

Councillor's Monthly Bulletin – October 2021

from Maurice Cook and Lydia Freeman

(Please circulate electronically and print only when necessary. We should be most grateful for our bulletin to be posted on your websites for the benefit of your residents.)

District News

Restoring historic character of Lowestoft building

An exciting project to restore the façade of Lowestoft's former Post Office is set to start later this year.



The project will help improve the condition and appearance of the building whilst restoring its historic character. It will include work to fix the roof, repair the windows, carry out conservation

of stonework and reconfigure the ground floor windows to restore the entrance to the central bay of the building, as per the original design of the building. This will incorporate repositioning the existing ramp which would greatly improve the appearance of the building.

A planning and listed building consent application has been submitted on behalf of the Council to seek permission for the scheme and, if approved, work is intended to start in the winter. These repairs will be funded through the London Road, Lowestoft High Street Heritage Action Zone, financed by Historic England and East Suffolk Council, delivered in partnership with Lowestoft Town Council and East Suffolk Building Preservation Trust.

Improving private rented homes in East Suffolk

We're working with Generation Rent UK to better support East Suffolk residents who privately rent their homes and help ensure that homes in the district are secure, safe and energy efficient.

Earlier this year, we asked private renters living in the Harbour & Normanston ward, Beccles & Worlingham ward and Aldeburgh & Leiston wards, to share their experiences in a survey. Findings from the survey revealed that private renters in these three wards are most concerned about:

- losing their tenancy
- being unable to move into homeownership
- rent increases
- almost 50% of those surveyed are concerned to some degree about being asked to leave their home by their landlord or letting agent this year.

As part of this work, we will be running focus group discussions later this year. Anyone who rents privately in East Suffolk can get involved in these, regardless of which ward they live in. Eligible participants will receive a £10 shopping voucher.

People can sign up now at

https://my.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/service/Private_renter_session_registration

Historic shelter reopens following arson attack



Having been damaged during an appalling arson attack last year, the historic Manwick shelter on Felixstowe's South Seafront has been reopened to the community.

The shelter, along with the nearby Arwela shelter, were fully refurbished in 2018 after suffering significant timber decay, vandalism and weather damage over the years, exacerbated by flooding during tidal surges. This £150,000 project was part of the

Council's ongoing investment in the South Seafront area.

Support available to help businesses recover

Funding and support is available for businesses in East Suffolk which have been, and continue to be, severely affected by Covid-19 restrictions.

Delivered in partnership with the New Anglia Local Enterprise, the new 'Plan for the Future' scheme provides support to local businesses which are looking to bring forward investment projects that will have a significant impact on their business. Eligible businesses will be able to apply for grants of between £5,000 and £25,000 to help support their projects.

Businesses wishing to apply for support should first contact the New Anglia Growth Hub on 0300 333 6536 or email growthhub@newangliagrowthhub.co.uk

Expert and impartial Business Growth Advisers will work with businesses to develop an action plan and complete the application.

See more information at www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/news/support-available-to-help-businesses-recover/

Funding boost for local communities

The Beccles, Bungay, Halesworth and villages Community Partnership has awarded a total of £10,880 through the second round of its Small Grant Scheme to community and voluntary groups, enabling them to deliver projects which addresses local priorities and benefit the wider communities.



Some of the project which have benefit from the scheme include Bungay

Community Support, Singing with Friends, Asperger East Anglia, Beccles Parish team and Eartwake CIC.

Key infrastructure projects to benefit from £6.3m funding

Over £6 million in contributions from new housing developments has been allocated to support the expansion of schools, leisure and health facilities in East Suffolk.

Earlier this month, cabinet agreed to award a total of £6,308,245 in Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding to support seven major projects which are identified within the Local Plan as being key to planned growth within the local area.

CIL is a fee which we can charge developers when new housing is built in the district. CIL can then be put towards improvements to local infrastructure, such as play areas, schools and GP surgeries. We hold a list of key projects which are included in the Local Plan and these projects are then put forward for the latest round of CIL funding.

See more details about the projects at www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/news/key-infrastructure-projects-to-benefit-from-6-3m-funding/

Funding agreed to support First Light 2022

To help ensure an incredible programme of activities at First Light Lowestoft in 2022, we've committed £200,000 to support next year's event.



Plans for the 2022 festival are still being developed but it is hoped that the event will be even larger than 2019, with a focus on young people.

The programme is expected to include a mix of music, international DJs on the main stage, a larger Beach Club Bar, a showcase for talented new musicians and writers, comedy, dance and a late-night silent beach cinema.

Helping young people take the next step

We're continuing to support young people with further funding agreed by cabinet for the East Suffolk Youth Employment Service (YES), which is helping young people, aged between 16 and 24 years old, to find employment and training opportunities.

Delivered by Inspire Suffolk, young people can visit the dedicated YES. Suffolk website at www.yessuffolk.co.uk to view current job opportunities, find training programmes and other support information and advice. Referrals can also be made by community groups. Young people will be allocated an employment coach to support them into appropriate work, education or training. Wellbeing services are also available, provided by Inspire Suffolk.

Work has started on new beach huts in Lowestoft

As part of a wider programme to regenerate the town, work has now started on the construction of brand new, exciting and contemporary beach huts on Lowestoft's seafront.

Designed by Norwich-based architects Chaplin Farrant, the £2.6 million scheme, which is expected to be completed by March 2022, will see the creation of 72 contemporary beach huts on two levels, 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.

A raised decking promenade will also be created to enable people to sit in front of the new huts on the upper level without restricting access to those using the promenade. Ten of the beach huts will be accessible with level access from the lower promenade.



The beach huts are being manufactured by Lowestoft company, P J Spillings, while the platform and ancillary works are being undertaken by M S Oakes – also from the town.

Surveys and consultations

We are currently running a couple 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.

- **Recycling in East Suffolk**

As part of a wider social media campaign, we're currently running a recycling survey to get a better understanding of how much people in East Suffolk know about recycling and what we can do to help when it comes to knowing what items go into what bin. The survey is aimed at social media users only via our online social media accounts and closes tonight.

- **Lound with Ashy, Herringfleet and Somerleyton Neighbourhood Plan**

Lound with Ashby, Herringfleet and Somerleyton Parish Councils have submitted their Neighbourhood Plan to East Suffolk Council and the Broads Authority ahead of it being submitted for independent examination. Once finalised, the Neighbourhood Plan will determine future planning applications in the area.

People can have their say on the consultation until 13 October at

www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/planning/neighbourhood-planning/neighbourhood-plans-in-the-area/lound-ashby-herringfleet-and-somerleyton-neighbourhood-area/