

EAST SUFFOLK COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr Stephen Burroughes – January 2020



Firstly, may I wish you a Happy New Year!

- **NEW PAPERLESS LAND CHARGES SERVICE LAUNCHED**

The new East Suffolk Public Access Land Charges (PALC) system was launched on 2 December, enabling people to directly access the Land Charges team at East Suffolk Council. As part of the conveyancing process, a local land charges search is undertaken whenever a property or piece of land is purchased, leased, valued or re-mortgaged. The search shows any restrictions or legal obligations against the site such as tree preservation orders, conditional planning consents, conservation areas and listed buildings. Prior to the introduction of the new PALC system, searches could only be applied for via email or in writing. Through the use of intelligent online forms which ensure the correct information is captured during an application, the new system removes the need for third parties and additional transactions. Applicants receive a downloadable response document, removing the need for printing and further paperwork. To access the new Public Access Land Charges service, go to www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/local-land-charges

- **CONSULTATION ON PROPOSED DOG CONTROL ORDERS**

Earlier this year, 10 Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) were introduced to replace existing byelaws. The areas affected by these include Charsfield recreation ground, Martello Park Gardens in Felixstowe and Felixstowe Seafront Gardens. Now, three more PSPOs are being proposed to ensure dogs are kept on leads in Herringfleet Hills, Lound Lakes and Charsfield churchyard. A four-week consultation was launched on 13 December inviting local people to give their views on the proposals. Full details of the proposals, and details of how to comment on them, can be found at www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/dog-control-order-consultation Responses can also be sent to PSPO Consultation, c/o Environmental Protection, East Suffolk Council, East Suffolk House, Station Road, Melton, Suffolk, IP12 1RT. The consultation closes on Friday 10 January 2020.

- **CONSULTATION ON DRAFT HERITAGE ACTION ZONE DOCUMENT**

Local residents, businesses and other interested parties are being asked for their views on the draft design guidance for the North Lowestoft Heritage Action Zone. The 6-weeks Draft North Lowestoft Heritage Action Zone (HAZ) Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document consultation started on 13 December 2019 and closes at 5pm on Friday 24 January 2020. The North Lowestoft Heritage Action Zone is a project carried out in partnership with Historic England, Lowestoft Town Council and East Suffolk Building Preservation Trust which will run until the end of March 2023. East Suffolk Council is actively supporting the HAZ programme of work, including through the commissioning and production of this Design Guide. Following the consultation, the Council will consider the comments received prior to finalising the document early next year. The Draft HAZ Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document can be found at www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/HAZ

- **REDUCING WASTE THIS CHRISTMAS**

East Suffolk residents are being encouraged to consider the environment this Christmas by choosing recyclable products wherever possible and reducing their household waste. An estimated 125,000 tonnes of plastic packaging and 83km² of wrapping paper is thrown away in the UK every Christmas. However, much of this waste could be recycled at home through the blue household recycling bin.

Most wrapping paper is recyclable, with the exception of paper with glitter or foil-effect papers. Cardboard packaging and cards without glitter are also recyclable through the blue wheeled bin, as well as hard plastic, aluminium foil, newspaper, magazines, cans and plastic bottles. According to the Suffolk Waste Partnership, 73% of people have leftover food at Christmas. Buying less and freezing leftovers can save money and reduce the amount of food being thrown away. For more information on reducing food waste, visit www.foodsavvy.org.uk.

- **WORK TO IMPROVE BEACH ACCESS IN FELIXSTOWE HAS BEEN COMPLETED**

Work to improve access to Felixstowe beach and beach huts has been completed at a cost of £250,000. East Suffolk Council has invested £250,000 to improve public access to the beach and beach huts in Felixstowe following a survey of the area, which revealed that some of the older steps had deteriorated and were potential hazardous. The work included renovating the steps at Golf Road car park and removing the old steps at Brackenbury car park to create a new set of wooden and concrete steps. Access has also been improved for beach hut licence holders at Brackenbury Cliffs with the refurbishment of new platforms in front of the huts.

- **FOOD SAFETY PACKS LAUNCHED TO HELP SMALL BUSINESSES**

Small businesses in East Suffolk can now manage their food safety practices more easily following the launch of new information packs. Developed by the Food Standards Agency, 'Safer Food Better Business' packs are now available from East Suffolk Council's Food and Safety Team to help small business operators understand and comply with food hygiene regulations and food safety management procedures. Food safety regulations require a business to show and record the actions they take to ensure food made and/or sold on the premises is safe to eat. The 'Safer Food Better Business' packs contain food safety procedures for a variety of businesses including caterers, care homes, retailers and childminders. The packs contain up to date information on:

- Food allergens
- 'Pre-Packed for Direct Sale' regulations (which will be introduced in October 2021)
- Details on how to register as a food business
- Guidance around the Food Hygiene Ratings Scheme.

Businesses can download or order a pack here: www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/business/food-safety/safer-food-better-business/

- **PHOTO COMPETITION WINNERS ANNOUNCED**

The winners of this year's East Suffolk Photo Competition have been announced. Returning for its third year, the competition ran throughout November and invited amateur and professional photographers to submit their photos of the district to East Suffolk Council.

In early December, the entries were judged by Cllr Stephen Burroughes, cabinet member for Customer Services and Operational Partnerships and Cllr Letitia Smith, cabinet member for Communities, Leisure and Tourism. See the winning photos at www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/leisure/east-suffolk-photo-competition/

For further questions or points please contact me at: stephenburroughes@eastsuffolk.gov.uk

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