

SUFFOLK COASTAL DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT



Cllr Stephen Burroughes – March 2019

- **MY LAST SCDC REPORT** 😞

This report will be the last report I will be sending out as a Suffolk Coastal District Councillor, as the council will cease to exist from 1st April 2019. The new East Suffolk Council will come into being simultaneously on 1st April. Elections to the new authority take place on Thursday 2nd May. Existing Councillors remain in post until those elections and further reports and information will be from the new East Suffolk Authority. Prospective candidates and agents for the new East Suffolk Council are invited to attend various briefing sessions ahead of the elections on Thursday, 2 May.

These sessions will provide useful information on local arrangements and the election timetables, as well as information on the required qualifications, disqualifications, nominations, agents and the key contact details. Anyone wanting to attend should inform Karen Last on Karen.last@eastsoffolk.gov.uk or tel 01394 444324; or, Tim Willis on tim.willis@eastsoffolk.gov.uk or tel 01502 525253.

- **COMMUNITIES BENEFIT FROM NEW DEVELOPMENTS**

Local communities in east Suffolk are seeing the benefit from new developments happening across the District. Since the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) scheme was introduced in east Suffolk, over £4.5 million has been collected from commenced and completed developments. Of this, over £2.1 million has been distributed or earmarked to help deliver infrastructure projects to facilitate growth currently taking place across the District. In most circumstances it replaces or complements the traditional Section 106 process of securing developer contributions towards infrastructure.

Parish and Town Councils receive 15% of CIL funds which are collected from development in their area. A further 10% is available to the councils which have introduced the Neighbourhood Plan. So separately, a total of just over £700,000 has been paid to Parish and Town Councils in east Suffolk. CIL is a tool for local authorities in England and Wales to help raise funds to deliver the infrastructure, facilities and services which are needed to support new development in the area. CIL is non-negotiable and any funds not spent, are banked for future infrastructure projects to support development in the District.

Some of the projects which have been allocated CIL funds include:

- £122,400 towards expansion of Framlingham Medical Practice
- £188,800 towards pre-construction costs for a new Youth, Arts and Community Centre in Woodbridge
- £45,000 towards a new pedestrian crossing outside the primary school in Trimley St Mary. For more information on the CIL scheme, go to www.eastsoffolk.gov.uk/planning/community-infrastructure-levy/
- **SUFFOLK TO HOST OPENING STAGE OF 2019 OVO ENERGY WOMEN'S TOUR**

Suffolk will host the opening stage of the 2019 OVO Energy Women's Tour on Monday, 10 June, marking the fifth time that the race has visited the county. The county also becomes the first venue to be confirmed for the 2020 edition of the race, with the news that Suffolk County Council and East Suffolk Council will partner with event organisers SweetSpot Group in a two-year deal to bring the UCI Women's

WorldTour event to the county in both 2019 and 2020. 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.

Almost 70% of spectators surveyed following last year's opening stage, between Framlingham and Southwold, said that the event inspired them to cycle more often. This June will mark the fourth time that the OVO Energy Women's Tour has begun in Suffolk with Bury St Edmunds, Southwold and Framlingham having each hosted the Grand Depart of Britain's biggest women's procycling race.

Further details of the 2019 Suffolk stage, including the Start and Finish venues for Stage One, will be announced in early March, ahead of the announcement of the full route for the OVO Energy Women's Tour.

- **ENABLING BROADBAND PROGRAMME UPDATE**

Last month's bulletin contained an update on Suffolk Coastal's Enabling Broadband Programme. Under this programme, the Council had allocated substantial funding to fund wireless broadband provision in order to cover those 2% of properties across the District that won't benefit from the Suffolk Better Broadband scheme - these properties will be predominantly in rural areas. We have issued contracts with two local companies (Fram Broadband and RADE) to build the necessary infrastructure we need in the District and these companies have now begun purchasing, and siting, additional equipment to enhance the service to residents, businesses and visitors alike.

Fram Broadband has extended the coverage in the Framlingham, Saxtead, Bruisyard and Gt Glemham parishes. Similarly, RADE has enhanced the coverage in the North of the District, along the Blyth Valley and Leiston/Theberton areas.

- **IPSWICH NORTHERN ROUTE PROJECT TIMESCALE**

The County Council has outlined the timescale for the next steps in producing the Strategic Outline Business Case to examine and ultimately clarify the feasibility of an Ipswich northern route. The stage one study and report into possible highways options was completed in 2017, with the options assessment and development commissioned in May 2018 currently being evaluated and prepared for shortlisting, prior to consultation. The timescale going forward is: **1.** Public consultation on the route details, alignment options and junction options with the A14 and A12 - to begin in the Summer 2019. **2.** Completion of the Strategic Outline Business Case to be shared with government, local MPs and the public - Autumn 2019. Suffolk County Council has been working with District and Borough Councils to develop the project and will continue to do so in the future.

- **COMMUNITY GROUPS HELP KEEP EAST SUFFOLK CLEAN**

The winners of a prize draw held as part of a community litter pick scheme in East Suffolk have been announced. Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Councils are keen to encourage, enable and reward people to show more love for the environment we live in. As part of the 'Love East Suffolk' scheme, community groups have a winning way of cleaning up their neighbourhood while helping themselves.

Last year, a total of 94 litter picks was carried out in Suffolk Coastal by 1,928 volunteers and 38 litter picks was carried out in Waveney by 836 volunteers. Community groups that took part between 1 March and 31 May 2018 were entered into a prize draw with the chance to win £200 for the benefit of the community and the winners have now been drawn.

Suffolk Coastal's prize draw winners are Martlesham Parish Council, Wickham Market Village Volunteer Group, Knodishall PC, Chediston & Linstead PC and 1st Old Felixstowe Guides. The rewards are funded through the Councils' partners, Suffolk Coastal and Waveney Norse.

The Love East Suffolk initiative will be repeated again this year and any community groups that take part will receive £20 for their nominated community fund or charity and will also be entered into a £200 grand prize draw. More details will be released in the spring. Both Suffolk Coastal Norse and Waveney Norse can provide volunteers with equipment to groups on request and will also arrange for gathered litter to be collected. Litter pick sticks, bag hoops, and green vests can also be loaned out, subject to availability.

Cllr Stephen Burroughes

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