



Councillor's monthly newsletter - January 2020

Happy New Year!

Welcome to the January 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.

December was a quiet month for attending Town and Parish Meetings, mainly because of the General Election. However, there was a full programme of Council meetings, which were time sensitive, and which kept Councillors busy. I was able to attend a number of Christmas celebrations across the ward and share in some festive cheer along the way. I am looking forward to attending many of your meetings in a very busy January.

As you are aware, East Suffolk Council, in line with many other Councils, has declared a Climate Emergency and formed an Environmental Task Group to progress the District to be a zero carbon community. A number of substantial projects are under consideration to help achieve this but we can all, in our local communities do much to contribute.

Included with this message is the Greenprint Forum Newsletter for Winter 2019/20 giving ideas and examples of what can be achieved. Of particular interest is the recycling of Tetra packs, yoghurt pots, coffee pods and toothpaste tubes etc which can no longer be included in the recycling bins. It is not always convenient to transport them to the Waste Recycling Centres and local arrangements can be made which you may like to consider in your communities. The following link will take you to details of how this can be achieved:

https://www.terracycle.com/en-GB/about-terracycle/recycle_your_waste?utm_campaign=admittance&utm_medium=menu&utm_source=www.terracycle.com

I encourage all Town and Parish Councils to consider supporting these initiatives and, as always, our Enabling Communities Grants are available to assist with costs.

As always, if there is any matter with which you think I can help, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind Regards,



Maurice

News from around the District:

New paperless land charges service launched

The new East Suffolk Public Access Land Charges (PALC) system was launched on 2 December, enabling people to directly access the Land Charges team at East Suffolk Council.

As part of the conveyancing process, a local land charges search is undertaken whenever a property or piece of land is purchased, leased, valued or re-mortgaged. The search shows any restrictions or legal obligations against the site such as tree preservation orders, conditional planning consents, conservation areas and listed buildings.

Prior to the introduction of the new PALC system, searches could only be applied for via email or in writing.

Through the use of intelligent online forms which ensure the correct information is captured during an application, the new system removes the need for third parties and additional transactions. Applicants receive a downloadable response document, removing the need for printing and further paperwork.

To access the new Public Access Land Charges service, go to

www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/local-land-charges

Bin collections Christmas hangers

During the weeks commencing 23 December and 30 December, bins may be collected on a different day to the usual schedule. Bin hangers have been distributed to all East Suffolk households, providing details about wheeled bin collections between Christmas and New Year.

People can also check when their bin is due to be emptied and which bin is due to be collected (all year around!) at www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/refuse-collection.

For more information about what can be recycled through kerbside recycling bins and at Household Waste Recycling Centres, go to www.suffolkrecycling.org.uk/a-z-of-recycling.

Consultation on proposed dog control orders

Earlier this year, 10 Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) were introduced to replace existing byelaws. The areas affected by these include Charsfield recreation ground, Martello Park Gardens in Felixstowe and Felixstowe Seafront Gardens. Now, three more PSPOs are being proposed to ensure dogs are kept on leads in Herringfleet Hills, Lound Lakes and Charsfield churchyard. A four-week consultation was launched on 13 December inviting local people to give their views on the proposals.



Full details of the proposals, and details of how to comment on them, can be found at www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/dog-control-order-consultation
Responses can also be sent to PSPO Consultation, c/o Environmental Protection, East Suffolk Council, East Suffolk House, Station Road, Melton, Suffolk, IP12 1RT. The consultation closes on Friday 10 January 2020.

Consultation on draft Heritage Action Zone document

Local residents, businesses and other interested parties are being asked for their views on the draft design guidance for the North Lowestoft Heritage Action Zone. The 6-weeks Draft North Lowestoft Heritage Action Zone (HAZ) Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document consultation started on 13 December 2019 and closes at 5pm on Friday 24 January 2020.

The North Lowestoft Heritage Action Zone is a project carried out in partnership with Historic England, Lowestoft Town Council and East Suffolk Building Preservation Trust which will run until the end of March 2023. East Suffolk Council is actively supporting the HAZ programme of work, including through the commissioning and production of this Design Guide. Following the consultation, the Council will consider the comments received prior to finalising the document early next year.

The Draft HAZ Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document can be found at www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/HAZ

Reducing waste this Christmas

East Suffolk residents are being encouraged to consider the environment this Christmas by choosing recyclable products wherever possible and reducing their household waste.

An estimated 125,000 tonnes of plastic packaging and 83km² of wrapping paper is thrown away in the UK every Christmas. However, much of this waste could be recycled at home through the blue household recycling bin.

Most wrapping paper is recyclable, with the exception of paper with glitter or foil-effect papers. Cardboard packaging and cards without glitter are also recyclable through the blue wheeled bin, as well as hard plastic, aluminium foil, newspaper, magazines, cans and plastic bottles.

According to the Suffolk Waste Partnership, 73% of people have leftover food at Christmas. Buying less and freezing leftovers can save money and reduce the amount of food being thrown away. For more information on reducing food waste, visit www.foodsavvy.org.uk.

Work to improve beach access in Felixstowe has been completed

Work to improve access to Felixstowe beach and beach huts has been completed at a cost of £250,000.



East Suffolk Council has invested £250,000 to improve public access to the beach and beach huts in Felixstowe following a survey of the area, which revealed that some of the older steps had deteriorated and were potential hazardous.

The work included renovating the steps at Golf Road car park and removing the old steps at Brackenbury car park to create a new set of wooden and concrete steps. Access has also been improved for beach hut licence holders at Brackenbury Cliffs with the refurbishment of new platforms in front of the huts.

Food safety packs launched to help small businesses

Small businesses in East Suffolk can now manage their food safety practices more easily following the launch of new information packs.

Developed by the Food Standards Agency, 'Safer Food Better Business' packs are now available from East Suffolk Council's Food and Safety Team to help small business operators understand and comply with food hygiene regulations and food safety management procedures.

Food safety regulations require a business to show and record the actions they take to ensure food made and/or sold on the premises is safe to eat.

The 'Safer Food Better Business' packs contain food safety procedures for a variety of businesses including caterers, care homes, retailers and childminders. The packs contain up to date information on:

- Food allergens
- 'Pre-Packed for Direct Sale' regulations (which will be introduced in October 2021)
- Details on how to register as a food business
- Guidance around the Food Hygiene Ratings Scheme.

Businesses can download or order a pack here: www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/business/food-safety/safer-food-better-business/

Photo competition winners announced

The winners of this year's East Suffolk Photo Competition have been announced. Returning for its third year, the competition ran throughout November and invited amateur and professional photographers to submit their photos of the district to East Suffolk Council.

In early December, the entries were judged by Cllr Stephen Burroughes, cabinet member for Customer Services and Operational Partnerships and Cllr Letitia Smith, cabinet member for Communities, Leisure and Tourism.

See the winning photos at www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/leisure/east-suffolk-photo-competition/

Diary dates



- 6 January: 6.30pm - Audit and Governance Committee (Riverside)
- 7 January: 6.30pm - Cabinet (Riverside)
- 14 January: 2pm - Planning Committee North (Riverside)
- 20 January: 6.30pm - Licensing Committee (ESC)
- 22 January: 6.30pm - Full Council (ESC)
- 23 January: 6.30pm - Scrutiny Committee (Riverside)
- 28 January: 2pm - Planning Committee South (ESC)