

EAST SUFFOLK COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr Stephen Burroughes – July 2019



• EAST SUFFOLK COUNCIL UP AND RUNNING

East Suffolk Council, the largest district council in the country, is now up and running following elections in May. With the Conservatives winning 39 of the 55 seats on the new council, Conservative Group leader, Steve Gallant, was elected as the first ever Leader of East Suffolk Council at its AGM on Wednesday 22nd May. Following his election, Cllr Gallant spoke of his desire to “build a future for the district that captures its limitless potential.”

Laying out his ambitions for a ‘30-year’ vision, he told the authority’s first ever full Council meeting that the voice of East Suffolk will be heard loud and there will be investment in communities which gives local people a stronger voice. He spoke of the Council’s key priorities, Economic Growth, Enabling Communities and Financial Sustainability and added digital transformation to improve services and the environment as key issues which he will be asking the Council to tackle. At the same meeting, Colin Hedgley was elected the Council’s first Chairman.

• LEADER ANNOUNCES HIS TOP TEAM

New East Suffolk leader Steve Gallant announced his cabinet – the top team of councillors to lead on the council’s key strategies over the coming months and years. The cabinet are as follows:

Steve Gallant – Leader and Finance

Craig Rivett – Deputy Leader and Economic Development)

Norman Brooks – Transport

Stephen Burroughes - Customer Services and Operational Partnerships

Richard Kerry - Housing

James Mallinder – The Environment

David Ritchie - Planning & Coastal Management

Mary Rudd - Community Health

Letitia Smith - Communities, Leisure and Tourism

• INVESTMENT SHOWS DIGITAL AMBITION FOR EAST SUFFOLK

The first stages of an ambitious plan to roll out ‘ultrafast’ broadband to homes and businesses across Lowestoft have been agreed. The Suffolk Cloud Project, co-ordinated by Suffolk County Council, is installing ultrafast broadband to public sector premises across 10 towns in Suffolk, including Lowestoft, Felixstowe and Woodbridge. However, as part of its ambitious growth and development programme for Lowestoft, East Suffolk Council is proposing an extension to this ultrafast network, providing world-leading connectivity to ALL commercial and residential premises in the town. At their inaugural meeting held on Tuesday 4 June, the newly formed cabinet of East Suffolk Council agreed to explore extending the Suffolk Cloud project so that Lowestoft’s commercial and residential premises can also be connected to the ultrafast network. The extension, which will require a £1.9m investment from the council, will boost economic growth in the town, and the surrounding area. If the Suffolk Cloud project stays on schedule, installation of ‘full fibre’ in Lowestoft will begin in October and is expected to be completed within 2 years.

- **SUFFOLK'S COMMUNITIES GEARING UP TO CELEBRATE THE RETURN OF THE WOMEN'S TOUR**

In June the OVO Energy Women's Tour returned to Suffolk for its fifth visit to the county, local communities geared up for the start of the race. There were plenty of activities taking place along the route of the tour leading up to the first stage of the race which took place on Monday 10th June, including the Beccles Cycling Festival. On Monday itself, the festivities kicked off in Beccles, where pupils from local schools welcomed the teams on to the podium, ahead of a community ride out and the start of the race. The race then travelled across East Suffolk, Mid Suffolk, and the west of the county, taking in Halesworth, Framlingham (the start location of last year's race), Eye and Bury St Edmunds, before finishing in Stowmarket.

In its four previous visits to Suffolk, the OVO Energy Women's Tour is estimated to have attracted in excess of 250,000 spectators to the roadside and created a net economic impact for the county's economy of in excess of £3.5 million. More information about Stage One of the OVO Energy Women's Tour, including the full race route and teams, can be found at www.womenstour.co.uk/stages/stage-1

- **COMMEMORATION FOR FORMER LEADER**

A former Leader of Waveney District Council and Suffolk County Councillor who played an instrumental role in the decision to build a third road crossing in Lowestoft is due to be permanently commemorated by the naming of a new, nearby road in the town. Cllr Colin Law passed away in 2017 having led the authority with distinction for six years. During this time, thanks in no small part to the tireless efforts of Cllr Law - working in partnership with Suffolk County Council - the Government agreed to provide funding for the construction of the bridge. Cllr Law was also a County Councillor and, with final approval for the scheme, the road in question will provide new access, as part of the bridge construction, to the Riverside offices which houses staff from both the newly formed East Suffolk Council and Suffolk County Council.

The decision was taken by East Suffolk's Cabinet at their first ever meeting and Steve Gallant, Leader of the Council, believed it was a fitting way to honour Colin's contribution. He said: "With the blessing of his family, I am delighted that we have the opportunity to create a permanent reminder of Colin's achievements and legacy. The naming of roads is the responsibility of the district authority and we can not think of a more appropriate recipient of this honour given his involvement in the project.

- **WORK SET TO IMPROVE BEACH ACCESS IN FELIXSTOWE**

Work to improve access to beach huts and the beach in Felixstowe started in June and continues into July. East Suffolk Council is investing £250,000 on a project to renovate five set of steps to improve the public access to the beach and the huts from Golf Road to The Dip. This comes after a recent survey of the area revealed that that some of the older flights had deteriorated and were potentially hazardous. The work is expected to take about 16 weeks to complete. The decision to carry out the work during the summer months has been made on the advice of the contractors, as it minimises the risk of encountering delays due to adverse weather conditions. The project will be managed by the Council's partners at East Suffolk Norse.

- **RECRUITS WANTED FOR OPERATION CAMOUFLAGE**

Children in East Suffolk are being asked to put their best foot forward to have fun this summer - as the award winning Operation Camouflage returns to the area. The military-themed summer activity returns for the twelfth year running from Monday 12 August to Thursday 15 August 2019 at Rock Barracks, Sutton

– the home of 23 Parachute Engineer Regiment. The action-packed event is for young people aged between 8 - 16 years from East Suffolk and young people from military families based at Colchester, Watisham and Woodbridge.

- **EAST SUFFOLK BUSINESS & COMMUNITY AWARDS**

Entries are now open for the East Suffolk Business and Community Awards! The awards recognise and celebrate the hard work and successes of the groups, individuals and businesses within the East Suffolk community.

There are 13 award categories:

- Team Of The Year Award
- New Business of The Year Award
- Business Growth Award
- Service to the Community Award – Group
- Service to the Community Award – Individual
- Great Idea Award
- Science, Tech & Engineering Award
- Customer Focus Award
- Peoples Development Award
- Health & Wellbeing Award
- Encouraging Tourism Award
- Club of the Year Award
- Enabling Local Communities Award

Winners will be announced at a ceremony on 3 October at The Hangar, Kesgrave Hall. Find full details of the awards process and criteria, please visit www.esbca.co.uk

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

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