



Huntingfield Annual Parish Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the meeting held Wednesday 9th May 2018 at the Hub, Huntingfield

Present were:

- 18 members of the public
- Chairman of the Parish Council, Cllr. J Baker
- County and District Councillor, S. Burroughes
- G. Newton and A Hardy from Heveningham Hall
- Parish Clerk, K. Forster

1. The Chairman of the Parish Council, Cllr. J. Baker, welcomed the attendees and thanked them for coming. She stated that this year reports were not to be read out but had been printed and circulated at the meeting. If anyone did not have a report and wanted one, please contact the Clerk who would send one and they will be on the website. *(They are also contained as part of the appendix to these minutes.)*

The Chairman stated that there had been some changes this year on the Parish Council. Cllr. Helen Canon had left Council and the Chairman expressed her thanks to the work that Helen had undertaken whilst on Council. Jackie Driver and David Burrows had been co-opted on. There is still a vacancy to be filled.

The Clerk, Rachel Ducker, had left in August and Karen Forster was introduced as the new Clerk who started in September.

The Chairman stated that it was a pleasure to see so many events taking place in the village and being well attended. This was bringing together people in the village as well as those in surrounding areas – a notable example was the Old Groynes production and a monthly brunch.

The Chairman thanked Heveningham Hall County Fair for the grants that had been received in the past year which were benefiting the community. She also commented on how several new families had moved into Huntingfield including a number of new children, which was good for the future of the village.

The Parish Council is always looking for ways to improve and enhance the village and the community life. If anyone has any ideas, please contact the Clerk.

2. County Cllr. Stephen Burroughes spoke and said how pleased he was to see the impressive development of the council and Hub.

He stated that the County Council was pleased to report that standards in education in Suffolk had raised significantly and that the county was also the best performing county authority in providing care for vulnerable children. He encouraged people to think about fostering and providing a loving home for these children when they needed it.

The merger of Waveney and Suffolk Coastal district Councils is going well and there will be fresh elections next year to the new council. A new office had been built in Woodbridge, paid for by the sale of the old office land for housing development. This also provided a surplus which is being used by the District Council to provide services.

A member of the public asked where the merged council was to be based. Cllr. Burroughes stated that it would remain across both Lowestoft and Woodbridge with the majority of services available on-line as technology enables savings to be made.

A member of the public asked why when registering for a Brown Bin her home apparently “didn’t exist”. Other members of the public said this had happened to them too but apparently had been fixed. Cllr. Burroughes stated that there had been problems with delivery of the larger brown bins.

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A member of the public asked why there were so many road closures even when no work was being done. Cllr. Burroughes stated that this was being looked at by Council as a number of people had reported problems with this. This service is sub-contracted.

A member of the public asked about the subsidence in Low Road/Clay hill in Ubbeston which happened in February and was still not repaired. Cllr. Burroughes to investigate and report back to the Clerk of Ubbeston as well as the Clerk of Huntingfield.

3. The Chairman asked if there were any comments on the Minutes of the previous APM. As there were not, it was agreed that it should be approved, and the Chairman duly signed them.
4. The Chairman handed over to Mr. Guy Newton and Mr. Argus Hardy from Heveningham Hall who had come to give a presentation on the work completed and planned at the Hall, the reinstatement of the landscaping plans of Capability Brown and the creation of a lake and marsh to encourage the return of the Bittern.

At 8.15 pm, The Chairman suggested that the question and answer session between interested members of public and the Heveningham Hall representatives continue, after a short comfort break. Anyone interested in attending the Parish Council AGM & regular meeting could join Councillors in the office.

The Meeting ended at 9.00.

Karen Forster
Clerk to Huntingfield Parish Council
Orchard House, Chediston Road,
Wissett, IP19 0NF
huntingfieldclerk@gmail.com

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HUNTINGFIELD TOWN ESTATE

Many local communities in the past established their own charities to meet local needs. Huntingfield has one registered with the Charity Commission in March 1915.

There are two parts of it: one is available to meet particular financial needs of individuals living in the parish of Huntingfield, the other has an educational purpose. For example, last year we have been able to offer assistance with heating bills and following a request from the youth group we were able to fund the purchase of books for the young children attending the Christmas party they had organised in The Hub.

