

Parish Report February 2014

Councillor

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Suffolk Police

Cadet Scheme: Suffolk Constabulary is starting up a Voluntary Cadet scheme and we are seeking young people to be part of the Babergh Unit.

Do you know anyone aged 13-16 years old that is living in the Babergh area?

- Would they like to..... help make the community a safer place?
..... get involved with the Police?
..... support their local Safer Neighbourhood Team?
..... wear a uniform?

If yes could be answered to any of the above why not come along and find out more?

For further information you can email us at: hayley.fraser@suffolk.pnn.police.uk

Immobilise: Suffolk Police has joined forces with the online property database Immobilise to help keep property safe and reunite stolen items with their rightful owners across the county. Many items of identifiable property are either lost or stolen each year. By taking the time to register property on the Immobilise database, people can take a positive step towards reducing the crime. Their registered property would be identifiable to all law enforcement agencies across the country. This in turn will help the police reunite property to their lawful owners and will also help to catch criminals. Almost any possession with a serial number can be registered for free, including:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Mobile phones | iPods, other MP3 players and games consoles |
| Laptops, computers and PDAs | Satellite navigation and in-car equipment |
| Bicycles | |

Watches, jewellery, art and antiques can also be registered for a small fee. Users who upgrade can also add photos and certificates of ownership to their account.

Many items of property which are recovered from criminals are not restored to their rightful owners, as without information on serial numbers or property marking police do not know who they belong to. If you would like register your valuables visit www.immobilise.com

Better Broadband to Suffolk

The Better Broadband for Suffolk Programme is a pioneering project to bring better broadband to all of Suffolk, and ensure that the benefits are maximised by businesses, households and service delivery organisations. The programme is funded by Suffolk County Council, other local councils, the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS), and British Telecom (BT).

The Better Broadband for Suffolk Programme is building a brand new superfast broadband network. This will have the power to transform the life, work and play of each and every one of the half a million people living and working in Suffolk. What's more, superfast broadband will boost the economy of Suffolk, enabling businesses to work more effectively in new ways and potentially reach out to new customers worldwide. For more information visit www.betterbroadbandsuffolk.com

New Website for Suffolk Roadsafe Partnership

Suffolk Roadsafe Partnership has launched a new website. Users can now find information about road safety in Suffolk, apply for courses and learn about managing risk on the road. The website is divided into sections for schools and colleges, drivers of all ages, motorcyclists, and cyclists. News and Suffolk specific information are also included, as well as a twitter feed from [@Suffolkroadsafe](#).

Created in 2007, The Suffolk Roadsafe Partnership brings together the main agencies involved in road safety in the county. The agencies work together to provide the best possible use of resources and road safety expertise from many different disciplines. The number of people killed or seriously injured on Suffolk's roads has significantly decreased over the last 12 years. In 2012 there were 24 fatal, 337 serious, and 2143 slight casualties. It is estimated by Department for Transport that each fatal accident costs over £1.6m.

From taxi driver accreditation courses in the St Edmundsbury Borough Council area, to information about current road safety campaigns such as the Designated Driver scheme; the website offers useful safety tips for cyclists and drivers of all abilities.

The Road Safety Team also delivers 'Bikeability', the practical cycling training course, in many Suffolk schools.

Schools on track to receive over £10million extra government funding thanks to parents claiming free school meals

However, schools could potentially receive an additional £2 million if every parent of children eligible for free school meals claimed them. There are currently 1,808 parents missing out on this opportunity. Under the Government's 'pupil premium' scheme, schools can get £900 of extra funding for every eligible child. Children are eligible if their parents are in receipt of certain benefits, or if they are entitled to free school meals. The pupil premium can be used to increase teaching capacity and improve learning.

At the start of 2013 there were some 5,100 young people in Suffolk who were entitled to free school meals but not claiming them. This was twice the national average and led to Suffolk County Council launching a campaign to increase take up. A number of initiatives were launched with schools to try to drive down this number to ensure Suffolk children benefit from the funding.

Suffolk County Council encouraged school governors and leaders to support and drive registration. The process of applying has been simplified and made much more discreet for both parents and pupils.

Now, nearly a year on, under registration has been cut to around 13% - just above the national average. This is a vast improvement and shows progress is being made.

Back to work scheme receives £65k

A scheme helping unemployed people in east Suffolk return to work is hoped to be up and running by April after £65,000 in start-up funding was awarded to the project. The East Suffolk Partnership (ESP) made the contribution to the Work Club programme to help job seekers across the region develop the skills and confidence to find employment.

Partnership chairman, Suffolk Coastal District Council leader Ray Herring, said the scheme was likely to help about 300 people back into work and would be targeted at areas where there was most need.

"Although the east coast has relatively low levels of unemployment there are a number of pockets across the district where it remains a problem," he said.

"And for many people who want to get back in to work it can sometimes be quite a difficult process.

"We want to identify where we can provide support in ways that are not currently offered to help those people."

Suffolk County Council will use the funding to contract a provider which will deliver clubs in Lowestoft, Beccles, Leiston, Saxmundham, Woodbridge and Felixstowe. Mr Herring said the successful provider would be expected to engage strongly with local business associations and the voluntary sector.

Suffolk Coastal councillor Christopher Hudson said he "backed the scheme 100%".

"We really need to be helping people back into work, developing their self-esteem and moving forward," he said.

The focus will be on job seekers aged 25 and older but all those who are unemployed will be welcome. It is hoped to become self-sufficient after the initial funding boost.