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Suffolk Tories

July 2021 Town and Parish Newsletter

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Suffolk SEND provision review carried out by Lincolnshire now complete

The review of Suffolk's SEND provision is now complete. The review sought to focus on the processes, communications and customer facing elements of Suffolk's SEND service.

Lincolnshire County Council were chosen to carry out the review due to their exemplary SEND track record. A multi-agency team from Lincolnshire County Council includes two senior officers, performance analysts and the chair of the County's Parent Carer Network.

We now await the final report and recommendations from the Lincolnshire review team.

To assist Lincolnshire with their review, Suffolk County Council provided the team with more than 100 SEND related documents, these included:

- Performance data
- Process documents
- Examples of co-production, and
- Feedback from children and young people with SEND

Additionally, over 25 meetings have taken place with more than 140 attendees, the included:

- Two groups of children and young people with SEND
- Four group of parents/carers
- 28 education settings
- A range of practitioners across Education, Health and Social Care.

Rachel Hood, Cabinet member for Education, SEND and Skills said:

"The recommendations made by the independent review will help us to fulfil our steadfast commitment to improve SEND provision in Suffolk. I recognise the issues facing SEND services at the moment, but significant progress has been made and will continue to be made. Improvement to SEND is one of the council's key priorities and I am determined to ensure this continues at pace and with the best outcomes for our children and families."

One job is half a job – why you should get the second vaccination

Men aged between 20 and 49 are being urged by health bosses to ‘finish the job’ and get their second COVID vaccination, as figures showed they lag behind.

As of July 1st, Analysis from public health at Suffolk County Council shows that in the 20-49 age groups, 75% of eligible females have had their first vaccine dose and 42% have also had their second dose.

But in the same age range, 66% of eligible males have had their first vaccine dose and just 27% have had their second.

The figures come as Suffolk Resilience Forum unveiled a new video promoting the message ‘One Job Is Half A Job’ to promote the importance of everyone getting fully vaccinated.

Stuart Keeble, Director of Public Health for Suffolk, said:

“One Job Is Half a Job is a really important message.

“We know that after one vaccination you have about 33% protection but that it is more than 80% if you have your second, so it’s really important for protecting yourself and other people.

“We make the comparison that you would not do half a job in everyday things such as washing the car or having a shave, so why skimp on getting vaccinated properly?

“We know there is a difference between the proportion of men aged 20 to 49 getting their first and second jabs compared to women. The gap is especially wide for that second jab, which is something we are keen to change.”

Mr Keeble said there could be many reasons why more women were having the second vaccine than men, with one example being that more women work in the health and care services so they may have had both their vaccines as part of their job.

“The most important thing is that whatever your gender if you’ve made the effort to get your first jab, go and have the second because it will provide you with the optimum level of protection,” he said.

Great Whelnetham Church of England Primary School receives national award for encouraging sustainable travel

On July 6th it was announced that pupils from Great Whelnetham Church of England Primary School had been recognised for their efforts in encouraging sustainable travel and road safety.

The school, working with Suffolk County Council, has been actively promoting active travel by installing cycle and scooter parking, in addition to pupils undertaking cycle training. Not only this but the school have been encouraging pupils to get involved in activities to promote road safety in a rural setting, such as the Yellow Lorry Project and the Tractors to School initiative.

The Modeshift STARS Accreditation scheme encourages schools across England to implement their own travel plans to increase levels of sustainable and active travel in order to improve the health and wellbeing of children and young people.

This accreditation further supports the county council's 'Let's make a change for the future' campaign which is encouraging residents to consider more active and sustainable travel options now during the COVID-19 pandemic to avoid overcrowding the county's transport network and longer term to experience the benefits of improved health and wellbeing, less congestion and cleaner air.

Councillor Richard Smith, Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Transport Strategy and Waste, said:

"Congratulations to all at Great Whelnetham Church of England Primary School. Their dedication to encouraging sustainable transport and showcasing the importance of road safety is certainly something that is worth celebrating and this award is thoroughly deserved – keep up the good work.

"The Modeshift STARS awards are an ideal way for schools, pupils and parents to join forces and reduce the impact of the school run by engaging in active travel which can also provide a number of other benefits."

Walk through history in LEGO® bricks summer

It was announced on July 12th that Suffolk Archives is pleased to invite residents on a family-friendly journey through famous historical moments, all imagined in LEGO® bricks!

Brick History, the next exhibition to come to new heritage centre The Hold, on Ipswich waterfront, opens on Saturday 17 July and runs throughout the summer until the end of September.

