

## **Tony Fryatt - March Report**

### **Supporting businesses**

#### **Covid Business Grants**

In total, since the launch of a plethora of new business grants in November 2020, ESC has made almost 14,900 separate payments totalling £34.9m to businesses struggling due to enforced closure or severe restrictions on trading. Since the beginning of the pandemic the Council has allocated over £101m of grants.

Following the PM's announcement on the route map out of lockdown a further £9.4m of Covid business grant funding has been allocated to ESC to cover the period 16 February – 31 March. These payments are now being issued and in the vast majority of cases automatically to all eligible businesses.

Businesses in the East Suffolk hospitality sector are also now receiving the new hospitality grant worth up to £9k per business. This is not a central government mandated grant but instead a decision taken by ESC reflecting the severe pressure this sector had faced and its importance to our local communities and the visitor economy. Over £1.6m has now been issued to businesses in the hospitality sector through this new grant.

In order to simplify the process for businesses there is now a streamlined application process which can be found on ESC's Covid business support webpage [COVID-19: business grant funding » East Suffolk Council](#). Once completed ESC will determine which grant businesses are eligible for and make the appropriate payment. In a further bid to simplify and make the process more efficient businesses who have successfully applied for previous Covid grants will receive automatic payments from the current grant schemes.

#### **Business Support**

ESC has been awarded £7.1m of ARG funding to cover the current and next fiscal year. Part of this is intended to cover longer-term business support measures. The ED team have developed draft business support proposals that are in line with our current economic growth priorities and build on the District's economic strengths.

The areas of support cover:

- Digital Transformation
- Town Centre Recovery
- Business Start-up

Cabinet recently approved these new business recovery support programmes and they will be fully developed and implemented in the Spring.

## **Sizewell C**

There has been great concern expressed about the road system capabilities leaving the Woodbridge area. As widely reported, there are now very ambitious plans to improve many of the perceived problems on the A12 from the Woods Lane roundabout to the Seven Hills interchange. These changes should ensure that heavy construction vehicles will be kept on this route. (see the excellent response from Bredfield PC). Unfortunately, there has been no discussion regarding the many minor roads around this route – mainly through Carlford and Fynn Valley. This is particularly relevant to the plans to develop the park and ride scheme at Wickham Market. I have had a meeting with representatives from SZC to highlight this shortcoming.

It was made very clear at the meeting, that there is a roust undertaking from Sizewell C Co. to ensure HGVs for the SZC site will be properly managed and must stick to the agreed (main) routes. So, they will not be allowed to use any of the back roads locally. Secondly, once the information on the Transport Strategy (and signage strategy) is developed, we will be discussed with us. There was a very strong hint that this strategy would contain proposals to make a number of improvements on the B roads in our patch.

## **Kesgrave, Martlesham, Rushmere St Andrew, Purdis Farm, Carlford and Fynn Valley Community Partnership Impact Report 2020/21**

Meeting held on 11 March The first full year of the Community Partnership has faced significant challenges considering the Covid-19 pandemic. Individuals, organisations, and community groups had their focus drawn elsewhere whilst support was provided to the most vulnerable in our community. Regardless of the difficulties faced, the Community Partnership has had a successful year in terms of engagement, funding allocation and addressing the priorities outline in October 2019. The priorities of the Community Partnership are as follows:

- Social isolation and loneliness
- Environmental care and sustainable transport
- Helping people to age well
- Traffic and road safety

The Partnership also saw strong engagement with a range of stakeholders. These included Town/Parish Councils, Community Organisations, Specialist advisors and members of East Suffolk Council and its Councillors.

CIL- total CIL for Fynn Valley and Carlford is approx. £54,500 of Neighbourhood CIL. Some parishes will have plans for their and others won't, but perhaps there's an opportunity to address common concerns by bringing these funds together?

## **Planning**

East Suffolk Council is holding two public consultations from Monday 15<sup>th</sup> March to 5pm Monday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2021.

### **East Suffolk Sustainable Construction Supplementary Planning Document**

The Sustainable Construction SPD will provide guidance on a range of topics including energy efficiency, renewable energy, water conservation, sustainable transport and use of materials, to support the implementation of the Council's adopted Local Plan policies.

The Sustainable Construction SPD will be a material consideration in the determination of planning applications and, once adopted, will replace the [Renewable Energy and Sustainable Construction SPD](#) (September 2013, which relates to the former Waveney Local Planning Authority area only).

This preliminary consultation asks what information should be included in the Supplementary Planning Document and a short questionnaire has been prepared.

### **East Suffolk Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Charging Schedule**

A CIL Charging Schedule sets out the amount that certain kinds of development must pay to help contribute to the delivery of infrastructure in an area.

Preparation has begun on an East Suffolk CIL Charging Schedule and, once adopted, it will replace the two existing Charging Schedules, [one covering the former Suffolk Coastal area](#) and [one the former Waveney area](#). This initial consultation focuses on the basic viability/development cost assumptions, to help underpin the preparation of a Viability Report, which will be a key evidence base for the CIL Charging Schedule. The Council is also consulting on a draft East Suffolk CIL Instalments Policy, which on adoption will replace the two existing CIL Instalments Policies.

Both consultations are available to view online, please visit [www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/planning-policy-consultations](http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/planning-policy-consultations).