

District Councillor's Report for January 2020

Much of the time since my last report in November has been taken up with the election and Christmas. However, there have been some developments on several of the issues raised in the last report.

Local Plan

We have not been advised of the date when the Inspector will publish his report. It is expected at the end of January/beginning of February.

Ipswich Northern Route (INR)

It is still expected that SCC will have analysed the results of the consultation by the end of January. (see update from STOP today). These results will then be considered separately by the other members (East Suffolk, West Suffolk and Ipswich). The results will be discussed and analysed at Cabinet. The next Cabinet meeting for East Suffolk is scheduled for the 4th February. All dates at the moment must be treated as provisional.

East Suffolk to battle climate change

In my last report I outlined the vote by East Suffolk Council to step up its positive work on environmental issues to help fight climate change.

One of the major initiatives is the creation of a forum through which Parishes and the public can have a real opportunity to have their opinions heard.

All Parishes Clerks have been given details of the East Suffolk Greenprint Forum through which the public debate can take place. The next meeting will take place on **Monday 3rd February**. I would urge anyone who has some views or ideas as the way forward to attend these meetings if at all possible. It is taking place in Riverside, Lowestoft, but there is a shuttle vehicle from Melton.

Community Partnerships

To bring about closer involvement by ESC at the local level and bring together community groups, we have decided to introduce a scheme of Community Partnerships.

The next meeting for us (Martlesham, Kesgrave and Villages) is on **Thursday 20 February** at the Martlesham Community Hall. Again, we would very much welcome those who have ideas about how our community should grow and the key problems that we face.

Annual Town and Parish Budget and Draft Plan Review.

This was held on Tuesday 14 January. The past meetings have proven to be very helpful to Parishes and also, very informative for the Officers. As well as presenting the budget proposals, the meeting outlined the Strategic Plan for East Suffolk

Parish Council Forum on Planning Procedures

This is the opportunity to air all the problems that you have faced with the planning system directly with the officers. It is scheduled for 24th February at Melton between 0830 and 1130. At the moment, the demand has been so great that currently we have had to refuse any more applicants. However, there is another equivalent session at Lowestoft which has some spare places.

Improvements in sight as date agreed for plans to tackle Suffolk's parking problems

Councils in Suffolk are ramping up activity in order to take on responsibility for local parking management from 6 April 2020.

Parking patrols in Suffolk will soon be managed by district and borough councils, in a bid to improve parking locally and drive down nuisance and unlawful parking in towns and villages across Suffolk.

Traditionally, roadside parking offences were a matter for the Police. However, parking has become a lower priority for them, so Suffolk County Council is transferring this responsibility to local district and borough councils under a process known as civil parking enforcement, or CPE.

Councils already manage public car parks in many towns and villages, so the changes make sense. Suffolk Constabulary is supportive of the move because the transfer of responsibilities will enable them to spend additional time on keeping communities safe and arresting and bringing offenders to justice.

Moving the responsibility from the police to local councils requires that statutory notice is given in Parliament. The parliamentary order will be laid until 30 January.

CPE has been running successfully in Ipswich since 2005; both Ipswich Borough Council and all the district councils have been working collaboratively with Police and Suffolk County Council in the planning stages to ensure a smooth implementation county-wide.

The change will bring many benefits, including:

- greater priority given to parking management locally, to help keep traffic moving;
- district and borough councils empowered to make local decisions to suit local circumstances;

From: Green Issues <GreenIssues@eastsoffolk.gov.uk>
Sent: 13 November 2019 16:46
To: Green Issues <GreenIssues@eastsoffolk.gov.uk>
Subject: Inter-newsletter roundup November 2019

Dear Greenprint Forum members,

The next proper newsletter from the Greenprint Forum will be due out in late December or thereabouts but for the time being please find the following consultation, funding, home and business sustainability development, and knowledge-share opportunities that may be of interest to you and / or your networks:

Consultation on the aquatic environment

The Environment Agency have launched a consultation seeking views on the challenges our waters face and the choices we all need to make to improve and protect this vital and precious resource. Your responses to this consultation will help shape the future approach to managing the water environment and will be used to update the existing river basin management plans in 2021. The **Challenges and Choices consultation** seeks your views on the challenges that threaten the water environment, how the EA and others can work together to manage our waters, and who should pay.

The EA invite you to submit your views **by the deadline of 24 April 2020** via the website: <https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/environment-and-business/challenges-and-choices>

Funding opportunity for community groups taking action on climate change

The National Lottery Community Fund has launched a new **£100 million Climate Action Fund** to help people and communities take local action to tackle the climate emergency. Deadline for submission of initial ideas is **5 December 2019**, which need to then be followed by a full proposal by **27 March 2020**.
<https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/funding/programmes/climate-action-fund>

The new fund aims to build a network of people and communities to drive change within, between and beyond their community. Activities will differ from place to place with one thing in common: the ability to deliver high impact community-led climate action. This includes in areas such as sustainable energy, sustainable transport, consumption, food and protecting and regenerating spaces and habitats.

Solar Together Suffolk – Solar PV collective purchase opportunity STILL OPEN to new registrants!

So far the scheme to make domestic solar PV more affordable for householders through a group purchase approach has 1,048 registrants in Suffolk to date and customer registration will remain open until **13 December**. Anyone registering from now will receive their personal offer immediately.
<https://www.solartogether.co.uk/suffolk/home>

- irresponsible and nuisance parking being enforced – supporting pedestrians, vulnerable road users, public transport services, drivers and emergency services to use the network more safely;
- fines associated with parking will be retained in Suffolk to support the cost of enforcement. Any surplus can be spent on local transport and environmental improvements;
- new jobs created county-wide to support parking management, patrols and enforcement.

Tony Fryatt
15th January 2020

Business Sustainability Toolkit

East Suffolk Council have just launched the new **Business Sustainability Toolkit** for businesses to self-assess their own progress towards sustainability and highlight key areas for potential further improvements, including signposts to sources of support and more detailed information to enable them to make positive changes towards being a more sustainable business:

<https://eastsuffolkmeansbusiness.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Sustainable-Business-Toolkit.pdf>

Next Greenprint Forum event

And don't forget our next public Forum event will be held on the evening of **3 February 2020** at Riverside in Lowestoft, and will be on the theme of climate change and actions around mitigation and adaptation. More details to follow soon.