**SUFFOLK COASTAL DISTRICT COUNCILLOR’S REPORT**



***Cllr Stephen Burroughes – November 2017***

* **IT’S ‘CLOSED’ UPDATE ON Woods Lane – MELTON**

Woods Lane in Melton closes from Monday 6th November for nearly 3 months. A public meeting was bheld at SCDC’s new offices this week to inform th public as to what was going on. 250 plus turned out to attend the meeting which was said to be ‘frank’! The closure will obviously cause disruption to the access to local businesses and our offices, so people will need to plan their journeys accordingly.

As a reminder, SCDC as the local planning authority, originally turned down Bloor Homes planning application to build 186 new homes on land adjacent to Woods Lane. However, Bloor Homes successfully appealed and was granted planning permission. Work is now proceeding on the project, which includes connecting utilities, such as gas, electricity and water.

Bloor Homes has therefore applied for the road closure in two parts:

* Phase 1: 6 Nov – 30 Nov – This first closure will be to construct new footpaths, bus stops and prepare for the more substantial works after Christmas.
* Phase 2: 8 Jan – 13 April 2018 - The second closure will be to install 500 metres of sewer pipes and connections, running beneath the middle of Woods Lane, at a depth of two metres. They will also be giving utility companies the opportunity to make their own connections.

The work will be halted throughout December, as is standard procedure around the Christmas period.

It is an enormous undertaking which will make the road impassable, and for this reason the road will be completely closed and a traffic light-managed one-way system cannot be implemented. Obviously, the developer has a legal right to carry out this work as part of their development. The County Council’s Highways Authority is working with the developer, putting pressure on them to complete the work as quickly as possible, limiting impact as much as possible and creating the most appropriate diversion, as possible.

They have granted permission on the basis that the work must be completed by 13 April, with no possibility of an extension unless there are extreme and unavoidable circumstances. The County has also insisted the developer’s contractor carrying out the work do longer hours each day, and work at weekends, at their own cost and will be making regular on-site inspections to ensure the work is progressing as scheduled. Bus operators and emergency services have been made aware of the diversion route and given the opportunity to raise any issues they may have.

* **IT’S VITAL YOU RESPOND TO THE CONSULTATION**

The official deadline for responding to the consultation on the draft plan which will shape where residential and commercial development has now closed, but I am sure late responses will be considered. This is important as it will set the scene for development and where it might be located during the next 20 years. The draft Local Plan for Suffolk Coastal which, when finalised, will be used as a guide for future planning decisions and highlights areas within the district which have the potential for growth. Our objective is to achieve the right balance of development for the local area, attracting inward investment to take advantage of economic opportunities whilst at the same time protecting and enhancing the natural and built environment.

A series of public exhibitions have been held to give residents the opportunity to discuss the draft Local Plan with Planning Officers

Copies of the consultation document, Sustainability Appraisal documents and evidence base documents are available on the Council’s website at: [www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/planning/local-plans/suffolk-coastal-local-plan/local-plan-review/](http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/planning/local-plans/suffolk-coastal-local-plan/local-plan-review/)

Alternatively copies of the documents were available for inspection in local libraries across the district (including mobile libraries). Comments should have been submitted by 23.45 on Monday, 30 October 2017, via:

* Our on-line consultation system: <http://consult.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/consult.ti>
* Email to suffolkcoastallocalplan@eastsuffolk.gov.uk, or
* Letter addressed to Planning Policy & Delivery Team, East Suffolk House, Station Road, Melton, Woodbridge, IP12 1RT.
* **TOURISM strategy**

A new Tourism Strategy has been agreed for east Suffolk. The visitor economy generates over £0.5bn of economic value, accounting for 13% of total employment, in the two districts. The Councils are determined to support and enhance this industry by developing a clear strategy which will nurture, enhance and grow the local tourism offering - and better compete with other visitor destinations both nationally and internationally.

An East Suffolk Tourism Steering Group will be established to oversee the delivery of actions. This group would be comprised of council members and officers who have a responsibility/role in delivering and supporting the East Suffolk visitor economy.

* **SEGWAY A12 Bypass Consultation WELL SUPPORTED**

The county councils are leadingon the consultation on proposals to build a bypass on the A12 between Saxmundham and Wickham Market as part of Suffolk’s Energy Gateway (SEGWay). At the end of 2016, Suffolk County Council successfully secured funding from the Department for Transport’s (DfT) Large Local Major Schemes Programme to further develop the business case for a scheme which aims to deliver improvements to this section of the A12. The final case for government funding will be submitted before the end of the year.

The proposed scheme aims to build a bypass for Farnham, Stratford St Andrew, Glemham and Marlesford. The options being considered are:

·     **Option 1:** A single carriageway route that would begin at a new roundabout junction with the A1094 and the A12 Saxmundham Bypass at Friday Street. It would then run south, to the east of the A12 and the four villages of Farnham, Stratford St. Andrew, Little Glemham and Marlesford, crossing the rivers Alde and Ore. It would re-join the current A12 alignment where the current dual carriageway Wickham Market Bypass begins.

The new road would follow a relatively direct alignment, which reflects design standards for a 60mph single carriageway road.

·     Option 2: A dual carriageway route that would begin at a new roundabout junction with the A1094 and the A12 Saxmundham Bypass at Friday Street. Like option 1, it would then run south, to the east of the A12 and the four villages, crossing the rivers Alde and Ore. It would re-join the current A12 alignment immediately to the north of the A12/B1078 Wickham Market interchange.

The new road would follow a more curved alignment, suitable for 70mph dual carriageway roads.

Full details of the proposals can be viewed at [www.suffolk.gov.uk/consultations](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/consultations) Responses will be analysed following the consultation closure. The business case will then be refined and submitted to the Department for Transport. If approved, Suffolk County Council will embark on the planning process connected with the bypass in 2018.

**For further information or to ask questions etc. I can be contacted at:** stephen.burroughes@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk

**Cllr Stephen Burroughes**

District Councillor for Peasenhall & Yoxford Ward

Suffolk Coastal District Council