



**November 2019 Newsletter**  
**Cllr Karen Soons 07864 601 887**  
**Karen.soons@suffolk.gov.uk**

## **Thousands of illegal cigarettes seized in Lowestoft raids**

Trading Standards has successfully targeted Lowestoft retailers in illegal tobacco raids, seizing 21,880 cigarettes and 10.9kg of rolling tobacco.

The raids, which took place in October, involved officers from Trading Standards and Suffolk Police who targeted four different premises in the town.

The cigarettes and tobacco failed a visual inspection as genuine products. Investigations into the seizures will continue and shop owners will face a formal interview.

It is illegal for anyone to supply and possess-for-supply such tobacco, be it smuggled, bootlegged or counterfeit. With these cheap products on the market, it is easier for young people to become hooked on smoking and makes it harder for people to quit and remain smoke free.

Another consideration of illegal cigarettes is the fire risk they often pose. When genuine cigarettes are left for a period of time, they are designed to self-extinguish, reducing the risk of fires starting if left unattended. This design became European law in 2011, but many illegal cigarettes do not self-extinguish, increasing the risk of accidental fires.

### **Councillor Richard Rout, Cabinet Member for Environment and Public Protection at Suffolk County Council, said:**

“In the last twelve months, our Trading Standards team has led four successful prosecutions against those who have sold illegal tobacco. Sentences passed by the judge have seen total fines running into tens of thousands of pounds, alongside suspended prison sentences.

“It is an activity we simply will not tolerate; it has a negative impact on public health and honest businesses. If you buy or sell illegal tobacco, it is stealing from the taxpayer - it's money that could be spent on important public services like schools and hospitals. We will continue to pursue traders of illegal tobacco.”

Legal tobacco is easy to spot, it should be in plain packaging, with safety warning pictures and any writing should be in English. Any packages that do not have the above will be illegal for sale.

You can anonymously report someone for selling illicit tobacco by calling the national Citizens Advice consumer helpline on 03454 040506.

## **New and improved recycling centre to open next month**

A new and improved recycling centre will open in Bury St Edmunds at the end of November.

The flagship site in Fornham Road will replace the current recycling centre at Rougham Hill, Bury St Edmunds, which will close its doors permanently.

Opening soon, this will be the first open air site in Suffolk where all containers can be accessed by the public from ground level, removing the need for steps. Visitors will be able to recycle the same wide range of materials currently available at the Rougham Hill Recycling Centre.

A charity Reuse shop, which will take materials suitable for reuse from our recycling centres, will also be opening on site towards the end of the year.

Paul West, Cabinet Member for Waste at Suffolk County Council, said: "This new flagship site will be a significant asset to people in west Suffolk.

"It is purpose-built to enable residents to recycle and reuse their rubbish safely and efficiently and as all the containers are now on one level, there are no steps to contend with. It is also a safer site with lorries emptying containers in a totally separate area."

Suffolk's Recycling Centres are operated by FCC Environment on behalf of Suffolk County Council. All the staff from Rougham Hill will be transferred to the new site.

Once the Rougham Hill recycling site is closed, all site users should take their waste to the new Fornham Road site. No waste or recycling can be left by the gates or in the vicinity of the old site. This will be classed as fly-tipping, which is a criminal offence and is liable to prosecution.

For more information on the new Recycling Centre at Fornham Road and on fly-tipping please visit [www.suffolkrecycling.org.uk](http://www.suffolkrecycling.org.uk)

## **New and improved Public Right of Way set for reconstruction**

On 16 October it was announced that Suffolk Highways will begin work on reconstructing the bridleway at Rougham Road in Bury St Edmunds, utilising recycled materials in the construction.

The improvement works will continue for seven weeks. During this time, access through the Public Right of Way bridleway will be maintained by the Suffolk Highways workforce. However, from 25 November, for two weeks, a full closure will be required.

The project will cost approximately £150k to construct and will provide a traffic-free route between south east Bury St Edmunds and Suffolk Park avoiding junction 44. The new bridleway will also link through to Sustrans National Cycle Route 13, providing access into the Moreton Hall estate, Suffolk business parks and the new Rougham Tower Avenue and Sybil Andrews Academy.

