

Aldeburgh Ward report April 2016

Please accept our apologies for this meeting. TJ had a injury which she is still recovering from but despite this, we have both been very busy with local matters, meetings etc.

If you or an organisation would like one of us to attend a meeting/s or an event then please do get in contact or invite us along, this also applies if you would like help on a planning matter or anything else you may need help with.

We would really appreciate all of your help is getting the information below re Universal Credit out to as many people as possible, also you will have hopefully received the Poll Cards through your letter boxes regarding the up and coming Election of the Police & Crime Commissioner for Suffolk Police – election Thursday 5th May.

The candidates for this year's elections are; Terence Carter for Green Party, Helen Korfanty for Liberal Democrats, Tim Passmore for the Conservative and Unionist Party, Cath Pickles for Labour and Simon Tobin for UK Independence Party.

For information on candidates please look at www.choosemypcc.org.uk or call 0800 107 0708. Remember that you need to be registered to vote! The deadline for registering to vote is Monday 18th April. It's easy to register if you haven't already done so online, at: www.gov.uk/register tovote. Registering only takes a few minutes and you'll need your date of birth and National Insurance number. Alternatively customers requiring assistance with registering can contact our customer services team by calling 01394 444422.

If you are away or cannot go to a polling station you can do one of the following: apply to vote by post (completed applications must be in before 5pm Tuesday 26th April or you could apply to vote by proxy, deadline for applications is also 5pm on the 26.04.16. If after the deadline you find you are unable to vote in person because you have one of the following *medical emergency *you cannot get to the polling station because of work reasons then you can apply to vote by proxy and the completed applications must reach SCDC before 5pm Thursday 5th May. This information is on your polling cards. More information: <http://www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/news/police-and-crime-commissioner-election-candidates-announced/>

Also included at the end of this report is a reminder about Scams – apologies for keep repeating it but there does seem to be an increase. If you can, make sure you shred all items that you may normally throw (recycle) away that have your name and address on or any other personal details. I (TJ) seem to be receiving more and more scam emails from pretend/fake organisations and companies that I do not deal with – the emails are really convincing asking to log on via the email to check the details.

Thorpe Road Car Park

Just to clarify the situation regarding the phased maintenance approach that is being undertaken for Thorpe Road Car Park.

Two main issues that are needing to be addressed are: (a)The large number of deep potholes affecting the southernmost end of the car park and temporary remedial work had been carried out 21st & 22nd March (prior to Easter) that involved scraping up the surface, re levelling it and then rolling over it to level it up, (please note that the work carried out was not a permanent solution and we will experience problems after rainfall) the (b)The remainder of the car park is suffering with rain water pooling and not draining away.

The District Council is establishing a Business Case in order to undertake a more sustainable maintenance solution across the whole area of the car park. Following the Engineering consultant's investigation and report on the drainage issues the recommendations for improved surface water drainage and relief from potholing and rutting have informed a basic scheme design.

The proposed works and sizeable budget will require Cabinet approval and we will keep you updated as much as possible. (TJ is working hard to get this moved on)

Aldeburgh TC

The work to review the tourism information provision in Aldeburgh is continuing. However, SCDC has recognised that we are now approaching the peak tourism season, so does not intend to make any changes at this time. As such, the existing TIC will remain open for this season, while we continue to work to find the best outcome for future tourist information provision in Aldeburgh and as soon as we have more information we will update you. (TJ has again requested that the TC is to be updated as and when)

Make your money go further – Universal Credit

Working with students at Lowestoft College, Suffolk Coastal District & Waveney Councils have produced a series of videos to promote and explain how Universal Credit works and how it can help to #makeyourmoneygofurther.

Universal Credit is a new single payment for people who are looking for work or on a low income; it has been rolled out across the country and was introduced in our area in March 2015. The introduction initially only applied to people that were single and would have previously applied for Jobseekers Allowance.

