

Boyton Parish Council

SCC Monthly Newsletter – October 2022

Campaign launched to boost metal packaging recycling rates across Suffolk

On October 3rd, a new initiative encouraging households to recycle metal packaging was rolled out by the Suffolk Waste Partnership. 'MetalMatters' will see residents targeted with educational messages via a communications campaign comprising social media and outdoor advertising activities. Expected to reach more than 350,000 households, the programme will run for a six-week period, commencing on Monday 3 October.

The Suffolk Waste Partnership is proud to support MetalMatters, which is run by Alupro, the [Aluminium Packaging Recycling Organisation](https://www.alupro.org.uk/). Designed to improve metal packaging recycling rates, the programme has reached more than seven million households nationwide since its launch in 2012. For more information about MetalMatters

visit: www.metalmatters.org.uk. To find out more about recycling in Suffolk

visit www.suffolkrecycling.org.uk.

£7.8m redevelopment of Foxhall Recycling Centre to begin

It was announced on October 4th that work on a major expansion of the Foxhall Recycling Centre near Ipswich is set to begin. RG Carter Ltd has been appointed by Suffolk County Council as contractor for the £7.8 million project, with work scheduled to start on October 17.

The new design will increase capacity for cars on site, reduce queuing and improve access from Foxhall Road, and provide greater capacity to meet future growth. The site will have a raised level construction, giving better access to the containers for users without the need for stairs. Containers can also be emptied without the need to close the site.

The funding includes £794,414 from East Suffolk Council through the Community Infrastructure Levy collected from new housing developments in the East Suffolk area.

Work is scheduled to complete in early 2024 and the site will remain open to the public during construction.

RG Carter will work alongside [Concertus Design and Property Consultants](https://www.concertusdesign.co.uk/) on the scheme.

The project will be conducted in phases to keep the centre operational throughout the build, but at certain times this may result in fewer booking slots being available to the public.

The Re-use shop will change location in the new layout and will need to be closed for a period early next year to allow this to take place.

The project will also see the installation of a feeder lane from Foxhall Road, making access into the site safer.

Of the 11 recycling centres around the county Foxhall accounts for 19% of recycling and waste, collecting more than 12,500 tonnes a year.

Suffolk Roadsafe Partnership rolls out ANPR devices to targeting speeding

Councillor Paul West, Suffolk County Council member for Ipswich, Operational Highways and Flooding, said:

“I was very pleased that Suffolk County Council has been able to roll out a mobile number plate recognition system to target speeding motorists.

This issue is one that is of huge concern to councils and communities locally and nationally, and which here in Suffolk the Police and I are determined to target.

This innovative project is part of the Suffolk Roadsafe Partnership between Suffolk County Council and Suffolk Constabulary thanks to a £400,000 grant from the council’s 2020 fund.

Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) will be rotated around sites where there is a problem with speeding or rat-running on roads with a 20mph or 30mph speed limit.

There are ten of these devices and they work like conventional SIDs by displaying the speeds of drivers to them as they approach, encouraging them to slow down.

However, the difference is that if a driver continues to ignore the speed limit the ANPR camera will take a picture of them and record the date, time, speed, vehicle registration and a photo of the vehicle.

In certain cases, persistent offenders will be reported to Suffolk Constabulary and, while no one will be prosecuted as a direct result of the devices, they may be visited by a police officer who will speak to them about their driving

So, if no prosecution arises, you might ask what is the point of them? Well, in the majority of cases people seeing the SIDs flash that their speed is over the limit will slow down, so the cameras have done their job.

Unfortunately though there are some people who will ignore the limits, and these are the people whose details will be shared with the police.

The information shared with the police will also help them decide on where speed enforcement vans should be deployed going forward.

So, the case for SIDs is that as part of the bigger picture they will make a valuable contribution to tackling speeding and therefore are money well spent and a welcome addition to the county’s roads.

It is no exaggeration to say that speeding is one of the biggest areas of complaint that we as councillors receive, and it is understandable why.

As well as being dangerous to both the person speeding and innocent road-users, be they motorists, cyclist or pedestrian, it is a blight on the community and peoples' quality of life.