The route is a continuation of Rougham Road, providing a route beyond the lorry park on the old road surface running parallel to the A14.

Suffolk Highways worked very closely with West Suffolk Council, which had identified this route as a possible new sustainable connection in the town, and the landowner. As part of the improvement works, Suffolk Highways will be trialling solar powered lighting. Much like road studs, these units will provide a delineation of the route to assist users along the bridleway.

The lighting provides low level illumination to guide users, it is not designed to replace street lighting.

### **Richard Rout, Conservative Councillor for Hardwick said:**

“I welcome the plans to improve the bridleway at Rougham Hill for walkers and cyclists. The route becomes very muddy during the winter months, making the surface unpleasant and uneven for users.”

“I am looking forward to seeing the completed bridleway and hopefully an increase in residents using it to access the Moreton Hall area and town centre.”

### **Councillor Andrew Reid, Suffolk County Council’s Cabinet Member responsible for Roads, Transport and Rural Affairs, said:**

“I welcome the improvements to the bridleway and to showcase the use of recycled materials as well as the solar lighting. This scheme will contribute to Suffolk’s commitment to becoming the UK’s greenest county.”

## Suffolk County Council leader announces Cabinet reshuffle

On 15 October, Councillor Matthew Hicks, the Leader of Suffolk County Council, announced changes to the councillors in his Cabinet.

The reshuffle creates closer links between key policy areas such as the environment and Sizewell C and brings new ideas into the Council's Cabinet.

In the reshuffle:

- Councillor Mary Evans remains as Deputy Leader and moves into the role of Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Skills.
- Councillor Gordon Jones moves into the role of Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources.
- Councillor Andrew Reid joins the Cabinet as Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Rural Affairs.
- Councillor Richard Smith leaves the Cabinet after four and half years in the role.
- Councillor Nick Gowrley takes on additional responsibility for the County Council's property portfolio and assets, in addition to his responsibilities as Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Housing and Enterprise.
- Councillor Richard Rout takes on responsibility for the council's policy on Sizewell C, in addition and linked to his role as Cabinet Member for Environment and Public Protection.

All other Cabinet positions remain the same.

In addition to the Cabinet changes, Councillor Karen Soons becomes chair of the Pension Fund Committee, a position previously held by Councillor Andrew Reid.

### **Councillor Matthew Hicks, leader of Suffolk County Council, said:**

"I am confident that my Cabinet will continue to prioritise the needs of the people of Suffolk whilst making the difficult decisions that come with the role.

"It is important that we refresh and revise the way in which we work so we can continue to challenge ourselves, expand our skill and expertise and improve what we do.

"I want to thank Richard Smith for his time as cabinet member for finance. He has made an outstanding contribution in ensuring we manage our finances in a measured, effective and prudent way and I know he will continue to make a difference to Suffolk residents."

## Suffolk's gritting fleet gets personal

On 14 October, SprEd Sheeran, Benjamin Gritten and Grit Rhys Jones joined the ranks of Suffolk's gritting service as Suffolk Highways announced its newly named gritting fleet.

During the summer, Suffolk Highways asked attendees at the Suffolk Show to suggest names for its 41 gritting lorries as part of its first ever Gritter Naming Competition. The service received over 500 suggestions, the names were then judged by a panel including Councillor Mary Evans and BBC Radio Suffolk's Mark Murphy.

The people who suggested the winning names were invited to Suffolk Highways' depot at Phoenix House in Ipswich for a certificate presentation and photo with some of the gritting fleet.

Suffolk's gritters now have their names proudly displayed on the front and side of their cabs and are ready to grit the roads when the weather gets colder.

### **Councillor Mary Evans, Suffolk County Council's Deputy Leader and then Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Rural Affairs, said:**

"It has been fantastic to see the enthusiasm from Suffolk's children and adults during Suffolk's first ever naming of the gritters.

"The activity has drawn Suffolk residents closer to our gritting service and helped personalise the fleet, whilst celebrating the fantastic commitment shown from all those involved in the winter service year after year. "

I want to say a huge thank you and congratulations to all those who put forward the winning names for our gritters. I will be very excited to see the gritters out and about keeping our county safe and moving during the winter."

