

**SUFFOLK COASTAL DISTRICT COUNCILLOR’S REPORT**

***Cllr Stephen Burroughes – January 2019***

Can I first wish everyone as very Happy New Year!

* **Special Meeting - Suffolk Coastal Final Draft Local Plan**

A special meeting of the Full Council at Suffolk Coastal is being held on 3rd January to discuss the Suffolk Coastal Final Draft Local Plan. This is a comprehensive Local Plan for the District for the period 2018 to 2036. It includes a vision, spatial strategy, district wide policies and area specific strategies including site allocations. The review of the Suffolk Coastal Local Plan has been overseen by the Cabinet appointed Local Plan Working Group, chaired by the Cabinet Member for Planning. Progress on the Local Plan is broadly in accordance with the Council’s timetable published in October 2015.

Following two rounds of consultation and engagement the Local Plan has now reached the Final Draft stage. The Scrutiny Committee considered and endorsed the process and ‘proposals’ on 27 November 2018 and agreed to recommend to Cabinet that the Final Draft Local Plan progress to Full Council for approval. Subject to the Final Draft Local Plan being agreed at Full Council, it will then be submitted for examination by the independent Examination by the Planning Inspectorate. It is anticipated that the Plan will be adopted by the end of 2019. I hope your Parish Council will be present at this important meeting.

* **Stage 3 Sizewell C Consultation**

The third stage of EDF Energy’s public consultation for Sizewell C nuclear power station will begin on Friday, 4 January 2019. Local residents, community groups, public representatives and businesses will have the opportunity to see the latest proposals for the new power station, which would be built to the north of Sizewell B. The plans include associated development needed to enable construction, such as park and ride sites and various options for road and rail improvements. The proposals have been informed by technical and environmental assessments and the feedback received from the two previous stages of consultation. Stage 3 Public Consultation will run for 12 weeks, ending on Friday 29 March 2019.

People can submit their views at: <http://sizewell.edfenergyconsultation.info/szc-proposals/stage-3/>

**Public exhibitions** – During the first two weeks of the consultation, EDF Energy will stage a series of exhibition, which will include a CGI model of the development, as well as information boards and literature about the proposals.

**Date Time Venue**

Friday 4 Jan 4 – 8pm Visitor Centre, Sizewell B, Leiston

Saturday 5 Jan 11am – 5pm Leiston United Church, High Street, Leiston

Monday 7 Jan 11am – 5pm Jubilee Hall, Church Road, Theberton

Tuesday 8 Jan 11am – 5pm Village Hall, Old High Road, Yoxford

Wednesday 9 Jan 2 – 8pm High Lodge, Hinton, Nr Darsham

Thursday 10 Jan 3 – 8pm Village Hall, The Street, Hacheston

Friday 11 Jan 2 – 8pm Village Hall, High Street, Wickham Market

Saturday 12 Jan 10am - 4pm Market Hall, High Street, Saxmundham

Tuesday 15 Jan 10am – 4pm Community Hall, Station Road, Woodbridge

Weds 16 Jan 11am – 5pm Village Hall, Mill Street, Middleton

Thurs 17 Jan 11am – 5pm Methodist Church Hall, East Green, Southwold

Friday 18 Jan 1 – 7pm Community Centre, Victoria Road, Aldeburgh

Sat 19 Jan 10am – 4pm Riverside Centre, Stratford St Andrew

Tues 22 Jan 11am – 5pm Trimley Sports & Social Club, High Rd, Trimley St Martin

* **Scottish Power Renewables Consultation**

Suffolk Coastal District Council and Suffolk County Council have both responded with frustration after hearing that Scottish Power Renewables has announced its plans to site a substation at Grove Wood, Friston, as part of their offshore windfarms projects. Both authorities had previously jointly stated that selecting one of the two proposed substation sites at Grove Wood or Broom Covert, was like choosing the lesser of two evils.

We feel local needs are still being ignored and maintain their position that more should be done to co-ordinate these projects to minimise the impact on the local communities. Both authorities will continue working together, to express concerns to Scottish Power Renewables directly and through the next round of public consultations. We have welcomed the ongoing interaction and consultation with Scottish Power Renewables during their pre-application process. However, we are concerned with their preference to site the onshore infrastructure at Grove Wood, Friston, as we consider this location to have significant adverse impacts on the landscape, heritage assets and the local community.

* **Funding boost for local communities**

Local community groups have received a funding boost of just under £126,000 this year - thanks to Suffolk Coastal. The Enabling Communities Budget (ECB) was set up in December 2013 to support local projects and activities which benefit those living in the district. So far this financial year (since 1 April 2018 to date), Suffolk Coastal’s councillors have supported over 109 projects and community initiatives, with a total of £125,992.57 in funding. The budget has supported everything from new play areas, improvements to community buildings, charities that help the members of our communities, sports clubs and activities which cater to all ages. Each councillor has £6,500 to spend on new projects, enhancing existing projects or community groups in their ward. The 2018/19 budget ends in March 2019.

* **Dog owners - clear up after your pets!**

A Witnesham resident who ignored two Fixed Penalty Notices for failing to clear up after his dog has been made to pay of total of £600 after Suffolk Coastal took him to court. The Council brought a prosecution against the resident at Ipswich Magistrates’ Court. When he failed to attend, the court heard the matter in his absence and fined him £150 for failing to clear up after his dog on two separate occasions, in Witnesham, Suffolk. He was also ordered to pay £450 costs. In April 2018, council officers were notified of two separate incidents where he had failed to clear up after his dog had fouled on public land. He received two fixed penalty notices but failed to pay.

The council introduced Public Space Protection Orders in January 2018 to tackle dog fouling across the district. Failure to clear up after a dog in your control could result in a fixed penalty notice of £80 being issued. Failure to pay the fixed penalty notice may lead to prosecution and a potential maximum fine of £1000. Suffolk Coastal has a statutory duty to keep public land clear of litter and refuse, including dog fouling and will take action against irresponsible individuals who fail to clear up after their dogs within a restricted area.

* **CITIZENS ADVICE SERVICE - How will proposed changes to affect you?**

Suffolk County Council is carrying out a consultation to understand the equality impacts there may be as a result of proposed changes to the local Citizens Advice (CAB) grant funding which the authority currently provides. At the Council’s Scrutiny meeting on 22 November 2018, the committee considered details of proposed savings totalling £11.2m so the council can balance its budget. Amongst these savings was the proposal to remove the funding grant that the county council gives Suffolk’s CAB. Committee members recommended changing the proposal to a phased reduction – a recommendation that was later agreed by Cabinet. It is now proposed that the grant will reduce by half to £184,000 in 2019/20 before ending in 2020/21. A consultation regarding this decision is running since 12 noon on Monday 17December until 5pm on Wednesday 23 January. Comments made through the consultation will be used to help inform the final decision on the council budget, which is due to be made by full council on 14 February 2019.

For more information and to take part in the consultation, please visit the website: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/cabconsultation>

**Cllr Stephen Burroughes**

*Suffolk Coastal District Council*

*Member for Yoxford & Peasenhall*

*Chairman of East Suffolk Shadow Authority*

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