

Parish Report April 2017

Councillor

Richard Kemp

Tresco
New Road
Long Melford
Suffolk
CO10 9JY
01787 378149
richard.kemp@suffolk.gov.uk



Suffolk County Council Elections 2017

The 2017 Suffolk County Council election is scheduled to take place on 4 May 2017 as part of the 2017 local elections in the United Kingdom. All 75 councillors will be elected from 63 electoral divisions which will return either one or two county councillors each by first-past-the-post voting for a four-year term of office.

You are represented by 1 or 2 county councillors who are elected by Suffolk residents to make decisions on their behalf. On average each councillor represents 7000 people. Councillors are elected every 4 years by Suffolk residents. Each councillor represents an area called an electoral division. There are 63 divisions in Suffolk, 12 of these are represented by 2 councillors each. Large towns may be split into several divisions, or groups of parishes in rural areas make up a single division.

Councillors work to reflect the views of their local communities. Suffolk County Council has developed role profiles which give an indication of the skills a councillor may need and the responsibilities they may have during their term of office. They are paid an allowance in respect of the work they undertake. As well as this each councillor is given a small amount of money, called a locality budget, which they can spend on local initiatives. Councillors are required to conduct themselves in accordance with a locally agreed Code of Conduct, which is part of the council's constitution.

All county councillors are required to provide a record of their interests in a public register. This is available for inspection by members of the public online as well as at Endeavour House between 9am and 5pm, Monday to Friday (excluding Bank Holidays).

To register to vote in forthcoming elections, go to www.gov.uk/register-to-vote if you are not already on the current electoral register

Suffolk residents invited to 'come along for the stride' to celebrate 10 years of the Suffolk walking festival

This year the Suffolk Walking Festival is celebrating its 10th anniversary and it promises to be bigger and better than ever before.

Novice or expert, young or old, with your family or walking alone, there is something for everybody in this year's festival. With over 100 walks on offer between 13th May and 4th June, the festival boasts a selection of brand new Family Walks and family friendly activities, along with the return of popular Themed Walks and Challenge Walks. The walks range from short distances of 0-4 miles to over 50 miles and can be completed at your own pace, with a group or against the clock.

Details of the competition can be found at www.suffolk-secrets.co.uk

The end of the 2017 Suffolk Walking Festival will coincide with the ending of Suffolk's Year of Walking, a campaign celebrating walking in Suffolk. It provides a platform to promote walking events and activities, as well as provide inspiration and opportunities to encourage people to walk more often. It began in May last year and was launched at the 2016 Suffolk Walking Festival.

Tickets for the walks are now on sale. To buy tickets or find more information including a full list of the walks on offer, visit www.suffolkwalkingfestival.co.uk

Community Fire Volunteers wanted by Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service to share fire safety messages and improve lives

Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service are currently on the lookout for enthusiastic and caring people who want to make a difference to their community.

Community Fire Volunteers are fully trained volunteers who share fire safety advice in their area, visiting elderly and vulnerable people in their homes to undertake a Safer Home Visit for them, fitting smoke alarms if required and offering fire safety advice.

Those who become Community Fire Volunteers will also be able to get involved in other ways, such as attending community events and fairs or giving talks to community groups about fire safety.

Applicants must be older than 18 years old and be available for at least 12 hours every month. Volunteers will receive ongoing training and uniform for when they undertake their duties. Support will also be given to allow volunteers to extend their skills and expenses will be paid to cover any costs incurred while on duty.

To download an application form and information pack go to www.suffolk.gov.uk/suffolk-fire-and-rescue-service/working-and-volunteering-for-fire-and-rescue/apply-to-be-a-community-fire-volunteer/ or call 01473 260588.

The vacancy is also available on the Volunteer Suffolk website at www.volunteersuffolk.org.uk

Travel in time at Suffolkarchives.co.uk

Suffolk Record Office now offers online resources to help you search for a particular person or piece of information.

www.suffolkarchives.co.uk allows users to access catalogues for the records from the comfort of their own home and means many more people will be able to use the service.

Since December, residents both inside and out of Suffolk have been able to purchase and download digital copies of wills and request quotations for copies of other documents and photographs. More records are being digitised and added to the collection on an on-going basis.

Mrs Rhonda Johnston is researching her ancestors from Suffolk. She lives in Australia and without the new online facilities she wouldn't be able to carry out some of her research.

Suffolk Record Office will be adding even more content, both catalogues and digitised records to the website over the coming months. Users will soon be able to book and pay online for courses, talks and walks.

Visit www.suffolkarchives.co.uk to learn more about the services available online.

Hate litter and love Suffolk? Join Spring Clean Suffolk to help make Suffolk the Greenest County

The Suffolk Waste Partnership is keen to support local community efforts to clean up towns, villages and countryside by getting involved in a litter pick.

Several groups across Suffolk are already planning to give their neighbourhoods a sprucing up, and it's hoped that with more groups and individuals taking part in litter picks this year, a real difference can be made. Last year 266 groups and events were registered, involving more than 3,000 volunteers from schools, businesses, youth clubs, churches and other community organisations.

Many litter picks are expected to coincide with the national campaign, "The Great British Spring Clean", which encourages communities to carry out litter picks during the weekend from 3 - 5 March 2017, but all of the district and borough councils across Suffolk will support community efforts to carry out local litter picks throughout the year.

Groups organising a litter pick in Suffolk can call their local district or borough council with their group information and give details of the location of the planned pick and the equipment they require. They can also make arrangements for the council to collect the gathered litter by calling their local district or borough council.

