

## SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT – OCTOBER 2018



### *Cllr Stephen Burroughes - Framlingham Division*

#### • BECCLES SOUTHERN RELIEF ROAD OFFICIALLY OPENED

On 25 September, the Beccles Southern Relief Road was officially opened by the Vice Lord Lieutenant of Suffolk, Robert Rous. Construction of the Beccles Southern Relief Road, which was delivered on time and is approximately 2km long, began in July 2017. The route stretches from London Road (A145) to Ellough Road (C969), providing an alternative route to Ellough Industrial Estate from the south and west of Beccles.

Economically the road will support further development of Ellough Industrial Estate and Enterprise Zone and create 3100 more jobs in the area. The road, built by Jacksons Civil Engineering, will also lower the impact of HGV's in Beccles, providing them with an alternate route around the town. As part of these works two new roundabouts have been constructed at each end of the road and a new shared space for pedestrians and cyclists has been installed on the northern side of the road.

New bridleways have also been provided on the south side to connect with the well-used network of routes in the area and horse crossings have been provided at two points along the road. A modern sustainable drainage system has also been installed.

#### • SUFFOLK'S BUSINESSES INVITED TO COMMENT ON FAIR ENFORCEMENT

On 24 September, Suffolk's businesses and residents were invited to comment on Suffolk County Council Trading Standards' proposed updated Enforcement Policy. This policy is used to make sure Trading Standards enforces the law fairly, to keep Suffolk safe. Suffolk County Council Trading Standards carries out a range of enforcement action in the county, from investigating online sales of counterfeit clothing to fraudulent business practices or poor workmanship by rogue traders.

Often such investigations involve working with partner agencies. This year, Suffolk County Council Trading Standards has been working more closely with Norfolk County Council Trading Standards to develop a joined-up approach to enforcement, including cross-border crime.

This updated policy incorporates guidance from Norfolk, to offer a consistent approach to enforcement in the East. It provides a framework to ensure that enforcement is delivered in an equitable, practical and consistent manner. Comments are invited on the newly revised Enforcement Policy which includes proposed changes arising from changes to legislation and national guidance.

The proposed Enforcement Policy and a short survey can be found on the [Trading Standards draft enforcement policy consultation](#) page. Comments can be made until 21 October 2018, after which the policy will be updated as appropriate and presented to the Suffolk County Council cabinet for approval.

#### • HAVE YOUR SAY ON A BRIGHT FUTURE FOR LOCAL DESIGN

Inspired by award-winning designer Wayne Hemingway, a ground-breaking "Design Guide" for building and development in Suffolk is being created by the county's local authorities.

Critical to its success will be local input and, with this in mind, a survey was launched on 17 September to ensure that the views of Suffolk people play a key role in future decisions. The [survey](#) asks people to say what they do and don't like about the way Suffolk is currently built, from its public buildings to street lighting.

The survey, which takes as little as 10 minutes to complete, closes on Wednesday 31 October 2018. Although other counties have produced similar guides, this will be the first that incorporates the wishes and opinions of the people that matter most: those that live (or have lived) in, work in or visit the county. Essentially, the people that love Suffolk. The survey is just the start of the process and the councils will work with other public bodies, land owners, developers, parish councils, architects, engineers, artists, and amenity groups to finalise the finished guide. A wide range of events will also take place including conferences, study tours, community events, developer meetings and interactive exercises. The Suffolk Design Guide will provide ground rules for planning applications for future Suffolk projects.

- **WINDOW NOW OPEN TO APPLY FOR PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL PLACES**

Parents and carers can now apply for primary and secondary school places for September 2019.

The deadline for applications to secure a place at a Suffolk secondary school is Wednesday 31 October 2018. For a primary school it is Wednesday 15 January 2019. Secondary schools include high and upper schools and primary schools includes infant, junior and middle schools. Last year, Suffolk County Council received over 15,000 applications from parents and carers indicating which school they would prefer their child to be educated at. 93% of applicants received offers for their first preference school and more than 98% of applicants received an offer for one of their top three preferred schools.

This year, parents and carers will also need to consider the changes to Suffolk's School Travel Policy, which were agreed by Suffolk County Council's Cabinet on 19 June 2018. The new policy will assess eligibility for funded school travel to the nearest suitable school with a place available. More information about the changes is available at [www.suffolk.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/admissions).

