

EAST SUFFOLK COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr Stephen Burroughes – December/January 20/21



- **AS OF MONDAY 4 JANUARY – SUFFOLK IS IN LINE WITH NATIONAL COVID RESTRICTIONS MOVING INTO AND FOLLOWING A GOVT NATIONAL LOCKDOWN ORDER.**

- **GOLD STANDARD FOR COUNCILLOR SUPPORT**

As a result of its commitment to Member development and excellent support to Councillors, East Suffolk Council has been awarded the coveted “gold standard” Councillor Development Charter Plus Award. Developed by the Local Government Association and the nine Regional Employers’ Organisations, the Charter Plus Award is only given to those councils that can demonstrate their strategic approach and continuous commitment to councillors’ learning and development needs. In order to obtain this prestigious award, the Council must undergo a rigorous assessment by an independent panel of assessors and submit evidence that the Council meets the Charter Plus criteria.

This accreditation is recognition that East Suffolk Council has achieved best practice in the way it provides support, learning and development opportunities for its elected members, ensuring they have the necessary skills and the best knowledge to effectively represent all their communities. Councillor development activities are led by a cross party Member Development Steering Group. Activities include the creation of a Member Development Strategy, a comprehensive induction programme for all new Councillors, an Annual Training Programme and a Personal Development Plan process that assesses member’s individual training needs on an annual basis.

- **FUNDING BOOST FOR KEY ORGANISATIONS IN EAST SUFFOLK**

East Suffolk Council has launched a new £100,000 ‘Bounce Back’ Fund, which offers grants of between £250 and £5,000 to support voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) organisations in East Suffolk. Funded through the East Suffolk Community Partnership Board, the funding is available for equipment, adaptations or staffing to enable VCSE organisations to safely continue or restart their services or to develop/launch new services.

All VCSE organisations are eligible to apply, as long as the funding requested is for equipment, adaptations or staffing to continue or restart a service or develop/launch a new service. However, some groups will be given priority to help support those who have been particularly impacted by the pandemic. These include organisations supporting young people, organisations relying on volunteers and community buildings which are struggling to reopen safely.

The online form and full details about eligibility criteria and how to apply can be found [here](#).

- **SHARED OWNERSHIP SCHEME IS DISTRICT FIRST**

As part of a comprehensive development programme to deliver vital new housing, East Suffolk Council has introduced six new shared-ownership properties to its housing stock – the first of their kind in the district. The properties are located in Brampton near Halesworth and provide an affordable ownership scheme, which combines purchasing a share in a home with a rental agreement for the remaining unowned shared.

The six properties are semi-detached two-bedroom houses and are the first shared ownership properties the Council has built. East Suffolk has worked in partnership with Orwell Housing Association to deliver the new homes which have been built by local Contractor, Wellington Construction.

The properties are over 800sqft over two levels, externally there is a rear turfed garden, off-road parking for two cars, generous patio area and garden shed. All properties include, oven, hob and hood, carpets throughout and air source heating.

- **FELIXSTOWE'S SEAFRONT GARDENS WINS GREEN FLAG**

Felixstowe's Seafront Gardens has been recognised by the Green Flag Award Scheme as one of the very best in the world for the fifth time. This international award, now into its third decade, is a sign to the public that the space boasts the highest possible environmental standards, is beautifully maintained and has excellent visitor facilities. The Gardens has also received the much-coveted additional Green Heritage Site Accreditation for the management of the historic features.

Comments invited on planning documents

East Suffolk residents are invited to have their say on three draft planning documents:

- The draft [Cycling and Walking Strategy](#)
- The draft [Statement of Community Involvement \(SCI\)](#)
- The draft [Recreational Disturbance Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy \(RAMS\) Supplementary Planning Document](#)

All three consultations close on 30 November 2020 and comments can be submitted online, by email at planningpolicy@eastsoffolk.gov.uk or by post to East Suffolk Council, Planning Policy & Delivery Team, Riverside 4, Canning Road, Lowestoft, NR33 0EQ.

- **NEW EBOOK CELEBRATES EAST SUFFOLK'S VOLUNTEERS**

East Suffolk Council has created a new eBook to celebrate the people, organisations and businesses who have given up their time, knowledge and skills to help make a difference in their communities since the start of the Covid-19 outbreak. The eBook tells the stories of some of our volunteers and showcases the important work they have carried out – and continue to carry out – to support the most vulnerable in their communities. [Read the eBook](#).

- **CALL FOR FOOD & DRINK TRADERS FOR RESTYLED PAVILION**

Local businesses are being offered the unique opportunity to trade within the redesigned East Point Pavilion in Lowestoft, which once complete will be managed by the organisers of the First Light Festival.

The pavilion is currently being regenerated by international designers Hemingway Design and Norwich-based Hudson Architects. The building will be restyled to create a thriving food hall and local events venue, injecting a new lease of life into Lowestoft's seafront. The new facility will be managed by First Light Festival C.I.C, the company which oversees First Light Festival.

First Light Festival C.I.C. are now seeking expressions of interest from experienced food and drink businesses to run the in-house bar and café as resident traders. They also want to hear from start-ups, traders and producers interested in leasing a space for their pop-up business.

Food and drink businesses, start-ups, traders and producers interested in leasing a space can go to firstlightlowestoft.com/east-point-pavilion for more details.

- **DONATIONS CELEBRATE HERITAGE OF FORMER SCHOOL SITE**

East Suffolk Council has been working with the Felixstowe Society to identify key items to donate from the former Deben High School site to the town's archives. The site was transferred to East Suffolk Council from Suffolk County Council earlier this year with completion due on 15 November and will facilitate the ongoing development of Felixstowe Sports Hub and a new home for Felixstowe Indoor Bowls Club and Cricket Club. Proposals for the redevelopment of the main school building also include a range of housing, in particular affordable units for the town.

To enable the development, a large portion of the former school buildings will be demolished so that the site can be repurposed to accommodate the new development. However, the original Lower School Assembly Hall will be retained as a community asset.

The Council has been working closely with the Felixstowe Society to ensure that key pieces which hold many special memories for the local community are saved for the Felixstowe Secondary School's Archive before the demolition.

The items identified are mainly from the original Grammar School Building and include the wooden front doors, which will match the special commemorative key held by the Society, corridor signage and masonry. The Council is also working with the Society to create a final photographic library before the work start.

Cllr Stephen Burroughes

Member for the Kelsale & Yoxford Ward

Cabinet Member for Customer Services, ICT & Operational Partnerships

Twitter @CllrStephenB