Suffolk County Council, Suffolk Constabulary and the Police & Crime Commissioner have worked together with local people for many years to tackle concerns about speeding.

We have developed an approach which offers both enforcement and education to suit the needs and concerns of local communities, details of which can be found at the Suffolk Roadsafe Partnership website.

If you have concerns about speeding I encourage you to contact your parish or town council or, if there is no such council available to you, to contact your local county councillor.

The £400,000 for the ANPR SIDS project was from the Suffolk 2020 Fund, a £3 million fund set up for investment in emerging policy priorities.

This fund was made possible because of the decision of this council to use part of the Government's one-year financial settlement to invest in some of the beneficial community projects that ordinarily may not have received as much focus or opportunity, given the other huge, costly frontline services that the county council is responsible for.

The fund was used to deliver a range of initiatives and projects that provide a positive, tangible impact, such as the ANPR cameras.

Work on setting up and enabling this, and other projects, began in early 2021 and it is now that we are starting to see the fruits of those labours, a range of new community projects that will benefit people for years to come.

Projects such as these are a real force in bringing communities together, with outcomes which provide many social and environmental benefits now and in the future."

County Council's Budget Consultation

Suffolk County Council is keen to hear from Suffolk residents, businesses and local communities, as it decides its budget for next year.

[An online survey](#) has been launched, and a number of focus groups will be held, for you to have your say on the services which are important to you.

A summary of your responses will be included in the report considered by the council when agreeing the budget in February 2023.

The budget setting process includes your thoughts, advice from council officers, elected members from political groups, businesses and partners in health and other public service organisations across Suffolk.

Councillor Richard Rout, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Environment at Suffolk County Council, said:

"Setting our budget each year is always challenging, but I always strive to offer taxpayers the best possible value. We work hard to maintain all our services and invest where can, which is what we were able to achieve last year.

“However, this year is going to be much more difficult. Many people that I speak to think that councils are not affected by the increase in the cost of living – unfortunately this is not the case. Many of the pressures households are facing, we are facing too.

“The high rates of inflation mean that our day-to-day costs are going up, the things that we need to buy today are markedly more expensive than this time last year. On top of which, we are still feeling the effects of the pandemic, and continue to see more demand for our services, particularly caring for adults and young people.

“All this means that we need a significant increase to our budget, just to be in a position to provide the same level of service as last year. If we want to spend more money on one service, we must reduce the spend on another, that’s the balance we have to find.”

The two main ways in which the council can increase its budget, are an increase in the money it receives from Government, and by increasing its share of council tax bills.

Last year, Suffolk County Council increased its overall share of council tax by 2.99%, the equivalent of 80p per week for a Band D property. It continues to lobby central government, alongside many local authorities, to evidence the need for more funding for local services.

With careful financial planning and management, the council has saved hundreds of millions of pounds in recent years. This has been achieved through transformation programs which have made the organisation leaner, whilst still protecting many services from large-scale reductions. It also committed £12.8m to the decarbonisation of its estate, which has already achieved impressive results. One of the council’s main operational buildings has seen a year-on-year reduction in gas consumption by 84%, meaning financial and carbon savings.

A proposed budget will be presented at a Cabinet meeting in January 2023 and the final budget will be discussed at Full Council in February 2023.

[The online survey](#) is open throughout October and November, and focus groups are being organised with local community groups and for members of the public. Details of these will be shared on the council’s website and social media channels in due course.

Being prepared for winter matters to Suffolk County Council

As the days get shorter and temperatures continue to drop, it certainly feels like winter is on the way.

Although I agree that it’s probably far too early to mention Christmas, we should all start to give some thought to preparing for the changing season – something Suffolk County Council is here to help with.

Today marks the start of the council’s new Winter Matters campaign, a campaign packed full of tips and advice to help you and your loved ones look after your money, health, wellbeing and safety during the colder months.

As we do with so much of our work, the council has partnered with organisations and services from across the county who are already providing support for people in Suffolk, such as the Rural Coffee Caravan and Community Action Suffolk, to ensure we can help

those who need it most. I would like to offer them my thanks for their help with this campaign.

