

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT – NOVEMBER 2019



Cllr Stephen Burroughes - Framlingham Division

• **ILLEGAL CIGARETTES SEIZED IN LOWESTOFT RAIDS**

Trading Standards has successfully targeted Lowestoft retailers in illegal tobacco raids, seizing 21,880 cigarettes and 10.9kg of rolling tobacco. The raids, which took place in October, involved officers from Trading Standards and Suffolk Police who targeted four different premises in the town. The cigarettes and tobacco failed a visual inspection as genuine products. Investigations into the seizures will continue and shop owners will face a formal interview. It is illegal for anyone to supply and possess-for-supply such tobacco, be it smuggled, bootlegged or counterfeit. With these cheap products on the market, it is easier for young people to become hooked on smoking and makes it harder for people to quit and remain smoke free.

Another consideration of illegal cigarettes is the fire risk they often pose. When genuine cigarettes are left for a period of time, they are designed to self-extinguish, reducing the risk of fires starting if left unattended. This design became European law in 2011, but many illegal cigarettes do not self-extinguish, increasing the risk of accidental fires.

• **NEW AND IMPROVED RECYCLING CENTRE TO OPEN NEXT MONTH**

A new and improved recycling centre will open in Bury St Edmunds at the end of November. The flagship site in Fornham Road will replace the current recycling centre at Rougham Hill, Bury St Edmunds, which will close its doors permanently. Opening soon, this will be the first open air site in Suffolk where all containers can be accessed by the public from ground level, removing the need for steps. Visitors will be able to recycle the same wide range of materials currently available at the Rougham Hill Recycling Centre.

A charity Reuse shop, which will take materials suitable for reuse from our recycling centres, will also be opening on site towards the end of the year. Suffolk's Recycling Centres are operated by FCC Environment on behalf of Suffolk County Council. All the staff from Rougham Hill will be transferred to the new site.

Once the Rougham Hill recycling site is closed, all site users should take their waste to the new Fornham Road site. No waste or recycling can be left by the gates or in the vicinity of the old site. This will be classed as fly-tipping, which is a criminal offence and is liable to prosecution. For more information on the new Recycling Centre at Fornham Road and on fly-tipping please visit www.suffolkrecycling.org.uk

• **NEW AND IMPROVED PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY SET FOR RECONSTRUCTION**

On 16 October it was announced that Suffolk Highways will begin work on reconstructing the bridleway at Rougham Road in Bury St Edmunds, utilising recycled materials in the construction. The improvement works will continue for seven weeks. During this time, access through the Public Right of Way bridleway will be maintained by the Suffolk Highways workforce. However, from 25 November, for two weeks, a full closure will be required. The project will cost approximately £150k to construct and will provide a traffic-free route between south east Bury St Edmunds and Suffolk Park avoiding junction 44. The new bridleway will also link through to Sustrans National Cycle Route 13, providing access into the Moreton Hall estate, Suffolk business parks 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 on the old road surface running parallel to the A14. Suffolk Highways worked very closely with West Suffolk Council, which had

identified this route as a possible new sustainable connection in the town, and the landowner. As part of the improvement works, Suffolk Highways will 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 COUNTY COUNCIL LEADER ANNOUNCES CABINET RESHUFFLE**

On 15 October, Councillor Matthew Hicks, the Leader of Suffolk County Council, announced changes to the councillors in his Cabinet. The reshuffle creates closer links between key policy areas such as the environment and Sizewell C and brings new ideas into the Council's Cabinet. In the reshuffle:

- Councillor Mary Evans remains as Deputy Leader and moves into the role of Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Skills.
- Councillor Gordon Jones moves into the role of Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources.
- Councillor Andrew Reid joins the Cabinet as Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Rural Affairs.
- Councillor Richard Smith leaves the Cabinet after four and half years in the role.
- Councillor Nick Gowrley takes on additional responsibility for the County Council's property portfolio and assets, in addition to his responsibilities as Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Housing and Enterprise.
- Councillor Richard Rout takes on responsibility for the council's policy on Sizewell C, in addition and linked to his role as Cabinet Member for Environment and Public Protection.

All other Cabinet positions remain the same. In addition to the Cabinet changes, Councillor Karen Soons becomes chair of the Pension Fund Committee, a position previously held by Councillor Andrew Reid.

• **COMPANY TO BUILD LAKE LOTHING THIRD CROSSING GETS UNDERWAY**

On 14 October, a tender process began to award the contract for constructing the Lake Lothing Third Crossing in Lowestoft. Following the Public Examination, a report is on the desk of the Secretary of State for Transport, whose decision on whether to grant consent to build the bridge is expected by December 2019.

A similar, comprehensive tender process took place last year, when BAM Nuttall was awarded the contract to finalise the design of the crossing (Stage 1). The project has now moved onto Stage 2, where a firm will be selected to build the bridge. The bridge is planned to open in 2022.

