



# October 2018 Monthly Parish Newsletter Cllr Karen Soons

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## Suffolk's businesses invited to comment on fair enforcement

On 24 September, Suffolk's businesses and residents were invited to comment on Suffolk County Council Trading Standards' proposed updated Enforcement Policy.

This policy is used to make sure Trading Standards enforces the law fairly, to keep Suffolk safe.

Suffolk County Council Trading Standards carries out a range of enforcement action in the county, from investigating online sales of counterfeit clothing to fraudulent business practices or poor workmanship by rogue traders.

Often such investigations involve working with partner agencies. This year, Suffolk County Council Trading Standards has been working more closely with Norfolk County Council Trading Standards to develop a joined-up approach to enforcement, including cross-border crime.

This updated policy incorporates guidance from Norfolk, to offer a consistent approach to enforcement in the East. It provides a framework to ensure that enforcement is delivered in an equitable, practical and consistent manner.

Comments are invited on the newly revised Enforcement Policy which includes proposed changes arising from changes to legislation and national guidance.

The proposed Enforcement Policy and a short survey can be found on the [Trading Standards draft enforcement policy consultation](#) page.

Comments can be made until 21 October 2018, after which the policy will be updated as appropriate and presented to the Suffolk County Council cabinet for approval.

## Have your say on a bright future for local design

Inspired by award-winning designer Wayne Hemingway, a ground-breaking "Design Guide" for building and development in Suffolk is being created by the county's local authorities.

Critical to its success will be local input and, with this in mind, a survey was launched on 17 September to ensure that the views of Suffolk people play a key role in future

decisions. The [survey](#) asks people to say what they do and don't like about the way Suffolk is currently built, from its public buildings to street lighting.

The survey, which takes as little as 10 minutes to complete, closes on Wednesday 31 October 2018.

Although other counties have produced similar guides, this will be the first that incorporates the wishes and opinions of the people that matter most: those that live (or have lived) in, work in or visit the county. Essentially, the people that love Suffolk.

The survey is just the start of the process and the councils will work with other public bodies, land owners, developers, parish councils, architects, engineers, artists, and amenity groups to finalise the finished guide. A wide range of events will also take place including conferences, study tours, community events, developer meetings and interactive exercises.

The Suffolk Design Guide will provide ground rules for planning applications for future Suffolk projects.

## **Window now open to apply for primary and secondary school places**

Parents and carers can now apply for primary and secondary school places for September 2019.

The deadline for applications to secure a place at a Suffolk secondary school is Wednesday 31 October 2018. For a primary school it is Wednesday 15 January 2019. Secondary schools include high and upper schools and primary schools includes infant, junior and middle schools.

Last year, Suffolk County Council received over 15,000 applications from parents and carers indicating which school they would prefer their child to be educated at. 93% of applicants received offers for their first preference school and more than 98% of applicants received an offer for one of their top three preferred schools.

This year, parents and carers will also need to consider the changes to Suffolk's School Travel Policy, which were agreed by Suffolk County Council's Cabinet on 19 June 2018. The new policy will assess eligibility for funded school travel to the nearest suitable school with a place available. More information about the changes is available at [www.suffolk.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/admissions).

Parents and carers should apply online at [www.suffolk.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/admissions) as, that way, they will receive confirmation that their application has been received. If for any reason parents and carers are unable to apply online, they should apply on a paper CAF1 application form. Suffolk County Council is unable to acknowledge receipt of paper applications and therefore suggest that proof of posting is obtained.

A completed application must be submitted for every child wanting a secondary school place or a primary school place from September 2019. If parents and carers are planning to move house, or think their circumstances may change before

September, it is still important to make an application on time. Advice and guidance about this process is available at [www.suffolk.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/admissions).

Those who apply online will be able to log on to the Online Service on the National Offer Day, Friday 1 March 2019 for secondary school places and Tuesday 16 April for primary school places, to see their offer of a school place. They will receive an email to confirm this offer on the same day. Offer letters will be sent by second class post to applicants, who made a paper application.

Information to help parents and carers make their application is available at [www.suffolk.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/admissions).

## **Search on to find Suffolk's most active communities**

On 12 September, Suffolk County Council and Suffolk Association of Local Councils launched their annual search to find the most active town and villages in Suffolk.

The idea behind the competition, now in its fifth year, is to recognise and celebrate the hard work that communities across Suffolk, both large and small, do to encourage their residents to be active.

It seeks to find the most active town, most active large village (population of more than 1,000) and most active small village (population of less than 1,000).

Besides the honour of being named as the most active town or village in Suffolk the winner from each category will receive an engraved brass plaque as a permanent recognition of their achievement.

In 2017 the award winners were Mendham and Withersdale Street, (who triumphed for the second year running) Shotley, Stradbroke and Kesgrave.