As you are aware the Reverend Tony Norton, Chair of the Trustees, retired at the end of last year. However, requests for assistance in either of the categories may be made through the remaining trustees.

They are Shelia **Freeman** (01986 798774) **Sue Brewer** (01986 798169) and **Brian Lucas** (01986 798000)

All applications must be submitted in writing and will be treated in confidence.

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Wednesday Group

Report to Huntingfield Annual Parish Meeting - 9th May 2018

The Wednesday Group meet on the first Wednesday of each month from 2 - 4 p.m.

The group is formed of people who want to meet to chat, play board games, drink tea, eat cakes and ice cream. What could be nicer - it's a very pleasant way to spend an afternoon.

What do we do?

Well, it can be just about anything! There is always a Dominoes table, also Scrabble is always played with sometimes Rumikub taking preference. We've played New Age Curling - this was good fun but not something our older members were keen to do!

Who is involved?

The organisers are Linda Burrows, Sue Lucas, Sue Tyler, Barbara Jerrey and Joan Baker. Some of our members are very elderly and enjoy the break from their homes to come and chat together while playing a game. Others suffer from dementia and the Wednesday Group is a safe environment for them and their carers to enjoy.

Others just enjoy the company of their contemporaries for a casual session.

How is it Funded?

We are extremely lucky in that the Central England Co-operative supports the work we do and has granted £500 to pay for the Wednesday Club activities. This money is spent on cakes, tea, ice cream and board games. It means that we do not charge for people to attend - which is valuable in

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ensuring there is no discrimination - anyone can come along and enjoy Wednesday Group.

The Hub Kids Club

Report to Huntingfield Annual Parish Meeting - 9th May 2018

The Hub Kids Club started last summer with three sessions during the school summer holidays.

It was successful and good fun from the beginning. We now have 49 children on the books with between 15 and 25 attending sessions.

The group meets fortnightly on Fridays from 4 - 5:30 p.m.

All organisers and parent helpers have been DBS checked.

The Kids Club has a Safeguarding Policy in operation.

What do we do?

Each session has a theme - this will be decided by the organisers who are:-

Marta Camus, Sue Lucas, Linda Burrows, Sally Clarke, Jackie Driver and Carla Kruger.

Each session has a Lego Challenge - this may be anything from 'Build a Monster on Wheels' to 'Construct the highest tree that a bird in a nest can balance in'. There are always specific Art & Craft activities linked to the theme. Playdough, board games, a book corner and music table are favourites with many of the children.

The children have a 'toast station' where they can make their own toast (under supervision) and spread it with the topping of their choice.

Often the children have a cookery class - this is fun but without any danger - children are not allowed in the kitchen so all preparation is done in the main hall. Drinks and biscuits are always readily available.

We've recently purchased a parachute, which has proved very popular, also skittles and quoits. In the summer we have outdoor badminton, table tennis and the playground for the children to enjoy.

How do we fund Kids Club?

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Each child pays £1.50 per session, this covers some of the cost of renewables, i.e. bread, spreads, cookery items, drinks, biscuits, paper, glue, glitter, pens, paints etc. etc.

We are delighted that the Central England Co-operative thinks the Kids Club is very worthwhile and they support us annually with a grant of £500.

If you know children who you think may enjoy and benefit from coming to Kids Club please ask their parents/carers to get in touch with us. They can do that by emailing thehub@huntingfield.org or telephoning 01986 799130 and leaving us a message. Alternatively, they can just turn up! Our next session is on Friday 11th May.

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Report to Huntingfield Annual Parish Meeting 2018

The Huntingfield Hare has been reporting events in the village for eleven years. It attempts to let residents know what events are planned, information from other villages as well as reports of activities and classes that have happened. But, most importantly, the Hare tries to encourage residents to have an interest in their fellow villagers by finding out some information about them. This is done through our 'Mystery Guest' item. Although some people have told us they would prefer to remain a mystery most are more than happy to share their lives with us - we are indebted to them and really appreciate the time and effort taken by them to make an interesting, readable and enjoyable column.

Since the last APM our Mystery Guests have been James Gordon, Tracey Abell, Malcolm Rackham, Jane Roe, Tommy McGee, Karen Forster and Jim Rothead. Such interesting people, it makes you realise just what a fantastic village this is!

