



## Councillor's monthly newsletter - December 2019

Welcome to the December 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.

During November I was pleased to meet with Town and Parish Councillors both at the East Suffolk Partnership Annual Forum and the Workshop for the Framlingham and Wickham Market Community Partnership. The next meeting of the Partnership will be in early February and I will ensure that all Parishes in the Framlingham Ward will receive an invitation to be represented in this new project. I have also been pleased to attend meetings and events in Kettleburgh and Letheringham. My apologies for those meetings I was unable to attend, usually through diary clashes with my Cabinet duties.

Following a number of properties in Kettleburgh being affected by flooding last week, I shall be attending an emergency meeting of the Parish Council to discuss the issue with residents and seeking to identify solutions with the relevant agencies.

The most recent beneficiaries of the Enabling Communities Budgets of myself and Cllr Taylor have been the multi award winning 'Student Life' project who provide opportunities and training to students in local schools and colleges, including mental health awareness. They will soon be recruiting and training new Student Ambassadors in Thomas Mills High School, Framlingham.

Of particular interest this month is that I have received three pre-application advices from Telecom companies wishing to install masts in Dennington, Easton and Earl Soham to facilitate the implementation of smart energy meters and to improve mobile phone coverage. Whilst I welcome the potential improvement of services to these rural areas, I have invited each of the Parishes to comment, prior to the formal planning applications being submitted to East Suffolk Council.

As I write we are in 'National Tree Week.' My message box has been swelled by a large number of requests urging the Council to strive to double the number of trees in the district to help tackle our Climate Emergency. The Council's cross-Party Environmental Task Group will be meeting again in January and will be considering a number of projects to achieve the aim of becoming carbon



neutral by 2030. I am sure we will be seeking the support of all Towns and Parishes in the implementation of green initiatives in the New Year.

Finally, I should like to wish all a very happy Christmas and prosperous New Year.

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

Kind Regards,

Maurice

### **Solar Together Suffolk will help you reduce your carbon emissions - final chance to register.**

Last year, the Solar Together Suffolk scheme enabled 635 households to have their own solar panels installed at a reduced cost.

You have until 13 December to register your interest for this year's scheme and join those who are already reducing their carbon emissions and saving money on their energy bills.

More than 1,100 people have already signed up for this year's scheme. You have until midnight on 13 December 2019 to register your details, but there is no obligation to buy at this stage.

Through the power of group-buying the scheme can help you save more than 27% on your solar panels system versus typical market pricing. This price has been secured from Greenscape Energy, an Ipswich-based approved supplier who won the bid for the installation contract.

Since March 2019, Suffolk's Councils have been declaring climate emergencies. This means that we will be working in partnership to help Suffolk become carbon neutral by 2030. 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 3,200 miles in an average petrol car!

It is free to register with Solar Together Suffolk and there is no obligation to buy. You will be provided with a quote and have until 13 December to decide if you'd like to go ahead with an installation of your new solar panels.



Solar Together Suffolk is supported by Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils, East Suffolk Council, Ipswich Borough Council, Suffolk County Council and West Suffolk Council.

Registration remains open to households until 13 December, simply visit [www.solartogether.co.uk/suffolk](http://www.solartogether.co.uk/suffolk)

### **Community projects receive funding boost**

Following a successful application to East Suffolk Council's Enabling Communities 'Exemplar Grant Programme' earlier this year, 17 community projects have been chosen to each receive a share of £147,378 to help deliver projects and activities which will benefit East Suffolk residents.

The selected projects include the refurbishment of local village halls and play areas, the construction of a Heritage Hut, theatre workshops to help disadvantaged groups engage with the arts and the delivery of a programme to tackling eating disorders in local schools.

Since 2016, 68 community projects have benefitted from the Exemplar Grant Programme, receiving funding totalling £544,014.36. £160,000 was allocated for the 2019/2020 programme from the New Homes Bonus.

Whilst applications for this round of the programme are now closed, local groups and organisations can still apply for funding to support their activities via the Council's 'Enabling Community Budgets' at [www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/enabling-communities-budgets](http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/enabling-communities-budgets).

### **East Suffolk Photo Competition is back**

The popular photo competition, which celebrates the beauty of East Suffolk is back for a third year.

Entries are open to anyone living in, working in or visiting East Suffolk. There are no categories this year - instead, amateur and professional photographers of all ages and abilities are invited to send their work to showcase the district's most scenic places and highlight what people love best about this beautiful part of the world.

Entries close at 11.59pm on Saturday 30 November and the winners, which will be chosen by a panel of judges, will be announced in December.

### **Report recognises Council's climate change efforts**

Members of East Suffolk Council's new Environment Task Group, set up in response to the Council's declaration of a climate emergency, met for the first time earlier



this month to review a report from Groundwork Suffolk following an independent review of the Council's performance on reducing its carbon emissions.

The report recognises the steps the Council has already taken to reduce carbon emissions by almost 23% over the last three years, including moving to its new energy efficient buildings in Lowestoft, which benefits from solar PV and Melton, which is heated by air-sourced heat pumps and installing solar PV at the recently refurbished Deben Leisure Centre and Leiston Leisure Centre.

The report then goes on to identify areas that the Council will need to focus on to achieve its ambitious target of becoming carbon neutral by 2030.

Small changes can make a big difference and the Council recently published a guide to help residents and businesses take steps to reduce their carbon emissions.