From the dawn of the dinosaurs to the space age, LEGO® artist Warren Elsmore and his team have created a celebration of our shared stories, struggles, and triumphs, made from everyone's favourite Danish toy. From tiny recreations that could fit in your hand, to a 1.5m square medieval castle bustling with activity - how many moments can you recognise?

Exhibition visitors will also see models of local landmarks submitted by members of the public during lockdown last year. The Suffolk community rose to the challenge and finally these special models will be on display, accompanied by original archival documents showing the buildings and places depicted.

Councillor Andrew Reid, Portfolio Holder for Heritage at Suffolk County Council, said:

“It is fantastic that Suffolk Archives is able to bring Warren Elsmore's superb Brick History exhibition to Suffolk this year. We hope that people of all ages will come and discover this fantastic display, which will be complemented beautifully by the local pieces we have received. Brick History is billed as an exhibition 'filled with models to make you smile, make you think, and inspire you to build a better world' - and I really hope it will do just that.”

Kicking off the events programme for the exhibition, on Thursday 22 July, LEGO® enthusiast Andrew Webb will be leading ***A Labour of Love*** in Lego. This is a new talk looking at how a single LEGO® brick inspired him to painstakingly create a life size replica of the famous Sutton Hoo helmet. Following the event, this magnificent model will remain on display as part of the exhibition for all to see.

On Thursday 29 July, Suffolk Archives introduce a brand new venture with the first session of the new 'Lates at The Hold' programme. Based on the now well recognised Lates at the museum style events, these adults only, after hours themed nights encourage participants to come and experience Suffolk Archives as never before! This first free taster session will see participants challenged to a LEGO® brick Mystery Build, competing to see who will be crowned champion. The Café at The Hold will be open throughout the event, serving drinks specially created for the occasion.

A range of Brick History inspired events and activities will be on offer throughout the exhibition run, helping to keep the whole family entertained this summer:

- Tuesdays and Saturdays: Make Suffolk out of LEGO® bricks.
- Wednesdays: Let's Get Crafty - a choice of free or premium sessions.

- Fridays: Creative workshops with Rock Paper Scissors.
- Saturdays throughout August: Cinema Club featuring The Lego Movie, The Lego Movie 2, The Lego Batman Movie and The Lego Ninjago Movie.

Booking details

The Brick History exhibition is open seven days a week from Saturday 17 July until Monday 27 September. Tickets can be purchased in advance through

TicketSource: www.ticketsource.co.uk/suffolk-archives

Full details and ticket booking for all events, including family events, Lates and the talks programme, are available on the Suffolk Archives

website: www.suffolkarchives.co.uk/whatson



Easing of restrictions when visiting Suffolk's Recycling Centres

Suffolk is set to continue on its path of working towards full capacity at recycling centres as Monday 19 July brings the end to lockdown.

Much like many other recycling centres across the country, Suffolk's Recycling Centres have been operating a socially distanced system during the pandemic.

From 19 July, there will be some changes to the rules when visiting the county's recycling centres, but you will still need to book, pending a full review of arrangements.

The changes will take place in two phases to enable a managed increase in the number of bookings and to ensure that sites are operating safely and effectively.

Phase one from Monday 19 July

- The one visit per week rule will remain in place, but an extra 3,760 slots will become available per week
- Cars with small trailers will now be able to book a 15 min car slot (750kg max gross weight, single axle and unbraked) and will also be allowed at Haverhill Recycling Centre
- Cars with large trailers will now book a 30 min large trailer/van slot (over 750kg max gross weight, double axle or braked), apart from at Haverhill Recycling Centre due to its size
- Vans without trailers will be able to book at all Recycling Centres (including Haverhill). Vans must book a 30 min van slot
- Vans with trailers are still prohibited from using any of the recycling centres
- Social distancing will be removed from all sites. Cars can park next to each other (as directed by site staff) and restrictions on number of people on walkway/gantry removed
- Staff will be able to assist visitors if requested. (All staff will wear FFP3 standard face coverings when assisting and follow good practice on Covid hygiene)
- More than one adult will now be allowed to unload per vehicle
- Guidance will remain for the public to continue wearing face coverings if possible. Face coverings for staff remain optional except when assisting the public

Phase two from Monday 16 August (In addition to changes in phase 1)

- An additional 4,500 slots will be made available per week, taking Suffolk's Recycling Centres to full capacity (weekly total to 27,422)
- Removal of one visit per week rule for household waste
- Trade waste will remain restricted to one visit per week (to ensure fair usage of the system which is mainly designed for residents' household waste)



A customer survey from March 2021 revealed 91% of booking system users were satisfied or very satisfied (with a further 4% being neutral) and 92% of customers had a problem-free experience when using the booking system.

