

Parish Report June 2014

Councillor

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County Council Leader sets out Priorities

Education, Roads and Supporting the vulnerable among key issues for Suffolk

Suffolk County Council's priorities for the next three years include raising education attainment, improving the county's road network and supporting the most vulnerable people in our communities, the authority's leader announced today. Addressing all of Suffolk's county councillors on a day marking the council's 40th birthday, Councillor Mark Bee, said:

"The next three years are going to see some major changes. While our budget may be significantly reduced, we certainly have no intention of simply sitting here talking while services are crudely pared back. On the contrary, we believe there is a way of protecting frontline services that the people of Suffolk value the most. To do so, we are going to oversee the most radical redesign this council has ever seen. A leaner, more focused organisation that, through strong financial management, innovation, local leadership and market development, will provide or enable the provision of good-quality services for the people of Suffolk. And all with a heavy dose of pragmatism – focusing on what works."

During his speech, he outlined the council's five priorities between now and 2017 – some a continuation of previous focal points, and some new. The priorities are:

- Raising educational attainment and skill levels.
- Supporting the Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) to increase economic growth.
- Maintaining roads and developing Suffolk's infrastructure.
- Supporting those most vulnerable in our communities.
- Empowering local communities.

Council officers will now be tasked with putting these political decisions and directions into practice, with delivery being overseen by councillors. A business plan will first be developed to guide this work.

During his speech, Councillor Bee paid tribute to Councillor Guy McGregor, the council's outgoing chairman. He also welcomed the authority's new chairman, Councillor Chris Hudson, and vice chairman, Councillor Jane Storey.

Suffolk Urged to Join the Fight

As part of Suffolk Trading Standards' biggest recruitment drive to date, strong, community focused people are being asked to step up and "Join the Fight"

Launched at the Suffolk Show, Councillor Colin Spence, Suffolk County Council's cabinet member for Public Protection began recruiting his army of Consumer Champions to protect Suffolk residents and fight against unscrupulous rogue traders. Started in 2011, the Consumer Champion network, acts as a bridge between Trading Standards and the local community. Working hand in hand with Suffolk residents, the network aims to make it easier for people to access information about consumer rights, protecting themselves and their community in the process.

Every year, more than three million people in the UK fall victim to scams, losing hundreds and even thousands of pounds. The network offers people a real opportunity to help stamp out rogue trading, expose scams and raise awareness of product recalls across Suffolk, which often affect the most vulnerable people in our society. During the Suffolk show, over 50 people pledged their support to the 'Join the Fight' campaign, Please visit www.facebook.com/SuffolkTradingStandards or @SuffolkTS on Twitter for more details. They will be joining the current 215 volunteers such as Gordon Hall, a Consumer Champion from Newmarket, who was able to assist a family member when a doorstep incident was occurring. Gordon recognised that the family member had been approached by a rogue

trader, and was able to offer them the support that they needed to stop work from continuing on their property. With Gordon's support, Trading Standards was able to obtain details of the main culprits. Anyone over the age of 18 can "Join the Fight" and become a Consumer Champion. Visit www.suffolk.gov.uk/jointhefight for more details or to complete an application form. It can be returned to the Community Engagement Officer via email on tradingstandards@suffolk.gov.uk or post: Trading Standards, Landmark House, 4 Egerton Road, Ipswich, IP1 5PF.

Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service

Photo Voltaic Cells on Fire Stations: The Fire & Rescue Service is currently installing photo voltaic cells on 11 fire stations across Suffolk. The work on the PFI fire stations is being jointly funded by the Fire Service and the Land Group who are the PFI partner company. The Fire Service is investing £128,167 and the Land Group £159,848 in the project. It is expected that the savings in energy costs and revenue from the feed-in-tariff received from the Government will repay the investment made by the parties. The Cells will support a reduction in energy costs and the fire stations carbon dioxide footprint. Both parties will share a proportion of the financial benefits associated with the feed-in-tariff and the Fire Service will retain any energy savings that are realised.

Replacement Fire Engines: The new smaller and lower cost fire engines being produced have now passed the necessary Vehicle Certification Agency testing. The first 2 of 6 new vehicles are scheduled to arrive on Suffolk Fire stations in May. The remaining 4 fire engines are expected to be in operation by the end of the summer. The fire engines will continue to support the delivery of an excellent service to local communities and each secures a saving of approximately £25,000 per vehicle compared to the traditional appliances. The new vehicles will be located at fire stations in Ipswich, Orford, Debenham, Clare, Wrentham and Eye. Arrangements are being made to brief the respective local councillors in those areas. An order has now been placed for 2 new water browser vehicles which will be stationed at Leiston and newmarket. These are purpose built vehicles that each carry 9,000 litres of water to help fight fires in rural areas where water supplies are scarce. The vehicles will replace the 2 ageing water browsers currently in service. The new vehicles are expected to be on fire stations by the end of the year. All emergency vehicle procurement is being carried out using the fire service national framework contracts so as to achieve maximum value for money.