To view the guide, go to [www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/environment/climate-change/](http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/environment/climate-change/)

Free audits are also available for businesses in East Suffolk from Business Energy Efficiency Anglia to help them become more energy efficient. For more information, go to [www.eastsuffolkmeansbusiness.co.uk/business-support/resources/business-energy-efficiency/](http://www.eastsuffolkmeansbusiness.co.uk/business-support/resources/business-energy-efficiency/).

### **Sale of empty properties will fund new housing**

The first of three Lowestoft properties, which have stood empty for several years due to low demand from tenants has been put up for sale. The sale of these properties will remove the issues associated with long-term empty properties, such as anti-social behaviour, and encourage new families to the area. The decision, which was supported by the local community, was taken by Cabinet in October and proceeds will be reinvested into more suitable affordable housing in the town. The Council currently owns five 6-bedroomed properties in Cleveland Road, four of which are unoccupied. Due to low demand for homes of this size from families on the housing register, some of these properties have been empty for several years. This has resulted in their deterioration, as well as encouraging anti-social behaviour, such as vandalism, fly-tipping and squatting.

Previous options considered for these properties included conversion into flats however Cleveland Road is within the 'flat saturation zone' so this was not a feasible option. Another proposal was for conversion into a supported housing scheme however this was declined due to planning policy.

### **Free festive parking**

To coincide with Christmas lights 'switch-ons' and other festive events across the district over the coming weeks, East Suffolk Council is offering free parking in council-owned car parks at selected times on the following dates:



### **Aldeburgh**

- Christmas Lights switch on - Saturday 7 December 10am - 6pm

### **Beccles - all council-owned car parks**

- Christmas Lights switch on - Friday 29 November 4 - 6pm
- Saturday 14 December 2 - 5pm
- Saturday 21 December 2 - 5pm

### **Bungay - all council-owned car parks**

- Friday 20 December 11am - 2pm
- Saturday 21 December 11am - 2pm
- Tuesday 24 December 10am - 12pm

### **Felixstowe - Highfield Road, Crescent Road and Ranelagh Road car parks**

- Christmas Lights switch on - Saturday 23 November 2 - 6pm
- Saturday 21 December 9am - 1pm

### **Leiston - Sizewell Road and High Street car parks**

- Christmas Fair - Saturday 30 November 10am - 2pm
- Christmas shopping - Saturday 2 December 12 - 4pm

### **Lowestoft - all council-owned car parks north of the Bascule Bridge, plus Clifton Road and Belvedere Road car parks**

- Saturday 7 December 10am - 6pm

### **Oulton Broad - Nicholas Everitt and Boulevard car parks**

- Carol Concert - Sunday 1 December 10am - 6pm

### **Wickham Market - The Hill long and short stay car parks**

- Friday 20 December 2 - 6pm
- Tuesday 24 December 2 - 6pm

### **Woodbridge - Hamblin Road car park**

- Saturday 14 December 12 - 4pm
- Saturday 21 December 12 - 4pm

### **Southwold - Ferry Road car park**

- Christmas Lights switch on - Saturday 2 - 6pm



Signs will be in place on the tariff boards within each car park advising visitors of the free parking offer.

### **Celebrating East Suffolk's best building design**

The winners of East Suffolk Council's 'Quality of Place Awards' were revealed at an awards ceremony on Wednesday 20 November, held at East Suffolk House in Melton.

The awards recognise the efforts of people across the district to enhance the quality of the environment, by creating high-quality designs in both the built and natural environment and helping to conserve historic buildings.

Nominations are judged on quality of design and detailing, quality of workmanship, use of materials and sustainability.

To see the full list of winners, go to [www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/news/celebrating-east-suffolks-best-building-design/](http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/news/celebrating-east-suffolks-best-building-design/)

### **Festive fun for all ages in Kesgrave**

On Thursday 5 December, students from Kesgrave High School will be hosting their second 'Rockin' around the Christmas Tea!', a free event with student performances and activities designed especially for older members of the local community. The event is supported by the East Suffolk Communities Team and is taking place at the Gallery Cafe, Kesgrave High School between 2pm and 3.15pm.

### **World cycling championship coming to East Suffolk**

Last month, the Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI) announced that the 2021 and 2022 event will be held at Trinity Park in East Suffolk. Ahead of this year's World Championships in Belgium, which begin on 29 November, 2021 and 2022 World Championship organiser Steve Grimwood, together with partners from East Suffolk Council and the Eastern Cyclo-Cross Association have announced the events will take place on 5 and 6 December 2021 and 4 and 5 December 2022.

Suffolk has a strong track record of delivering major cyclo-cross events, including three national championships, an edition of the European Championships and numerous events registered on the UCI International Cyclo-Cross calendar. Most recently, the venue played host to round five of the 2018/19 HSBC UK Cyclo-Cross National Trophy Series.

### **Diary dates**

- 3<sup>rd</sup> December: 6.30pm - Cabinet (ESH)
- 6<sup>th</sup> December: 9.30am - Licensing Sub-Committee (ESH)
- 6<sup>th</sup> December: 2pm - Licensing Sub-Committee (ESH)
- 9<sup>th</sup> December: 10.30am - Strategic Planning Committee (ESH)



- 10<sup>th</sup> December: 10am - Anglia Revenues and Benefits Partnership Joint Committee (Breckland House)
- 16<sup>th</sup> December: 6pm - Full Council (ESH)
- 16<sup>th</sup> December: 8pm - Scrutiny Committee (ESH)
- 17<sup>th</sup> December: 2pm - Planning Committee South (ESH)
- 19<sup>th</sup> December: 3.30pm - Planning Committee North (Riverside)