Councillor Richard Smith Suffolk County Council’s Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Transport Strategy and Waste, said:

“I am really pleased that from 19 July we are able to start increasing capacity at our recycling centres by reducing some of the restrictions we had in place so we can soon be back to full capacity. We are doing this in two phases to ensure that our sites are operating safely and smoothly.

“In response to overwhelming customer satisfaction, the booking system will remain in place for the moment at all of Suffolk’s Recycling Centres. We have received many compliments about the staff on our sites and I would like to thank them for their hard work and dedication for what has been a difficult year.”





Suffolk County Council begins procurement process for next Highways Service contract focusing on developing local skills and talent

On July 13th Suffolk County Council began the process of finding its next long term Highways Services partner.

The council is looking for a partner to deliver key operational projects after the current contract ends on 30 September 2023.

As part of preparations up to this point, the council has worked with leading industry analysts to understand the different types of arrangements that other local authorities have in place, to look at which specialist providers are in the marketplace and to find out what aspects of contract agreement may work best for Suffolk based on the range of outcomes the council wants to achieve from any new contract process.

The council is looking to develop a contract that utilises a blended 'hybrid' approach, enabling the council to enter into one contract that covers the majority of Highways Service functions and two contracts with specialist providers for streetlighting and traffic signals (ITS). The council will be looking for the new contract to focus on delivering greater social value, utilising local skills and talent, giving young people the opportunity to work in the sector as well as building on the council's commitment to carbon reduction and protecting the environment.

The whole contract development process will take just over two years to complete. Once the appropriate tender documents have been prepared outlining the council's requirements, initial advertisements will go out in December 2021. Discussions will begin with any interested prospective contractors in early 2022. Following such a rigorous tendering process, the council hopes to be able to award its chosen contract in early 2023 with the new service provider beginning in October 2023.

The procurement process needs to begin now to provide enough time to go to the market to seek relevant specialist companies which may be interested in tendering for the contract which is worth in the region of £800m - £1 billion over a projected 20 year period.

Suffolk County Council's Cabinet Member responsible for Ipswich, Operational Highways and Flooding, Cllr Paul West said:

"This is the beginning of the process today towards finding the right partners to deliver aspects of Suffolk's Highways Services beyond the end of the current contract in 2023. We want to get the best value for money for Suffolk taxpayers and ensure that the contractors we choose through the hybrid contract approach are the best fit for what we want to achieve and deliver."





“We have learnt a great deal from our existing contract arrangements and going forward I want to ensure this new contract enables more young people across Suffolk to access apprenticeships and relevant work experience opportunities through the Kick Start scheme. We want to find the right partner who shares our ambition and ideas to innovate in improving delivery of services, communicating with customers and sharing our commitment to reducing carbon use as part of the Climate Emergency.

“In preparing for this contract we have rightly spent time considering how other local authorities manage their Highways contracts and which process would be best for Suffolk as we look towards finding the right long term service delivery partner.”



Felixstowe becomes a Suffolk PING! Town

On July 14th Suffolk's second PING! Town was officially launched in Felixstowe with the opening of 8 outdoor tables sited throughout the Town.

The tables – located at 6 key play areas in the Town along with 2 in the heart of the town centre at Great Eastern Square - have been made possible thanks to a wider partnership between Table Tennis England, Suffolk County Council led Most Active County Partnership - which will see increasing numbers of tables located in a variety of outdoor locations across the county – and locally East Suffolk Council and Felixstowe Town Council. The aim of the partnership is to provide additional accessible opportunities for Suffolk residents of all ages to be active in their local community.

The launch of the tables in Felixstowe will see a series of activities and events being held over the next few weeks to raise awareness of and make the most of the availability of these new resource to the Town including regular free coaching sessions and bats & balls made available to local schools.

All tables will have unrestricted access for anyone to use at any time.

Councillor Andrew Reid, Suffolk County Council's Cabinet Member for Public Health, Public Protection and Communities, said:

“Suffolk County Council is delighted to have been working in partnership with Table Tennis England for over three years now in order to increase opportunities for people in Suffolk to be more active”.

“Increasing physical activity levels as part of a healthy lifestyle has significant benefits for wellbeing. Partnerships such as these, where equipment is placed in community settings, can only help Suffolk's aspirations of becoming the most active county in England.”

“We are delighted that Felixstowe has become the second PING! Town in Suffolk and hope residents and visitors enjoy the new resources for years to come.”