Entry forms for this year's competition can be downloaded from [www.mostactivecounty.com](http://www.mostactivecounty.com). The closing date for entries is Wednesday 17th October 2018.

Shortlisted communities from each category will be invited to the SALC AGM on the 6th November 2018 where the winners and runners up will be announced.

## **New approach agreed for the development of specialist education placements in Suffolk**

On 11 September, Suffolk County Council's Cabinet agreed a recommendation to introduce a new approach to the development of specialist education placements for children and young people.

The need will be met in Suffolk by developing a combination of new specialist support centres and new special schools, using independent placements from private providers for only a small number of very specialist needs.

A policy development panel will be established immediately to realise these local education places as swiftly as possible.

The demand for specialist education places in Suffolk is rising rapidly due to the county's population growth, advances in medicine and increasing complexity of special educational needs. The challenges Suffolk is facing mirror the national picture.

Work has already taken place in the county to deal with the increase in demand for specialist education places.

A new special school in Lowestoft opened in September 2017 and following Department for Education approval another special school will open in Ipswich in 2020.

Several of the county's existing special schools have expanded and a new campus with additional space for Riverwalk School in Bury St Edmunds opened this September.

Work has also taken place to establish a number of additional specialist small groups for specific local needs.

## **New support for those bereaved by suicide**

On 10 September 2018, Suffolk's suicide prevention steering group announced it will be launching a new service to support individuals, families and others bereaved by suicide.

The 12-month pilot service will be joint funded by Suffolk County Council (SCC) Public Health and Ipswich & East Suffolk and West Suffolk Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs). The total funding for the service is £30,000, with Suffolk County Council providing £22,000 and CCGs funding £8,000.

The service will be operated by Listening Ear. They will work in close partnership with the police, coroner service and other partners to offer support following notification of a suspected suicide, including one-to-one individual support, practical help and signposting to local services that can help.

When the new service launches, it will be widely advertised in Suffolk with options for self-referral and referral by professionals.

Suffolk's suicide prevention strategy was launched in October 2016 with the aim of reducing the number of suicides in Suffolk by 10% by 2021 which, in Suffolk, would equate to six deaths a year. Since then, more than 400 people in Suffolk have been trained to prevent suicide and 150 have become "Suffolk Life Savers" as part of a far-reaching campaign to reduce the number of people in the county who take their own lives.

The suicide prevention partnership comprises health and wellbeing partners including Suffolk County Council Public Health, police, coroner, Clinical Commissioning Groups, Samaritans, Suffolk Mind, Healthwatch Suffolk and others.

## **Decades of service and bravery recognised across Suffolk's fire service**

On 5 September, firefighters, staff and members of the public were honoured for their bravery and commitment at the annual Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service awards. This year has been exceptionally busy for the Fire Service, mainly due to the long, hot summer which has contributed to so many field fires.

41 certificates of merit and awards for good conduct and service were presented, including Special Certificates of Long Service to staff who have each given over 40 years of duty.

Peter Banthorpe, a member of the public, was recognised for his quick-thinking and life-saving actions during a kitchen fire in an Ipswich house. His selfless bravery not only saved the occupant but also significantly reduced fire damage to the property.

The Volunteer of the Year award was presented to John Sones, who is a Community Fire Volunteer. John has been supporting events, carrying out community safety work across Suffolk, making homes visits to install smoke alarms and advising people how to keep their property safe.

Ruth Elliott and Charlotte Godfrey received Recruit of the Year awards, for achieving exceptionally high marks in courses and exams, and for inspiring others. The Alan Soards Award for Best Fire Station went to Wickhambrook, which celebrated its 50th anniversary this year.

## The 2018 Suffolk Care Home Olympics coming soon

The 3rd annual Suffolk Care Home Olympics starts in October 2018.

The purpose of the competition is to give care home residents a fun and enjoyable experience of sport whilst also highlighting the importance of physical activity within social care settings.

Residents of Childwick House in Newmarket are set to defend their crown, in what is expected to be a hotly contested competition.

Organisers, Elatus Sports and Suffolk County Council, are expecting around 40 care homes to take part.

Last year 300 residents, up to the age of 102 years, in 29 care settings across Suffolk competed in 3 sports (Boccia, fishing and curling) over the autumn and winter months.

Older adults who participate in any amount of physical activity gain some health benefits, including maintaining good physical and cognitive function. Some physical activity is better than none, and more physical activity provides greater health benefits.

With Suffolk's older population expected to rise significantly over the next 20 years or so, initiatives like this are really important to our ambition of becoming the Most Active County in England.

## Upcoming We Are Listening events

Suffolk residents are invited to come along and chat with the Leader of the Council, other county councillors and senior managers about their concerns and ideas for the county of Suffolk. The following We Are Listening events are scheduled for the remainder of 2018:

- **Haverhill:** Friday 12 October
- **Ipswich:** Thursday 25 October