

## Borough Councillors report February 2019

- 1. £14 million package** to improve safety and reduce congestion on the **A1307** from Haverhill through Linton starts this month. St Edmundsbury has long campaigned for improvements to be made on this road.
- 2. Next year marks 1000 years since The Abbey of St Edmund** was founded, people can discover more about the history when the findings of two major studies are unveiled for the first time this month. Both studies were commissioned by the Abbey of St Edmund Heritage Partnership of which the Borough Council is a partner. A summary of the studies are available at the Cathedral tourist information point, library, Apex or on line at [www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/abbeyofstedmund](http://www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/abbeyofstedmund)
- 3. Extension to the Lark Valley Path** British Sugar has agreed a long-term lease with the Council for a piece of land that runs alongside the Bury St Edmunds factory and the River Lark, so it can be opened up. This will create an attractive nature walk running from Barton Hill to Bury Train Station and create an extension to the Lark Valley Path.
- 4. Smart energy pilot.** West Suffolk councils made a successful bid for £335,500 to pilot smart energy solutions including developing a local smart grid, installing solar power on buildings and new battery technology and storage including that planned for the Mildenhall Hub.
- 5. Work continues on the move to one West Suffolk Council.** For instance, a single licensing policy, work on the new constitution, and West Suffolk Taxi and Hackney Carriage policy to name a few.
- 6. Suffolk Internship Programme** is now open for applications. Anyone currently studying at university and is interested in gaining paid experience in local government these are 12week placements at all Suffolk Councils including West Suffolk. Applications need to be submitted by 24<sup>th</sup> February more information available from rising high Suffolk-internship programme information.
- 7. Housing Register** From February 1st people on the housing register in St Edmundsbury and Forest Heath will need to re-register if they wish to

remain on the housing register. They must do this by 28<sup>th</sup> February to ensure they remain on the housing register from 1<sup>st</sup> April. Councils across the Cambridge sub-region are changing IT provider for the data base it uses for its choice based letting scheme, Home-Link as the contract with the other supplier comes to an end. All people at present on the register are being contacted to tell them about the change and offer help where needed. The scheme itself remains unchanged and priority banding will not be affected. It is only if there has been a change in their circumstances that their banding may change as happens now. People can re-register from 1<sup>st</sup> February at [www.home-link.org.uk](http://www.home-link.org.uk) more information will be available on the Council's website at [www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/housingregister](http://www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/housingregister)

8. **Budget for investment and growth** Next week the budget for the new West Suffolk Council will be proposed for a decision by the Shadow Authority. The new council will continue the policy of investing in our families and communities work, supporting new businesses coming to West Suffolk and pioneering work in areas such as clean energy generation and the continued performance of the largest solar farm of its kind. It is also proposed to adopt the Suffolk wide policy to help care leavers. This will give 100% council tax discount to young people in West Suffolk aged 16-25 who were previously under the care of Suffolk County Council. As part of the creation of the new authority council tax levels will be harmonised over seven years. This means that St Edmundsbury Council Tax Payers will see no increase in the Borough's part of their council tax bill for this coming year.