Any town, district or parish council that would like to explore the potential of bringing table tennis to their neighbourhood should contact Phil Lown at philip.lown@suffolk.gov.uk.



‘New lease of life’ for former Record Office Building, handed over to Eastern Angles

It was announced on July that the former Record Office premises at Gatacre Road is taking on a new lease of life as it is handed over to theatre company, Eastern Angles.

Built in the 1880s, the Grade II listed building was a Victorian primary school for a hundred years until conversion to the Suffolk Records Office. This included purpose built strong room and offices to house Suffolk Records research and archive storage facilities, which was opened by Princess Diana in 1990. These have now moved to new purpose-built accommodation at “The Hold”, where Suffolk Archives will deliver their service for the 21st Century on The Waterfront in partnership with the University of Suffolk.

The part of the previous Record Office building has also been the long-term home of the Sir John Mills Theatre operated by Eastern Angles Theatre Company and visited by Sir John in 2000. Suffolk County Council is pleased to announce that it is handing over the remainder of the property to Eastern Angles. This will provide the company with long term security and allow them to expand their range of arts provision in the local community and across the wider County and East Anglia.

The property was handed over on 1st May, with the Sir John Mills Theatre gradually re-opening to audiences, in line with government guidance from 17th May 2021.

Councillor Andrew Reid, Cabinet member for Public Health, Communities and Public Protection, said:

“We recognise the strong community impact made by Eastern Angles and I’m so pleased that there is an exciting new use for these historic premises. In these difficult times the expanded premises will support the theatre company’s sustainability and resilience for the future.”

The purpose-built storage facility to the rear of the former school is being retained by Suffolk County Council for operational use.





‘Thanks for thinking of others’ – praise for public for continuing to take COVID precautions

On July 21st health chiefs in Suffolk thanked the public for continuing to wear masks and observing COVID precautions since the lifting of restrictions.

The Government removed the remaining coronavirus rules on Monday July 19 under step four of its roadmap out of lockdown.

The easing meant people are no longer required to wear facemasks in public places such as shops, although they are recommended for crowded areas such as public transport.

Venues such as nightclubs can re-open and employers can begin to phase in a return to the workplace for staff working from home.

However, Prime Minister Boris Johnson has urged people to use common sense and personal judgement by considering the risks to themselves and others.

Stuart Keeble, Director of Public Health for Suffolk, said feedback seemed to suggest that many people had taken this advice to heart.

“Of course, some people have stopped wearing masks, that is their right and their choice as there is now no longer any legal obligation to do so,” he said.

“However I am encouraged when hearing of examples of many other people continuing to wear masks in public.

“It shows they recognise that this pandemic is far from over, the virus is still very much out there, and they take their sense of responsibility to others seriously by doing what they can to prevent its spread. I thank everyone who is doing so and urge others to follow that example.”

Mr Keeble also thanked employers whose staff were wearing masks, particularly when engaging with the public in venues such as pubs, shops, or doctors’ surgeries, and asked people to be supportive even if they were not wearing a mask themselves.

“Employers have a duty of care to their staff and the people they come into contact with within the workplace,” he said.



Work to begin on Ipswich Waterfront to create active travel access

It was announced on July 26th that Suffolk Highways will begin to create a wider active travel corridor along the Ipswich Waterfront.

During the first lockdown in 2020, Suffolk County Council put measures in place to restrict access to motorised vehicles along the Waterfront. This has proven to be a success in providing space for people to actively travel whilst seeing more of the open spaces being used for outdoor dining.

From 9 August, phase 2 will take place over 7 weeks and will involve these measures being made permanent by repurposing the existing parking bays, providing a wider area on one side, with planters and parklets being installed on the other. The aim of these permanent measures is to support local businesses with pleasant, outdoor dining areas through a new traffic regulation order. Unauthorised motorised vehicles will be restricted; however, access for deliveries and servicing will be maintained.

Throughout lockdown, Suffolk has seen an increase in walking and cycling across the county, with the waterfront route showing the highest potential for growth in walking and cycling numbers. This scheme comes as part of the Active Travel Fund schemes which are part of a county-wide plan for walking and cycling improvements.

COVID-19 has had a dramatic impact on many lives but with the positive of the increase in active travel, whether it be for commuting, leisure or exercising, there has also been many other benefits, such as, improvement on air quality and people's health and wellbeing. The government has recognised these benefits and have therefore provided highways authorities across the country with funding.

Suffolk County Council put in a bid for £1.34 million for the second phase, but were awarded £1.683 million due to the success of phase one.

