m visitors who come here each year. Through new facilities, events and attractions, there is potential to broaden and enhance the visitor experience and encourage visitors to spend the day, or longer.

Details announced for the Ipswich Northern Route consultation

Members of the public are invited to have their say on the potential options for the Ipswich Northern Route when the consultation officially begins on 5 July 2019.

The public are being asked to comment on three proposed routes for the new road to the north of Ipswich. The consultation is being jointly developed by Suffolk County Council, Ipswich Borough, East Suffolk and Babergh and Mid Suffolk councils. It is also supported by West Suffolk Council.

The consultation information and questionnaire will be available online and will run for eight weeks from Friday 5 July until Friday 13 September 2019. During this time eleven drop-in sessions will be held throughout July where members of the public can find out about the project and speak with the team.

Here are the details for the 11 events:

Tuesday July 9	Grundisburgh Village Hall	3pm – 7pm
Wednesday July 10	Needham Market Community Centre	3pm – 7pm
Saturday July 13	Woodbridge Community Hall	10am – 3pm
Tuesday July 16	Kesgrave War Memorial C.C.	3pm – 7pm
Wednesday July 17	Witnesham Village Hall	3pm – 7pm
Friday July 19	Coddenham Community Centre	3pm – 7pm
Saturday July 20	Ipswich Library	10am – 3pm
Monday July 22	Tithe Barn, Sproughton	3pm – 7pm
Tuesday July 23	Henley Community Centre	4pm – 8pm
Friday July 26	Martlesham Pavilion	3pm – 7pm
Saturday July 27	Claydon & Barham C.C.	10am – 3pm

Diary Dates:

- 8th July: 6.30pm – Cabinet (ESH)
- 9th July: 2pm – Planning Committee North (Riverside)
- 10th July: 5pm – East Suffolk Partnership Board (TBC)
- 11th July: 10am – Licensing Sub-Committee (Riverside)
- 12th July: 9am – Licensing Sub-Committee (ESH)