

District Councillor's Report – November 2022

Road Safety Week | Brake

The theme of Road Safety Week 2022 is SAFE ROADS FOR ALL, bringing together communities and professionals to shout out for everyone's right to make safe and healthy journeys on safe roads. We will raise awareness of key areas of road safety the Government supports, including safe roads, safe vehicles and speeds, the new hierarchy of road users, and the importance of inclusivity to keep us all safe.

New Chief Executive brings wealth of experience

Chris Bally has been chosen to succeed Stephen Baker as Chief Executive of the Council. Chris will succeed Stephen following his retirement later this year.

He is currently Director for Corporate Services and Deputy Chief Executive at Suffolk County Council.

Significant improvements in air quality at Woodbridge junction

An Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) in Woodbridge has been revoked following significant improvements in air quality.

The Woodbridge AQMA was established in 2006 after high levels of nitrogen dioxide were detected at the junction of Lime Kiln Quay Road, The Thoroughfare and St John's Street. Since this time, concentrations within the AQMA have decreased, and since 2014, have been consistently below the national objective levels.

As a result, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs requested that the AQMA be revoked, and an assessment was carried out in 2021 to establish whether removal of the AQMA was appropriate. Using measurements taken in 2019 and 2020, the assessment predicts future concentrations within the AQMA over the next five years and concludes that the AQMA could be revoked.

Consultation launched on major energy projects

East Suffolk Council have begun engagement with local communities following the launch of consultation on two major energy projects.

National Grid Ventures (NGV) and National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET) have launched consultations on the EuroLink and Sea Link projects.

Sea Link is a domestic interconnector between Suffolk and Kent, required for network reinforcements, while EuroLink is an international, multi-purpose interconnector between the Netherlands and Suffolk.

Both are informal and non-statutory consultations, followed next year by formal, statutory consultations. NGV and NGET are seeking comments and feedback on their potential landfall, cable route and converter station options.

East Suffolk Council adopts Cycling and Walking Strategy

A new planning document has been officially adopted by East Suffolk Council to enhance its cycling and walking network.

After gaining Cabinet approval in October, and following the prescribed 'call-in' period, the new East Suffolk Council Cycling and Walking Strategy will now be implemented to ensure that communities have access to high quality infrastructure across the district.

The strategy sets out to create safe, coherent, direct, comfortable, and attractive cycling, walking and wheeling environments that lead to improvements in health and wellbeing, facilitate greater social interaction and play, encourage more environmentally sustainable lifestyles, reduce road congestion and support economic growth.

Project: Provision of a Water Supply to the Allotment site

Grant awarded: £715

Award date: 1st November 2022

First Responders

Otley and Clopton PCs have set up an opportunity establish a local first responders group (first responders are volunteers for the ambulance service where they train you to manage urgent medical situations to save time in rural areas and there were actually 3 people from Clopton and 5 people from Otley who attended.)

Communities have to buy the medical kits and the ambulance service will replenish the stock The initial cost is £1,500 and subsequent kits also require a communicator which adds another £750 initial cost plus £250 per year.

The ESC Community Grant scheme will be providing part funding for both PCs.

Free festive parking

Christmas shoppers and visitors to festive events across East Suffolk can enjoy free parking in council-owned car parks on selected dates.

To coincide with Christmas lights 'switch ons' and other festive events across the district over the coming weeks, East Suffolk Council is offering free parking in council-owned car parks from 4pm on the following dates:

- Bungay - Friday 18 November
- Halesworth - Saturday 19 November
- Beccles - Friday 25 November
- Southwold – Saturday 26 November
- Framlingham – Friday 2 December
- Saxmundham - Friday 2 December
- Lowestoft – Saturday 3 December
- Aldeburgh – Saturday 3 December
- Wickham Market – Saturday 3 December
- Felixstowe – Saturday 3 December
- Woodbridge – Sunday 4 December
- Leiston – Saturday 10 December
- Oulton Broad – Friday 16 December

Free parking will also be available from noon to 6pm on Saturday 17 December across the district.

Tony Fryatt,

District Councillor for Carlford and Fynn Valley

10 November 2022