Recycling

Procurement of new recycling contract: Suffolk County are pleased to confirm that Viridor Waste Management Ltd has been awarded the new recycling contract by the Suffolk Waste Partnership (SWP). Viridor will sort and sell the dry recyclables collected at the kerbside by all 7 district and borough councils at their material recycling facility (MRF) in Great Blakenham. The service will commence on 1st November 2014 for 5 years. Working together will provide economies of scale and ensuring residents receive the same service throughout the county, increasing the range of items that can be collected for recycling across Suffolk.

Transfer Stations: Following a high level of interest, 5 bidders have been selected to participate in the current stage of the procurement process for a waste transfer station operator. Bidders have had the opportunity to visit the transfer stations in Lowestoft and Foxhall. Final bids are due back in June and the chosen bidder will take on management of Suffolk's waste in November.

Street Sweepings: SCC have awarded a 5 year contract to Eastern Waste Disposal to recycle the street sweepings collected around the county. This contract will ensure that around 8,000 tonnes of street sweepings are diverted from disposal each year, therefore delivering environmental benefits as well as financial savings compared to disposal. The materials recovered from the street sweepings will include soil used for landscaping projects, different grades of stone that are sold as aggregate and organic material which is used as biomass fuel.

Household waste recycling centres: Latest figures indicate that there has been an increase in waste reused in 2013/14 by 84tonnes compared to the same period in 2012/13 across the Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRC) Service.

The reuse of waste electrical & electronic equipment (WEEE) at the HWRC's is also improving. SCC are currently undertaking a trial with Norfolk County Council and social enterprise Crack O! To determine the social, environmental and economic benefits of reuse of small WEEE's (ie. Irons, hairdryers etc). This trial is following a piece of work funded by WRAP to establish reuse opportunities in Norfolk and Suffolk

Recycling of Tassimo coffee pods: All 11 HWRCs now have containers for Tassimo coffee machine T-Discs and outer flow wrap packaging. These would otherwise be going to landfill. Suffolk County Council's Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRC's) are among the Uks first public collection points for the Tassimo brigade (r). The Tassimo packaging waste will be recycled into generic plastic products such as park benches, watering cans and waste bins. Money will also be raised for each piece of Tassimo packaging sent for recycling raising money for the East Anglian Air Ambulance.

HWRCs at Anglia Business Exhibition: All 11 Suffolk HWRCs will accept trade waste for an appropriate charge. This service was recently promoted at the Anglia Business Exhibition at Trinity Park on earlier this month. The aim was to increase awareness amongst SMEs in Suffolk that the service is also available to them and often works out as a cheaper alternative method of waste disposal and recycling for businesses.

Walk This Way Suffolk

From bustling towns to rural villages, people across Suffolk are invited to 'Walk this Way' by taking on the countywide walking challenge.

Suffolk County Council's Public Health team is encouraging people to sign up to the challenge, record their walks, challenge their friends, family and colleagues and keep track of everyone's progress online at www.walkthiswaysuffolk.co.uk. Those taking part can share their experiences by Tweeting using the hashtag #walkthiswaysuffolk, which will encourage others to recommend their favourite walks, upload photos and nominate friends and family to join in. The challenge runs from Monday 12 to Saturday 31 May 2014 and registration is currently open to all. Participation is completely free, and everyone logging an activity will be automatically entered into a random daily draw with the opportunity to win prizes. The challenge is part of national walking month, which begins with the popular Suffolk Walking Festival on 10 May and national Walk to Work Week starting on Monday 12 May. Walking statistics for 2012/13 reveal that 42% of Suffolk people participate in a minimum of 10 minutes walking five times per week. Health experts have identified a range of benefits associated with regular walking of up to 30 minutes every day, including a reduction in the risk of coronary heart disease, some cancers and even improvements to mental health.

Other walking groups will be supporting the challenge, including Nowton Walks in Bury St Edmunds and Suffolk Pramlings, set up by young families for walks which are buggy-friendly around the east coast.

Can you support and inspire a teenager through Fostering?

Suffolk County Council is calling on potential carers to come forward and consider fostering an older child this Fostering Fortnight. Suffolk County Council is calling on potential carers to come forward and consider fostering an older child this Fostering Fortnight. There are many myths surrounding who can and can't foster. Those who are able to foster may be

Any age over 21

Married, single, divorced, or in a civil partnership

Lesbian, gay, bisexual or heterosexual

Renting or own their home

Disabled

Of any ethnicity, race, religion or culture

Already have children or not

The county council's fostering service deal quickly and sensitively with any queries. Foster carers can provide care on a short-term basis whilst permanent plans are made for children to return home to a birth family, to an adoptive family or another permanent foster family. Carers can also provide care on a long-term or permanent basis where the child will be fully part of the carer's family for the remainder of their childhood and hopefully throughout their adult life. Suffolk County Council also provide a more specialised scheme, called MTFC Zipwire, for children over the age of seven years who have more complex and challenging needs. We offer the carers structured support and a fee as recompense for the complexity of the task of caring for the children.

Contact the Fostering Service on 0800 328 2148 or visit www.suffolkfostering.com