During late Spring, in Lowestoft, this will be expanded to include all new claims to what is called "legacy benefits" These are the benefits that currently exist, Housing Benefit, Working Tax Credit, Child Tax Credit, Income Support, Jobseekers Allowance and Employment and Support Allowance.

And to help people better understand the new system and to promote it as effectively and widely as possible, the councils are beginning a campaign to #makeyourmoneygofurther online and on social media. This includes enlisting the help of art and design students at Lowestoft College who, as part of their studies and to gain invaluable work experience, have produced a series of short films on the topic.

It is councils who must administer manage the benefits that our residents receive and we want to make the process as simple as possible. Change can cause anxiety and we want to do all we can to remove concerns that people may have about this new single benefit.

Some local young adults from this area attend the college

To find out more about Universal Credit and to watch the videos, go to www.waveney.gov.uk/makeyourmoneygofurther

Suffolk Coastal Community Health Workshops 2016

Suffolk Coastal District Council, in conjunction with a range of partners, would like to invite you to attend one or more of five workshops to explore what communities could do to support local individuals and families facing specific health and wellbeing challenges, including dementia, isolation and staying active. The five workshops will be held at different locations across the District between 10 May and 20 June 2016.

Each workshop is aimed at community groups, Town and Parish Councils, County and District Councillors and voluntary organisations – anyone who wants to find out more about how to stimulate action in their community!

Following each workshop there will be a ‘community call to action’ where community groups and voluntary sector organisations in the Suffolk Coastal District Council area can apply for a share of £12,500 per theme to tackle that issue. This funding is provided by Public Health and Protection, Suffolk County Council.

The themes, dates, times and venues of the five workshops are as follows:

WORKSHOP 1: Communities and Mental Health

Tuesday 10 May, 4.30 – 6.30pm, Walton Community Hall, Felixstowe

WORKSHOP 2: Communities and Dementia

Tuesday 17 May, 6.30 – 8.30pm, Charsfield Village Hall, near Wickham Market

WORKSHOP 3: Communities and Social Isolation

Monday 6 June, 6.30 – 8.30pm, The Market Hall, Saxmundham

WORKSHOP 4: Communities and Carers

Thursday 16 June, 6.30 – 8.30pm, Woodbridge Community Hall, Woodbridge

WORKSHOP 5: Communities and Active, Healthy Lifestyles

Monday 20 June, 4.30 – 6.30pm, The Westbury Centre (St John’s Ambulance), Framlingham

Each workshop will include facts and figures to help participants to understand what’s happening in the local area, information about what local voluntary organisations are doing to tackle this issue, inspirational case studies exploring what other Suffolk communities are doing to support individuals and families in their community and, last but not least, some ‘possibility thinking’ to generate ideas for action in your community.

The workshops will also include information about new funding that is available to kick-start your community health and wellbeing project - come along to one, two or more workshops to find out more. To book your place(s), please contact Jo Jonas on 01502 523210 or Joanna.jonas@eastsuffolk.gov.uk but if you would like more information about the workshops, please contact Nicole Rickard, Head of Communities on 01502 523231 or Nicole.rickard@eastsuffolk.gov.uk.

Meeting with Robert Goodwill MP, Minister of State at the Department for Transport, to maintain momentum for Suffolk’s Energy Gateway

Representatives from Suffolk County Council and Suffolk Coastal District Council met with the Minister of State for Transport, Robert Goodwill MP today to discuss the continued need for the Suffolk Energy Gateway. The meeting was called for by Suffolk County Councillor Guy McGregor and Suffolk Coastal’s Deputy Leader, Cllr Geoff Holdcroft to keep the focus for improvements regarding the A12 high on the Department’s agenda.

The two councillors will be joined at the meeting by EDF, the developer promoting Sizewell C, and the New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership. Local MPs Therese Coffey, Dan Poulter and Peter Aldous will be in attendance as well. The Suffolk delegation will be able to tell the Minister that the new road has the support of the Suffolk Chamber of Commerce, BIFA the road haulage company and Scottish Power Renewables.