Residents will be able to follow the gritting activity on Twitter at [@Suff\\_Highways](#) during the season and if they spot one of the newly named gritters in action they can send a picture to us on Twitter at [@Suff\\_Highways](#) [#WinterReady](#)

## Braking Point returns to help young adults stay safe on Suffolk's roads

The Suffolk Roadsafe board is working with 16 and 17-year-old students to encourage young people to stay safe on Suffolk's roads.

The Suffolk Roadsafe board is a partnership between Suffolk County Council, Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service, the Police and Crime Commissioner, Suffolk Constabulary, Highways England, and the East of England Ambulance Service.

The Road Safety Team's Braking Point project relaunched in the week of 7 October and will be visiting 20 schools across Suffolk to deliver the Braking Point play. The play, delivered by Performance in Education, is designed to encourage the safe behaviours of both drivers and passengers.

Once the theatre tour ends, just before the autumn half-term, the Road Safety team will provide classroom-based follow-up sessions in schools, which will continue to run into 2020. These sessions are designed to change student behaviour by normalising sensible decision making on the highway. These interactive sessions have been shown to shift students' attitudes to road safety and to provide them with more knowledge which they can take forwards as they become responsible drivers on Suffolk's roads.

Find out more information about Braking Point on the [Suffolk Roadsafe website](#).

## **Suffolk primary school scoops sustainable travel award**

Children from Barrow Primary School have been recognised for their efforts in encouraging active travel to school.

A recent study shows that more pupils are now walking and cycling to and from school. Car use has dropped in comparison to previous years and pupils' awareness of road safety and environmental issues has also improved.

Barrow Primary School is now one of three schools in Suffolk to achieve a Bronze Modeshift STARS award – a national scheme which recognises schools which have demonstrated excellence in supporting cycling, walking and other forms of sustainable travel.

The award scheme encourages schools across England to implement their own travel plans to increase levels of sustainable and active travel in order to improve the health and well-being of children and young people.

The primary school's journey to achieve the Bronze accreditation began when pupils and teachers decided to implement a Travel Plan to encourage sustainable travel. Following the implementation of the plan, 36% of pupils now usually travel to school by active travel (walk, bike and scooter) with a further 23% using the park and stride option (being driven to a location away from the school and walking the rest of the distance).

The school worked with colleagues from Suffolk County Council and the local community to develop the travel plan.

**Councillor Andrew Reid, Suffolk County Council's Cabinet Member responsible for Highways, Transport and Rural Affairs, said:**

“It is fantastic to see the measures that Barrow Primary School has put in place to encourage more parents/carers and children to consider sustainable transport on the school run.

“As more children are aware of the current climate emergency the Modeshift STARS awards are an ideal way for schools, pupils and parents to join forces and reduce the impact of the school run and make active travel an attractive alternative, even if it’s just a few days a week.” “Keep up the good work Barrow Primary School.”

**County Councillor Karen Soons for Thingoe South, said:**

“I am thrilled that Barrow School has been recognised for their work in encouraging children travel to school in sustainable ways. This will not only benefit the children’s fitness and wellbeing but will benefit Barrow’s environment and air quality.”

For more information about Modeshift STARS please visit [modeshiftstars.org](https://modeshiftstars.org)

## **First time central heating systems for Suffolk residents**

A further 200 Suffolk homes without central heating will soon be able to have their first ever system installed.

On 7 October it was reported that Suffolk’s local authorities have secured an additional £760,000 of funding from the Warm Homes Fund. This will enable the installation of 204 first time central heating systems in eligible, fuel-poor households across Suffolk over the next three years.

This is in addition to the original funding secured by the partnership in 2017 for 514 systems, over 200 of which have already been delivered.

Around four million UK households are in fuel poverty, unable to affordably heat their home to the temperature needed to stay warm and healthy. As well as being on low incomes many of these households are also faced with the additional burden of relying on heating systems that are inefficient and expensive to run.