Parents and carers should apply online at [www.suffolk.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/admissions) as, that way, they will receive confirmation that their application has been received. If for any reason parents and carers are unable to apply online, they should apply on a paper CAF1 application form. Suffolk County Council is unable to acknowledge receipt of paper applications and therefore suggest that proof of posting is obtained.

A completed application must be submitted for every child wanting a secondary school place or a primary school place from September 2019. If parents and carers are planning to move house, or think their circumstances may change before September, it is still important to make an application on time. Advice and guidance about this process is available at [www.suffolk.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/admissions).

Those who apply online will be able to log on to the Online Service on the National Offer Day, Friday 1 March 2019 for secondary school places and Tuesday 16 April for primary school places, to see their offer of a school place. They will receive an email to confirm this offer on the same day. Offer letters will be sent by second class post to applicants, who made a paper application. Information to help parents and carers make their application is available at [www.suffolk.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/admissions).

- **SEARCH ON TO FIND SUFFOLK'S MOST ACTIVE COMMUNITIES**

On 12 September, Suffolk County Council and Suffolk Association of Local Councils launched their annual search to find the most active town and villages in Suffolk. The idea behind the competition, now in its fifth year, is to recognise and celebrate the hard work that communities across Suffolk, both large and small, do to encourage their residents to be active.

It seeks to find the most active town, most active large village (population of more than 1,000) and most active small village (population of less than 1,000). Besides the honour of being named as the most active town or village in Suffolk the winner from each category will receive an engraved brass plaque as a permanent recognition of their achievement.

In 2017 the award winners were Mendham and Withersdale Street, (who triumphed for the second year running) Shotley, Stradbroke and Kesgrave. Entry forms for this year's competition can be downloaded from [www.mostactivecounty.com](http://www.mostactivecounty.com). The closing date for entries is Wednesday 17th October 2018.

Shortlisted communities from each category will be invited to the SALC AGM on the 6th November 2018 where the winners and runners up will be announced.

- **NEW APPROACH AGREED FOR SPECIALIST EDUCATION PLACEMENTS IN SUFFOLK**

On 11 September, Suffolk County Council's Cabinet agreed a recommendation to introduce a new approach to the development of specialist education placements for children and young people. The need will be met in Suffolk by developing a combination of new specialist support centres and new special schools, using independent placements from private providers for only a small number of very specialist needs.

A policy development panel will be established immediately to realise these local education places as swiftly as possible. The demand for specialist education places in Suffolk is rising rapidly due to the county's population growth, advances in medicine and increasing complexity of special educational needs. The challenges Suffolk is facing mirror the national picture. Work has already taken place in the county to deal with the increase in demand for specialist education places.

A new special school in Lowestoft opened in September 2017 and following Department for Education approval another special school will open in Ipswich in 2020. Several of the county's existing special schools have expanded and a new campus with additional space for Riverwalk School in Bury St Edmunds opened this September. Work has also taken place to establish a number of additional specialist small groups for specific local needs.

- **DECADES OF SERVICE AND BRAVERY RECOGNISED ACROSS SUFFOLK'S FIRE SERVICE**

On 5 September, firefighters, staff and members of the public were honoured for their bravery and commitment at the annual Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service awards. 41 certificates of merit and awards for good conduct and service were presented, including Special Certificates of Long Service to staff who have each given over 40 years of duty. Peter Banthorpe, a member of the public, was recognised for his quick-thinking and life-saving actions during a kitchen fire in an Ipswich house.

The Volunteer of the Year award was presented to John Sones, who is a Community Fire Volunteer. John has been supporting events, carrying out community safety work across Suffolk, making homes visits to install smoke alarms and advising people how to keep their property safe. Ruth Elliott and Charlotte Godfrey received Recruit of the Year awards, for achieving exceptionally high marks in courses and exams, and for inspiring others. The Alan Soards Award for Best Fire Station went to Wickhambrook, which celebrated its 50th anniversary this year.

For further information or questions please contact me at: [stephen.burroughes@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:stephen.burroughes@suffolk.gov.uk)

**CLlr Stephen Burroughes**

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