



Councillor's monthly bulletin – December 2020

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Welcome to the December edition of my monthly newsletter, aimed at keeping Town and Parish Councils up to date on the main news stories from East Suffolk and, where possible, give you a head's up on issues which are emerging. My I start this month by wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy, Prosperous and Covid-free New Year.

Kind Regards

Cllr Maurice Cook

Framlingham Ward

Cabinet Member – Resources

Financial support available for businesses

East Suffolk Council is currently processing payments for two business grants provided by the Government in a response to the nationwide restrictions in November. Although the restrictions have now been lifted, there is currently no time limit on when applications must be received by. The Local Restrictions Support Grant (LRSO) is available to businesses that were required to close in line with the restrictions, including non-essential retail, leisure, personal care, sports facilities and hospitality, and the Additional Restrictions Grant is available for small businesses outside the scope of the LRSO. The online application forms and full details about how to apply with full eligibility can be found [here](#).

Residents urged to shop local this Christmas

As East Suffolk has entered Tier 2 this week, shoppers can now return to the high street in the run up to Christmas with non-essential shops, personal care businesses, gyms and the wider leisure sector able to open their doors once again. East Suffolk Council is continuing to encourage local shoppers to support their local towns through its ongoing 'Shop Local' campaign to support independent retailers, restaurants, theatres, cinemas, pubs and cafes as much as they can. For the hospitality sector, the new Tier 2 restrictions mean that pubs and bars operating as restaurants must provide table service only and must remain closed between 11pm and 5am. They must also call last orders at 10pm, with the extra hour solely for finishing what has already been ordered. For those enjoying the wide-ranging take-away and delivery options on offer, hospitality businesses and venues selling food and drink for consumption off the premises can continue to do so after 10pm. However, this must be via a delivery service, click-and-collect or a drive-through.

[Find out more about the Shop Local campaign.](#)

East Suffolk Council's leisure centres have re-opened

Brackenbury Leisure Centre, Deben Leisure Centre, Felixstowe Leisure Centre, Leiston Leisure Centre and Waveney Valley Leisure Centre have re-opened this week with enhanced safety measure in place to ensure the safety of customers and staff. This includes hand sanitiser stations and cleaning stations to wipe down equipment before and after use, new floor and wall signage throughout and repositioned equipment to enable social distancing.



Meanwhile, as part of the Council's ongoing improvement programme for its leisure centres, Waterlane Leisure Centre remains closed while essential specialised work is carried out. This is expected to be completed by February 2021 and customers are encouraged to use other facilities, such as Waveney Valley Leisure Centre in the meantime.

For more information about each centre, see the [Places Leisure website](#).

New Environmental Guidance Note approved

East Suffolk Council continues to put the environment first as it approves new guidance which tackles the impact development can have on the environment. The Guidance Note was produced after the Council declared a climate emergency and aims to support the Council's environmental vision in building the right environment for East Suffolk and its commitment to be carbon neutral by 2030. It provides simple, concise information on best practices for reducing the impact on the environment in any new developments or renovations and measures to help achieve this, including energy efficiency, renewable energy, nature and wildlife, sustainable travel, water conservation, materials and waste and more. [View the Environmental Guidance Note](#).

Further funding available to tackle social isolation

East Suffolk Council's Hidden Needs Programme, which supports people struggling with social isolation and loneliness, is now accepting new applications. The programme, which originally launched in 2018, was relaunched by the Council in June with a fund of £100,000 in a response to Covid-19 and adapted to help fund projects which supports people of all ages who are particularly vulnerable during this time. Following the success of two previous rounds of applications, a third round has now been opened. Applications are invited from local community groups and voluntarily organisations who are delivering projects which can help reduce social isolation and loneliness. Grants of up to £10,000 are available through the scheme and applications must be submitted by 15 January 2021. More details and application form is available [here](#).

Melton Hill case dismissed

East Suffolk Council successfully defended its decision to grant planning permission to develop homes at the site of former offices, Melton Hill, Woodbridge. A Judge in the Administrative Court dismissed all of the claims made against the Council and found that its approach to the granting of planning consent was lawful.

With full Planning Consent in place, East Suffolk Council will now begin the process of marketing the site to interested developers, bringing much needed housing to the area in a prime location.