Of course, every year Suffolk County Council helps families and communities with essential services, whether it be by gritting icy roads, commissioning social care support, or attending fires, but this year especially we are asking that people make their own preparations to enable them to have a happy and healthy winter. It would take too long for me to list all the various parts of this campaign, but I wanted to highlight just a few.

Winter marks the start of the flu season, and of course the shadow of COVID hasn't gone away. Protect yourself and those you care about by getting the flu and covid vaccines as soon as you are eligible.

Vaccination is still the best defence against these serious and potentially life-threatening illnesses, and I am delighted that more than 173,000 people in Suffolk have already had their autumn COVID booster vaccine.

Don't forget, when notified you can book your COVID vaccination appointment or find a walk-in clinic near you by visiting [SNEE NHS Covid-19 Vaccination webpage](#).

We can all play our part in helping to slow the spread of viruses this winter by washing or sanitising our hands regularly. Anyone feeling unwell should ideally stay at home to protect others if they can. If you're ill and have to leave the house, please consider keeping your distance from people or wearing a face covering if you must get close to them.

As well as looking after our health, it's important for us to prioritise wellbeing this winter, with ongoing increases to the Cost of Living being a source of stress for many.

I know this is especially true when it comes to energy bills. Whilst Government has stepped in to help cap the average cost of energy, additional help is at hand from Warm Homes Suffolk, which provides support on making homes more energy efficient and cheaper to heat.

The service can offer assistance with fuel payments, discuss energy efficiency improvements, help you access grants to pay for insulation, and assess your eligibility for contributions towards the cost of repairs or replacements if your boiler or heater stops working.

If high energy bills are preventing you from putting the heating on, or you know anyone who may need extra help heating their home, please contact Warm Homes Suffolk on **03456 037 686**.

Further guidance on national and local support with household costs, including food and essentials, is available on our website. [Visit the Cost of Living page](#) to find out what help you could be entitled to, as well as tips and advice for saving money.

Although rising prices may prompt many of us to look for a good deal this winter, this should not be at the expense of safety.

Online auction sites or social media marketplaces can be rife with counterfeit goods or products that don't meet the UK's stringent safety laws. These often haven't been properly tested and could pose a serious risk of fire, serious injury or even death.

Buying from reputable retailers will help to keep you safe and remember, if a deal looks too good to be true, it probably is.

You can also reduce the chances of a fire in your home this winter by taking a few simple steps such as regularly cleaning your chimney before use, never leaving candles or open fires unattended and switching off electrical appliances before bed, including fairy lights on Christmas trees.

There is a wealth of information on this and other ways in which you can prepare on [the Winter Matters page](#). We will also be sharing advice on social media and distributing leaflets via the Rural Coffee Caravan and Suffolk Libraries to support everyone in Suffolk.

Section of Lowestoft's Gull Wing Bridge placed over East Suffolk railway line

The first major steel section of the Gull Wing bridge in Lowestoft has been moved into its final position over the East Suffolk railway line. This is following a successful weekend-long track possession and a complex engineering operation. Leading civil engineering and building contractor Farrans is constructing the bridge for Suffolk County Council. The North Approach Viaduct (NAV1) section arrived at the construction site on Lake Lothing on Tuesday March 1 on a barge following a 32-hour crossing from Victor Buyck Steel Construction in Ghent in Belgium. It weighed 380 tonnes on delivery. Since then, the bridge has had a reinforced concrete deck and parapets added to it and in its move to its final position it weighed close to 1,450 tonnes. The operation began at midnight on Friday evening and concluded on Monday at 5am when the line was returned to Network Rail. NAV1 was moved using self-propelled modular transporters (SPMTs), multi-axle hydraulic units which can be added together depending on the length of the load. Sixteen individual axles in two rows of two maneuvered the section into its final position.

Councillor Matthew Hicks, Leader of Suffolk County Council, said: "This is a significant and exciting milestone in the building of the Gull Wing bridge. People can now start seeing the bridge really begin to take shape, a structure which once finished will have a huge and positive impact on the town of Lowestoft and the wider area. It will open up investment into the town by tackling congestion and improving connectivity for motorists, cyclists and pedestrians."

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