

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT – JANUARY 2020

Cllr Stephen Burroughes - Framlingham Division



May I wish you a very Happy New Year and a successful 2020!

• **NEW SEND PROVISION IDENTIFIED**

Suffolk County Council is now in a position to provide further information regarding the development of new Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) units attached to mainstream schools in the county. The authority is very pleased to announce that, following a thorough evaluation process, a number of suitable schools have been identified to develop:

- **Two Generic Key Stage 1 Units** – Pipers Vale Primary Academy and Burton End Primary Academy
- **Three Communication and Interaction Key Stage 2 Units** – Murrayfield Primary Academy, Houldsworth Valley Primary Academy, and Causton Junior School
- **One Cognition and Learning Key Stage 2 Unit** – Clements Primary Academy
- **Three Communication and Interaction Key Stage 3/4 Units** – Copleston High School, Ixworth School, and Newmarket Academy
- **One Cognition and Learning Key Stage 3/4 Unit** – Castle Manor Primary Academy.

In total, this means an additional 168 new specialist placements will be available for children and their families in Suffolk from September 2020, on top of existing specialist provision. Successful schools are currently working with the council to ensure the appropriate infrastructure and support is in place to enable these new units to be open in September 2020.

A further commissioning round will begin in Spring 2020 and will consider further expressions of interest from mainstream schools who hope to open units in September 2021. This will include targeted work from our provider development team in areas of the county where gaps have been identified to ensure we are able to offer local provision for our children and their families.

• **MAN JAILED FOR MISLEADING VULNERABLE CUSTOMERS**

On 19 December, Suffolk businessman David Waters (71 of Manwick Road, Felixstowe) received a 32-month custodial sentence. He has also been banned from being a company director for 10 years and been made the subject of a criminal behaviour order, which prevents him from selling any products in a person's home and any involvement in a mobility aid company. His company, Anchor Mobility Ltd, was also fined a total of £15,000 for 15 counts of unfair commercial practice, following a successful prosecution by Suffolk County Council's Trading Standards. Mr Waters failed to fulfil orders and refused to refund customers in his position as sole director of Anchor Mobility Limited, a company meant to provide life-improving furniture to vulnerable and elderly people.

Instead, many customers received no goods, no refunds and poor customer service. One customer paid over £8,000 for two beds, which were never delivered, and no refund was ever received. A hearing to consider compensation for victims will take place in the new year. On 31 October 2019, a jury found Mr Waters and Anchor Mobility Limited guilty on 31 counts following a three-week trial at Ipswich Crown Court. Offences included fraudulent trading under the Companies Act 2006, engaging in unfair commercial practices, multiple offences of misleading consumers by taking large deposits with the promise of delivering goods without doing so, and failing to refund consumers under the Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulations 2008.

On sentencing, Judge Peters said: “This case is about people. The continuing and constant theme in victims’ statements is that these weren’t rich people in large houses who could afford to lose thousands of pounds. These people suffered and can’t afford to buy another chair or bed. They were all left feeling very stupid as a result of being taken in. They shouldn’t feel stupid, they were taken in and they are not alone. “Any sentence I pass is not of my making – it is of your making, reflecting your culpability, harm and offending. I have read much and been moved by all of it. In my view, the only appropriate sentence is immediate custody.”

- **NEW BRIDLEWAY OPENS UP TRAFFIC FREE LINK**

A newly created bridleway in Bury St Edmunds, linking the south east side of the town with Suffolk Business Park, was officially opened on 17 December. Suffolk County Council’s Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Rural Affairs, Andrew Reid joined Councillor Richard Rout, representing the Hardwick Division, and the Mayor of Bury St Edmunds, Councillor Peter Thompson, in cutting the ribbon. Children from Sebert Wood Primary School were also in attendance. The new path will provide an off-road route for walkers and cyclists avoiding the busy A14 junction 44. Work started on reconstructing the bridleway on Monday 21 October 2019 and lasted for seven weeks.

The bridleway cost approximately £150k to construct and has been surfaced using recycled materials from roadworks. The bridleway will also link through to Sustrans National Cycle Route 13, and provide access into the Moreton Hall estate, Suffolk Business Park and the new Rougham Tower Avenue and Sybil Andrews Academy. The route is a continuation of Rougham Road, providing a route beyond the lorry park running parallel to the A14. Suffolk Highways worked closely with the landowner and with West Suffolk Council, which identified the route as a possible new sustainable connection in the town.

As part of the improvement works, Suffolk Highways will also be trialling solar powered lighting. Much like road studs, these units will provide a delineation of the route to assist users along the bridleway. The lighting provides low-level illumination to guide users; it is not designed to replace street lighting.

- **SUFFOLK FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE RATED “GOOD”**

Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service has been rated "Good" for its effectiveness, efficiency and how well it leads and manages its staff. Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service has undergone its most comprehensive, independent inspection in many years and has been rated as “Good” for its effectiveness, efficiency and how well it leads and manages its staff. The findings come from [a report](#) published on 17 December by Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS), who inspected Suffolk’s service earlier this year. Inspectors reviewed every aspect of the service, from how we respond to 999 emergencies, to looking at policies and interviewing a wide range of firefighters and staff.

The report praised many aspects of the service, particularly how well it collaborates with other emergency services and agencies, how it responds to fires and other emergencies, how it ensures fairness and promotes diversity, and the financially sound way the service is run.

- **NEW £3MILLION POT ANNOUNCED FOR SUFFOLK PROJECTS**

A £3million pot has been formed to fund projects such as new speed cameras, electric charging points or new cycle lanes. On 16 December, Suffolk County Council's Finance Cabinet Member, Gordon Jones, unveiled the Suffolk 2020 fund - a one-year fund which organisations can bid for a share of. Bids between £50,000 and £500,000 will be accepted within 100 days of the new financial year and will be for Suffolk-wide projects.

Councillor Jones said nothing is ruled out, so the fund could be used for schemes such as new cycle lanes, electric charging points, road safety schemes, automatic number plate recognition cameras, tree planting or other projects.

- **SCHOOLCHILDREN'S MISSION TO CREATE 1,000 ENDANGERED ANIMALS FROM WASTE**

From turtles to snow leopards, Suffolk schoolchildren have created 1,000 endangered animals from recycled material. Thirty schools and groups from across the county took part in the project, initiated by the Suffolk Waste Partnership, to make endangered animals from reused and recycled materials. The idea is to raise awareness of the effects of population growth and climate change, as well as the impact that littering and pollution has on animal habitats.

St Pancras Catholic Primary School in Ipswich was one of the schools which took part. Children used homemade glue made from flour and water, with recycled paper and cardboard to make tigers, whales, turtles and gorillas.

For further information from my report or questions please contact me at:
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