The Hare continues to cover all the celebrations in the village that we possibly can - please don't moan too much at us if something is left out - we can only put in what people tell us about! We would like everyone in the village to be contributors and let us know of anything which you think may interest our readers. Speaking of which although the Hare is delivered to everyone and every business in Huntingfield, with spare copies going into The Hub (they don't stay there long but are snapped up within a week!) the Hare is also distributed by email to 100 plus people from all over the world - our furthest afield recipient lives in New Zealand and was once the publican of the Huntingfield Arms. It is also posted to many people, some who once lived in the village, others who had relatives in the past living here.

Financially the Hare strong position with a small profit of £70.85 being made on the year. This means a total of £1,520.85 has been paid to the Parish Council from the Hare since its inception in 2007. We are pleased to be able to make this contribution to the life of the village. Please contact us if you have any ideas about what should be included, or a new column, or if you would be prepared to be a Mystery Guest - please don't wait for us to come to you!!

Finally, we should like to thank Julie Watson who was a member of the editorial team for eleven years for her contribution to the Hare. Without people like Julie that Hare would not exist!

Sue Lucas and Sue Tyler - Editors

You can contact us by emailing editor@huntingfield.org

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The Hub, Brick Kiln Lane, Huntingfield, Halesworth, IP19 0QH

Report to Huntingfield, Heveningham & Ubbeston Annual Parish Meetings - May 2018

A comment today from someone, who was enjoying an outdoor lunch at the pub on the village green, really made me sit up and think. 'Your village hall is such a beautiful building. Our village hall, even though it has been renovated, still looks like just a village hall whereas The Hub looks so good.' I replied that maybe in 50 years time people would say that about The Hub. She said quite emphatically, 'No, because it IS beautiful'.

It's easy to take for granted the great venue we have for the villages.

Yes - it takes a huge amount of time and effort to keep it looking good.

Yes - we have to ensure it is used effectively, giving people a wide range of activities to attend if they should wish to do so.

Yes - it has to 'pay for itself' - so the Trustees must ensure that marketing is kept to a very high standard to ensure that happens.

Yes - it is an amazing village asset!

What is really rewarding is that the clubs and classes that were running last year are STILL all running now a year later. So, we have **Pilates, Yoga, Jive & Swing, Zumba Gold, Bridge, Carpet Bowls, Wednesday Group and Table Tennis**. These are all regular events. New clubs and activities are **Kids Club, Ukulele, Saturday Brunch and Craft Club this year**.

As well as these regular events this spring has seen four different **theatre companies** perform in The Hub and a local group, **The Old Groynes**, which played to sell-out audiences for two nights in March. This comprised about 30 people - acting, back stage, directing, lighting, sound engineers, stage set design and production etc. etc. People from Huntingfield, Heveningham & Ubbeston were involved - a real Three Village Group.

So what else has happened since last year?

The **Millennium Green Trustees** used The Hub to stage their Apple Day and Race Night - both being very successful events.

The **Events Group** had a Bring & Buy Sale, Film Nights, New Year's Eve celebrations, a Summer Solstice Walk and a Macmillan Coffee Morning amongst other things.

Other events included a Cookery Masterclass, a talk about Elizabeth Garrett Anderson, a Charity Ladies Party night, Children's Christmas Party, Christmas Party, Carol Singing, a Craft Fayre, various workshops organised by Coastal Leisure Learning as well as a host of privately organised events and parties.

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Since the last APM report we have installed lighting on the steps leading to the Millennium Green which has the advantage of giving additional parking areas for events without which the streets would be clogged with park cars. The Trustees would like to thank the Trustees of the Millennium Green for allowing this to happen.

Financially The Hub Trustees are ensuring that all bills are met, servicing carried out, and replacement items procured. The Hub costs in excess of £100 per week to run - even with it's wonderful ground source heating which means The Hub is always warm throughout the building through its underfloor heating system. £100 per week is £5,000 per year - this cost will rise as the years go by and things start to wear out. The Trustees are aware of this and are continuing to raise funds in order that a surplus is built up so that the future running and maintenance of The Hub is ensured.

