



February / March 2020

Welcome to my monthly newsletter

Refilling your weekly shop without unnecessary plastic is getting easier in Suffolk

A number of shops in Suffolk are offering refills for a host of household items in a bid to cut down on the amount of plastic and packaging we use.

The Suffolk Waste Partnership has launched a handy online directory which lists the shops, businesses or charities that host refill points for items such as cleaning products, toiletries and dried foods, such as rice or oats and even loose-leaf tea and chocolate. At the moment there are 22 organisations which stock refills, but the partnership is encouraging other businesses to consider introducing similar schemes.

If any retailers or businesses would like to offer refill services and get listed on the online directory please contact Waste.Management@suffolk.gov.uk. The directory can be found here <https://suffolkrecycling.org.uk/reduce-your-waste>

Funding secured to help rough sleepers in East Suffolk

East Suffolk Council has secured over £600,000 to help support rough sleepers in the district.

Following a successful bid to the Government's Rough Sleeping Initiative, the Council has been awarded an additional £693,735 to support work with rough sleepers over the next year. The national initiative has allocated £112million to help get people off the streets and into safe accommodation.

The East Suffolk funding will enable the employment of new street outreach and a specialist to work with vulnerable adults. The funding will also enable the council to retain the services of a rough sleeper coordinator, specialist mental health workers and ensures the continuation of an eight-bed rapid assessment hub. Staff will be solely focused on working with those sleeping on the streets, providing increased support and helping to find accommodation for those in need.

Improvements in sight as date agreed for plans to tackle Suffolk's parking problems

Council's in Suffolk are ramping up activity in order to take on responsibility for local parking management from 6 April 2020 in a bid to improve parking locally and drive down nuisance and unlawful parking.

Traditionally, roadside parking offences were a matter for the Police. However, this has become lower priority for them, so Suffolk County Council is transferring this responsibility to local district and borough councils under the process known as civil parking enforcement, or CPE.

Suffolk Constabulary is supportive of the move because the transfer of responsibilities will enable them to spend additional time on keeping communities safe and arresting and bringing offenders to justice.

Love East Suffolk this spring

The 'Love East Suffolk' litter pick scheme returns this week to encourage, enable and reward people to show some love for the environment we live in.

The scheme gives community groups a winning way of cleaning up their neighbourhood while helping themselves by offering £20 to their nominated community fund or charity for litter picks carried out between 1 March and 31 May 2020.

All registered groups who carry out their litter pick during this period will also be entered into a £200 grand prize draw, with prizes provided by the Council's partners, East Suffolk Norse.

East Suffolk Norse can provide equipment, including sacks, to groups on request and will also arrange for gathered litter to be collected. Litter pick sticks, bag hoops and green vests can also be loaned out, subject to availability.

For more information and to register a litter pick, go to www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/waste/litter/love-east-suffolk/

Suffolk to host final stage of The Women's Tour 2020

The world's top cyclists will return to Suffolk this June as the county hosts the final stage of The Women's Tour on Saturday 13 June. It will be first time that Suffolk has hosted the final stage of the tour since 2014, with riders tackling a route from Haverhill to Felixstowe.

To mark the announcement, Cllr Letitia Smith, Cabinet Member for Communities, Tourism and Leisure, joined the organisers and other Suffolk partners at the Port of Felixstowe, which will feature in the closing kilometres of the race. Felixstowe last hosted the race in 2014, when Stage Three began in the town.

Planning permission granted for flood defences

Planning permission for the construction of flood defences, which will reduce the risk of tidal flooding for people and properties in Lowestoft, has been granted by East Suffolk Council's north planning permission. Two applications were approved; one for tidal flood walls around the Outer Harbour and another for Listed Building Consent, relating to

alterations required to the site of the Grade II listed Royal Norfolk and Suffolk Yacht Club as part of the works.

The flood walls will run around the Yacht Club and South Pier, with glass tops to allow unrestricted views across the yacht basin and from the Yacht Club building. Solid walls will be built around the north of the harbour, north of the Hamilton Dock basin and to the south of Hamilton Road.

The flood walls are part of the wider Lowestoft Flood Risk Management Project (LFRMP) which will also see construction of flood walls and a pumping station to reduce the risk of flooding from the river and from extreme rainfall. Find out more at lowestoftfrmp.org.uk

What communities really need: Innovative approach to funding gets underway

An innovative and progressive scheme, established to provide critical funding for projects which local people want and need most of all, will begin allocating money this month.

The East Suffolk Community Partnerships have been created to “bring ideas to life” and eight separate partnership groups, covering the whole district, will now each decide who to spend £10,000 this year and a further £25,000 for each of the next three years, based on one or more priorities which were agreed at a series of community workshops.

In addition, an overarching pot of £150,000 this year and £300,000 for each of the next three years will be available for the partnerships to bid for.

The eight partnerships cover the whole of East Suffolk and are based on natural grouping of communities, using the new East Suffolk Council ward boundaries as building blocks.

Working alongside East Suffolk councillors will be County and town & parish councillors, the police, health bodies, community groups, businesses and other key organisations.

Help available to those struggling with hoarding

East Suffolk Council has been awarded £56,950 from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government to trial an innovative approach for housing tenants who may be hoarding items in their homes and neglecting their health and wellbeing.

Working in partnership with Lofty Heights, Access Community Trust and Flagship Housing, the Council’s Private Sector Housing Team will work with tenants and landlords to address poor housing standards in properties where the tenant is showing signs of hoarding and self-neglect.

The trial will offer support to tenants through the decluttering process as well as help to improve their mental wellbeing, addressing the causes of their hoarding and reducing the risks of hoarding recurring in future. Following the clearance of hoarded items, any underlying housing issues and hazards will be addressed by the Private Sector Housing team to ensure the home provides a good standard of accommodation.

As well as supporting vulnerable residents, Access Community Trust will also operate a fortnightly ‘Tenant Tuesday Café’, providing a safe space for tenants in need of further support. Training will also be available in Lowestoft and Saxmundham for landlords who want to learn more about supporting vulnerable tenants, such as those leaving care.

Work officially begins at the UK's most easterly park

Work has officially started at 'The Ness', the most easterly park in the UK.

The site of the park, next to Birds Eye on Whapload Road in Lowestoft, will be regenerated with £1m secured from the Coastal Community Fund in 2017.

The Ness, which is being delivered by Lowestoft Town Council, East Suffolk Council and Concertus Design and Property Consultants working in partnership, will celebrate Lowestoft's maritime heritage and feature a picnic and play area, a bespoke bridge to the sea wall as well as interactive and educational information. The site, which will be sensitively landscaped to protect the area's unique flora and fauna, also includes the seafront walkway and the most easterly point in the UK, Ness Point.

An official 'sod-turning' event was held on Wednesday 22 January to mark the beginning of the works, which are being carried out by Blakedown Landscapes and are expected to be completed by early summer.

James Mallinder
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