

## **District Councillor's Update for September.**

I have copied out below. A number of the notices that have been issues over the past month. The subject matter is rather complicated so I have avoided translating it into my own words.

### **Community Partnerships.**

The Community Partnership Board for Martlesham, Kesgrave, Fynn Valley and Carlford was held on 11 September. The key priorities were agreed as below.

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Aspects to be addressed for this year:

1. Social isolation and/or loneliness,
2. Environmental care and sustainable transport
3. Support people to age well,
4. Traffic and road safety improvements

Therefore, the grant available for this year (£10,000) will be directed towards the above.

### **Solar Together**

East Suffolk's attempt to encourage the expansion of the use of solar panels across the District in a drive to promote cleaner energy.

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Considering solar power for your home but daunted by the task? Then the Suffolk Climate Change Partnership has good news for you!

Solar Together Suffolk can once again offer you savings on the installation of solar panels for your home. Since 2018, 800 households in Suffolk saved an average of £2000 on the cost of a new solar panel array and £140 a year on energy bills. It's a group-buying scheme that helps you through the process, keeping you informed at every stage.

If you are interested in saving money on your energy bills, generating your own supply of electricity, and helping the environment by reducing your carbon emissions - register today. Registration is free and no-obligation. The more people who register by the deadline of 6 October 2020, the better the price that can be secured and the more clean energy will be generated by Suffolk residents. With solar panels, it is estimated the average household will reduce its annual carbon emissions by nearly one tonne each year - the equivalent of driving 3,500 miles in an average car!

For detailed information about likely costs, the amount of energy you can expect to generate, and lots more go to <http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/solar-together-suffolk>. A freephone helpline is also available to answer questions—call 0800 048 8402.

## **Council considers Sizewell C plans**

EDF Energy have now submitted their application to build Sizewell C power station. There are a number of points that must be addressed for our part of the world. Top of the list is the Park and Ride proposals for Hacheston. This simply could not be achieved if, as they propose, it is accessed via the B1078 through Wickham Market.

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### **East Suffolk Council will continue to seek the best possible outcome for its residents as proposals for a new nuclear power station at Sizewell are progressed.**

Councillors discussed a report at Full Council on 3 September, which presents the authority's emerging views on EDF's proposals.

The Council's priority is to ensure, should the Sizewell C new nuclear power station be granted consent by the Secretary of State, that the best possible outcome is achieved for local communities, by virtue of maximising benefits, minimising adverse impacts, and achieving mitigation and compensatory measures for the district.

Members took the opportunity to ask questions about the proposed approach and Cabinet will now consider the points raised, alongside responses received from parishes and communities.

As part of the DCO process, all interested parties must submit their views on the project (Relevant Representations) to the Planning Inspectorate by 30 September so that the Examiners can consider all issues and prepare an Examination of the proposal.

The Council's draft report considers EDF's submission to the Planning Inspectorate for consent to build the new facility and the discussion at Full Council followed an undertaking by Council Leader, Cllr Steve Gallant, at Full Council in July, that all councillors should be given an opportunity to comment on the Council's submission.

Cllr Craig Rivett, Cabinet Member for Economic Development and deputy Leader said: "The final decision regarding the construction of a new facility is the government's to take, however we know that many people in our communities have concerns which must be recognised. Therefore, it is absolutely vital that we discuss these concerns with councillor colleagues and our communities.

"After a really constructive debate, we are clear that we will continue to work pro-actively with EDF, the government and all stakeholders and communities to get the best possible outcome for East Suffolk. This includes full mitigation of our concerns, or if they cannot be fully addressed, fully funded programmes to further compensate any adverse impacts.

"There are positives to the scheme in relation to the local economy and skills,

however the impacts on our habitat and landscape cannot be overlooked and we will work closely with EDF and other stakeholders to address a range of outstanding issues.”

East Suffolk Council’s Relevant Representation will be considered by Cabinet on 21 September and, if agreed, it will be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate by the 30 September. Receipt of Relevant Representations from all parties to the Planning Inspectorate is the start of the process that will continue through a formal Examination period which East Suffolk Council will take part in, before the Planning Inspectorate’s Examining Authority submit a report to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy who will make the final decision.