**A resident who has received a central heating system as part of the project said:**

“Many thanks for all your help and enabling me to be warm this winter and in the future - without which I don’t know what I would have done”.

The £150m Warm Homes Fund was established by National Grid using part of the proceeds from the sale of the company’s majority stake in its gas distribution business. It funds the installation of affordable heating solutions in fuel poor households which don’t use mains gas as their primary source of heat.

The Suffolk project is being managed by Suffolk County Council, administered by Suffolk Warm Homes Healthy People based at East Suffolk Council and is supported

with further funding from Ipswich Borough, Babergh District, Mid-Suffolk District, East Suffolk and West Suffolk Councils.

Alongside the first-time central heating system, eligible households can also benefit from new insulation measures to make their homes more energy efficient, as well as grants from the Suffolk Community Foundation's 'Surviving Winter Appeal'.

**Councillor Richard Rout, Suffolk County Council Cabinet Member for Environment and Public Protection said:**

"I am delighted that this extra funding has been secured. Suffolk's local authorities work very hard to secure funding to support our most vulnerable residents and this additional funding will help even more fuel poor households stay warm and healthy.

"I would encourage anyone who does not have a central heating system and finds it a challenge to afford their energy bills to contact Suffolk Warm Homes Healthy People on **03456 037686** quoting the **Warm Homes Fund** or visit [www.greensuffolk.org/whf](http://www.greensuffolk.org/whf) to find out more."

## **Launch of the Annual Public Health Report - Suffolk Through a Child's Eyes**

The Annual Public Health Report, 'Suffolk Through a Child's Eyes' was launched at the Health and Wellbeing Board Conference on 2 October.

This year's Annual Public Health Report – an independent report from the director of public health – focuses on what it is like to live and grow up in Suffolk from a child's perspective.

Integral to this year's report is the accompanying short film produced in conjunction with Signals (an arts and education charity) and Public Health Suffolk, to capture what Suffolk children and young people think about four topics; Friends and Family; Feelings; Fit and Healthy and Future Hopes and Dreams. Watch the film on the Healthy Suffolk website <https://www.healthysuffolk.org.uk>

Their feedback has been used, together with local and national evidence, to produce the report's recommendations. These recommendations form areas for action, and focus on how families, practitioners and policy makers can continue to support all children in Suffolk to reach their full potential.

**Stuart Keeble, Director of Public Health at Suffolk County Council, said:**

"Through the Health and Wellbeing Board, organisations across Suffolk have committed to work together to give children in Suffolk the best start in life.

"For this year's Annual Public Health Report, we engaged with children and young people in Suffolk to understand what Suffolk looks like through a child's eyes.



“The report shows how children value their families, friends and the opportunities available to them. However, it also clearly demonstrates the different experiences children have within Suffolk. Our more disadvantaged children tend to have poorer health and wellbeing and fewer opportunities, and this needs to change.

"Organisations in Suffolk are already doing a lot to improve the lives of children with the highest level of need, and today's conference has brought these groups together to address these recommendations so we can move towards all Suffolk children having what they deserve, the best start in life."

The Health and Wellbeing strategy has recently been refreshed for 2019-22 and identifies four key priorities:

- Every Child in Suffolk to have the Best Start in Life
- People of working age are supported to optimise their health and wellbeing
- Older People in Suffolk have a Good Quality of Life
- People in Suffolk have the Opportunity to Improve their Mental Health and Wellbeing.

The Annual Public Health Report addresses the Health and Wellbeing Board's first priority: 'Every child in Suffolk to have the best start in life'. The full report can be viewed on the Healthy Suffolk website <https://www.healthysuffolk.org.uk>.

**Register to vote by 5pm 26<sup>th</sup> Nov to be able to vote in the general election on the 12<sup>th</sup> of December <https://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote>**

**Postal vote application forms can be obtained from me or the website above and need to arrive at the**

**Election Office, West Suffolk House, Western Way, Bury St Edmunds IP33 3YU no later than 5pm 26<sup>th</sup> Nov. Useful details below should you have any queries?**

**Election Hotline 01284 757 131**

**Email [elections@westsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:elections@westsuffolk.gov.uk)**