



Councillor's monthly e-newsletter – September 2020

Welcome to the September 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.

August, usually the month for taking a break, was again busy with a number of Cabinet briefings and meetings to discuss the Suffolk Coastal Local Plan and the East Suffolk representation to the Sizewell C enquiry, which was passed by Council on 1st September. There were also Community Partnership Task and Finish group meetings to discuss Delivering Opportunities for Young People and Reducing Social Isolation. Some good progress was made and at meetings later this month it is hoped to agree projects to be put forward for funding.

It is pleasing that, in many respects, life is returning to some kind of normality but the covid-19 crisis is clearly far from over. There are new cases continuing to be identified, some quite locally. For my part, I do not anticipate attending meetings in person, certainly for the remainder of this year, whilst the threat remains, albeit at relatively low risk.

However, I should be pleased to join your meetings virtually, if that facility is available, or to communicate via skype between meetings to address any issues with which I might assist. I will continue to forward monthly reports for circulation.

I am happy to repeat my offer to fund low cost portable WiFi devices such as the Muama Ryoko if Parish Councils or Village Hall Committees would like to have wifi available at their meetings.

Solar Together Suffolk re-launched!

Solar Together Suffolk can once again offer you savings on the installation of solar panels for your home. Since 2018, eight hundred households in Suffolk saved an average of £2000 on the cost of a new solar panel array and £140 a year on energy bills. It's a collective-purchase scheme that helps you through the process, keeping you informed at every stage.

If you are interested in saving money on your energy bills, generating your own supply of electricity, and helping the environment by reducing your carbon emissions - register today. Registration is free and no-obligation. The more people who register by the deadline of **6 October 2020**, the better the price that can be secured and the more clean energy will be generated by Suffolk residents. With solar panels, it is estimated the average household will reduce its annual carbon emissions by nearly one tonne each year - the equivalent of driving 3,500 miles in an average car!

For detailed information about likely costs, the amount of energy you can expect to generate, and lots more go to <http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/solar-together-suffolk>. A freephone helpline is also available to answer questions—call 0800 048 8402.

Latest national information on coronavirus: <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

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

Local, East Suffolk-specific information: <https://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/covid-19>

Grants, funding and business matters

The closing date for applications to the Small Business, Retail, Hospitality and Leisure and Discretionary Grants passed on 28th August. There are a small number of applications still to be processed but to date £65.895m has been paid out to support 5,802 businesses across our district.

More news from across the district next month.

Until then – stay safe.

**Kind Regards, Cllr Maurice Cook Framlingham Ward
Cabinet Member – Resources**