Cllrs McGregor and Geoff Holdcroft used the opportunity to emphasise the importance of this new road infrastructure to help unlock further business growth and community development in this area of Suffolk. A new wider road, bypassing some of the villages along the existing A12 route will also prepare the area for the potential future development of Sizewell C which will bring significant investment and highly skilled workers into Suffolk and the wider region. The two councillors are calling for the Department for Transport to provide £1.5m needed to finalise the proposal so the Minister can make his funding decision on the new scheme.

A project of the size and scale as Sizewell C means that a suitable road infrastructure needs to be in place way ahead of any potential construction date for this size of nationally significant project. The meeting with Robert Goodwill MP, comes hot on the heels of the positive announcements made by the Chancellor of the Exchequer regarding investment for new crossings in Ipswich and Lowestoft last week.

The A12 route runs through Suffolk, between Ipswich and Lowestoft, and is a key strategic transport corridor for businesses and communities which use it on a daily basis. It is an essential route for sustaining the county's growing economy. Since the de-trunking of the road in 2001, pinch points have developed along particular stretches of the road; particularly between Marlesford and Farnham where congestion and high volumes of HGVs and agricultural vehicles are limited to slow speeds on winding sections of the road.

Suffolk County Councillor Guy McGregor said:

"We believe the new road is the first phase of the Suffolk Energy Gateway which is essential for the local economy of the area. The route as it stands needs improving so that we can improve the reliability of journey times to the towns served by this stretch of road network. The new road will help open up the energy coast as it runs from Ipswich to Lowestoft.

To make this work a reality, we need the Government to help us with financial support as the scale of this project cannot be achieved by local funding alone. I am here today to put Suffolk's case forward to the Department for Transport to keep up the pressure and to see what can be done to deliver this significant infrastructure project."

Suffolk Coastal District Council's Deputy Leader, Cllr Geoff Holdcroft said:

"Suffolk Coastal already has the strongest economy in the County, but we need to build on our success and get the correct infrastructure in place to drive the continued economic development of this area. Meetings like this are essential to keep this project on the Government's agenda and complement the other exciting projects, such as the Third Crossing at Lowestoft, to ensure the future prosperity of the east coast."

Both local authorities are working with EDF Energy as discussions for developing Sizewell C continue to progress. In order to satisfy the current ambitions to start Sizewell C's construction around 2020, the Suffolk Energy Gateway needs to commence in good time to ensure the road network is in place ahead of the increased traffic volumes that development of Sizewell C will bring to this area of Suffolk.

Suffolk to Invest in the "Screen Industries"

Suffolk Public Sector Leaders have agreed to invest up to £230k of the Business Rates Pool, into establishing a Suffolk Film office initiative.

The UK film and television industry is a success story with a strong reputation for creativity, skilled people and businesses. The evolving wider sector including content for websites and advertising can be termed "Screen Industries".

The Screen Industries is one of the fastest growing sectors in the UK economy and Suffolk is positioning itself to be a pillar of excellence in this growing market, beginning with a long term commitment to growing this sector in the county.

The Film Office initiative has been developed by a collaboration of those working in the screen industries, and Suffolk's local authorities. This programme will:

- **Build** on the existing community of Screen Industry professionals based in the county, fostering a cohesive and collaborative culture.
- **Promote Suffolk** as a diverse, culturally rich and talented place with a beautiful landscape that can meet the needs of local, national and international Screen Industries.
- **Attract** the Screen Industries to the region, and all associated disciplines, to further generate economic growth and inward investment.
- **Create a film friendly licensing and permissions process** across Suffolk that is efficient, effective and ensures residents and businesses are able to support productions in Suffolk.

In 2014/15 there were 37% more productions shooting in the English regions and 25% more shooting days on location, compared to the previous year.

Suffolk is well placed to benefit from this growing market and we want to promote our county as a viable location for film production companies.

It is also important to give young people access to the film industry on their doorstep to continue to grow the creative sector in the region. We will now be able to compete nationally to attract this industry to Suffolk.

