

EAST SUFFOLK COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr Stephen Burroughes – September 2021



- **EXCITING BID TO BECOME CITY OF CULTURE 2025**

We have joined forces with Great Yarmouth Borough Council for an exciting bid to become UK City of Culture 2025.

Our bid aims to showcase the region's rich and multi-layered culture, its diversity, its people and their creativity, experiences, buildings and landscapes, opening them up to be enjoyed and engaged with by everyone and creating a cultural legacy for future generations.



It will play a key role in the efforts of both communities to overcome their challenges, helping local people to recover from the effects of the pandemic and forge new opportunities ahead, especially for young people.

This is the first time a collection of linked or neighbouring towns have been eligible to apply together, and the joint bid has won the support of the New Anglia LEP, Norfolk County Council, Suffolk County Council, Norfolk Community Foundation, Norfolk Chambers of Commerce, Suffolk Chambers of Commerce, the area's three local MPs and many other major regional public sector stakeholders, arts and community organisations. The decision on whether our bid has made it onto the long list will be announced in early September 2021, with the UK City of Culture 2025 winner being announced in May next year.

- **COULD IT BE – YES IT IS!**

As you will no doubt have heard, four pieces of street art appeared in Lowestoft, Great Yarmouth, Gorleston and Oulton Broad. There is speculation that they are by well-known street artist Banksy, after some guessing it has been confirmed that the work is from his very own brush. This has raised the profile of the City of Culture bid to a whole new level, and we hope this will have a very positive impact. We will see.

- **REPAIRS TO SOUTHWOLD HARBOUR FENDER**

Essential work to repair a fender at the entrance to Southwold Harbour begun on 19 July and is expected to be completed by the end of August, subject to safe working conditions. Originally built in 1992, the fender prevents vessels from colliding with rock armour around the North Pier when entering or leaving the harbour. The repair involves removing and replacing steel piles, timber parts and the navigation light mast and gantry. For safety reasons, there's no public access to the North Pier, dunes and beach to the east of the harbour car park for the duration of the works; the works compound is also occupying part of the car park so normal car parking capacity is reduced.

Full information can be found at www.coasteast.org.uk/latest-news-repairs-maintenance

- **FELIXSTOWE BECOMES A SUFFOLK PING! TOWN**

Felixstowe has officially become Suffolk's second PING! Town with 8 outdoor tables sited throughout the town.

The tables – located at six key play areas in the town along with two in the heart of the town centre at Great Eastern Square – have been made possible thanks to a wider partnership between Table Tennis,



Suffolk County Council led Most Active County Partnership, East Suffolk Council and Felixstowe Town Council. The aim of the partnership is to provide additional accessible opportunities for Suffolk residents of all ages to be active in their local community.

Over the summer holidays, coaches from Xtra Time are giving free 15-minute coaching sessions at different locations every Wednesday, where individuals, families or friends can sign up to learn more about holding the bat correctly, how to serve, how to score and how to play.

For more information about the project, including the location of the tables and how to book a spot at one of the free training sessions, go to www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/leisure/parks-and-open-spaces/outdoor-table-tennis/

- **FORMER COUNCIL OFFICES BACK ON THE MARKET**

The former council offices on Melton Hill in Woodbridge have been empty for five years and following the end of contract with the site's original developer, we are once again marketing the 3.23-acre site for sale to provide much-needed housing in this popular area. To ensure that local people's views are being heard and taken into consideration, we would like to see any potential developer coming forward to forging a close working relationship with the local community and Woodbridge Town Council.

Furthermore, we are committed to addressing the need for more affordable homes in the area and, as with any planning application of this size, the Planning Authority would expect any development to include provision for at least 33% affordable housing.

- **FELIXFEST – THE ULTIMATE WEEKEND OF FAMILY FUN**

To celebrate the Women's Tour, one of the UK's biggest sporting events, finishing in Felixstowe this October, we're hosting FelixFest in partnership with Felixstowe Town Council – an ultimate weekend of fun for local people and visitors alike.



