

Boyton Parish Council

SCC Monthly Parish Newsletter – May 2020

COVID-19 related news



You can call the Home, But Not Alone phonenumber if you live in Suffolk and need urgent help during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. This is a free service.

This emergency phonenumber is for people who:

- do not have support available from friends, family or neighbours
- are struggling for food, medicines or other essential supplies
- are feeling lonely and isolated.

If any of these apply to you, call 0800 876 6926 (available 9am to 5pm every day, including weekends). The telephone line is not a general information line for COVID-19 queries.

The Home but Not Alone helpline has now received nearly 9,000 calls, which include calls for support with food, calls for support with collecting medication, and calls relating to loneliness or isolation.

Joint Council reaction to EDF's submission of application for Sizewell C

The Council Leaders of East Suffolk Council and Suffolk County Council have offered a joint response following the submission on 27 May of EDF Energy's application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) to build a new nuclear power station at Sizewell.

Whilst both councils have been supportive of EDF Energy making the DCO submission, they continue to call on the energy provider to talk to the two local authorities before triggering the formal Section 56 process and timescale, which includes a period of formal public engagement. With the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, there is a high level of concern that the current period of social distancing

and restricted movement will not give the community its fullest opportunity to engage with the planning process.

Over the next 28 days, the Planning Inspectorate will assess EDF Energy's submission and determine if they are willing to accept it for Examination. During this period, East Suffolk Council and Suffolk County Council will be asked, as 'host' local authorities, for their opinion on the adequacy of consultation that EDF Energy has carried out in advance of the submission.

If, after the 28-day period, the application is accepted by the Planning Inspectorate, both councils expect to work closely with the Planning Inspectorate and EDF Energy to set an appropriate start time for the Section 56 period, which is a formal time-specific planning process.

More booking slots released following re-opening of recycling centres

On Thursday 14 May, all of Suffolk's 11 recycling centre sites re-opened on an appointment only basis. Since then, 95% of all slots have been booked. This amounts to 28,500 appointments. The booking system has proved an efficient and effective way of allowing people to easily dispose of their rubbish and helping manage demand on the service. The system has received widespread public support. It has helped reduce traffic disruption on roads around the sites and supported social distancing on site for staff and members of the public.

The initial road closures that were put in place at Fornham Road, Bury St Edmunds, and Foxhall Road, Foxhall, were lifted after five days. Sir Alf Ramsey Way, Ipswich, remains closed for the time being, with the closure reviewed regularly.

From 28 May, in line with the phased approach, and because of the success of the booking system, car derived vans can access the sites via online booking. Charges for DIY waste from households, like soil, rubble or hardcore, will also be accepted, but trade waste still cannot be taken to the sites. Contactless card payments will be taken at a kiosk on site, in line with social distancing measures. Bags of compost will also be available to buy on site.

Temporary rules still apply, which include:

- No access to sites without pre-booking
- Cars, car derived vans, and pedestrians only – no larger vans, trailers or commercial-type vehicles
- One adult to unload, unless two adults are needed for heavy items
- No staff assistance to unload vehicles
- No trade waste
- No textiles or re-use items accepted.

To make a booking, please visit [**www.suffolk.gov.uk/recyclingcentres**](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/recyclingcentres). If you do not have access to the internet, call 0345 606 6067. To prevent dangerous

queueing, residents without a booking will not be able to enter the site. Residents must not arrive on site more than five minutes before their allocated time.

Any waste you have which is contaminated, or suspected to have been contaminated, with COVID 19 must be double-bagged and kept at home for 72 hours before it is brought to site.

Suffolk County Council continues to review the temporary rules and will continue to remove restrictions to the service when it is safe to do so.

People who are, or have anyone in their household, suffering from Covid-19 symptoms, or who have been diagnosed as having the virus, must not visit recycling centres. Please follow the government's guidance on self-isolating and shielding.

Suffolk creates safer spaces as communities begin to re-open during Covid-19 response

To ensure appropriate safety measures can be put in place for communities across Suffolk, the county council is working closely with its local authority partners, town councils and the business community to develop guidance and advice on how social distancing measures can be maintained as shops and businesses begin to re-open and current lockdown restrictions are relaxed over time.

