

Leader & Cabinet Briefing



June 2018

Welcome to the June edition of the Leader & Cabinet Briefing, the monthly publication aimed at keeping all Members informed about the current key issues and achievements of the Council.

CABINET - 6:30pm on Tuesday, 5 June 2018, in the Deben Conference Room, East Suffolk House.

Webcasting of Council Meeting – Although council meetings are open to the public to attend, actual attendance generally tends to be low except for those meetings involving high profile or contentious issues.

Developments in video technology mean that providing a service to web cast meetings is now a more feasible option. Over 100 councils now regularly web cast some or all of their meetings, with many others providing audio recordings.

There are a range of benefits to be achieved from providing web casts of council meetings, such as increasing democratic engagement and debate on key local issues like planning as well as improving the transparency of council processes and decision making.

It also enables members of the public, who are unable to attend a meeting, to see and hear the debates that influence the decisions the council makes.

This paper seeks Cabinet approval to implement web casting at East Suffolk House.

ICT Desktop Refresh Project Funding –New Desktop ICT is scheduled for 2019/20, as the hardware and software becomes end of life and will no longer be supported. The scope of the project includes replacing all of the existing thin client workstations with laptops and PC's, migrating users to a new remote access solution.

In order to minimise the risk of disruption to the council's business, it is proposed that the implementation start date is brought forward from April 2019 to July 2018. This will enable work to commence on establishing, configuring and testing the necessary ICT infrastructure. It will also allow work to start on the evaluation and selection of desktop hardware meaning, that deployment of new devices could start by Sept 2018.

Proposed East Suffolk Area Parking Plan –Local authorities applying for CPE powers need to provide evidence of their parking policies and strategies.

In order to fulfil the requirement he Suffolk Civil Parking Enforcement Working Group (SCPEWG) agreed a two-part process. The County Council will draft the Suffolk Parking Management Strategy (SPMS) as a high level policy document. While each enforcement district will produce their own Area Parking Plan.

The East Suffolk Area Parking Plan (ESAPP) is a completely new parking policy document. It has been drafted with the objective of setting out the broad parking policy objectives that will be adopted by East Suffolk. It is based on the assumption that CPE powers will be

granted to Suffolk and will be administered and operated by East Suffolk under an Agency agreement and Service Level Agreement with the County Council.

Suffolk Public Sector Leaders continue to lobby the Secretary of State for Transport to grant a CPE implementation date of April 2019. The County Council submitted the Application on the 25 April. The supporting documentation for the application should ideally be submitted by October 2018. This will need to include a copy of the adopted East Suffolk Area Parking Plan and a statement on the review process undertaken.

In order to meet these deadlines, Cabinet will need to approve the content of the plan to enable public consultation to take place immediately afterwards.

Revised East Suffolk Equality and Diversity Policy – The Equality Act (2010) introduced the requirement for public authorities to have ‘due regard’ to the following things in carrying out their functions:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation
- Advance equality of opportunity between those who share a protected characteristic and those who don’t (equality of opportunity)
- Foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic and those who don’t (community cohesion)

To reflect various changes since our original Equality and Diversity policy was produced, the East Suffolk Equality and Diversity Policy has been revised. The Policy outlines our aim of encouraging a supportive and inclusive culture amongst our workforce, striving to promote diversity and eliminating all forms of unlawful and unfair discrimination.

Other News

Garden Waste Scheme Latest: Up to midnight on 22 May, the Garden Waste Scheme had received 26,993 sign-ups from households. This equates to approximately 46% of households have joined the scheme.

The Suffolk Coastal garden waste scheme has now exceeded the Waveney scheme for the total number of subscriptions in year 1, and the total continues to climb, with people continuing to sign up at a rate of over 200 subscriptions a day with no indication yet of a significant lessening in demand.

It’s quick and easy to sign up, either:

- ✓ Go online at: my.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/MyServices. People need to register, or login to, your My Eastsuffolk account and then complete the form for garden waste
- ✓ Call Customer Services on **01394 383789**, and choose option ‘0’
- ✓ Or, pop in to see our Customer Service staff in the Customer Service Centre in Felixstowe and Woodbridge Library

People need a debit or credit card to pay. The fee for each bin is £43 for a year (the equivalent of paying about £1.65 per fortnightly collection). Also, we need to remind people that they can say ‘YES’ to an upgrade to a larger (240ltr) green bin.

There have been some teething issues, as we have moved to the new system. But generally, the introduction of the garden waste scheme has gone remarkably smoothly – which is a testament to the hard work put in by our staff to implement this new scheme in such a short time period.