There were 84 feature films and 101 TV dramas shooting on location in England. These productions amounted to £93million of on-location spend and over 7,700 days of work for crew.

The Suffolk coast is already enjoying the benefits of two major TV series – BBC's Springwatch and BBC 4's comedy drama The Detectorists – and this initiative will help us to build on these successes. Suffolk's beautiful natural landscape, wealth of history and ease of access from London make it an ideal location for screen productions

Have your say on air quality

Local people are being asked their views on two reports about the District's air quality that have recently been approved by the Government.

The Council's Updating and Screening Assessment Report is produced every three years and looks at air quality across the entire district, with interim reports being produced in the intervening years.

"The Report confirms that across the district our air quality remains generally good, with just 3 very specific areas of concern," said Cllr Carol Poulter, Suffolk Coastal's cabinet member for the Green Environment.

"These are the declared Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) in Felixstowe, Woodbridge, and on the A12 at Stratford St. Andrew.

The problem in all three areas relates to the pollutant nitrogen dioxide which is an irritant of the respiratory system and can adversely affect people's health - particularly those who, for example, have existing heart or lung conditions or breathing problems."

The good news is that our monitoring reveals that the nitrogen dioxide levels within the AQMA declared at Felixstowe have reduced, and continue to now be below the levels set by the Government. Similarly, nitrogen dioxide levels in Woodbridge have also reduced slightly in the last year"

Levels within the AQMAs at Woodbridge and Stratford are still either at or above the acceptable levels set by Government, so work does need to continue at these locations."

The second report produced is the Further Assessment for the AQMA at Stratford St Andrew. This identifies the sources of emissions in this AQMA and provides information on possible solutions to reduce emissions at this location. This will help us to draw up the draft Action Plan for this AQMA.

The reports can be found on our website:

- 2015 Updating and Screening Assessment for Suffolk Coastal District Council
- Further Assessment for Long Row, Main Road, Stratford St. Andrew

Alternatively, paper copies are available at the Melton Hill Council Offices for viewing or to borrow short term if requested.

Additional information: www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourdistrict/envprotection/airquality

We are seeking, and would welcome, comments on the reports - particularly any ideas/comments you may have for the draft Action Plan which is being drawn up for Stratford St Andrew in the near future.

Comments can be emailed to **environment@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk**, or sent to Environmental Protection at the Council's Offices, Melton Hill, Woodbridge IP12 1AU.

We may not be able to reply directly to every consultation response, but be assured all comments received will be taken into account.

The final date for return of comments on the reports is Friday 29th April 2016.

Other items

Melton Hill, Woodbridge Community Planning Weekend

- Date: Friday 15 April 2016, 2.00pm – 5.00pm and Saturday 16 April 2016, 11.00am – 4.00pm
- Venue: Woodbridge Primary School, Wilkinson Way, Woodbridge IP12 1SS
- Report Back presentation: Tuesday 19 April 2016, 6.30pm-8.00pm also at Woodbridge Primary School

You are invited to the Melton Hill Community Planning Weekend to help create a Vision for a high quality residential development on land currently occupied by Suffolk Coastal District Council offices.

Suffolk Coastal District Council is moving from its existing offices in Melton Hill and Active Urban Property Group, with their architects Hoopers, has been selected as preferred developer for the 3.23 acre site close to Woodbridge town centre, with views across the River Deben to Sutton Hoo. The intention is to create a development befitting its location.

Active Urban is committed to working closely with the local community and has appointed collaborative planning specialists JTP to facilitate the Community Planning Weekend, in collaboration with Hoopers.

The Community Planning Weekend will be an opportunity to share local knowledge and contribute to planning the new development through workshops and hands-on planning groups. There will also be an exhibition explaining the background of the site. Please see the attached flyer for more information.

Following the two public workshop days, the JTP led team will analyse and summarise the outcomes and draw up a Vision for the site and its relationship with Woodbridge. This will be presented to the local community at the Report Back at 6.30pm, Tuesday 19 April at Woodbridge Primary School.