This will include empowering local councils and the business community to make small-scale temporary changes to enable social distancing, without the need to seek consent from Suffolk County Council.

Where there is a requirement or desire for larger, more detailed changes to be made in the community, these will need to be discussed with county council officers to understand how this can be achieved.

Any of the temporary changes made during this time will be kept under review and Suffolk County Council will continue to work with its partners to adapt to government guidance and review what support is needed to help the local economy.

The council has received a number of enquiries and requests to date, asking for a range of measures related to creating safe spaces in local communities. These requests are being grouped into the following categories, to help the Council understand the highest priorities and what work is required in different areas of the county:

- **Small-scale changes** – changes that communities can make themselves, without contacting Suffolk County Council. These will be local safety measures on pavements that outline queuing areas, social distancing reminders, or simple painted markings on pavement surfaces for pedestrians.
- **Medium-scale changes** – changes that will require communities to contact Suffolk County Council for support. This will be anything that needs to happen off the pavement, or anything that Suffolk Highways will be required to deliver, such as temporary signs, barriers and cones. This may also include simple traffic

regulation notices or orders, and licenses for seating, planters and other semi-permanent obstructions.

- **Large-scale changes** – changes that will require communities to contact Suffolk County Council for support. This will include any road closures or extensive changes to how traffic is managed and semi-permanent works, such as painting lines on roads, pothole patching, or works such as installing dropped kerbs.

If the activity that the community wants to carry out requires working on, or in, the road, then the county council will need to be contacted. If communities are unsure where their proposed changes fit, they are encouraged to contact the county council at [**transport.schemes@suffolk.gov.uk**](mailto:transport.schemes@suffolk.gov.uk).

Local councils and businesses should consider the following when carrying out small-scale changes in their communities:

- Ensure communities work safely at all times when installing local measures; ensure activities are carried out on the pavement, not in the road; and aim to carry out works during quieter periods of the day.
- Consider the needs of people with disabilities, such as wheelchair users or those with impaired visibility, and those with prams, double buggies or trolleys to ensure they have sufficient space on the pavement to pass safely.
- Consider the type of paint being used (i.e. it should be non-toxic) or consider using small thermoplastic markings of appropriate symbols that can be easily removed.
- Laminated signs should be fixed to street furniture (such as lighting columns), with cable ties only to avoid damage. Consideration also needs to be given to having these signs at a safe height and ensuring they are visible.
- Digging into the pavement or road is not permitted, nor is fixing anything to the floor, due to the possibility of there being underground cables and pipes.
- Town councils should monitor and review signs and the condition of paint markings to ensure these are clear and safe.

[Local areas should follow government guidelines on safer public spaces.](#)

[Read more about safer spaces on the highway.](#)

People in Suffolk to benefit from a virtual care response

Suffolk County Council, in partnership with [RETHINK Partners](#) and [Alcove](#), has launched a new and innovative response to the COVID-19 crisis, by providing virtual care and support to vulnerable or shielded people.

The service is provided through the rapid rollout of the Alcove Video Carephone, a simple communication device that allows people with little or no technological ability to have two-way video contact with care workers, family members and other approved service providers. This will help with tasks that do not require face-to-face visits and, therefore, limit people's exposure to infection. For example, carers can

check visually if medications are being taken, set prompts and reminders, or carry out welfare and wellbeing checks.

Users are being supported to set up the Alcove Video Carephones remotely and their friends and family members can also be added during set-up. The council is working closely with care providers and partners to identify the most appropriate people, to receive the device.

[Read about Suffolk Virtual Care Response Service here.](#)

Domestic abuse helpline extended to offer round the clock support in Suffolk

On 22 May, Suffolk County Council, working with Anglia Care Trust, extended its Domestic Abuse Helpline to offer 24-hour support. The council is urging anyone experiencing, or at risk of, domestic abuse to make contact, when safe to do so.

With lockdown measures still in place, it is important that those who may find themselves at risk of abuse at home, can access the right support at whatever time they need it. The existing Domestic Abuse Outreach Service has therefore extended its **0800 977 5690** freephone number to be available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Anyone with concerns, including professionals who are supporting clients and friends and families who are concerned for loved ones, can access this local support.