If you are asked, I would ask you to stress that the introduction of charging for taking away garden waste is not about the council trying to ‘profit’ from garden waste collection. Each year we spend £3.5million on dealing with waste disposal. So the funds raised through the Garden Waste Scheme will allow us to off-set some of that cost, and take pressure off the Council Tax payer, for years to come.

You can find more information about the Garden Waste Scheme, composting and re-purposing your old brown bin at www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/SCDCgardenwaste

Suffolk Coastal’s Last Chairman Elected – Those of us who attended the Annual Council meeting on Thursday, 24 May, witnessed a historic moment – when Suffolk Coastal District Council has elected its last Chairman!

Councillor Nicky Yeo, who represents the Nacton and Purdis Farm Ward, will be Chairman until the new East Suffolk Council is formed and a new chairman is elected in 2019. As such, Cllr Yeo will be the last person to hold this post solely for Suffolk Coastal.

“I’m really looking forward to my year in office, particularly as I am fulfilling the role at such a historic time for east Suffolk. As the last Chairman for Suffolk Coastal, I want to make sure I really make a mark, so our chain of office can be retired on a high note,” said Cllr Yeo.

“I am particularly interested in working to bring young people and the elderly together across the District, so will be looking to carry out charitable work which supports young and old working together.”

“I am challenging my colleagues to use their Enabling Communities budgets to engage with people of various ages within the community.”

Get in shape at the Deben - We are just weeks away from re-opening Deben Leisure Centre and people can sign up for their membership now!

The centre closed in September 2017 to undergo a £3.5million refurbishment as part of Suffolk Coastal’s five year programme to improve leisure facilities and encourage more people to become active.

We are not able to confirm the exact opening date yet, but we are on track for mid-June. The building is now structurally complete and is being decorated and kitted out by our developers, The Pulse Group.

Memberships and prices information is at: www.placesforpeopleleisure.org/centres/deben-leisure-centre/ or pop down to see them on site.

A sales cabinet is located near the entrance of the community hall and is open weekdays 10am to 7pm and weekends 9am to 4pm. On the weekend of 5 and 6 May 2018, it will be open from 9am to 3pm.

Leiston set for £3.5m refurbish – With Deben nearing completion, we are already well on the way to planning the next phase of the leisure redevelopment programme – after plans for a £3.5million refurbishment of Leiston Leisure Centre were given the go ahead.

Work on Leiston is due to start in September 2018. The centre will need to be closed for 4 months to undergo structural work, with the pool due to reopen in January 2019 and the whole centre is expected to be fully open in summer 2019.

Leiston is the second leisure facility to undergo refurbishment in Suffolk Coastal's leisure redevelopment programme, and will be followed by Felixstowe.

Extensive consultation has been carried out throughout the redevelopment programme with the local communities, including sport groups and users, the Town Council, Alde Valley Academy and the general public.

The feedback received has been positive, with some constructive comments on the plans and the design. Where possible these have been included in the revised plans and will continue to shape the programme on an ongoing basis.

The new enhanced facility will include an extension and the first floor will feature a large gym with modern equipment, including zones for cardiovascular, strength and resistance. The reception area will have a coffee shop and a soft play area for children, which will provide a great view of the pool.

Our operators, Places Leisure, will be contacting members of Leiston Leisure Centre, with options available to them during the closure. For more information, go to:

www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/leisure/sportandleisuredevelopment/suffolk-coastals-leisure-centre-redevelopment-programme/

Art comes to East Suffolk House – When you are next at East Suffolk House, take time to admire the new artwork that has been put up in reception.

Local artist Emma Green has unveiled her artwork of the ever-changing scenery of the River Deben after winning our art commission competition, which was run as part of the accommodation project and our move to Riduna Park.

The piece, entitled “Lingering Tide, Soft Light (The Deben)” reflects and celebrates Suffolk Coastal's landscape and its natural elements, while complementing the building itself and its surroundings.

Emma said: “My oil paintings explore Suffolk's coastal landscape in a semi abstract way, emphasising the light and atmosphere of the place. Much of my work focuses on the River Deben, where I grew up and continue to live and work.

“This painting draws upon my favourite elements of the river - the boatyards, with their clamouring noise and jumble of rigging and cranes, with the river ebbing and flowing around them and the ever-changing sky above, which alters the colours and the light of the land below.”

When we moved into East Suffolk House in December 2016, we decided to do the art commission project to give local artists the opportunity to showcase their work in the new reception area.

Over 22 artists submitted ideas and five finalists were chosen to meet the judging panel, which consisted of staff, councillors and external art experts, who then had the difficult decision to choose a winner.

Emma, who lives and works locally in Woodbridge, was chosen by the panel to create a unique piece specifically for the space in the reception area, and had four months to complete the work.

Healthy staff - The east Suffolk Councils have been recognised for encouraging staff to lead healthier lifestyles.

