

# Parish Report July 2017

## Councillor

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### Communities across the County mark first ever Suffolk Day

Communities all across the county joined together for the first Suffolk Day this week to recognise all that is great about the region. Celebratory events were held in Sudbury, Lavenham, Long Melford and other locations throughout the area showing off the heritage, arts, businesses and sights that Suffolk has to offer.

Suffolk Members of Parliament also took a break from the pomp and ceremony of the Queen's speech and annual state opening of Parliament in Westminster to Mark the occasion. In Sudbury a mini-market took place in front of the town hall and at the Old Market Place, while local artists painted throughout the day and music was performed by the Woodhall Primary School band.

In Long Melford, members of local groups such as the WI, Community Association, Good Neighbours and business association came together for a meet-and-greet in the village hall. Meanwhile the heritage centre welcomed an exhibition of an extensive collection of local photographs, spanning from the 1880's through to the 1970's.

### Leaders pledge support to prevent suicide in Suffolk

Suffolk leaders have made the pledge to reduce the number of suicides in Suffolk by signing up to become the latest Suffolk Life Savers

The pioneering Suffolk Life Savers campaign launched in early 2017 as part of the countywide suicide prevention strategy. This aims to support those at greatest risk of suicide, using data to target support more effectively and to engage people and professionals at all levels.

Councillors and leaders representing local councils, police, NHS and other organisations as part of the Suffolk Public Sector Leaders Group, have joined 100 other individuals from across the county to become 'Life Savers' since the start of the campaign. This means being prepared to discuss suicide openly and raising awareness of the support available.

An estimated 62 people die by suicide in Suffolk every year; a figure health leads want to reduce by 10% over the next five years. The campaign provides a range of resources and supporting information to encourage conversations and to identify the many organisations who can offer help and support. Evidence suggests around three quarters of people who die by suicide had no contact with mental health services in the 12 months leading up to their death.

### Suffolk County Council launches campaign to recruit School Governors

Suffolk County Council launches its Govern Suffolk Schools campaign today, Monday 19 June 2017.

The campaign will look to address the 450 school governor vacancies that currently exist across Suffolk. This equates to 10% of the governing population. The campaign is looking to recruit Suffolk residents to 'put their skills into Suffolk schools' to benefit the lives of children and young people across Suffolk.

The campaign will be county-wide and focuses on four real-life governors currently working in Suffolk to give people a greater understanding of what the role of a school governor involves. Each governor offers a different set of skills and demonstrates the variety of ways someone can contribute to a school.

A governor takes part in strategic discussions, deciding the schools vision and ethos, determining school budgets and other similar tasks. They are required to act in the best interests of all the pupils of the school and behave in a professional manner.

A governor can make a positive contribution to a child's life whilst developing their own personal and professional skills. Being passionate about improving outcomes and opportunities for children and young people is paramount.

To find out more about becoming a governor, visit [www.suffolk.gov.uk/governorsuffolk](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/governorsuffolk) or search 'Govern Suffolk Schools'.

### **Suffolk Fire and Rescue decide not to move to new Mildenhall Hub site after feedback from local engagement events**

Suffolk Fire and Rescue has decided not to go ahead with plans for a new fire station as part of the proposed Mildenhall Hub development. The decision comes following a series of successful local public engagement events.

This decision will allow the service to keep its options open into the future, with the opportunity to review in years to come to match the changing requirements of the town as further housing and infrastructure are delivered. The planning application, which is currently out to consultation, will be adapted to reflect this change.

The move of the fire station onto the Hub site was considered against the short, medium and longer term impacts – in particular the longer term benefits associated with both the move to a shared site and potential future housing and associated development to the west of the Hub.

You can comment on the planning application by visiting <https://planning.westsuffolk.gov.uk/online-applications/> and searching for Mildenhall Hub.

### **3,600 Suffolk primary school pupils join together to celebrate their musical achievements**

Over 3,000 Key Stage 2 pupils from primary schools across the county show celebrate their year of learning a musical instrument.

Suffolk will be alive with the delightful sounds of more than 3,000 young musicians, as Key Stage 2 pupils from primary schools across the county show off their talents to parents, carers, families and friends, celebrating their year of learning a musical instrument.

Children from 96 primary schools begin Suffolk County Music Service's annual WCET (Whole Class Ensemble Teaching) Celebration week of events and between **Monday 19 June and Friday 23 June**, schools across the county will take part in singing activities and instrumental workshops.

Taught by Suffolk County Music Service tutors in school, pupils play brass, wind, string, guitar, and percussion instruments. Each celebration will finish with a sharing concert, where all schools will play and sing together as part of a massed band and massed choir in front of an invited audience.

All schools accessing the KS2 WCET programme have been invited to attend and will share their successes through the 16 events being organised across the county at 11 venues.

Visit [www.suffolkmusicclub.co.uk](http://www.suffolkmusicclub.co.uk) for more information about other projects and programmes or email [county.musicservice@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:county.musicservice@suffolk.gov.uk)