

Aldeburgh Ward Report 11.07.16

Cllr Jones sends her apologies.

Enabling Community Roadshows: Mentioned in our last report, as you know, developing our enabling communities programme is a key priority within the East Suffolk Business Plan.

We want to help create a diverse mix of resilient and supportive communities that feel engaged, valued and empowered, where people's needs are met and where they can make a difference to their community.

In support of this, Suffolk Coastal and Waveney are staging two roadshows in July to engage with our town and parish councils. The events are being held at the Riverside Centre, Stratford St Andrew on Tuesday, 19 July and on Monday, 25 July, at Lowestoft Community Church, Lowestoft. They both run from 9.30am to 12.30pm.

For the Enabling Community Roadshows to be successful, it is imperative that as many Town and Parish Councils attend and are represented as possible. There will be two parts to each roadshow:

The first part will showcase the excellent community-led initiatives serving as good practice across East Suffolk, to encourage, empower and enable other communities to also work together to build their resilience.

The second part will encourage communities to consider their community strengths and assets; who are the leading 'movers and shakers'; how can they be supported to build on what's already good; and, how can they build their capacity and resilience.

If any of your town/parish councils or stakeholders wants to attend either event, please ask them to contact: Julia Catterwell at:
Julia.Catterwell@eastsuffolk.gov.uk

Part-Night Lighting: The move across to part night lighting, introduced in the District at the beginning of June, appears to have been very successful.

This 'invest to save' initiative will reduce running costs and cut light pollution. It also brings Suffolk Coastal in line with other Councils,

including Suffolk County Council/Highways Agency which is responsible for the main Highway or 'road standard' street lighting.

Older people will remember that we used to have part-night lighting in the 1990s, but this was abandoned because of the expense of running the system.

Suffolk Coastal District Council is responsible for 1,735 footway standard lighting units in towns and parishes across the District. The move to part-night lighting, following the installation of an intelligent lighting system, is expected to save the Council about £30,000 a year and reduce CO2 emissions by 125 tonnes a year.

We have invested about £90,000 to install the intelligent lighting system for the Council's lighting. The installation investment expenditure should be recovered in approximately three years due to reduced energy costs.

Other benefits include the ability to control and monitor the units remotely, providing greater energy efficiency and flexibility of operation.

With the introduction of part-night lighting, the majority of the Council's lighting units will be switched off between the hours of midnight and 5.30am, with the exception of:

- Lighting where sheltered accommodation for the elderly - to remain as all-night lighting.
- Alleyway linking residential street or at bus stop - to remain as all-night lighting.
- Car park lighting - to remain as all-night lighting.
- Bus stops - to remain as all-night lighting.

If you want to check whether your area is affected, check out the Suffolk Coastal website at: www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/environment/street-lighting-in-suffolk

Please note that since the Map for Aldeburgh was produced a number of SCDC owned lighting units were upgraded and their ownership transferred to Suffolk County Council.

Reminder to Dog Owners to Clean Up: Dog owners are reminded of the need to clear up after their pets – or face a fine.

In March, a man walking a dog on land between Sizewell power station and the beach at Sizewell, near Leiston, was spotted failing to clear up after his dog. Suffolk Coastal Norse traced the dog walker, who then paid a Fixed Penalty Notice. Now Suffolk Coastal is repeating its warning to dog owners – clean up after your dog or face the consequences!

Failing to clean up after your dog on any relevant public land is a criminal offence under the Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996, and the maximum penalty that a Court can impose on conviction is a fine of £1,000, together with a criminal record. However, the Council may offer an offender the opportunity to pay a Fixed Penalty Notice of £80 (£60 if paid promptly), which, if paid, discharges the offender from liability to prosecution.

When walking your dog, always remember to take a bag with you to pick up the mess and always pay attention to what your dog is doing at all times – not having a suitable bag, or not noticing that the dog had fouled, is no excuse for failing to clear up after it.

And remember - any bin will do! Dog waste must always be picked up and placed in either a dog waste bin or litter bin, or taken home and placed in your grey-lidded wheelie bin.

Anyone who observes an offence of dog fouling, littering or fly-tipping, and has any information (for example, the name and address of an offender if known, or the registration number of their vehicle) that would help us to investigate and identify those responsible is urged to “tip us off” by contacting us on: 01394 444000. Any report made will be treated with the strictest confidence.

Last Chance to Nominate

The Business and Community Awards give local people a unique opportunity to celebrate what is great about Suffolk Coastal and to recognise those people whose hard work and dedication makes this such a fantastic place to live and work. We all know businesses, clubs and individuals who just go that extra mile to make a difference in the community. Now is your chance to say ‘thank you’ by ensuring their commitment is recognised by nominating them for an award on: www.scbca.co.uk.

Freezing food to reduce food waste

Suffolk Coastal and Waveney Councils are supporting this year's Food Safety Week (4th-10th July), which aims to help people better understand how to waste less food safely, by making more use of their freezers.

New research from the Food Standards Agency (FSA) has revealed that 68% of UK adults report that they have thrown food away in the past month.

Over two thirds (36%) of those who had thrown away food said they have discarded food as it was past its use by date. Other top reasons for throwing food away include buying too much and not eating it, which was reported by 30% of people; and not having the chance to eat food before it went off, which almost a quarter (23%) gave as an excuse for putting food in the bin.

This contributes to the seven million tonnes of food that is wasted in the UK each year which, according to the Love Food Hate Waste campaign, costs each household around £470 annually.

Residents are encouraged to help tackle the problem of food waste by planning ahead and, if necessary, to freeze food within its use by date if there is a chance you may end up throwing it away once the use-by date expires.

Every year, we throw away seven million tonnes of food and drink from our homes. Much of this waste is unnecessary, and a better understanding of how to freeze food safely could go a significant way towards tackling the problem. The research shows that many of the fears the public has about freezing food are unfounded and we need to ensure they know the facts. 31% of the people we spoke to said that more information about how to safely freeze food would help them to reduce their food waste – that's why freezing is the focus of this year's Food Safety Week.

For more information on freezing food safely, visit www.food.gov.uk/useby or follow @foodgov (#EatitCookitFreezeit) for tips and advice throughout Food Safety Week.

Young people given insight into local government

Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Councils recently launched a new work experience programme – to help new graduates find out more about the opportunities within local government.

The Specialist Careers in Local Government programme was a week-long initiative giving undergraduates an insight into important roles for young people in local government as well as giving them the skills needed to get the job they want. I had the pleasure of presenting to the group along with the Chairman.

Young people taking part are being given the opportunity to hear from recent graduates working at the Councils from departments such as planning, environmental health, customer services and community development and receive training to help them prepare for job applications and interviews and tips on applying for the Councils' internship scheme.

We want to encourage more undergraduates to work for us as they bring in fresh ideas and have a different perspective on how the council works in the community.

Working in a council can be a rewarding career choice, giving people the chance to make a real difference to the lives of local people. We hope that by showcasing some of the important work being done throughout council departments, more young people will consider a career in local government. By opening the door up to more young people, we're investing in the future and are able to grow our own talent.

Please accept my advance apologies for the August meeting (TJHC)

As always, please do not hesitate to get in touch if we can be of assistance.

TJ & Maureen.