



Councillor's monthly bulletin – October 2020

Welcome to the October 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.

Kind Regards

Cllr Maurice Cook, Framlingham Ward

Cabinet Member – Resources

Marina Customer Service Centre has reopened

The Marina Customer Services Centre has reopened with strict hygiene protocols in place and an appointment booking system in place.

Appointments are only accepted for our most vulnerable customers and to discuss certain statutory services – housing, homelessness, immigration support appointments, Council Tax and Benefits.

All customers must call to book however our call centre team will seek to resolve any issues by phone, without the need for an appointment, where possible. All payments for services will still need to be made by phone or online.

As part of the booking process, customer details are recorded and retained for test and trace purposes and all customers who attend the Marina Customer Services Centre are expected to wear a face mask and follow all hygiene requirements, such as social distancing and the use of hand sanitiser (which will be provided).

Bookings are available from Monday to Friday between 10am and 4pm - and no member of the public will be allowed into the building without an appointment. To book an appointment, please call 03330 162000.

The customer service points within Beccles, Felixstowe and Woodbridge libraries will not reopen at this time.

New Chairman elected

East Suffolk Council elected its new Chairman at virtual Annual Meeting, which was held on 23 September.

Cllr Keith Robinson, who represents the Oulton Broad ward, will be Chairman for the remainder of the 2020/21 Municipal Year, taking on the post from Cllr Colin Hedgley.

New and ambitious 'Local Plan' approved

East Suffolk Council have adopted the Suffolk Coastal Local Plan – an ambitious strategy to guide and manage new development for the former Suffolk Coastal area in a sustainable and plan-led way.

It proposes the delivery of at least 6,500 jobs and 9,756 new homes over the period to 2036, supported by the delivery of appropriate infrastructure whilst also setting out an approach to protect, maintain and enhance the high quality built, historic and natural environment, and mitigate and adapt to climate change. To achieve this strategy, employment sites and residential sites have been identified in a variety of locations to realise the opportunities that exist across the Plan area, including the allocation of two new garden neighbourhoods at North Felixstowe and South Saxmundham.

The Plan will sit alongside the Waveney Local Plan which was adopted in March 2019, and the Local Plan for the Broads (prepared by the Broads Authority) which was adopted in May 2019, together providing up to date plans across the whole of East Suffolk.

View the Local Plan [here](#).



New service for council tenants to be launched

East Suffolk Council's housing tenants will soon be able to manage their tenancy more easily using a new online service, due to be launched later this year.

The new portal, called 'myHome East Suffolk' will be launched by the end of the year and will enable those living in council properties to manage payments, request repairs and make appointments quickly and easily. More details about how to sign up for the new service will be released in the coming weeks and all tenants will be contacted directly regarding the new service.

East Suffolk residents encouraged to safely shop local

East Suffolk Council has launched a campaign to reassure the people of East Suffolk that there are robust safety measures in place in the town centres – and encourage them to support local businesses safely and regularly, to keep the local economy healthy.

Working with town councils, business associations and other local groups, the Council has compiled information on safety measures, how businesses have adapted, as well as guidance and advice. Supported by the Bridge Marketing, the Council has embarked on an informative campaign featuring videos, posters, information packs for businesses and a full social media campaign.

Those seeking further information should visit eastsuffolkmeansbusiness.co.uk where they can find a whole host of information, downloadable packs and where businesses can request campaign materials.

People encouraged to stay safe on our coast

A campaign was launched earlier this month to remind residents and visitors about the importance of staying safe on our coast.

Throughout the Covid-19 restrictions, and particularly since early summer, the Council's Coastal Management Team has received almost daily reports from concerned landowners, businesses and the community about people climbing through eroding cliffs, climbing on top of sea defences and ignoring signs warning of potential dangers.

The campaign encourages people to visit the coast and enjoy all that there is to see and do but also aims to educate people to take care whilst they are there to ensure that their visit is enjoyable and safe. The campaign launched on social media and with posters and information in prominent local places. Anyone who notice anything unusual or dangerous about cliffs or any coastal defences, should email coastalmanagement@eastsuffolk.gov.uk. In an emergency always call 999 and ask for the Coastguard.

Claim against council dismissed

The High Court has dismissed a claim against East Suffolk Council regarding a planning application in relation to facilities at the Sizewell nuclear power plant.

The judgement handed down by Mr Justice Holgate on 1 October dismissing the claim made by Ms Girling on behalf of Together Against Sizewell that East Suffolk Council unlawfully determined the planning application to relocate facilities used in connection with the Sizewell B power station from land that is currently proposed to be utilised for the proposed Sizewell C nuclear power station.

'Relevant representation' submitted for Sizewell C

East Suffolk Council submitted its 'relevant representation' in respect of the Development Consent Order for Sizewell C nuclear power station to the Planning Inspectorate earlier this month. It is the culmination of



several months hard work initially reviewing EDF Energy's submission and follows vigorous debate at Full Council and Cabinet, during which a number of issues relating to the scheme have been discussed.

Major funding boost to help tackle homelessness

East Suffolk Council has been awarded £93,312 in funding as part of the Government's Next Steps Accommodation Programme, to help vulnerable people housed during the pandemic stay in accommodation. Working closely with key partners across the district, the funding will enable the Council to continue to provide accommodation and support for vulnerable people placed under the Covid-19 provisions, including assisting with offers of accommodation in the private rented sector; offering employment and skills support through a personalised, one-to-one coaching service delivered by Access Community Trust; and providing additional emergency beds during the colder winter months.

High Street Heritage Action Zone programme begins

The London Road Lowestoft High Street Heritage Action Zone (HSHAZ) is one of seven historic high streets across the East of England which have been offered government funding to give them a new lease of life and help them recover from declining footfall and the impact of Covid-19.

The £95m government-funded High Streets Heritage Action Zone programme, which is delivered by Historic England, will unlock the potential of these high streets, fuelling economic, social and cultural recovery. The lead partners for the schemes, including East Suffolk Council, Lowestoft Town Council and East Suffolk Building Preservation Trust, are working with Historic England to develop and deliver schemes that will transform and restore disused and dilapidated buildings into new homes, shops, work places and community spaces, restoring local historic character and improving public realm.

The London Road Lowestoft HSHAZ programme began on 1 October and will complement the North Lowestoft Heritage Action Zone which has been running since 2018.

Rendlesham appeal dismissed

A Planning Inspector has upheld a decision by East Suffolk Council to dismiss a development proposed for 75 new homes on the land north of the Gardenia Close and Garden Square in Rendlesham.

The Council refused the planning application submitted by Capital Community Developments in July 2019. Whilst the site is allocated for housing the refusal was primarily due to longstanding concerns over the poor design of the layout of the development with the Council having pursued changes over a previous refusal and past pre-application engagement.

The decision was appealed by the applicants and subsequently, a public inquiry was held on 30 June 2020 in one of the first pilot Virtual Planning Inquiries in the country. The Inspector issued the decision notice last month almost entirely endorsing the various significant design concerns held by the Council in dismissing Capital Community Development's appeal.

Stay safe.