

# **Cllr Maurice Cook   Cllr William Taylor: East Suffolk Council**

## **Monthly newsletter – June 2019**

June has been the first full month of the new East Suffolk Council and, for first time Councillors such as we, it has been a busy period of induction and learning, including our first full Council meeting.

It has been a very rewarding time, attending the Town and Parish meetings when we were able, dealing with a range of local enquiries and enjoying a number of summer fetes and events across the Ward where we have been able to meet with many of you. Please do keep us informed of your meetings and events.

Each month it will be our intention to provide a report on the work of the Council and to highlight any issues which have arisen in the Framlingham and Villages ward. We will also continue to attend as many meetings and events as possible to learn of the particular issues in our many and varied communities.

### **Top Story:**

#### **East Suffolk Council up and running**

East Suffolk Council, the largest district council in the country, is now up and running following last month's elections.

With the Conservatives winning 39 of the 55 seats on the new council, Conservative Group leader, Steve Gallant, was elected as the first ever Leader of East Suffolk Council at its AGM on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May.

Following his election, Cllr Gallant spoke of his desire to "build a future for the district that captures its limitless potential."

Laying out his ambitions for a '30-year' vision, he told the authority's first ever full Council meeting that the voice of East Suffolk will be heard loud and there will be investment in communities which gives local people a stronger voice. He spoke of the Council's key priorities, Economic Growth, Enabling Communities and Financial Sustainability and added digital transformation to improve services and the environment as key issues which he will be asking the Council to tackle.

At the same meeting, Colin Hedgley was elected the Council's first Chairman.

#### **Leader announces his top team**

New East Suffolk leader Steve Gallant has announced his cabinet – the top team of councillors to lead on the council's key strategies over the coming months and years.

The cabinet are as follows:

Steve Gallant – Leader and Finance	James Mallinder – The Environment
Craig Rivett – Deputy Leader and Economic Development)	Norman Brooks – Transport
David Ritchie - Planning & Coastal Management	Richard Kerry - Housing
Letitia Smith - Communities, Leisure and Tourism	Mary Rudd - Community Health
Stephen Burroughes - Customer Services & Operational Partnerships	

### **Also in the news:**

#### **Investment shows digital ambition for East Suffolk**

The first stages of an ambitious plan to roll out 'ultrafast' broadband to homes and businesses across Lowestoft have been agreed. The Suffolk Cloud Project, co-ordinated by Suffolk County Council, is installing ultrafast broadband to public sector premises across 10 towns in Suffolk, including Lowestoft, Felixstowe and Woodbridge. However, as part of its ambitious growth and development programme for Lowestoft, East Suffolk Council is proposing an extension to this ultrafast network, providing world-leading connectivity to ALL commercial and residential premises in the town.

At their inaugural meeting held on Tuesday 4 June, the newly formed cabinet of East Suffolk Council agreed to explore extending the Suffolk Cloud project so that Lowestoft's commercial and residential premises can also be connected to the ultrafast network. The extension, which will require a £1.9m investment from the council, will boost economic growth in the town, and the surrounding area. If the Suffolk Cloud project stays on schedule, installation of 'full fibre' in Lowestoft will begin in October and is expected to be completed within 2 years.

#### **Commemoration for former Leader**

A former Leader of Waveney District Council and Suffolk County Councillor who played an instrumental role in the decision to build a third road crossing in Lowestoft is due to be permanently commemorated

by the naming of a new, nearby road in the town. Cllr Colin Law passed away in 2017 having led the authority with distinction for six years. During this time, thanks in no small part to the tireless efforts of Cllr Law - working in partnership with Suffolk County Council - the Government agreed to provide funding for the construction of the bridge. Cllr Law was also a County Councillor and, with final approval for the scheme, the road in question will provide new access, as part of the bridge construction, to the Riverside offices which houses staff from both the newly formed East Suffolk Council and Suffolk County Council.

The decision was taken by East Suffolk's Cabinet at their first ever meeting on Tuesday evening and Steve Gallant, Leader of the Council, believes it is a fitting way to honour Colin's contribution. He said: "With the blessing of his family, I am delighted that we have the opportunity to create a permanent reminder of Colin's achievements and legacy. The naming of roads is the responsibility of the district authority and we can not think of a more appropriate recipient of this honour given his involvement in the project.

### **Work set to improve beach access in Felixstowe**

Work to improve access to beach huts and the beach in Felixstowe is taking place this month. East Suffolk Council is investing £250,000 on a project to renovate five set of steps to improve the public access to the beach and the huts from Golf Road to The Dip. This comes after a recent survey of the area revealed that that some of the older flights had deteriorated and were potentially hazardous. The work is expected to take about 16 weeks to complete. The decision to carry out the work during the summer months has been made on the advice of the contractors, as it minimises the risk of encountering delays due to adverse weather conditions.

The project will be managed by the Council's partners at East Suffolk Norse.

### **Recruits wanted for Operation Camouflage**

Children in East Suffolk are being asked to put their best foot forward to have fun this summer - as the award winning Operation Camouflage returns to the area.

The military-themed summer activity returns for the twelfth year running from Monday 12 August to Thursday 15 August 2019 at Rock Barracks, Sutton – the home of 23 Parachute Engineer Regiment. The action-packed event is for young people aged between 8 - 16 years from East Suffolk and young people from military families based at Colchester, Watisham and Woodbridge.

### **East Suffolk Business & Community Awards**

Entries are now open for the East Suffolk Business and Community Awards! The awards recognise and celebrate the hard work and successes of the groups, individuals and businesses within the East Suffolk community.

There are 13 award categories:

- Team Of The Year Award
- New Business of The Year Award
- Business Growth Award
- Service to the Community Award – Group
- Service to the Community Award – Individual
- Great Idea Award
- Science, Tech & Engineering Award
- Customer Focus Award
- Peoples Development Award
- Health & Wellbeing Award
- Encouraging Tourism Award
- Club of the Year Award
- Enabling Local Communities Award

Winners will be announced at a ceremony on 3 October at The Hangar, Kesgrave Hall. Find full details of the awards criteria, and how to enter, at [www.esbca.co.uk](http://www.esbca.co.uk). Deadline – 30<sup>th</sup> June.

### **Diary Dates:**

- 25<sup>th</sup> June: 2pm – Planning Committee South (ESH)
- 4<sup>th</sup> July: 10am – Licensing Sub-Committee (ESH)
- 8<sup>th</sup> July: 6.30pm – Cabinet (ESH)
- 9<sup>th</sup> July: 2pm – Planning Committee North (Riverside)
- 10<sup>th</sup> July: 5pm – East Suffolk Partnership Board (TBC)
- 11<sup>th</sup> July: 10am – Licensing Sub-Committee (Riverside)
- 12<sup>th</sup> July: 9am – Licensing Sub-Committee (ESH)