

District Councillors Report to Playford Parish Council



July 2019

Cllr Colin Hedgley, Cllr Tony Fryatt

Northern Relief Road.

The first steps are being taken regarding this contentious subject. County Councillors were given an initial briefing on 27th June which they will then disseminate to us. We will keep you posted on any developments concerning this issue. I am having a meeting with the MP next week.

Committee Membership

Both of your District Councillors sit on the Planning Committee (South) and have successfully navigated the first full meeting. Cllr Hedgley, who is Chairman of the Council, also sits on the Licensing Committee and the Licensing sub-committee that deals with applications and revocation.

New seafront play area is officially open in Lowestoft

A new children's play area along the seafront in Lowestoft is officially open, in time for families visiting the First Light Festival to enjoy. Following the allocation of funding from the former Waveney District Council (now East Suffolk Council) and a contribution of £10,000 from the Lowestoft Tourism Group, work to extend the play area at Royal Green began in April. These works, carried out by contractors Sutcliffe Play and delivered by East Suffolk Council in partnership with Sentinel Leisure Trust and East Suffolk Norse, have now been completed on schedule. This play area is just part of our ongoing work to regenerate the seafront area; in addition, we have attracted a number of new seafront concessions and refurbishments to the former lifeguard station are now complete.

We will continue to progress other projects which will enhance the seafront and attract even more visitors to Lowestoft and the wider area."

Suffolk resident urges people to take up offer of new affordable homes

Colne Housing resident Michele Logson is urging people in housing need in East Suffolk to apply for brand new homes that have just been built. Mrs Logson's new home is part of the biggest development that housing association Colne and their development partner Icen Homes have undertaken in the county.

They are creating 60 new homes in Melton, near Woodbridge, and residents are moving in in phases throughout 2019 and 2020. There are still homes available and Colne is encouraging people in housing need to register now. This is a major step forward for addressing homelessness in the Suffolk area.

Prior to the move, Mrs Logson, 48, struggled to afford privately rented accommodation in Wickham Market, eventually she had to move to temporary accommodation.

With her teenage daughter, this was a tough situation for Mrs Logson. She feared that she “wouldn’t be in with a chance of getting a home in Melton” and could not believe it when her application was successful.

She emphasised how the Colne team were helpful and reassuring, adding: “I feel more secure, I know that the home is ours now. There is more stability for us here”.

Mrs Logson is not the only resident embracing life in Melton. She described how she had already met her new neighbours and formed a sense of community.

She said: “Everyone is really nice and friendly. We are near to Woodbridge but just far enough out of town”.

Mrs Logson is positive about the future and pleased that her daughter can now settle in one place. She is passionate that others should apply for the new homes to see if they too can benefit from this development.

Colne’s Chief Executive, Sara Thakkar, said: “Melton is a beautiful village and we believe that it is critical that local people and their families have access to affordable homes in rural locations such as this. This is our largest development in Suffolk and we are optimistic about the difference this will make.”

Colne encourages other people to register with Gateway to Homechoice to discover if they too could be eligible for a new property in Melton, near Woodbridge.

Colne manage over 3,000 homes across Essex and Suffolk, with enabling independent living at the forefront of their strategy

Nominate your Suffolk unsung heroes

In a unique partnership, Community Action Suffolk (CAS), Suffolk County Council and the Suffolk Association of Local Councils (SALC) have launched the new Suffolk Community Awards.

These collaborative awards celebrate and recognise the huge contribution that groups, individuals, town and parish councils make on the overall quality of life in our communities across the length and breadth of Suffolk.

Christine Abraham, Chief Executive of Community Action Suffolk, said:

“The CAS awards celebrate and recognise those “who go the extra mile” and make positive contributions to their community.

We are delighted this year to be joining with SALC and Most Active County to bring all these awards together in one evening recognising many unsung heroes in Suffolk.”

Previously the three organisations ran separate events – namely the CAS Awards, the SALC Village of the Year competition, newsletter and website of the year awards and, Suffolk County Council’s Most Active Community Awards (run in partnership with SALC).

East Suffolk Council is proud to be a sponsor for the SALC Town and Village of the Year category, with sub-categories for small village, large village and town.

Sally Longmate, Chief Executive of the Suffolk Association of Local Councils said:

“Our Village of the Year Competition has not run for a few years and needed a review. Having attended the 2018 CAS Awards I instantly recognised there was potential to bring things together and focus on showcasing some of the fantastic outcomes that are being achieved.

I am especially excited about putting the spotlight on the work of town and parish councils and the important contribution they make.”

There are 15 awards available ranging from youth participation and young person of the year to community building, contribution to volunteering, most active communities and village and town of the year. CAS is also delighted to announce a new award ‘Suffolk Good Neighbour Award’ – sponsored by Suffolk Community Foundation.

There is a simple online application/nomination process through a new dedicated website. The closing date is 21 July 2019. Full details can be found at www.suffolkcommunityawards.co.uk.

The awards will be presented on the 24 September 2019 at the Museum of East Anglian Life.

Ending period poverty in East Suffolk

As part of a scheme inspired by students in Felixstowe, free sanitary products are now being made available through community venues across East Suffolk.

Earlier this year, students from Felixstowe Academy began a campaign in school to end period poverty. The ‘Proud, Period!’ campaign aims to support young women by making free sanitary products available within school. As a result of this work, the school now has six boxes containing sanitary products available for

pupils to use; toilets containing the boxes are marked with a red glitter heart on the door. Inspired by the 'Proud, Period!' campaign, councillors at the former Suffolk Coastal District Council began a similar scheme, targeting the wider area. Entitled 'Period Poverty', the scheme is now being introduced throughout East Suffolk and local businesses, community groups and organisations are encouraged to get involved.

'PP Boxes', containing a variety of individually wrapped sanitary items, are being rolled out to some East Suffolk locations over the coming weeks, including community centres, food banks and sports centres. Locations supporting the scheme will display an East Suffolk Period Poverty sticker, indicating the premises has a PP Box on site.

Cllr Letitia Smith, East Suffolk Council's Cabinet Member for Communities, Leisure and Tourism said: "Having been inspired by the pupils from Felixstowe Academy, our district-wide campaign will provide sanitary products to girls and women across East Suffolk should they need them. We are grateful to those community locations who have already requested to help the scheme and we are delighted that PP Boxes will be available in those places shortly.

"To ensure the boxes are available in a wide variety of towns and villages across East Suffolk, we need more businesses and venues to get involved, either as box holders or as suppliers for the products in future. We are also able to provide support to other schools who may be interested in creating their own campaign to end period poverty." A new website (www.eastsuffolkperiodpoverty.com) will be launched on 1 July, enabling people to search for their nearest PP box as well as other local initiatives, and providing information and other resources. Businesses, organisations and schools interested in joining the scheme are asked to contact Chloe Winlow at info@eastsuffolkperiodpoverty.com

The PP Boxes will be replenished by East Suffolk Norse for the time-being however donations are very welcome. Donations can be brought to East Suffolk House in Melton, Riverside in Lowestoft or given directly to your nearest PP Box holder. The boxes are currently stocked with products from TOTM, which are made from biodegradable organic cotton, however donations from all manufacturers are welcome.