The celebrations will be taking place on the weekend of 8 - 10 October, kicking off on the Friday night with an outdoor cinema. The movie is yet to be decided, and all suggestions are welcome by email on leisure@eastsoffolk.gov.uk

The Saturday will see some of the

world's best cyclists racing to be crowned the 2021 Women's Tour champion in the Final Stage on Sea Road. Activities will be taking place on Saturday 9 October at the finishing line, prior to the Women's Tour final stage, including a 10km bike ride, children's races and lots of demonstration activities.

There will also be a Tour Village with stalls providing information, activities and representations from some of the sponsors of the Tour, a Pump Track for people to have a go on and entertainment and information talks on the podium over the weekend.

Felixstowe's first ever open water Triathlon will be taking place on the Sunday, with a standard (1500m swim, 40km bike and 10km run), sprint (750m swim, 20km bike and 5km run) and supersprint (300m swim, 20km bike and 3km run) on offer. The sprint and supersprint is open to all teams and businesses and you can enter now via www.felixstowetriathlon.uk

More information about the weekend, including road closures and parking suspensions, can be found at www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/leisure/womens-tour-and-felixfest/

- **RECONNECTING OLDER PEOPLE IN EAST SUFFOLK**



We are continuing to trial the Grandpad Loan Scheme, which is aimed at tackling social isolation amongst older residents or those struggling to use technology, particularly those who have little or no contact with loved ones or the outside world due to a lack of Wi-Fi, equipment and/or skills. Initially launched in July 2020, the scheme has now been extended for another 12 months and a total of 175 Grandpads are now available to be

lent (free of charge) to older residents across the district who have been identified as being socially isolated. The devices, specifically designed around the need of older adults, include unlimited 4G internet, 24/7 personalised care and unlimited minutes, so users can easily make phone calls at no extra costs.

To nominate an eligible person for a Grandpad or for more information, people should email communities@eastsoffolk.gov.uk or call 01502 523119.

- **SOUTH LOWESTOFT AND KIRKLEY CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT AREA CONSULTATION**

Residents, businesses and property owners in Lowestoft are invited to comment on a reappraised management plan for the South Lowestoft and Kirkley Conservation Area. Funded by the London Road

Lowestoft High Street Heritage Action Zone (HSHAZ), the South Lowestoft and Kirkley Conservation Area Management Plan has recently been reviewed and updated to ensure the document reflects the latest policy and guidance, as well as ensuring that the unique special interest of the area is captured and protected. The draft appraisal, which has been carried out by Place Services on behalf of East Suffolk Council, provides a history of the area, identifies what features make a positive or negative contribution to the special character of the Conservation Area, reviews the boundary, and makes recommendations for its future enhancement this important location and the impact it could have to the area.

A six-week public consultation is now underway, and members of the local community are invited to comment on the proposal document at the link provided: www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/planning/design-and-conservation/conservation-areas/south-lowestoft-and-kirkley-caa/

- **WORK STARTS AT FORMER HIGH SCHOOL SITE**

Work has now begun on the former Deben High School site to demolish a large part of the former school buildings to accommodate a new leisure and housing development. The original Lower School Assembly Hall will be retained as a community asset, marking and celebrating the site's former heritage. A local contractor, Clarkes Demolition Company, based in Kesgrave are undertaking the demolition and over 90% of the materials will be recycled. Once completed, the next step will see work start on the Housing Phase by the end of 2021 and the whole development is expected to be completed by 2023 (subject to work schedule info). Find more information about the development and view the plans at www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/leisure/sport-and-leisure-development/plans-for-former-deben-high-school-site-felixstowe/

- **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.

- **Leiston Transport Strategy**

Leiston residents are invited to give their views on a proposed Leiston Transport Strategy.

Leiston-cum-Sizewell Town Council, working in partnership with East Suffolk Council, is currently running a consultation on the proposals:

www.leistontowncouncil.gov.uk/leistontransportstrategy/

Responses can be sent to feedback@leistontowncouncil.gov.uk or through the online feedback form by 30 August 2021.

- **Consultation on conservation area management**

A six-week consultation has now closed for the draft appraisal for the South Lowestoft and Kirkley Conservation Area Management Plan and members of the local community were invited to comment on the proposed document before 26 August 2021, details are still available to view at:

www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/planning/design-and-conservation/conservation-areas/south-lowestoft-and-kirkley-caa/

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