Councillor Paul West, Suffolk County Council's Cabinet Member for Operational Highways, said:

"So many have benefitted from the reduction of motorised vehicles on the Ipswich Waterfront – whether that was to exercise more safely or enjoy outdoor dining at the many fantastic food and drink outlets we have on offer there.

"Access for deliveries will continue, and this condition will be maintained throughout phase 2.

"I am certain that local residents, businesses and visitors will welcome the more permanent measures we are installing, and I look forward to seeing even more people enjoy the area as the restrictions caused by the pandemic continue to ease."

‘Katch’ – a new electric taxi-bus service running between Framlingham, Wickham Market and Wickham Market Train Station in Campsea Ashe

It was announced on July 27th that Suffolk politicians and key transport officials gathered to experience ‘Katch’ – a new electric taxi-bus service.

The Katch service provides a travel solution for local residents and visitors in Wickham Market and Framlingham, as well as for those who need to meet their rail connections at Wickham Market train station in Campsea Ashe.

Suffolk County Council, with support from East Suffolk Council, Framlingham Town Council, East Suffolk Lines Community Rail Partnership, the Department for Transport Community Rail Development Fund, Community Rail Network, Greater Anglia and Cars Smart, launched the Katch service earlier this year in May.

The service, which is a pilot scheme, delivers on the commitment Suffolk councils have made to grow the region’s passenger transport in a sustainable way. It also plays a part in cutting carbon to help reach the Government’s ambition of zero emissions by 2050 and Suffolk County Council’s own target of being carbon neutral by 2030.

The service is available seven days a week from 6.30am to 10.30pm Monday to Saturday and 9am to 7pm on Sunday.

All journeys must be booked in advance via the Katch App or telephone by calling **01728 55 44 55**. The cost of a return journey is £7 and a single journey is £4.

If the service proves a success and is regularly used by local people in addition to commuters and rail passengers, Suffolk County Council is keen to facilitate further schemes across the county.

Councillor Alexander Nicoll, Suffolk County Council, Wickham Division and Deputy Cabinet Member for Transport Strategy, said:

“The Katch service is a new opportunity providing an innovative, flexible and green solution to rural transport needs. It allows local residents in Wickham Market, Framlingham and Campsea Ashe to make easy and regular journeys between these destinations. Local people, commuters and visitors can also enjoy access to the wider Suffolk transport network and beyond as Katch serves Wickham Market railway station in Campsea Ashe.

“This pilot scheme, if successful, could pave the way for similar schemes to be rolled out across Suffolk.”

Lowestoft's Gull Wing officially opens site offices, as construction work continues

On July 28th, new site offices for Gull Wing project staff opened as work on Lowestoft's new bridge continues to make good progress.

The offices were formally opened by Councillor Matthew Hicks, leader of Suffolk County Council, who was able to make his first Covid-secure visit to the site, since construction began.

Ground preparation and site clearance began in April 2021 with some demolition and the breaking up of concrete across the site, material which will be reused for the piling platforms for the bridge.

Those piling works are now underway, which is the preparation for installing a number of foundations that are needed on both land and in the water to support the bridge, some up to 60 metres below ground level.

Having been given a guided tour of the site, Councillor Hicks said:

"It's impressive to see how much work has been accomplished on the ground in just four months. It's one thing seeing the plans for the Gull Wing on paper but being up-close and experiencing the size of the engineering task first-hand, it's quite awe-inspiring.

"By opening the offices today, we have reached another milestone in the Gull Wing's story. Our project team at the county council now has an on-site base to work from, directly alongside colleagues from Farrans, which will make meetings and communication easier.

"I really do appreciate the support of local residents and businesses as we progress with the Gull Wing. I understand that works in the road and noise can be inconvenient, but we're working hard to make sure that we support local businesses where we can and that we communicate regularly with local residents to keep them updated with the latest developments."

Neil Rogers, Project Director at Farrans, said:

"We are making excellent progress and I am sure that the Suffolk community has been able to see the increase in activity on site. As a company, we always strive to leave a positive, lasting impact in the areas that we work and we have been pleased to welcome a number of new staff and apprentices into our team who all live nearby.

"We have been working closely with our local supply chain, including Eastern Marine Services who are providing a large range of equipment and support services associated with the marine works. We have also been pleased to announce a charity partnership with East Anglian Air Ambulance Charity, an organisation which saves lives and benefits the whole region."

The project is about to commence the works in the water, with installation of the dolphin piles (protection for the bridge and boats) and then starts work on the piers in the water. If you have any comments or questions regarding the Gull Wing, you can contact the project team at info@gullwingbridge.co.uk or on **01502 512779**.

