**Councillor’s Monthly Bulletin – June 2021**

**from Maurice Cook and Lydia Freeman**

Now that we are, hopefully, emerging from restrictions surrounding the covid-19 pandemic, we will return to producing a monthly report for circulation to Town and Parish Councils. In Framlingham and Villages this will comprise contributions from both District Councillors and will, where possible, include more localised content from around our area reflecting the issues which most occupy our mailboxes and emerging projects as they become apparent.

**Ward News:**

Following complaints raised with us, our Planning Dept have taken developers Persimmon to task for failing to complete perimeter planting at the Mount Pleasant development in Framlingham. A timetable to complete the works has now been agreed and progress will be monitored.

Discussions continue around an application to develop a Solar Farm in the area around Parham airfield. Plans have been submitted and the Parishes of Parham, Marlsford and Gt Glemham will be meeting with us to agree a common response to the proposals.

The revised planning application to build 49 homes on Victoria Mill Road, Framlingham continues to create a significant mailbox. We have renewed our objections to the application. It is certain that this application will, first, be considered either by the Referral Panel or go straight to Planning Committee. In either case we will be advised and will attend and speak in support of our many correspondents.

The delay in the implementation of new parking regulation in Market Hill and the Elms car parks in Framlingham drags on as contractual arrangements with landowners have not been finally agreed. A draft of the on-street parking management regulations, to include proposals for residents parking, is due to be available this week. We will be meeting with Town Councillors shortly to discuss how the interests of the residents can best be supported and form a mutually agreeable strategy for the implementation of both on and off-street parking schemes.

Another issue brought to our attention by residents this month has been the closed footpath on Fairfield Road, Framlingham due to flooding from the adjacent building development. As a non-waterway incident, this is the responsibility of the County Council rather that the Environment Agency and, through our planning dept, We have asked our County Colleagues for advice as to when this issue might be addressed.

The Annual Report of East Suffolk Council has, this year been distributed digitally rather than in printed form. It can be viewed from the following link: [Annual Report – video](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iMUchrZ67Qc)

The video is around 27 minutes long and shows a summary of our last year, including the creation and adoption of our Strategic Plan.

**District News:**

**Landmark development in Felixstowe enters final phase**

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| Last week, the Leader, Steve Gallant, visited the site where a new iconic café is being built on Felixstowe’s South Seafront alongside Cllr Craig Rivett and Cllr Steve Wiles. This was the first time we’ve been able to visit the site since the easing of national restrictions and a lot has happened since we were last there!  We were really pleased with progress and can’t wait to see the finished result later this summer. | A group of people wearing safety vests and safety vests standing in front of a tent  Description automatically generated with low confidence |

The construction is entering the final phase and once completed, it will house the new café which will no doubt play a key role in helping Felixstowe as it starts to recover from the impact of Covid-19 by not only supporting tourism, but also offering local employment opportunities – making the South Seafront an exciting place to visit, live, work and invest.

**Council adopts new Air Quality Strategy**The drive for clean air and minimal pollution in East Suffolk has taken a step further after Cabinet unanimously agrees to adopt a new Air Quality Strategy.

Bringing together current policies and initiatives which have an impact on air quality, the robust strategy will now become an integrated part of our decision making, meaning that air quality will be a major consideration on a local and strategic level going forward.

It supports our vision of building environmentally sustainable communities, and enabling sustainable travel options, delivering more educational campaigns, promoting eco-friendly development and becoming carbon neutral by 2030 are just some of the objectives we seek to deliver.

Read the new Air Quality Strategy at [www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/assets/Environment/Environmental-Protection/Air-Quality/AQ-Strategy-2021.pdf](http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/assets/Environment/Environmental-Protection/Air-Quality/AQ-Strategy-2021.pdf)

**Flood project online visitor centre open**

The Lowestoft Flood Risk Management Project launched a virtual visitor centre last week to provide information about the development and construction of the tidal flood walls and tidal barrier. Using gaming technology, the virtual centre provides information about the history of the project, how it has progressed and the ways in which it provides opportunities for Lowestoft. The centre will be open for the duration of the project and regularly updated with new information at <https://lfrmp.virtualconsultation.co.uk/>.

**Approval for Council’s innovative Housing scheme**

We are delighted that an exciting and innovative scheme to redevelop the Former Deben school site in Felixstowe has received planning consent.

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| A picture containing outdoor, building, walking, house  Description automatically generated | The proposed housing development, which the council itself will deliver, will seek to set the very highest standards in green technology and underlines our commitment to innovation and designing for a more sustainable future.  Meanwhile, outline planning permission |

has been secured for a leisure element with a significant proportion of the site to be set aside for indoor and outdoor sport, and new footpaths providing pedestrian links.

**Appointments made for Southwold Harbour Management Committee**

Following a thorough recruitment process, we have now appointed four independent members of the Southwold Harbour Management Committee – a newly formed body, responsible for running the Harbour on our behalf.

Interviews for the independent roles took place earlier in May and, with ratification by Cabinet, the chosen four will join the committee, after being assessed by a three-person Appointments Panel consisting of Cllr Steve Gallant, Cllr Ian Bradbury (Southwold Town Council) and Mrs Lucy Parson, a consultant who specialises in Ports and Harbours.

They will join five Cabinet Members, who were requested to complete a Skills Audit form, setting out their suitable skills and, on that basis, were assessed to meet the criteria required. These are Cllrs Craig Rivett, James Mallinder, Maurice Cook, David Ritchie and Letitia Smith.