The government advice encouraging people to stay at home as much as possible can create additional challenges to those at risk of domestic abuse. Domestic abuse remains a priority for partners across Suffolk during this period.

The service also includes a live web chat from 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday, which can be accessed at angliacaretrust.org.uk.

If people are in immediate danger, they should call the police on 999. If someone is unable to speak or make a sound, but needs immediate help, they should call 999 and stay on the line, and then press 55 when prompted. The call will be transferred to the police, who will know it is an emergency call.

For those looking for help online, 'quick exit' buttons and other mechanisms can be used to increase online privacy. [Information is available from techsafety.org](#)

The charity Respect offers support for people exhibiting abusive behaviour or who are worried about their own behaviour on **0808 8024040** or at respectphoneline.org.uk

Stick With It Suffolk – continue slowing the spread of coronavirus

Suffolk residents are being asked to continue their great efforts, which are successfully reducing the spread of COVID-19.

The *Stick With It Suffolk* campaign, launched on 18 May, highlights the things we must all continue doing to keep each other safe and to defeat the virus.

These are:

- Keep staying at home
- Keep working from home if you can
- Keep two metres apart if you go out
- Keep exercising safely
- Keep washing your hands with soap and water
- Keep self-isolating if you, or anyone in your household, has symptoms
- Keep travelling by car, bike or walking
- Keep staying safe at work
- Keep shielding yourself if you're vulnerable
- Keep supporting local businesses
- Keep looking out for each other.

Stick With It Suffolk is being rolled out across the county by the Suffolk Resilience Forum, which includes Suffolk's NHS, Emergency and Public Services. These local authorities and organisations are working together around the clock to keep Suffolk as safe as possible.

This is how Suffolk will successfully respond to the government's *Stay Alert, Control The Virus, Save Lives* message.

People are asked to share their stories and how they are managing to stick with it, using the hashtag **#StickWithItSuffolk** on social media.

Don't suffer alone – help is available to support your mental health

If you are experiencing a mental health crisis and need support, help is available – that's the message from the Suffolk Resilience Forum.

National and local evidence shows a drop in the number of people accessing mental health services during the coronavirus outbreak. It is important that Suffolk people know that help is available all day, every day.

The *FirstResponse* service, launched by Norfolk and Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust, is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and provides immediate advice, support and signposting for people with mental health difficulties. If you are experiencing something that makes you feel unsafe, distressed or worried about your mental health you can call the helpline on **0808 196 3494**.

More support is available at any time of day or night from Samaritans, who offer confidential and non-judgmental emotional support whenever you need someone to talk to. Call **116 123**.

For young people, Kooth is a free online counselling and emotional wellbeing support service commissioned by NHS Ipswich and East Suffolk and NHS West Suffolk Clinical Commissioning Groups, and Public Health Suffolk. It launched across the county in October 2019 to provide support to young people aged 11 to 18 years.

Since going live, the service has been accessed over 3,100 times, with 97% of the youngsters who used it saying they would recommend it to a friend. As a result of its

popularity, and the Coronavirus outbreak, the Kooth service has been extended to support more young people - up to the age of 25.

Kooth offers young people bookable virtual chat sessions with experienced counsellors, live moderated forums to share their experiences, self-help materials, journals and goal trackers to reflect their thoughts and feelings.

Young people can access the service by going to: [**kooth.com**](https://kooth.com), and registering. For details of other emotional wellbeing support services available to young people in Suffolk visit: [**www.thesource.me.uk/wellbeing**](https://www.thesource.me.uk/wellbeing)

Suffolk GPs and A&E services also remain open, and there are different options available for speaking to a GP including telephone, text, video call or email.

If you need urgent help, feel desperate or unsafe, you should talk to someone nearby immediately if possible, call 999, or visit your nearest A&E department.

The advice remains that you should not travel to A&E or your doctor's surgery if you are experiencing any typical symptoms of coronavirus, such as a high temperature or a new continuous cough.

Update on Covid-19 in Suffolk's care homes

Opinion piece by Councillor Rebecca Hopfensperger, Cabinet Member for Adult Care. Published 12 May 2020.