We really appreciate it when residents of the three villages tell us what they would like to see happening in The Hub. We have tried a few things that weren't successful such as Bingo - on an afternoon last summer this was held with only 5 attendees. They still had fun but...is this something we could try again - after all we bought the balls, score sheets etc. etc. Let us know what you think.

Another failed effort was The Meeting Place. This was to be held one Friday evening a month for people to meet together, play board games if they wished, chat, enjoy a glass or two, play table tennis - in the summer to play badminton, swingball have a bar-b-que. The numbers didn't grow above about a dozen so this was abandoned. Would you like to see this reinstated? It was very pleasurable for those attending - I enjoyed playing chess with another keen player.

What about a Bridge Club? Chess Club? or anything else you would like to suggest. The Trustees want to make The Hub a place for all, with something for everyone, so please help us by letting us know what you would like to see happening.

Finally - we always need more Trustees to become a part of this great team. So if you would like to be involved please let us know by emailing thehub@huntingfield.org or phoning 01986 799130 and leaving a message on The Hub telephone.

Thank you for taking the trouble to read this report.
Sue Lucas - Chair of The Hub Trustees.

The Hub Committee comprises:-
Sue Lucas - Chair - Huntingfield
Helen Cannon - Vice Chair - Huntingfield
Joan Baker - Marketing Manager - Huntingfield
Christine Barnes - Heveningham
David Burrows - Huntingfield
Stephen Harrison - Huntingfield
Tony Howe - Huntingfield
Steve Moorhouse - Ubbeston
Allan Pike - Ubbeston

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Huntingfield Millenium Green 2018

The Huntingfield Millenium Green is looking good at the moment the short grass areas are being regularly cut to provide somewhere for sports and games to be played. We have received several good comments from parents that their children have used the green more s the grass has been short enough to run around on. The wildflower area is also in wonderful condition with cowslips flowering in amongst the growth of other wildflower species which have greatly benefited from a hay crop being cut last autumn. Hopefully soon there will be a delightful mass of flowers with butterflies flitting amongst them and birds singing from the hedges.

We had a recent spring clean day this included clean the play equipment and weeding around the Apple trees in our community orchard. Thank you to all the volunteers for their sterling work, we hope to keep the area around our trees clear with a path. The trees themselves are looking in really good health with lots of blooms so hopefully we will have lots of fruit later in the year.

Our aim as trustees is to carry on the original ambitions to maintain the MG in a good condition so that our residents and visitors the enjoy.

There are obviously costs associated with maintenance work,play equipment inspections, insurances etc so the trustees of the MG which is a registered Charitable Incorporated Organistion , governed by the Charity Commission, have to raise funds through various fundraising means and events.

We held two events last autumn, a Race Night and Apple Day these were organised by our trustees Stephen and Marion respectively with brilliant help by other villagers and raised over a thousand pounds in total.

Many thanks also to Steve and Sara from the Huntingfield Arms for having a collection box on their bar which also raised funds.

We plan to hold both Race night and the Apple Day this year as well as a Wassail event after dark one winters night, please watch for news and dates in the. Huntingfield Hare.

We hope as trustees that we are carrying on the good work started by Ian Richardson in 2000 in whoms memory we planted a Bird Cherry and an Apple tree last autumn. Any thoughts or ideas are always welcomed, also if anyone would be willing to join the trustees we would again very much welcome them.

Tony Howe (chair of the trustees) 01986 785429.

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SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT – MAY 2018

Cllr Stephen Burroughes - Framlingham Division



- **MORE THAN 94% OF CHILDREN OFFERED FIRST CHOICE PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Suffolk's primary school admission figures released on 16 April show that 94.6% or 7,435 children have been offered a reception place for September 2018 at their parents' preferred school, with 98.8% offered one of their three preferences. 0.6% more children received their first preference this year than last year.

Suffolk County Council received a total of 7,544 applications for a place in the Reception year from parents outlining which school they would prefer their children to be educated at from September 2018. 98.4% of pupils moving to a junior school have secured their first preference place with 99.68% being offered one of their three choices. The number of people choosing to submit an application online has increased from 93% to more than 94%.

