

# SUFFOLK COASTAL DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT



## *Cllr Stephen Burroughes – March 2018*

- **EAST SUFFOLK GETS THUMBS UP!**

The Rt Hon Sajid Javid, Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government has agreed to the creation of a new 'super district council' for east Suffolk.

In a written statement on the 8 February the Secretary of State said: "Having carefully considered all the representations I have received and all the relevant information available to me, I am today announcing that I have decided to implement, subject to Parliamentary approval, both proposals – that is to merge Suffolk Coastal and Waveney district councils to become a new single district council named East Suffolk."

This is a truly momentous decision for us and for the people of east Suffolk. Although this announcement is a national first, for us in east Suffolk it is the next logical step on a decade-long journey. We are used to breaking new ground, as we have been finding innovative ways to cut costs and manage our business since Suffolk Coastal and Waveney started working in partnership 10 years ago.

We have already made over £18million in efficiency savings and halved our joint workforce, while still investing in our communities. The creation of an East Suffolk Council will enable us to build on this decade of co-operation to give greater value for money, while continuing to improve service delivery. This is the first time that the Secretary of State has given his backing to such a plan and now gives the councils the go ahead to proceed with getting everything in place to create the a new council by May 2019.

- **YOUR COUNCIL TAX 2018/19**

Suffolk Coastal has pegged its Council Tax increase to less than £5 for the second year. At Full Council on Thursday, 22 February 2018, Members voted unanimously to set the increase in its portion of the Council Tax for the coming financial year at 3.15%. In real money, this equates to a rise of less than £5 in Council Tax for people living in a Band D property during 2018/19.

In fact, the annual increase in Council Tax on a Band D property for next financial year, from £157.32 to £162.27, is a rise of just £4.95 (or by less than 10p a week!), which is the same as 2017/18.

This increase allows us to avoid any cuts in council services. Although the expected income from the collection of garden waste from homes during the next financial year (2018/19) helping us to achieve this.

It is worth reminding people that, although we collect the Council Tax, only a small proportion (10p in the £1) comes to us. In relative terms, we have been the most successful in restricting the increase to our part of the Council Tax bill. The Band D tax for Suffolk County Council has been increased by 4.99% (including the 3% increase for the Social Care Precept as permitted by Government).

The Police and Crime Commissioner for Suffolk has recommended an increase of 6.77%. And the average parish/town council increase is 4.04%.

- **SIGN UP FOR GARDEN WASTE COLLECTION**

You will be able to sign up to the new paid-for Garden Waste Collection Scheme from the beginning of March. We will circulate more details, when the process is live, but people will be able to sign up online, over the

telephone (by calling Customer Services on 01394 383789) or by calling in to see Customer Services at Felixstowe or Woodbridge Libraries. This is a completely voluntary scheme, which people will have to opt to join (rather than residents automatically becoming part of the scheme). People will need to pay an annual charge of £43 per garden waste bin (the equivalent of paying about £1.65 per fortnightly collection).

The first paid-for collections are scheduled to start from the beginning of May 2018. For more information about the new service see: [www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/scdcgardenwaste](http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/scdcgardenwaste)

- **AIR QUALITY - HAVE YOUR SAY**

We are encouraging you to have your say on our 2017 annual report about the District's air quality that has recently been approved by the Government. The Council's Annual Status Report is now produced every year and provides a public facing update on air quality across the entire district. The report includes monitoring data for 2016 and details progress on actions to improve air quality both within our 2 designated Air Quality Management Areas (Woodbridge and Stratford St. Andrew), and across the district as a whole.

The Report confirms that across the district our air quality remains generally good, with just these two very specific areas of concern. The problem in both areas relates to the pollutant nitrogen dioxide which is an irritant of the respiratory system and can adversely affect people's health - particularly those who, for example, have existing heart or lung conditions or breathing problems.

The main measure within our draft Action Plan for the Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) at Stratford St. Andrew (to move the Southern speed limit change further south out of the village) was completed by Suffolk County Council in December 2017. We will wait to see the results of monitoring for 2018 in order to determine its effectiveness in reducing nitrogen dioxide concentrations within the AQMA.

The Air Quality pages on our website have recently undergone a revamp, making them easier to read and navigate and to include lots of additional information, see:

[www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/environment/environmental-protection/air-quality/](http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/environment/environmental-protection/air-quality/)

The Annual Status Report Consultation can be viewed on the new website at;

<http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/environment/environmental-protection/air-quality/air-quality-consultations/open-consultations/> Alternatively, hard copies can be viewed at Customer Services in Woodbridge and Felixstowe libraries.