The Appointments Panel also unanimously agreed that the following candidates be recommended to Cabinet for their appointment as independent, co-opted members on the HMC: Mr Alistair MacFarlane, Mr David Gledhill, Mr Richard Musgrove and Mr Mike Pickles.

**Bold new beach huts will put Lowestoft on the map**

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| As part of wider work to regenerate the town, exciting and modern beach hurts are to be built at Lowestoft’s seafront after Planning Committee North approved the scheme at Jubilee Parade. | A picture containing sky, outdoor  Description automatically generated |

Designed by Norwich-based architects Chaplin Farrant, the £2.6m project will create split level beach huts, 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.

**Historic England funding**

As part of the London Road Lowestoft High Street Heritage Action Zone (HSHAZ), we have received £90,000 funding from Historic England to create and deliver community-led cultural activities over the next three years: [www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/news/high-street-heritage-action-zone-awarded-funding-for-cultural-programme/](http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/news/high-street-heritage-action-zone-awarded-funding-for-cultural-programme/)

**East Suffolk chosen by Government to test use of digital tools in planning**

I am delighted that East Suffolk is one of 10 local authorities to be chosen to participate in national testing of digital tools in the planning process, announced by the Housing Minister earlier this week.

The pathfinder programme will look at the digital transformation of local plans which will increase community involvement and speed up the planning process. By introducing a digital system that makes plans map-based and accessible online, local people in East Suffolk will be able to engage with planning, which will help get homes built quicker.

We will test how existing local plans translate into the new system, moving away from long text documents to an interactive map with accompanying annotation document.   
  
The adoption of existing site allocation policies into the proposed land categorisation format will enable planners to understand the impact of proposed land designations and associated policy implications on land allocations and inform a wide range of policies across the reform programme.

Community engagement will continue to play a key role to ensure that the right levels of growth are identified to meet the needs of our local communities. In the new system digital tools will be key for making planning proposals more accessible and interactive, supporting the ambition for more effective community engagement.

**Surveys and consultations**

We are currently running a number 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.

* **Supporting older people’s housing needs**

This survey will help develop a new Older People’s Housing Strategy to support older people’s housing needs in East Suffolk so they can continue to live fulfilling lives in the right type of housing. The survey is open until 5pm on Friday 9 July at <https://eu.surveymonkey.com/r/ESC_Survey_OPHS_May2021>

* **Vote for your favourite name for proposed beach village**

We have submitted a planning application for a new beach village in Felixstowe, aimed at improving the beach hut experiencing by creating accessible facilities that enables families and groups to enjoy everything the beach and town has to offer. As part of this, we’re looking for a new name for the site and are asking local people to vote for their favourite out of 5 suggestions in a survey which closes at 5pm on Friday 30 July at <https://eu.surveymonkey.com/r/BeachVillage>

* **Improving privately rented homes in East Suffolk**

We have partnered with Generation Rent, the national campaigning body for private renters, for a pilot consultation to help us improve homes in East Suffolk. As part of this, private renters in the Harbour & Normanston ward, Beccles & Worlingham ward and Aldeburgh & Leiston ward are invited to share their experiences of renting privately in a survey which is open until Monday 21 June at <https://my.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/service/Private_Renters_Survey>.

This will be followed up later this year with forums and focus group discussions.

* **Southwold Neighbourhood Plan**

People can now have their say on the Southwold Neighbourhood Plan until 5pm on Friday 9 July at <https://eastsuffolk.inconsult.uk/SouthwoldNP/consultationHome>

When finalised, the Plan will act as a guide to development in the town and will be required to be used by anyone considering, or making, a planning application.

* **Residential development brief for land north of Union Lane, Oulton**

Residential development briefs are being prepared for a number of sites allocated in the East Suffolk Local Plans. The first residential development brief to be prepared is for WLP2.14 (Land north of Union Lane, Oulton) - the site is allocated for approximately 150 homes in the Waveney Local Plan. People can now submit their views in a public consultation, which is open until 5pm on Monday 21 June, at <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/24fdfdf19a9d49228f7b9860a4048b25>

* **Understanding the hidden impact of periods**

Our Communities Team is currently carrying out a survey to get a clearer picture of how people in East Suffolk are affected by their periods. This will enable us to provide the necessary support and reduce the stigma associated with the menstrual cycle. The survey is open until Friday 18 June at <https://eu.surveymonkey.com/r/3W3LFPF>

**Diary dates**

* 7th June: 10:30am – Strategic Planning Committee (Riverside)
* 7th June: 6pm – Community Partnership Board (Zoom)
* 8th June: 2pm – Planning Committee North (Riverside)
* 14th June: 6pm – Beccles, Bungay, Halesworth and villages Community Partnership (Zoom)
* 15th June: 2pm – Licensing Sub-Committee (Riverside)
* 17th June: 6.30pm – Scrutiny Committee (TBC)
* 22nd June: 11am – Anglia Revenues and Benefits Partnership (Breckland House)
* 22nd June: 6pm – Lowestoft and northern parishes Community Partnership (remote)
* 24th June: 2pm – Felixstowe Peninsula Community Partnership (Zoom)
* 29th June: 2pm – Planning Committee South (ESH)
* 1st July: 6pm – Framlingham, Wickham Market and villages Community Partnership (TBC)
* 7th July: 6pm – Melton, Woodbridge and Deben Peninsula Community Partnership (Zoom)

Next newsletter is due on Friday 9th July