There has been a lot of news reported lately about how the Coronavirus pandemic is playing out in care homes and other residential care settings. Many people are concerned about their family members and friends who live in care homes, especially as they are unable to visit. I want to address some of people's concerns today.

One of the most concerning elements of Coronavirus in care homes is the number of deaths that are happening as a result of the virus. Some statistics released by the Office of National Statistics have led to comparisons on the number of deaths between different areas of the country. The difference in the number of people dying of Covid-19 in care homes could be for a number of reasons, including difference in population size, the number of care homes per area, or more people remaining in their usual place of residence rather than moving into hospital for end of life care. Suffolk has a high number of 'nursing' beds in care homes. This means people can remain in their care home setting for a longer period and get treatment as they become more ill, rather than being transferred to hospital. Also, here in Suffolk, we instigated a local testing regime early on for care homes. With more tests being carried out, we have more results, so we are able to confirm whether Coronavirus contributed to the cause of death.

The number of people who have died in care homes in Suffolk is, thankfully, small. However, this doesn't take away from the fact that people have died because of Coronavirus. It is a tragedy that families are losing their much beloved relatives and

friends to this virus and my deepest sympathies and condolences are with those who are grieving during this most difficult time.

What I want to stress is that the reason people are sadly dying in care homes due to Coronavirus isn't down to care homes in Suffolk not doing enough. Care providers in Suffolk are doing everything they can to look after their residents and those receiving support in their own homes.

While we no longer have any council-owned care homes in Suffolk, they are all privately owned and run, the county council still considers looking after the most vulnerable to be its top priority. This means that we have focused on supporting the county's care providers in whatever way we can, to help them face the challenges that Coronavirus presents.

We are in daily contact with providers to support them and respond to their needs and concerns. We have provided a package of financial support that includes a minimum payment guarantee, as well as advance payments to enable providers to stay operational even when faced with staff absence.

We have supported health partners to deploy dedicated infection prevention and control support to providers through a dedicated support line for infection advice, personal protective equipment (PPE) questions, and for requesting testing for residents with symptoms.

Ahead of a national testing site being available we started testing residents in care homes. Since testing began in mid-April, over 600 people have been tested, and testing continues.

Meanwhile care homes and providers are doing an incredible job to protect their residents and staff and control the spread of infection where it arises.

They are following the latest guidance issued by Public Health England and Government for the correct use of PPE such as face masks, visors, goggles, gloves, and aprons.

They are practicing social distancing wherever possible and where it is not, due to the task being carried out, PPE is in use and, of course, hygiene practices are being followed throughout our care homes.

The problems that the care sector faces when trying to get enough PPE have been well documented. While care providers are responsible for sourcing their own supply of equipment, the Suffolk Resilience Forum has set up a PPE centre that is providing the local care market with emergency supplies. So far, we have supplied 219 organisations with PPE and every care provider who has asked for support has received it.

The county council is standing shoulder to shoulder with our care providers as we face this crisis and I want to take one final moment to praise their monumental efforts and their continued dedication and professionalism. The kindness and warmth that they show our most vulnerable each and every day, despite the pressures they face

is deeply moving. Please continue to join me at 8pm on Thursday evenings, and applaud our amazing care workers. They are incredible people who are doing their best for the sake of others; they deserve to feel your thanks and appreciation.

Other news

Discover Suffolk's history with new Suffolk Heritage Explorer website

On 20 May, Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service announced the launch of its new Suffolk Heritage Explorer website at heritage.suffolk.gov.uk. This offers users a completely free resource of interesting, up-to-date information on the archaeology and history of Suffolk.

The new website includes an upgraded searchable interactive map and a database of known archaeological sites, which can be used to discover more about Suffolk's history from the comfort of your home.

Alongside free downloadable publications and resources, there is updated guidance and best practice advice on finds recording and access to the county's archaeological archives.

The website features key archaeological sites and projects, such as Suffolk's World War II heritage. You can find out more about the internationally significant Anglo-Saxon site at Rendlesham, its 12 years of ongoing archaeological research and results, with podcasts and archaeological reports.

A dedicated section on Ipswich also summarises the town's development through the ages, featuring the recently completed 'Urban Archaeological Database' with useful archive and planning guidance. There are also lots downloadable activities for families and children.

