

EAST SUFFOLK COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr Stephen Burroughes – July 2021



COUNCIL ADOPTS NEW AIR QUALITY STRATEGY

The drive for clean air and minimal pollution in East Suffolk has taken a step further after Cabinet unanimously agrees to adopt a new Air Quality Strategy. Bringing together current policies and initiatives which have an impact on air quality, the robust strategy will now become an integrated part of our decision making, meaning that air quality will be a major consideration on a local and strategic level going forward.

It supports our vision of building environmentally sustainable communities, and enabling sustainable travel options, delivering more educational campaigns, promoting eco-friendly development and becoming carbon neutral by 2030 are just some of the objectives we seek to deliver.

Read the new Air Quality Strategy at www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/assets/Environment/Environmental-Protection/Air-Quality/AQ-Strategy-2021.pdf

FLOOD PROJECT ONLINE VISITOR CENTRE OPEN

The Lowestoft Flood Risk Management Project launched a virtual visitor centre last week to provide information about the development and construction of the tidal flood walls and tidal barrier. Using gaming technology, the virtual centre provides information about the history of the project, how it has progressed and the ways in which it provides opportunities for Lowestoft. The centre will be open for the duration of the project and regularly updated with new information at <https://lfrmp.virtualconsultation.co.uk/>.

APPROVAL FOR COUNCIL'S INNOVATIVE HOUSING SCHEME

We are delighted that an exciting and innovative scheme to redevelop the Former Deben school site in Felixstowe has received planning consent.



The proposed housing development, which the council itself will deliver, will seek to set the very highest standards in green technology and underlines our commitment to innovation and designing for a more sustainable future.

Meanwhile, outline planning permission has been secured for a leisure element with a significant proportion of the site to be set aside for indoor and outdoor sport, and new footpaths providing pedestrian links.

APPOINTMENTS MADE FOR SOUTHWOLD HARBOUR MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Following a thorough recruitment process, we have now appointed four independent members of the Southwold Harbour Management Committee – a newly formed body, responsible for running the Harbour on our behalf.

Interviews for the independent roles took place earlier in May and, with ratification by Cabinet, the chosen four will join the committee, after being assessed by a three-person Appointments Panel consisting of myself, Cllr Ian Bradbury (Southwold Town Council) and Mrs Lucy Parson, a consultant who specialises in Ports and Harbours.

They will join five Cabinet Members, who were requested to complete a Skills Audit form, setting out their suitable skills and, on that basis, were assessed to meet the criteria required. These are Cllrs Craig Rivett, James Mallinder, Maurice Cook, David Ritchie and Letitia Smith.

The Appointments Panel also unanimously agreed that the following candidates be recommended to Cabinet for their appointment as independent, co-opted members on the HMC: Mr Alistair MacFarlane, Mr David Gledhill, Mr Richard Musgrove and Mr Mike Pickles.

Bold new beach huts will put Lowestoft on the map

As part of wider work to regenerate the town, exciting and modern beach huts are to be built at Lowestoft's seafront after Planning Committee North approved the scheme at Jubilee Parade.



Designed by Norwich-based architects Chaplin Farrant, the £2.6m project will create split level beach huts, which will face partially south to ensure maximum sunshine throughout the day. The tips of the structures will face eastwards, reflecting Lowestoft's position as the most easterly location in the country.

HISTORIC ENGLAND FUNDING

As part of the London Road Lowestoft High Street Heritage Action Zone (HSHAZ), we have received £90,000 funding from Historic England to create and deliver community-led cultural activities over the next three years: www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/news/high-street-heritage-action-zone-awarded-funding-for-cultural-programme/

EAST SUFFOLK CHOSEN BY GOVERNMENT TO TEST USE OF DIGITAL TOOLS IN PLANNING

I am delighted that East Suffolk is one of 10 local authorities to be chosen to participate in national testing of digital tools in the planning process, announced by the Housing Minister earlier this week. The pathfinder programme will look at the digital transformation of local plans which will increase community involvement and speed up the planning process. By introducing a digital system that makes plans map-based and accessible online, local people in East Suffolk will be able to engage with planning, which will help get homes built quicker. We will test how existing local plans translate into the new system, moving away from long text documents to an interactive map with accompanying annotation document.

The adoption of existing site allocation policies into the proposed land categorisation format will enable planners to understand the impact of proposed land designations and associated policy implications on land allocations and will inform a wide and varied range of policies across the whole programme.

Community engagement will continue to play a key role to ensure that the right levels of growth are identified to meet the needs of our local communities. In the new system digital tools will be key for making planning proposals more accessible and interactive, supporting the ambition for more effective community engagement.

SURVEYS AND CONSULTATIONS

We are currently running a number of surveys and consultations and, as always we want to encourage participation as feedback from people in East Suffolk is invaluable and helps us ensure we're making the right decisions for our communities.

- **Supporting older people's housing needs**

This survey will help develop a new Older People's Housing Strategy to support older people's housing needs in East Suffolk so they can continue to live fulfilling lives in the right type of housing. The survey is open until 5pm on Friday 9 July at https://eu.surveymonkey.com/r/ESC_Survey_OPHS_May2021

- **Vote for your favourite name for proposed beach village**

We have submitted a planning application for a new beach village in Felixstowe, aimed at improving the beach hut experiencing by creating accessible facilities that enables families and groups to enjoy everything the beach and town has to offer. As part of this, we're looking for a new name for the site and are asking local people to vote for their favourite out of 5 suggestions in a survey which closes at 5pm on Friday 30 July at <https://eu.surveymonkey.com/r/BeachVillage>

- **Southwold Neighbourhood Plan**

People can now have their say on the Southwold Neighbourhood Plan until 5pm on Friday 9 July at <https://eastsuffolk.inconsult.uk/SouthwoldNP/consultationHome>
When finalised, the Plan will act as a guide to development in the town and will be required to be used by anyone considering, or making, a planning application.

STAYING UP TO DATE ON THE LATEST EAST SUFFOLK NEWS

The Communications Team now share all media coverage on SharePoint, meaning you can stay up to date on all media stories relevant to East Suffolk Council, whether on local, regional or national news outlets, tv, radio, print or online.

You can access these at any time at

<https://eastsuffolk.gov.uk/sharepoint.com/sites/Communications/Lists/Media%20coverage/AllItems.aspx>

From here, you can easily share a story by clicking on the relevant story and selecting 'Share' or 'Copy Link'. For PDF's (saved from print publications), you can also select 'Download' to save the PDF. It also makes it easier for you to find a specific story/date/publication etc. as you can filter through all the cuttings in no time by clicking on the funnel icon in the righthand corner of the page.

SOCIAL MEDIA

We keep our communities up to date in a variety of ways and social media has an important role to play. Please follow us and share our posts with your audiences!

Facebook: www.facebook.com/eastsuffolkcouncil

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/EastSuffolk>

Cllr Stephen Burroughes

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