



## June / July 2019

Welcome to my first monthly newsletter.

### Top Story:

#### **East Suffolk Council up and running**

East Suffolk Council, the largest district council in the country, is now up and running following May's elections.

With the Conservatives winning 39 of the 55 seats on the new council, Conservative Group leader, Steve Gallant, was elected as the first ever Leader of East Suffolk Council at its AGM on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May.

Following his election, Cllr Gallant spoke of his desire to “build a future for the district that captures its limitless potential.”

Laying out his ambitions for a ‘30-year’ vision, he told the authority’s first ever full Council meeting that the voice of East Suffolk will be heard loud and there will be investment in communities which gives local people a stronger voice. He spoke of the Council’s key priorities, Economic Growth, Enabling Communities and Financial Sustainability and added digital transformation to improve services and the environment as key issues which he will be asking the Council to tackle.

At the same meeting, Colin Hedgley was elected the Council’s first Chairman.

#### **Leader announces his top team**

New East Suffolk leader Steve Gallant has announced his cabinet – the top team of councillors to lead on the council’s key strategies over the coming months and years.

The cabinet are as follows:

Steve Gallant – Leader and Finance

Craig Rivett – Deputy Leader and Economic Development)

Norman Brooks – Transport

Stephen Burroughes - Customer Services and Operational Partnerships

Richard Kerry - Housing  
James Mallinder – The Environment  
David Ritchie - Planning & Coastal Management  
Mary Rudd - Community Health  
Letitia Smith - Communities, Leisure and Tourism

## **Also in the news:**

### **Investment shows digital ambition for East Suffolk**

The first stages of an ambitious plan to roll out 'ultrafast' broadband to homes and businesses across Lowestoft have been agreed. The Suffolk Cloud Project, co-ordinated by Suffolk County Council, is installing ultrafast broadband to public sector premises across 10 towns in Suffolk, including Lowestoft, Felixstowe and Woodbridge. However, as part of its ambitious growth and development programme for Lowestoft, East Suffolk Council is proposing an extension to this ultrafast network, providing world-leading connectivity to ALL commercial and residential premises in the town.

At their inaugural meeting held on Tuesday 4 June, the newly formed cabinet of East Suffolk Council agreed to explore extending the Suffolk Cloud project so that Lowestoft's commercial and residential premises can also be connected to the ultrafast network. The extension, which will require a £1.9m investment from the council, will boost economic growth in the town, and the surrounding area. If the Suffolk Cloud project stays on schedule, installation of 'full fibre' in Lowestoft will begin in October and is expected to be completed within 2 years.

### **Suffolk celebrate the return of the Women's Tour**

The OVO Energy Women's Tour returned to Suffolk for its fifth visit to the county, local communities enjoyed the start of the race. There were plenty of activities taking place along the route of the tour last weekend, in the lead up to the first stage of the race, including the Beccles Cycling Festival.

On Monday itself, the festivities kicked off in Beccles, where pupils from local schools welcomed the teams on to the podium, ahead of a community ride out and the start of the race at 10.30. The race then travelled across East Suffolk, Mid Suffolk, and the west of the county, taking in Halesworth, Framlingham (the start location of last year's race), Eye and Bury St Edmunds, before finishing in Stowmarket.

In its four previous visits to Suffolk, the OVO Energy Women's Tour is estimated to have attracted in excess of 250,000 spectators to the roadside and created a net economic impact for the county's economy of in excess of £3.5 million.

### **Work set to improve beach access in Felixstowe**

Work to improve access to beach huts and the beach in Felixstowe is taking place this month. East Suffolk Council is investing £250,000 on a project to renovate five set of steps to improve the public access to the beach and the huts from Golf Road

to The Dip. This comes after a recent survey of the area revealed that some of the older flights had deteriorated and were potentially hazardous. The work is expected to take about 16 weeks to complete. The decision to carry out the work during the summer months has been made on the advice of the contractors, as it minimises the risk of encountering delays due to adverse weather conditions. The project will be managed by the Council's partners at East Suffolk Norse.

### **Recruits wanted for Operation Camouflage**

Children in East Suffolk are being asked to put their best foot forward to have fun this summer - as the award winning Operation Camouflage returns to the area. The military-themed summer activity returns for the twelfth year running from Monday 12 August to Thursday 15 August 2019 at Rock Barracks, Sutton – the home of 23 Parachute Engineer Regiment. The action-packed event is for young people aged between 8 - 16 years from East Suffolk and young people from military families based at Colchester, Watisham and Woodbridge.

### **East Suffolk Business & Community Awards**

Entries are now open for the East Suffolk Business and Community Awards! The awards recognise and celebrate the hard work and successes of the groups, individuals and businesses within the East Suffolk community.

There are 13 award categories:

- Team Of The Year Award
- New Business of The Year Award
- Business Growth Award
- Service to the Community Award – Group
- Service to the Community Award – Individual
- Great Idea Award
- Science, Tech & Engineering Award
- Customer Focus Award
- Peoples Development Award
- Health & Wellbeing Award
- Encouraging Tourism Award
- Club of the Year Award
- Enabling Local Communities Award

Winners will be announced at a ceremony on 3 October at The Hangar, Kesgrave Hall. Find full details of the awards criteria, and how to enter, at [www.esbca.co.uk](http://www.esbca.co.uk)  
Deadline – 30<sup>th</sup> June.

### **Details announced for the Ipswich Northern Route consultation**

Members of the public are invited to have their say on the potential options for the Ipswich Northern Route when the consultation officially begins on 5 July 2019.

The public are being asked to comment on three proposed routes for the new road to the north of Ipswich. The consultation is being jointly developed by Suffolk County

Council, Ipswich Borough, East Suffolk and Babergh and Mid Suffolk councils. It is also supported by West Suffolk Council.

The consultation information and questionnaire will be available online and will run for eight weeks from Friday 5 July until Friday 13 September 2019. During this time eleven drop-in sessions will be held throughout July where members of the public can find out about the project and speak with the team.

Here are the details for the 11 events:

Tuesday July 9	Grundisburgh Village Hall	3pm – 7pm
Wednesday July 10	Needham Market Community Centre	3pm – 7pm
Saturday July 13	Woodbridge Community Hall	10am – 3pm
Tuesday July 16	Kesgrave War Memorial C.C.	3pm – 7pm
Wednesday July 17	Witnesham Village Hall	3pm – 7pm
Friday July 19	Coddenham Community Centre	3pm – 7pm
Saturday July 20	Ipswich Library	10am – 3pm
Monday July 22	Tithe Barn, Sproughton	3pm – 7pm
Tuesday July 23	Henley Community Centre	4pm – 8pm
Friday July 26	Martlesham Pavilion	3pm - 5pm
Saturday July 27	Claydon & Barham C.C.	10am – 3pm

James Mallinder  
Deben Ward  
Environment Portfolio holder