People can check for events in their local area by viewing the online calendar of litter picks in Suffolk at www.greensuffolk.org/recycling/campaigns/suffolk-litter-picking

The website also hosts a gallery of photos submitted by community volunteers. If anyone would like to submit a photo of their event to be added to the gallery can be done so by emailing waste.management@suffolk.gov.uk

Suffolk Fostering and Adoption Service to launch a new approach to support foster families

Suffolk Fostering and Adoption Service is launching the Mockingbird Family Model of foster care in Suffolk, in partnership with The Fostering Network.

The Fostering Network has already introduced the pioneering Mockingbird Family Model to the UK, and it has been piloted with 7 organisations across the country since April 2015.

They have now been successful in securing an additional £3.76m in funding through the Department for Education's Children's Social Care Innovation Programme to extend the model to a further 5 organisations in the UK, including Suffolk Fostering and Adoption Service.

The model was developed by The Mockingbird Society in the USA and is based on the idea of an extended family. It uses a 'constellation' where 6 to 8 fostering 'satellite' households living near each other are offered support from a dedicated 'hub home' fostering household of specially recruited and trained carers.

The hub home carer offers regular planned respite care and emergency respite care to the satellite carers. They will also assist with peer support, regular joint planning and social activities. Relationships are central to the model, with hub carers and foster carers providing frontline care and with social workers able to concentrate on successful relationship building.

The hub also builds links with other families integral to the children's care plans and to resources in the wider community which can provide them with enhanced opportunities to learn, develop and succeed.

Suffolk plans to launch its first constellation of foster carers by October 2017.

For more information about how to become a foster carer in Suffolk, visit www.fosterandadopt.suffolk.gov.uk

Suffolk Youth Orchestra taking part in First world War centenary celebrations

As part of the international Somme100 FILM project, Suffolk Youth Orchestra will be performing Laura Rossi's original score as a soundtrack to the Imperial War Museums' 1916 film The Battle of the Somme on Tuesday 4 April at The Apex, Bury St Edmunds, and Wednesday 5 April at Snape Maltings Concert Hall.

Working with the Imperial War Museums as part of the First World War Centenary Partnership, there aims to be 100 live orchestral performances of the iconic 1916 film between July 2016 to July 2017 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Battle of the Somme.

As the 'flagship' ensemble of Suffolk County Music Service's Suffolk Youth Music programme, it is a great privilege for Suffolk Youth Orchestra to have been invited as they are one of 100 orchestras taking part world-wide.

Tickets for these performances are available online and from [The Apex Box Office](http://TheApexBoxOffice) (01284 758000) and [Snape Maltings Concert Hall](http://SnapeMaltingsConcertHall) (01728 687110).

More information on www.suffolkmusicclub.co.uk

Suffolk recognised in inclusive education award

Suffolk SACRE has received a Special Commendation for its Teaching Controversial Issues Toolkit.

Suffolk County Council's Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) has been recognised in a national award celebrating those SACREs that work hardest at promoting the growth of mutual understanding between those of different religious beliefs.

Each local authority in England and Wales is required to convene a SACRE that monitors the assemblies and Religious Education (RE) that are taught in most local schools. Though often overlooked, SACREs can have a crucial role in boosting the growth of respect and empathy between those of different religions and beliefs, given the potential of high quality RE to advance these aims.

The Suffolk SACRE has been granted a Special Commendation by judges of the 2017 Accord Inclusivity Award for its **'Teaching Controversial Issues Toolkit'**, which seeks to give confidence and offer practical guidance to local teachers in delivering controversial issues linked to:

- A School and teacher's 'Prevent' duty to stop people being drawn into terrorist-related activity
- A School's obligation to promote pupils' Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) development
- The requirement on schools to teach Fundamental British Values (of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect for and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs)

The toolkit was produced with support from Suffolk County Council's Localities and Partnerships team who secured Prevent grant funding from the Home Office.

This funding was used to commission the work, project managed by the SACRE, which drew on established relationships it had forged with members of local religion as well as belief groups and classroom teachers. The SACREs work included consulting with local teachers about their needs and wishes from the proposed resources.

The SACRE's flexible and non-prescriptive kit provides a '6 Step Plan' to structure the delivery of sensitive and controversial issues, and is accompanied by a bank of resources to support teachers, which focus on 9 themes related to the Prevent duty. The nine themes are: sense of belonging; terrorism; extremism; hate crime; tolerance; being British; radicalisation; world events; culture and faith.

Now in its eighth year, the annual Accord Inclusivity Award has previously sought to reward state funded schools that work hardest at promoting an inclusive ethos and advancing the growth of mutual understanding, particularly on the grounds of religion and ethnicity. The 2017 Award was open to all 174 SACREs in England and Wales.

Joining Rabbi Romain on the judging panel were former National Lead for Religious Education within Ofsted, Alan Brine; member of Parliament's Joint Committee on National Security, Baroness Kishwer Falkner; Chief Executive Officer at the Religious Education Council of England and Wales, Rudolf Elliott Lockhart; and Anglican Priest and broadcaster, with interests in interfaith dialogue and conflict resolution, the Reverend Ruth Scott.

Your chance to let Public Health Suffolk know what you think of Pharmacy services in the County

A consultation has been launched to help shape the future of pharmacy services across Suffolk.

The questionnaire has been opened to enable Suffolk residents to provide feedback on pharmacy services across the county. The views, experiences and opinions of respondents will be fed into a wider piece of work that is looking at the health needs of Suffolk, the level of accessibility of pharmacy services and how these will be maintained and developed moving forward.

The survey can be accessed on www.healthysuffolk.org.uk and the closing date is Friday 31 March 2017. Hard copies of the questionnaire can be requested by emailing healthandwellbeing@suffolk.gov.uk or by telephoning 01473 260079.

Any information provided will be treated as confidential.