### **Green light for new Local Plan**

The Inspector has now published his conclusions on the Suffolk Coastal Local Plan.

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Following an independent examination of the Suffolk Coastal Local Plan, East Suffolk Council have been told it is ‘sound’ by a Government-appointed inspector. The Local Plan sets out an ambitious strategy to guide and manage new development in the former Suffolk Coastal area in a sustainable and plan-led way. It proposes to deliver at least 6,500 jobs and 9,756 new homes over the period to 2036, supported by the delivery of appropriate infrastructure.

The inspection, which is the final stage before adoption, found the plan to be sound subject to some amendments.

Cllr David Ritchie, East Suffolk’s cabinet member for Planning and Coastal Management, said: “We welcome the Report and findings from the Inspector. The new Suffolk Coastal Local Plan has been in development since 2016 and this is a significant milestone for East Suffolk Council as it brings us one step closer to adopting a plan which, together with the already adopted Waveney Local Plan and Broads Authority Local Plan, will see the whole district covered by up to date Local Plans; together providing a positive and planned approach to growth, particularly during these challenging times.”

The Final Draft Plan was approved by then Suffolk Coastal District Council in January 2019 and was then open to the public for final comments. These comments were considered by an independent planning inspector when the plan was submitted to the Government in March 2019, shortly before the creation of East Suffolk Council.

Public hearings were held in August/September 2019 and following this, the Inspector wrote to East Suffolk Council in January 2020 to advise that Main Modifications were needed to the Local Plan for it be ‘sound’. The Main Modifications were open to the public for comments in a ten-week consultation.

Following consideration of the responses for the Main Modification consultation, the Inspector published his final report on 8 September 2020, concluding the Local Plan as legally compliant and ‘sound’, subject to the Main Modifications being made to the plan prior to adoption.

East Suffolk Council’s cabinet will consider the modified Local Plan on 17

September, before the Local Plan is considered for adoption at Full Council on 23 September.

More details on the new Local Plan can be found at

[www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/planning/planning-policy-and-local-plans/suffolk-coastal-local-plan/local-plan-review/](http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/planning/planning-policy-and-local-plans/suffolk-coastal-local-plan/local-plan-review/).

## **Simplified parking tariffs being rolled out**

Following a delay caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, East Suffolk Council has now begun rolling out new parking tariffs across the district – including a simplified pricing structure and free half hour parking across a number of sites.

Reducing over 50 different price points to just three or four main ticket types across the district, the new price structure will see prices reduced or frozen in over 70% of cases. Additionally, the Council has introduced 30 minutes free parking in a number of car parks to support people who have told us that they make regular short visits. This will also support local businesses who will benefit from drivers making quick turnarounds in car parks.

The staggered roll out started in Bungay on 24 August and will continue throughout the district over the next few weeks.

East Suffolk Council is also continuing to make the best use of technology to improve services by making them more efficient, and has seen an increase of 129% on contactless payments in its car parks as visitors take advantage of the simple RingGo app to park with ease and confidence.

Available in all East Suffolk's car parks, RingGo is a quick and easy to use mobile phone service which lets people pay for their parking with a credit or debit card, via an app, rather than using cash at the machine. This means that drivers no longer need to queue at the machine or handle cash to pay for their parking. Go contactless with RingGo [here](#).

Parking management moved from the police to East Suffolk Council in April 2020, to improve parking locally and tackle nuisance and unlawful parking, enabling the Council to address the parking problems that are affecting communities the most. Alongside this, the Council also reviewed how it administered on-street parking permits, exemptions and dispensations. As a result of this, a new online [parking portal](#) has been put in place, enabling residents and others to apply for and manage permits online. This is a new system which is separate to 'My East Suffolk', and people will need to register before using. The system also recognises valid permits from a vehicle's registration number, meaning that permit holders will no longer need to remember to display their permits.

Tony Fryatt

13 September 2020