

Ward Councillor's Report January 2022

Tony Fryatt

A very short report since there have been few new items over the last month. Most Parish Councils will have already been notified.

Free Health and Wellbeing Courses for the over 60s in the Carlford/Fynn Valley villages

After four successful courses in Kesgrave and Martlesham, SPOT Wellbeing are bringing their free Health and Wellbeing Courses to Grundisburgh in February with support from East Suffolk Council's Community Partnership.
2nd February, weekly for 6 weeks at Grundisburgh New Village Hall

6 sessions over six weeks, each with a different theme and an opportunity to meet new people and get advice from Qualified physiotherapists, occupational therapists and more.

Regardless of your current physical condition the course is about helping people to stay as well as possible.

Kesgrave, Martlesham, Rushmere St Andrew and villages Road Safety Forum

A meeting was held on 10 January, primarily to discuss and agree the distribution of the £15,000 the group have to spend this year. A number of grants were made for SID machines but included a contribution to Swilland and Witnesham for speed limits at the Gibraltar Crossroads.

Notice has been sent out inviting Parish Councils to send a representative to the Forum to be held on **17 February 2022**

Members will:

- i. Focus on road and traffic safety issues across the entire geographical area of the Forum
- ii. Attempt to address issues and priorities using a solution-focused and problem-solving approach
- iii. Adapt the agenda to respond to emerging issues if they arise
- iv. Work alongside current provision, such as SAVID (Safer Village Driving), Speed Watch volunteers and others to enhance the actions already being taken
- v. Report quarterly to the Community Partnership meeting, on progress made against priorities
- vi. Develop proposals for expenditure from the Community Partnership budget and other available sources of funding
- vii. Create task and finish groups as required to explore specific issues and report back to the Forum
- viii. Ensure that all decisions have due regard to the impacts on road and traffic safety for the entire geographical area

- ix. Raise specific concerns with the relevant representatives where action is delayed/not taken place. Such concerns should have been previously reported through the publicly available Reporting Tool, and a reference number provided.

Grundisburgh the Chapel Field Application

After considerable effort and objections from Grundisburgh Parish Council, and almost the whole village, the Appeal Inspector has made his report. He has found in favour of the proposed development. The next course of action would be to apply for a Judicial Review, but this would be extremely expensive.

Lorry Survey.

I have not had any feedback from this as yet. The last time I was involved in a similar review to this, it was to establish the Lorry route network in this neck of the woods. We had fine words and promises about the way in which the lorry routes would be policed i.e. speed restrictions, single file lorry traffic and lorries forbidden to join the A12 from the C308.

After 10 years, I can confirm that these controls have been very seldom applied despite a heavy increase in HGV traffic.

We must make sure that this time we do have some control.

Additional help this winter – Household Support Fund

The government has recently made funding available to County Council's and Unitary Authorities in England to support those most in need this winter during the final stages of economic recovery.

Local authorities have discretion on exactly how this funding is used within the scope set out, however the expectation is that it should primarily be used to support households with the most need, by offering support to meet living costs or housing costs (in exceptional cases of genuine emergency).

In all instances where households are struggling with their housing costs, they should contact our Housing Needs Team about their situation, so that we can identify the best option for financial and other support (if applicable).

For other financial advice, we will continue to refer customers to the Citizens Advice or in-house debt advisors, on a case to case basis.

To get in touch please contact East Suffolk Council's main switchboard on 0333 016 2000 so that all relevant information can be sent to the team for assessment and an Officer will be in touch.

Survey of East Suffolk businesses

We are currently looking at the vitality of our town centres and in order to help understand and improve town centres, we need views from local businesses.

One important source of data is capturing the 'business confidence' and perceptions of traders in town centres across the district. By establishing the trading conditions of town centre businesses, we can focus on issues of concerns and how to improve them.

All town centre businesses are encouraged to complete the short survey by Friday 28 January at <https://destinationresearch.typeform.com/towncentres>

Supporting customers to access council services

To ensure residents can continue to access our services in the way that suits them best, our Marina Centre in Lowestoft is open (Tuesdays and Thursdays 10am – 4pm), along with our desks at Woodbridge and Saxmundham Libraries (Wednesdays 10am – 4pm) and at Felixstowe and Leiston Libraries (Fridays 10am – 4pm) – all by appointment only.

The majority of our services are available at www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk and we encourage residents to continue to use these online services wherever possible.

However, anyone with difficulties using these services or who are unable to resolve an issue online, can email or call our Customer Services Team. If still unable to resolve the issue, an appointment can be made for one of our Customer Services locations in person by calling 0333 016 2000.

Residents can also learn how to access our online services and report issues directly, using our new 'digital receptions' which are available at the Marina Centre and libraries. Residents should book an appointment and our fully trained Customer Services staff will be available as 'digital champions' to help them get online.

Surveys and consultations

We are currently running one consultation 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 community

- **The draft East Suffolk Cycling and Walking Strategy**
Consultation on draft document which provides a district-wide shortlist of cycling and walking infrastructure opportunities. The strategy aims to encourage greater use of sustainable forms of transport, reduce contributions to climate change, support the growth of the tourism industry, and to improve

the health and wellbeing of residents by ensuring more trips to work, school, leisure, day-to-day errands, or public transport hubs, such as train stations or park and ride sites, are accessible by bike or on foot. Once adopted, this strategy will replace the Waveney Cycle Strategy (2016) and will cover the whole of the district. The consultation ended on 10 January but details can be found at:

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/cbc57e4a9cc24e4e7d174fb34b1bf0e>

Social media

We keep our communities up to date in a variety of ways and social media has an important role to play. Please follow us and share our posts with your audiences!

Facebook: www.facebook.com/eastsuffolkcouncil

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/EastSuffolk>

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