The design team will then move forward to prepare a detailed planning application for the site, which it is anticipated will be submitted to Suffolk Coastal District Council in the summer.

I look forward to seeing you at this event. Everyone is welcome – please share this invitation with your networks.

In the meantime, if you would like any more information please visit www.jtp.co.uk or contact me at community@jtp.co.uk or on 020 7017 1780.

Reminder - Council Tax scams **Beware – Scammers About!**

Local people are being urged to be on their guard, following reports of suspected scams in the area.

Councils have just sent out their Council Tax bills to local residents.

Now there have been a report of someone being called by a scammer claiming to be from the Council, claiming the person was in arrears with their council tax and asking for their bank details to take payment. Fortunately, the resident did not hand over their bank details.

Also there have been reports of a company telephoning and claiming the local resident's property was in the wrong band and asking for nearly £70 to send their findings. In this case, unfortunately, the informer did hand over their bank details

Reminder - Our Council Tax Team will not phone and request payment of council tax arrears. We always issue official letters to advise on arrears issues.

Further advice on scams is available

at: <http://www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/atoz/scams/>

Protecting your identity

Identity theft happens when fraudsters access enough information about someone's identity (such as their name, date of birth, current or previous addresses) to commit identity fraud. Identity theft can take place whether the fraud victim is alive or deceased.

If you're a victim of identity theft, it can lead to fraud that can have a direct impact on your personal finances and could also make it difficult for you to obtain loans, credit cards or a mortgage until the matter is resolved.

Identity fraud

Identity fraud can be described as the use of that stolen identity in criminal activity to obtain goods or services by deception.

Fraudsters can use your identity details to:

- Open bank accounts.
- Obtain credit cards, loans and state benefits.
- Order goods in your name.
- Take over your existing accounts.
- Take out mobile phone contracts.
- Obtain genuine documents such as passports and driving licences in your name.
- Stealing an individual's identity details does not, on its own, constitute identity fraud. But using that identity for any of the above activities does.

The first you know of it may be when you receive bills or invoices for things you haven't ordered, or when you receive letters from debt collectors for debts that aren't yours.

Protect yourself against identity fraud – advice from *Action Fraud*

Don't throw out anything with your name, address or financial details without shredding it first.

If you receive an unsolicited email or phone call from what appears to be your bank or building society asking for your security details, never reveal your full password, login details or account numbers. Be aware that a bank will never ask for your PIN or

for a whole security number or password.

If you are concerned about the source of a call, wait five minutes and call your bank from a different telephone making sure there is a dialling tone.

Check your statements carefully and report anything suspicious to the bank or financial service provider concerned.

Don't leave things like bills lying around for others to look at.

If you're expecting a bank or credit card statement and it doesn't arrive, tell your bank or credit card company.

If you move house, ask Royal Mail to redirect your post for at least a year.

For more information

http://www.actionfraud.police.uk/fraud_protection/identity_fraud

Composting offer now available to Suffolk's residents

The Suffolk Waste Partnership has launched a fantastic new scheme to help people compost garden waste at home across the county. A number of items can be purchased through www.getcomposting.com which helps people reduce their garden and kitchen waste. This includes the opportunity to buy a 220 litre compost bin for £8.99 or a 330 litre bin for only £9.99, which is 50% off its normal retail price.

Residents who choose to buy one compost bin can get another of the same size for half price, so if two neighbours share the cost, there's quite a saving to be found.

There is limited stock of the compost bins, so get your order placed now. As well as the composting leaflet residents will receive, the Suffolk Waste Partnership can also help with lots of information and tips on how to get the most from composting at home.

Working in partnership with the national composting experts at Getcomposting.com, the scheme helps residents reduce the amount of garden and food waste currently being disposed every year. Suffolk currently throws around 50,000 tonnes of food and garden into their rubbish bins every year. This costs the Suffolk taxpayer over £3.5 million.

