

Parish Council

Deben Leisure Centre.

The rejuvenation of the facilities at Woodbridge to provide a leisure centre to meet modern requirements. This is well under way and will be opening shortly. It is part of the five year scheme to modernise our leisure facilities. Plans are in hand for the redevelopment at Leiston and proposals are being formulated for the amenities at Felixstowe.

Shortage of Houses.

Throughout the year the problems with the shortage of houses (particularly affordable houses) has been a major issue for us as the Local Planning Authority (LPA). The Government have tried a number of initiatives to boost the supply but without any real consequence. They did produce two papers – The White Paper and “Building the Right Homes in the Right Places”. After some lengthy consultation, these have resulted in some proposed changes in planning law and in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

Local Plan Review.

- Our current Local Plan dates back to 2013. Last year we began the review of the Plan such that we should have it fully authorised and in place by May of next year. As part of the consultation process we issued the first cut “Issues and Options” proposals for comment. The response to this was far better than we dared hope, showing that many communities are very concerned about housing, planning and how our part of the country should be developed. The final version of the Issues and Options documents will be circulated for consultation/comment on 20th July for 8 weeks. Thereafter, we have until May 2019 to pass through all the regulatory hoops to enable it to become our new Local Plan.
- At the same time, we will have to adopt the many changes that are likely to be made to the NPPF and ensure that our planning policies are up to date. These are likely to include:
 - New methods of establishing the 5 year land supply with a review once a year. This could remove much of the non-productive arguments we currently have with developers and appeal inspectors.
 - Pressure for plans that make greater use of smaller sites. At least 20% to be on sites of 0.5 hectares or less.
 - Making more effective use of land.
 - Encouragement for the increase in exception sites
 - Powers to investigate why major sites are not being built out.

New Developments.

We have now seen planning consent granted to the Adastral Park development which will bring around 2,000 homes to Martlesham and surrounding areas together with supporting infrastructure. Very recently we have given consent for the redevelopment of the old Council site at Melton Hill for housing.

Creation of East Suffolk District

We have formulated our proposals for amalgamating with Waveney District to create the biggest District in the country. This will bring some significant cost savings from the economies of scale. The Secretary Of State has now agreed with the proposals submitted and it is full steam ahead.

Now that the proposal has been ratified, we have the enormous task of bring all the activities of the two Councils together. Work is under way to ensure that we become one functioning team in time for the District elections in May 2019, with one officer core and one constitution.

One big decision has to be made at the earliest stage – how many Wards, and hence, how many Ward members. The final decision will be made by the Boundary Commissioner in the Autumn. He has asked the two councils to submit our proposals and there has been considerable discussion around these issues. The final figure agreed was for a total of 55 wards – a reduction of 35 on the current numbers. As a result, the current Warding pattern has to be changed. Again, the Boundary Commissioner would like our views. The recommendations for the new Warding will be sent out for consultation to the public by the Local Government Boundary Commissioner on 3rd July. We have been assured that this consultation will be widely publicised.

For Bredfield the proposals mean some significant changes. The proposal is for Bredfield to be included in the new Woodbridge Ward which will then comprise:

- Woodbridge Farlingaye,
- Woodbridge Kyson
- WoodbridgeRiverside,
- WoodbridgeSeckford,
- Martlesham North
- Bredfield,
- Boulge,
- Hasketon.

This will have two Ward Members.

Grundisburgh has several additional Parishes and will cover:

- Grundisburgh,
- Culpho,
- Otley,
- Clopton,
- Witnesham,
- Swilland,
- Charsfield,
- Dallinghoo,
- Debach,
- Burgh

The proposed name for the new Ward – Carlford since these parishes represent almost the entire Carlford diocese. There will be one Ward member.

Recycling Right?

All recyclable waste collected from Suffolk households is taken to the Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) in Great Blakenham, where it is sorted and baled before being sent on for recycling. This facility is designed to only accept and process certain materials. If the wrong items are delivered they have to be removed, sometimes by hand.

To ensure the correct items are put into their recycling bins, residents are being asked to remember the following points to combat contamination:

- food waste,
- glass,
- electrical items,

These items can't go in your recycling bin at home but they can be recycled elsewhere.

- Textiles and clothes can no longer go in the recycling bin, either bagged or loose. Instead people are asked to donate their clothing to charity shops, or to take it to their nearest recycling banks.

- Anything smaller than 4cm, such as loose bottle tops or shredded paper, won't get recycled they fall through the sorting process. However, bottle tops can be recycled by simply washing and squashing plastic bottles and putting the tops back on.

- Aluminium foil needs to be rolled into a tennis ball size before being placed in the recycling bin.

While it is great we are recycling more than half of our household waste here in Suffolk, this campaign will hopefully help people better understand what can be put in their recycling bins and what can't. Contaminating your recycling bin isn't a small problem and this year it's costing Suffolk taxpayers over **£500,000** just to remove the wrong stuff.

For more information about what can be recycled in your blue bin, please visit www.suffolkrecycle.today

Food Hygiene - Remember to ask 'where's the sticker?'

We are pleased that many food businesses across east Suffolk have been awarded the highest possible rating for food hygiene; however, we are reminding you to check the food hygiene rating sticker when choosing where to eat out.

The Food Hygiene Rating Scheme (FHRS) helps people make an informed choice about where to eat by highlighting restaurants, pubs and cafes with excellent food hygiene. Food businesses can display their black and green FHRS sticker advertising their current food safety rating. This gives an immediate insight into the kitchen and shows how seriously the business takes food hygiene.

All food businesses are checked by the Council's Food and Safety Team to ensure they are compliant with food hygiene law and so if a business is not displaying a FHRS sticker, it might be they have something to hide! Food businesses with poor food hygiene standards will have a rating of 0 (urgent improvement necessary), 1 (major improvement necessary) or 2 (improvement necessary).

People are encouraged to take food hygiene seriously when choosing where to eat and so if the FHRS sticker is not visible, always ask 'where's the sticker?' You can also check the rating of food businesses online at ratings.food.gov.uk.

All food businesses are capable of achieving the top FHRS rating of 5 (very good) and having a top rating can attract more customers. Food establishment owners should make sure their FHRS sticker is proudly on display on the door, the menu and in any advertising.

Power cuts - Don't be left in the dark

There's a new number to call if you have a power cut.

When the power goes out, it can leave people feeling unsure about what to do. Research by Energy Networks Association found that 72% of people don't know who to contact during a power cut, with many wrongly thinking they should call the electricity supplier they pay their bill to.

105 aims to solve this problem, providing you with an easy-to-remember number that will put you through to your local electricity network operator - the company that manages the cables, wires and substations that bring electricity into local homes and businesses. 105 is a free service for people in England, Scotland and Wales, and you can call the number from most landlines and mobile phones. It doesn't matter who you choose to buy your electricity from - anyone can call 105.

You can also call 105 if you spot damage to electricity power lines and substations that could put you, or someone else, in danger. If there's a serious immediate risk, call the emergency services too. To find out more, visit powercut105.com.

Tony Fryatt

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