- **OVER 6,500 POTHoles REPAIRED IN SUFFOLK SINCE JANUARY**

Suffolk has seen over 6,500 potholes repaired since 1 January 2018; with a further 950 scheduled over coming weeks as the county council continues its war on potholes. Since the start of 2018, Suffolk Highways has received approximately 9,500 pothole reports from members of the public, some of which are duplicates. This is double the number received during the same period last year; demonstrating the impact that the severe winter has had on the county's road surface.

Suffolk Highways has made some significant steps forward to deal with the high volume of reports. Additional gangs have been brought in to undertake pothole and road repairs across the county, different materials are being used and existing resources are being diverted to help deal with the backlog of reports. Also, a new approach is being trialled where areas with particularly high volumes of reports are 'blitzed'. This means that inspectors are visiting areas with high concentrations of potholes, many of which are at varying degrees of severity, and ordering repairs for all defects as long as they meet Suffolk Highways' repairs criteria. They're then dealt with all at the same time.

Most of the work is then picked up in a co-ordinated approach, with gangs working their way through streets, rather than works being scheduled based on size and required response time. The exception to this is where the location of the defect means complex traffic management is required, such as busy roads or junctions. The first area addressed was Haverhill where there were over 70 reports of potholes, which resulted in approximately 50 works being ordered. Inspections have also been completed in Bury St Edmunds (60 reports),

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Withersfield (40), Hundon (30), Newmarket (30) and Pakenham (30). Gangs are currently focused on completing work in Bury St Edmunds and the other locations are currently being scheduled for coming days and weeks.

On 5 March, Suffolk Highways also begun trialling a new approach using a machine called a 'Roadmender'. The Roadmender is a highways vehicle with an asphalt mixer on the back. It works by keeping the material at a consistent and ideal temperature for compaction and only uses the quantities needed, limiting any waste material. This is an alternative treatment technique and the results are currently being analysed.

- **FUNDING FOR FIRST TIME HEATING SYSTEMS**

A reminder that up to 100% funding is available to install first time central heating systems in Suffolk residents' homes. This funding from National Grid's Warm Homes Fund has been secured by Suffolk County Council and the district and borough councils to help more than 500 fuel poor households in Suffolk over the next three years.

In Suffolk there are still a large number of houses that do not have a central heating system with a boiler and radiators. Cold homes are not just uncomfortable to live in, they can also have a negative effect on health.

Residents must own their property or be privately renting (i.e. not a council house or housing association property) and must not have an existing central heating system (a boiler and radiators). Eligibility criteria apply and may be linked to income. For more information see www.greensuffolk.org/whf

To find out more about the scheme, people can:

- Complete the online enquiry form at www.greensuffolk.org/seaenquiry
- Call the Suffolk Warm Homes Healthy People service on 03456 037 686 (local rate) or
- Email sea@eastssuffolk.gov.uk quoting the 'Warm Homes Fund'.

- **SUFFOLK LAUNCHES INNOVATIVE NEW FIRE ENGINE**

On Tuesday 24 April, Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service celebrated the launch of the new Light Rescue Pump (LRP) at Wrentham Fire Station.

The LRP is a new-look fire and rescue vehicle and was developed following feedback from local residents and staff through the Integrated Risk Management Plan 2015-2018 consultation.

As an important addition to the wider fire engine fleet, the LRP will make the best use of the firefighters from Wrentham, providing an effective and efficient service to the local community and the surrounding area.

The LRP is unique to Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service and the Wrentham on-call firefighters were an integral part of the working group who designed it. It includes the latest firefighting

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and rescue equipment and has been specifically designed to provide flexible crewing in rural areas of between two and five firefighters, different to a standard fire appliance that usually has four to six firefighters.

The LRP weighs in at approximately five tonnes less than a standard appliance and cost £220,000 to build and equip, around £35,000 less than a standard appliance with similar firefighting and rescue equipment.

- **CALL FOR ON-CALL FIREFIGHTERS**

In Suffolk, part-time on-call firefighters make up 66% of the total fire service workforce and crew 86% of our fire engines. Suffolk has more than 400 on-call firefighters working at the 35 fire stations across the county, and they play a vital role in ensuring people are safe from fires and other incidents. They do a fantastic job and are highly regarded in their local communities.