Comments can be emailed to [environment@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk](mailto:environment@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk) or sent to:

Environmental Protection, East Suffolk House, Station Road, Melton, Woodbridge IP12 1RT. The final deadline for comments is Monday 19 March 2018.

- **MANAGING YOUR RUBBISH**

Householders in east Suffolk are being reminded of their legal responsibilities to ensure their waste does not become fly-tipped, following the successful prosecution of a Suffolk resident.

Donna Last of Riverside Road, Ipswich appeared at Ipswich Magistrates Court on 20 February, where she pleaded guilty for failing to fulfil her Duty of Care towards household waste contrary to Section 34(2A) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990. Ms Last was ordered to pay a total of £830. The case was brought to court by Suffolk Coastal District Council after several sacks of general, unsorted household waste were found

fly-tipped at Monument Farm Lane, Foxhall in August last year. Upon investigation by Council officers, the waste was found to contain correspondence linked to Ms Last's previous address.

When interviewed by Council officers, Ms Last stated that she was approached by unknown persons offering to remove waste metal from her property. She then asked them to take away her rubbish for a small payment. She admitted failing to ask what was going to happen to the waste, failing to take any basic details of the identity of the person, and crucially, failing to check that the person was an Authorised Waste Carrier.

This case shows the serious consequences of failing to carry out basic legally-required checks before allowing someone to take rubbish away from your home. This carelessness led directly to a large quantity of waste being dumped in our beautiful countryside and resulted in significant court costs and a criminal record.

Residents are reminded that their rubbish is their responsibility and anyone arranging for any sort of waste to be taken away from their home by anyone other than the Councils' commercial service partners Suffolk Coastal Norse or Waveney Norse must check their waste carrier registration details to avoid being held responsible should their waste end up fly-tipped. During 2017, Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Councils were called to 1,118 fly-tipping incidents. In 2016/17 – Suffolk Coastal spent £13,963 clearing fly-tipping, with £32,653 spent in Waveney.

- **WARM HOMES PROJECT SUPPORTS HOSPITAL PATIENTS**

With the current cold conditions, a timely bit of news is that a project to help vulnerable people and families in Suffolk make their homes warmer and cheaper to heat has successfully been awarded funding to support patients leaving hospital. Warm Homes Healthy People (WHHP) plan to use the £10,000 in funding from National Energy Action's (NEA) Warm and Safe at Home innovation award to reduce the heating related delayed transfers of care (DTC) at Ipswich Hospital Trust.

This innovative project will ensure no patients are discharged into a cold home, by providing temporary heating and then assisting with a longer term solution which could include repair of, or replacement heating. WHHP provides support and advice to Suffolk residents who are struggling to stay warm. The service is run from Suffolk Coastal District Council on behalf of all the councils in Suffolk. Patients in our local hospitals waiting to go home are sometimes unable to do so because of inadequate or broken heating.

NEA is the national fuel poverty charity in the UK with aims to ensure that everyone can afford to live in a warm, dry home. In partnership with central and local government, fuel utilities, housing providers, consumer groups and voluntary organisations, NEA undertakes a range of activities to address the causes and treat the symptoms of fuel poverty. The award of funding follows the successful pilot partnership work carried out last winter to reduce DTC at Ipswich Hospital speeding up discharge time and allowing people to receive care in their home.

- **FELIXSTOWE MUSEUM IS 'BEST SMALL VISITOR ATTRACTION'**

Felixstowe Museum has been named as the Best Small Visitor Attraction in the EADT/EDP Norfolk and Suffolk Tourism Awards 2018 ([www.tourismawards.co.uk](http://www.tourismawards.co.uk)) The awards are a celebration of what the area has to offer, and rewards organisations and individuals who live and love the place we call home.

Based at the Landguard Peninsula, Felixstowe Museum has 14 galleries displaying military and social history. Even the building is of historical interest as it was once a submarine mining establishment. The museum is

managed by a team of friendly, dynamic volunteers who are always happy to help. Their expertise is second to none and is always delivered with enthusiasm and a passion for history.

For further information, please contact the Felixstowe Museum on 01394 674355 or email [felmuseum@bopenworld.com](mailto:felmuseum@bopenworld.com)

**For further information or to ask questions etc. I can be contacted at:**

[stephen.burroughes@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk](mailto:stephen.burroughes@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk)

**Cllr Stephen Burroughes**

District Councillor for Peasenhall & Yoxford Ward

Suffolk Coastal District Council