• **GRITTING LORRY FLEET GETS THE PERSONAL TOUCH**

On 14 October, SprEd Sheeran, Benjamin Gritten and Grit Rhys Jones joined the ranks of Suffolk's gritting service as Suffolk Highways announced its newly named gritting fleet. During the summer, Suffolk Highways asked attendees at the Suffolk Show to suggest names for its 41 gritting lorries as part of its first ever Gritter Naming Competition. The service received over 500 suggestions, the names were then judged by a panel including Councillor Mary Evans and BBC Radio Suffolk's Mark Murphy.

The people who suggested the winning names were invited to Suffolk Highways' depot at Phoenix House in Ipswich for a certificate presentation and photo with some of the gritting fleet. Suffolk's gritters now have their names proudly displayed on the front and side of their cabs and are ready to grit the roads when the weather gets colder.

Residents will be able to follow the gritting activity on Twitter at [@Suff_Highways](#) during the season and if they spot one of the newly named gritters in action they can send a picture to us on Twitter at [@Suff_Highways](#) [#WinterReady](#)

- **PRIMARY SCHOOL SCOOPS SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL AWARD**

Children from Barrow Primary School have been recognised for their efforts in encouraging active travel to school. A recent study shows that more pupils are now walking and cycling to and from school. Car use has dropped in comparison to previous years and pupils' awareness of road safety and environmental issues has also improved. Barrow Primary School is now one of three schools in Suffolk to achieve a Bronze Modeshift STARS award – a national scheme which recognises schools which have demonstrated excellence in supporting cycling, walking and other forms of sustainable travel.

The award scheme encourages schools across England to implement their own travel plans to increase levels of sustainable and active travel in order to improve the health and well-being of children and young people.

The primary school's journey to achieve the Bronze accreditation began when pupils and teachers decided to implement a Travel Plan to encourage sustainable travel. Following the implementation of the plan, 36% of pupils now usually travel to school by active travel (walk, bike and scooter) with a further 23% using the park and stride option (being driven to a location away from the school and walking the rest of the distance). The school worked with colleagues from Suffolk County Council and the local community to develop the travel plan. For more information about Modeshift STARS please visit modeshiftstars.org

- **FIRST TIME CENTRAL HEATING SYSTEMS FOR SUFFOLK RESIDENTS**

A further 200 Suffolk homes without central heating will soon be able to have their first ever system installed. On 7 October it was reported that Suffolk's local authorities have secured an additional £760,000 of funding from the Warm Homes Fund. This will enable the installation of 204 first time central heating systems in eligible, fuel-poor households across Suffolk over the next three years.

This is in addition to the original funding secured by the partnership in 2017 for 514 systems, over 200 of which have already been delivered. Around four million UK households are in fuel poverty, unable to affordably heat their home to the temperature needed to stay warm and healthy. As well as being on low incomes many of these households are also faced with the additional burden of relying on heating systems that are inefficient and expensive to run. The £150m Warm Homes Fund was established by National Grid using part of the proceeds from the sale of the company's majority stake in its gas distribution business. It funds the installation of affordable heating solutions in fuel poor households which don't use mains gas as their primary source of heat.

The Suffolk project is being managed by Suffolk County Council, administered by Suffolk Warm Homes Healthy People based at East Suffolk Council and is supported with further funding from Ipswich Borough, Babergh District, Mid-Suffolk District, East Suffolk and West Suffolk Councils. Alongside the first-time central heating system, eligible households can also benefit from new insulation measures to make their homes more energy efficient, as well as grants from the Suffolk Community Foundation's 'Surviving Winter Appeal'.

- **LAUNCH OF ANNUAL PUBLIC HEALTH REPORT - SUFFOLK THROUGH A CHILD'S EYES**

The Annual Public Health Report, 'Suffolk Through a Child's Eyes' was launched at the Health and Wellbeing Board Conference on 2 October. This year's Annual Public Health Report – an independent report from the director of public health – focuses on what it is like to live and grow up in Suffolk from a child's perspective.

Integral to this year's report is the accompanying short film produced in conjunction with Signals (an arts and education charity) and Public Health Suffolk, to capture what Suffolk children and young people think about

four topics; Friends and Family; Feelings; Fit and Healthy and Future Hopes and Dreams. Watch the film on the Healthy Suffolk website <https://www.healthysuffolk.org.uk>

Their feedback has been used, together with local and national evidence, to produce the report's recommendations. These recommendations form areas for action, and focus on how families, practitioners and policy makers can continue to support all children in Suffolk to reach their full potential.

The Health and Wellbeing strategy has recently been refreshed for 2019-22 and identifies four key priorities:

- Every Child in Suffolk to have the Best Start in Life
- People of working age are supported to optimise their health and wellbeing
- Older People in Suffolk have a Good Quality of Life
- People in Suffolk have the Opportunity to Improve their Mental Health and Wellbeing.

The Annual Public Health Report addresses the Health and Wellbeing Board's first priority: 'Every child in Suffolk to have the best start in life'. The full report can be viewed on the Healthy Suffolk website <https://www.healthysuffolk.org.uk>.

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