The fire service is always looking to recruit more on-call firefighters. After lobbying of Government by Suffolk and other fire and rescue services, the Home Office will soon be launching a national video and promotional literature to encourage the recruitment of more on-call firefighters, particularly focussing on female and BME applicants. This national support recognises the increasing challenges fire and rescue services face with the recruitment and retention of on-call firefighters and that these challenges exist right across the country.

People interested in becoming an on-call firefighter must be 18 or older, and live or work within **five minutes** (or possibly up to ten minutes) of a fire station. They'll need enthusiasm, willingness to work in a team environment, and a desire to support their local community. They will also need to get consent from their main employer to be available when they are working. They will earn about £5,000 per year for attending calls, any training undertaken, and for maintenance work carried out on the fire engine and at the station.

More information on the role of on-call firefighters can be found at <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/suffolk-fire-and-rescue-service/working-and-volunteering-for-fire-and-rescue/how-to-become-an-on-call-firefighter/>

- **WE ARE LISTENING EVENTS IN MAY**

Suffolk residents are invited to come along and chat with our Leader, other county councillors and senior managers about their **concerns** and **ideas** for the county of Suffolk.

- Wednesday 9 May - Halesworth, Thoroughfare

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- Wednesday 30 May and Thursday 31 May (all day) Suffolk Show

- **POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER PUBLIC MEETINGS AND ON-TOUR EVENTS**

The Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) has now confirmed dates for his 2018 series of Public Meetings and on-tour events, to be held in each of the seven district/borough areas across the County.

The Chief Constable, Deputy Chief Constable or Assistant Chief Constable will join the PCC at each of the public meetings. The on-tour events will involve the PCC and the Chief Constable. Dates, times and venues can be viewed on the PCC's website: <http://www.suffolk-pcc.gov.uk/>

For further information or questions please contact me at:
stephen.burroughes@suffolk.gov.uk

Cllr Stephen Burroughes
County Councillor for Framlingham
Chairman of Suffolk County Council
Follow me on Twitter: @ChairSCC



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SUFFOLK COASTAL DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT



Cllr Stephen Burroughes – May 2018

- **MILESTONE MEETING ON ROAD TO EAST SUFFOLK COUNCIL**

Another milestone on the journey to a merged East Suffolk Council was reached last month. On Monday 30th April, the councillors of both Waveney and Suffolk Coastal councils met for a unique 'simultaneous' full council meeting. In a symbolic demonstration of the close relationship that has become the hallmark of work between the two administrations, all councillors met to discuss jointly the proposed warding arrangements for the new East Suffolk Council, when the number of councillors across the two districts will reduce from 90 to 55.

The near unanimous support for the proposal on the table now means that a clear set of proposals can be submitted to the Boundary Committee for England. Once the merger has been agreed by Parliament, the Boundary Committee can then come in and carry out their formal appraisal.

Speaking at the meeting, Ray Herring, Suffolk Coastal District Council leader, acknowledged the work that had gone in, and affirmed the importance of what had been achieved, saying: "What we have here is a good and robust working arrangement that we can take forward"

- **ADASTRAL PARK SIGN OFF**

SCDC has now, along with Suffolk County Council and Carlyle Land, the owner of the land east of the A12 at Martlesham and east and south of Adastral Park, have now signed the S106 legal agreement. This means that the Outline Planning Permission has been approved, paving the way for the £300 million development to go ahead. The development, to be known as Brightwell Lakes, will bring £96million of infrastructure investment into the local area, along with approximately £40 million of S106 contributions and £15 million of highways investment, as well as creating almost 1,000 new jobs.

The proposals include:

- Up to 2,000 new homes, including affordable, starter, family and elderly accommodation
- New infrastructure provision on the site including schools, local shops and services
- A comprehensive multi-million pound package of transport improvements including junction and highways improvements to enhance vehicle flows, bus facilities, cycle and walking routes and a new A12 crossing
- New jobs within the school, shops and extended business park
- 34 hectares (85 acres) of formal and informal open spaces including woodland, meadows, heathland, a variety of play areas, a trim trail, a variety of circular walks, sports facilities and ecological areas. This is in addition to sports and recreation facilities for community use as part of the all-through school
- Allotments/community orchards

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- 7km of circular walking routes and cycle paths
- Protection for existing mature landscaping, including Spratts Plantation and woodland along the boundary
- An improved lake environment catering for a variety of experiences with picnic areas, a café, play space, a beach and low disturbance wildlife areas
- Funding to establish community ownership of green spaces, the lakeside and community assets; these would be professionally managed with potential for education, public art and community activities.