The new website will be regularly updated with new content, blog posts and information. Discover the new Suffolk Heritage Explorer website: heritage.suffolk.gov.uk.

Highways completes 1,000 extra road improvements during lockdown

On 13 May, it was reported that Suffolk Highways has increased its number of repairs and road improvements since the Coronavirus lockdown began.

6,334 potholes and other highway faults were repaired in the county during March and April, compared with 5,345 in the same period last year, meaning a 18.5% increase in repairs.

Through Suffolk Highways' careful planning of resource prior to and during the lockdown, teams working out on the network have been supported to continue

working effectively, whilst keeping themselves and members of the travelling public safe.

On top of these reactive repairs which are picked up through reports from residents and Suffolk Highways' routine inspections, the service has continued with its larger improvement schemes, completing works on Angel Hill in Bury St Edmunds and continuing with the construction of a new footpath on Heath Lane in Ipswich.

Suffolk Highways has also continued with its cyclical drainage, grass cutting and weed control programmes, ensuring those travelling for essential purposes can do so safely. Furthermore, the resurfacing and surface dressing programmes have begun – laying new surfaces on roads to help stop potholes from forming in future.

Suffolk Archives commemorate VE Day 75 with new online exhibition

VE (Victory in Europe) Day - Friday 8 May 1945 - was the day the Second World War came to an end across Europe.

In 1945, up and down the country, people came together to celebrate this moment with street parties, parades, and dancing across towns and villages, and a national holiday was declared.

Until earlier this year, Suffolk Archives had intended to recreate this atmosphere at a special event on Ipswich Waterfront. Unfortunately, due to the on-going situation with the Coronavirus pandemic they, like so many others, had to cancel these plans.

Instead, Suffolk Archives are proud to host a special online exhibition, in place of the activities which would have been taking place: www.suffolkarchives.co.uk/displays-online/ve-day-75

The new online display brings together the many ways in which VE Day was celebrated across the county in 1945. You can explore photographs, extracts from newspaper articles, and oral history recordings, all brought to life through an interactive map. There is even an introductory guide to researching your own family's history during the Second World War, and an appeal for people to share their own family or local stories from 1945. Suffolk Archives are always looking to build a better understanding of local history through personal stories, memories, and documents.

Women's Tour postponed to June 2021

On 4 May, it was announced that the seventh edition of the UCI Women's WorldTour event will now take place in June 2021.

Commenting on the decision, **Hugh Roberts from SweetSpot Group, organisers of the Women's Tour said:**

“With the extra time now available we look forward to making next year’s Women’s Tour even bigger and better than before and a fantastic celebration of cycling and Britain.

“We are now working with partners on our plans for the Women’s Tour to be live streamed for the first time in 2021 and are also exploring opportunities to bring the race closer to our fans than ever before in these challenging times, such as the opportunity to race and ride past stages on their home trainer.”

As planned for June this year, the 2021 Women’s Tour will begin in Bicester, Oxfordshire and finish with a sixth and final stage in Suffolk, between Haverhill and Felixstowe.

Organisers have applied to the UCI for dates from Monday 7 to Saturday 12 June 2021 with final confirmation of the dates and the 2021 UCI Women’s WorldTour calendar due in the coming months.

Suffolk County Council begins street light sensor deployment

Suffolk County Council has begun to install 100 sensors on its smart street lighting infrastructure for a variety of purposes, as part of the Smart Places Live Labs programme.

The council is working with wireless smart city applications specialist Telensa on the deployment under a two-year project funded by the Department for Transport (DfT), and is planning to monitor traffic, road temperature, air quality, wind and waste.

The sensors will provide data to a team at the University of Suffolk who will evaluate the benefits and help the council to decide which types to introduce on a larger scale.

“We’re committed to delivering a better road network and we know that the right smart technologies will play a crucial role,” said Richard Webster, street lighting manager at Suffolk. “We’re delighted to be working with long term partner Telensa as we create a sustainable smart places strategy that can adapt to the county’s evolving urban and rural needs.”

Smart Places Live Labs is being run by the Association of Directors of Environment, Economy, Planning and Transport (ADEPT) to examine the potential and challenges in using digital technology across the local highway network. It is backed by £22.9 million from the DfT.

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