

District Councillors Report to Hasketon Parish Council



July 2019

Cllr Colin Hedgley Cllr Tony Fryatt

Northern Relief Road.

The first steps are being taken regarding this contentious subject. County Councillors were given an initial briefing on 27th June. District Councillors were then given a briefing on the 4th July at East Suffolk House. It goes without saying that both Tony Fryatt and myself are deeply concerned about this project. We are working hard with our MP and others in order to find ways to at least mitigate the effects of this scheme, if not to force a complete re think by Suffolk County Council. We had hoped to bring you some more positive news today but things are not quite in place yet, hence the lateness of this report, but soon will be. It is interesting to note that all three routes go through the Carlford and Fynn Valley ward and so that means that our fellow residents will suffer no matter what. Numerous questions present themselves not least what will happen on the stretch of A12 between Woods Lane and Seven Hills Junction which is already excessively busy. But we must concentrate on our area and our constituents. I urge you to go to the Consultation Meetings and also go onto the website and complete the questionnaire.

We will keep you informed as events unfold.

Committee Membership

Both of your District Councillors sit on the Planning Committee (South) and have successfully navigated the first full meeting. Cllr Hedgley, who is Chairman of the Council, also sits on the Licensing Committee and the Licensing sub- committee that deals with applications and revocation.

New Leader of the Council

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

Craig Rivett – Deputy Leader and Economic Development)

Norman Brooks – Transport

Stephen Burroughes - Customer Services and Operational Partnerships

Richard Kerry - Housing

James Mallinder – The Environment

David Ritchie - Planning & Coastal Management

Mary Rudd - Community Health

Letitia Smith - Communities, Leisure and Tourism

Also in the news:

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 Hemingway Design 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.

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.

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.

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.

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