- **LEADERS CALL FOR THE COUNTY TO WORK TOGETHER**

All the district and borough leaders in Suffolk have sent a joint letter to Suffolk County Council calling for a stop to the £70,000 review of local government structures initiated by the County. Instead they requested that all councils and public sector organisations such as health and emergency services jointly work together on proposals which would deliver improved benefits and savings much quicker.

Council leaders for Suffolk Coastal and Waveney, Ray Herring and Mark Bee, joined the leaders from Babergh, Forest Heath, Ipswich, Mid Suffolk and St Edmundsbury councils in expressing their concern that, despite a history of working together, none of them had been contacted about the proposals nor involved in drawing up the brief for the consultants.

The letter points out that Suffolk councils and public sector partners have already achieved millions of pounds of investment and better outcomes for residents by working together and ignoring structures and parties. But the leaders warned that the work by 'think-tank' ResPublica could undo all of that and waste time and money which could be better spent on accelerating this work. All councils are facing financial pressures from reduced national funding and increased demand on services. The letter sets out that, while understanding the County's position, their unilateral action in commissioning a review is not the way forward.

Leaders are concerned that due to previous work for the County Council Network the findings of any review by ResPublica would be weighted to a predetermined outcome. The district and borough leaders made it clear in the letter that they will not take part in the ResPublica work if it goes forward.

- **MERGER – RESPONSE TO HOUSE OF LORDS**

The draft Order to create the new East Suffolk Council is currently going through Parliament. A query was raised at the House of Lords Secondary Legislation Scrutiny Committee about a perceived lack of consultation during the period at the end of last year, when the Secretary of State had said he was minded to support the proposals and said he would accept comments. Council leaders Ray Herring and Mark Bee issued a strong response on this, stressing: "Suffolk Coastal and Waveney do not recognise the suggestion that there has been significant opposition to the proposals and we have undertaken a range of consultative exercises which reinforce this position. Both councils believe that public opinion is extremely important and went to great lengths to ensure that views are welcomed and acknowledged."

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Once the Order has been debated in both Houses of Parliament, if agreed, the merger becomes irrevocable.

- **AIR QUALITY ACTION PLAN APPROVED FOR STRATFORD ST ANDREW**

The plan to reduce air pollution on the A12 at Stratford St Andrew has been given government backing. SDCD received approval from DEFRA, following public consultation, for the final Stratford St. Andrew Air Quality Action Plan. The Action Plan has been put in place to help reduce nitrogen dioxide levels within the Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) declared on the A12 at Long Row in Main Road, Stratford St Andrew.

Studies undertaken by Suffolk Coastal suggested that southbound traffic accelerating just prior to the end of the 30 mph speed limit in Stratford St. Andrew was a large part of the problem. The main measure in our Action Plan was to move the 30 mph speed limit sign further south of the village in an aim to reduce the overall speed in the area and any accelerating at Long Row itself. This was completed in December 2017. We are now monitoring the impact of the measure and are working closely with the County Council to determine if we need to take forward any other measures in the plan. The final Action Plan is available on-line at www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk

- **MAY'S CABINET MEETING**

SCDC's cabinet met on Tuesday 1st May 2018. Up for discussion were:

- **Enabling Broadband Programme Update** - it is now recognised that, at the end of the current contract, there are likely to be 2-3% of properties that will be without access to reasonable broadband services. There are several options available to residents and businesses not able to access a fixed connection to fibre broadband, including wireless broadband, satellite broadband as well as mobile broadband. Tonight's cabinet discussion looks at the options and also the funding of the project.
- **East Suffolk Performance Report Q4** - this report provided a comprehensive review of our performance across Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Councils. It provides an overview of the councils' performance and progress against the deliverables within the East Suffolk Business Plan. Overall the council continues to make significant and positive progress in delivering the Business Plan objectives.

For further information or to ask questions etc. I can be contacted at:

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Cllr Stephen Burroughes

District Councillor for Peasenhall & Yoxford Ward
Suffolk Coastal District Council

Signed _____ Date _____