Residents can purchase subsidised composting bins by visiting www.getcomposting.com or by calling 0844 571 4444 quoting SUF16L.

Things you need to know before polling day:

Make sure you vote in time

- * Polling stations will be open from 7am to 10pm on Thursday 5 May. You had to have applied to register to vote by midnight on 18 April in order to be able to vote on 5 May.
- * Your poll card will have been sent to the address where you are registered. It will say where your polling station is. You can only vote at the polling station that is stated on your own poll card.
- * Plan what time you will be able to cast your vote at the polling station, leaving plenty of time before the 10pm deadline.
- * If you are in a queue at your polling station at 10pm you will still be able to vote.
- * If you arrive at the polling station after 10pm then the poll will be closed and you will have missed your chance to take part.

Postal voting

- * If you have a postal vote, make sure it is returned by 10pm on Thursday 5 May.
- * If you have not had time to post it before polling day, then you can take it to the polling station on polling day and hand it in. Your poll card tells you where your polling station is. Postal votes that arrive after 10pm on May 5 will not be counted.

Proxy voting

- * If you've appointed a proxy, then they need to make sure they are able to vote at the correct polling station on your behalf.
- * If you are suddenly unable to vote in person, because you have a medical emergency which prevents you from attending on polling day, or your occupation, service or employment means that you cannot go to the polling station in person, and you only become aware of that fact after the deadline, then you may be entitled to appoint an emergency proxy.
- * You can apply for an emergency proxy up until 5pm on polling day. You should contact your local electoral registration office directly to ask about this.

What you need to take with you

- * Just yourself!
- * You can take your poll card with you to show the polling station staff when you arrive. They will still ask for you to confirm your name and address. If you don't have it with you, just tell the polling station staff your name and your address and they can check whether you're on the electoral register.

Social media

* Social media is a great way to let your friends and family know you have voted and to encourage them to do the same. So use Twitter, Facebook and any other social media accounts you have to get the message out there.

* Remember- pictures of you before you go into or after you leave the polling station are great to use on social media posts but don't take a picture of yourself inside the polling station as if you post this it could be a breach of the law.

How to fill out your ballot paper

* The staff at the polling station will give you a ballot paper listing the candidates you can vote for. You may be given more than one ballot paper if there is more than one election taking place in your local area on the same day.

* Staff are on hand at the polling station to provide advice on the voting process.

* If you are disabled, you can ask the Presiding Officer for help and they can mark the ballot paper for you. You can also ask someone else to help you (e.g. a support worker, as long as they are either a relative or an eligible elector).

* If you have a visual impairment, you can ask to see a large print ballot paper or you can ask for a special voting device that allows you to vote on your own in secret.

* Take your ballot paper into a polling booth so that no one can see how you vote. Read the ballot paper carefully, it will tell you how to cast your vote. Do not write anything else on the paper or your vote may not be counted.

* Mark your ballot paper according to the instructions. A pencil will be provided for you to do this, but you may use your own pen if you prefer.

* The PCC Election uses a different voting system to the usual 'first past the post system' and instead uses the Supplementary Vote system. Voters will be asked to make a first preference choice and a second preference choice for who they want to become the Suffolk Police and Crime Commissioner.

* There will be two columns on the ballot paper and electors will mark a cross against their first preference candidate in the first column, and a cross against their second preference candidate in the second column if they wish. The first and second choices must be different.

* The ballot papers from around Suffolk will be counted and if one candidate receives more than 50% of the first preference votes, they will be elected.

* If no candidate reaches the 50% threshold, the two candidates with the highest number of votes go forward to the next stage of the count when the second preference votes for those two will be counted. The candidate with the most votes at the end of this process will be elected.

* If you make a mistake on your ballot paper, don't worry, So long as you haven't already put it in the ballot box just let the polling station staff know and they can issue you with a replacement ballot paper.

* Fold your completed ballot paper in half and pop it in the ballot box - and that's it done!