The Councils' commitment to staff health, safety and wellbeing has been rewarded by a Suffolk Workforce Wellbeing Charter after being assessed in different areas, including health and safety, mental health, physical activity and leadership. .

Neil Wood, Health and Wellbeing Programme manager at Public Health England, said: "I'd like to congratulate Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Councils on their accreditation to the Workplace Wellbeing Charter. This is an impressive achievement and is testament to the positive ethos of the teams working at both local authorities.

"Through the assessment, we were impressed with the passion and enthusiasm of those we met, the range of actions and activity already undertaken and future plans, and the commitment and recognition of the essential role that leadership plays in supporting the health and wellbeing of the workforce."

There are three levels of achievement for each area: Commitment, Achievement and Excellence. We achieved:

Leadership	Excellence
Absence Management	Excellence
Health and Safety	Excellence
Mental Health	Excellence
Smoking and Tobacco	Achievement
Physical Activity	Excellence
Healthy Eating	Excellence
Alcohol and Substance Misuse	Achievement

The Wellbeing Team will be working on an improvement plan with the aim of achieving 'Excellence' in the remaining two areas by January 2019.

Make Use Of That Spare Room – We are running a joint scheme with Solo Housing, matching up householders with a spare bedroom with single people in need of affordable accommodation.

The 'Lodgings Service' scheme aims to reduce homelessness by encouraging local people to become potential landlords. It was launched in 2017/18 and has now been extended into the current financial year.

Suffolk Coastal householders with a spare room are being asked to consider whether they could become Lodgings Landlords. Support and information for new landlords will be provided by Solo Housing, including information on the rights and responsibilities of both landlord and lodger; advice on health and safety and other relevant regulations as well as a home visit.

Solo will also provide the landlord with template documentation, advice about rent setting, collection of payments and most importantly, discuss with landlords about who they may like to share their home with to provide the best match between landlord and lodger.

Those in need of accommodation will be referred to the Lodgings Service by the Council and other agencies. A detailed assessment is then carried out, by Solo Housing, into the person's needs.

In 2017/18, the Lodgings Service maintained or secured 51 lodging spaces in the Suffolk Coastal area. To find out more, see: www.solohousing.org or telephone 01379 640250.

Staff stroll and litter pick lunch – Our staff are getting fit and doing their bit for the community with a monthly 'stroll and pick' lunch. April's stroll and pick was organised by graduate Eli Sanyari and, with seven colleagues, the team collected four full bags of rubbish.

Some very distasteful items were collected, such as urine in a bottle and a used nappy in a tree, as well as unusual items like the front of a scooter and a cymbal. The most common items we found were cigarette butts, cans and bottles.

Litter is a wasted resource and a hazard to wildlife, not to mention an eyesore. It is also expensive to remove, as is dealing with the wider consequences of vermin, ill health and disease that can arise.

Our message is simple! Dispose of your rubbish responsibly, and by using facilities provided. If there are no litterbins in the area, take your litter home with you.

If you want to do your bit and organise a litter pick, then our Spring Clean litter pick scheme can help. Suffolk Coastal Norse will provide free disposable rubber gloves, and sacks in which to collect litter, and will arrange to collect and dispose of the rubbish collected.

If your group is organising a litter pick and would like this assistance, please complete on the online form on our [website](#).

And finally....

Get snapping for the Felixstowe Photo Competition 2018 - The seaside town of Felixstowe in Suffolk is a unique, exciting and diverse location for photographic opportunities - seaside fun, beautiful gardens, huge container ships, historic buildings and rich wildlife habitats.

Now photographers of all ages and abilities are being invited to submit their favourite shots into the annual Felixstowe Photo Competition. Organised and supported by Visit Felixstowe, Felixstowe Town Council and the Landguard Partnership, entrants could WIN a prize of £100 to put towards photographic equipment.

There are **three competition themes** to choose from:

Theme 1: **Fun Felixstowe** - on the beach, family days out, seaside amusements...

Theme 2: **Iconic Felixstowe** - the pictures that 'say' Felixstowe.

Theme 3: **Undiscovered Felixstowe** - let loose your imagination. Close ups, wildlife...

Entrants can submit their photograph by emailing: visitfelixstowe@eastsoffolk.gov.uk - including full name, age, contact telephone number and the theme you would like to enter.

Closing date for entry is 12pm on Wednesday 20 March 2019.

Full competition details, plus terms and conditions can be found on the Visit Felixstowe (www.visitfelixstowe.org.uk); Felixstowe Town Council (www.felixstowe.gov.uk); and Discover Landguard (www.discoverlandguard.org.uk) websites.

Best wishes,

Cllr Ray Herring

Leader

Suffolk Coastal District Council

tel: **07885 249218** email: ray.herring@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk