

Suffolk Coastal District Councillor Report

Sue Mower – January 2019

Suffolk Coastal Cabinet – 6.30pm on Wednesday, 2 January 2019, in the Deben Conference Room, East Suffolk House: Suffolk Coastal Final Draft Local Plan – The Suffolk Coastal Final Draft Local Plan 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. This is obviously a key strategic document for this council and will govern the development of the area for nearly two decades. It not only identifies areas considered to be suitable for development, it will also provide us with a stronger case to refuse inappropriate speculative planning applications, allowing us to safeguard our unique local environment.

Acceptance of Funding Award – The Council has been awarded funding to support a rural project, working with the Rural Coffee Caravan to deliver energy advice and solutions.

The funding was announced at the end of November 2018 and had to be accepted by 14th December 2018. Consequently the Strategic Director, in consultation with the Cabinet member and Section 151 Officer, has signed the agreement and this report is to regularise that situation.

No funding has been claimed at this point and authorisation is sought for the claiming of the £78,150 award to redistribute it to the Rural Coffee Caravan.

Proposed Parking Petitions Procedures – The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) has produced statutory guidance to local authorities under section 18 of the Traffic Management Act 2004 requiring them to set policies for petitions challenging parking policies.

The statutory guidance recognises that local authorities should have policies for petitioning about council run services but requires specific and additional policies and procedures to be published with respect to parking policies.

The current Suffolk Coastal and Waveney petitions procedure does not make specific reference to petitions about parking policies and they need to be amended and provisions incorporated into the new East Suffolk petitions procedures to comply with the statutory instrument.

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This report makes recommendations on the provisions and procedures for adoption to ensure compliance with the statutory instrument.

Proposed New East Suffolk Off-Street Parking Places Order – In anticipation of the adoption of civil parking enforcement (CPE) and the creation of the new East Suffolk Council, it is desirable to produce a single new off-street parking places Order and associated single tariff structure.

The Member Working Group at its October 2018 meeting endorsed the creation of a single new East Suffolk Car Park Order and tariff structure. The proposed new tariff structure was approved by Cabinet in November 2018. This report sets out the proposed new East Suffolk off-street ‘parent’ order and seeks approval to formally advertise and carry out the Statutory Consultation process required by the provisions of the Local Authorities’ Traffic Orders Regulations.

Stage 3 Sizewell C Consultation - The third stage of EDF Energy’s public consultation for Sizewell C nuclear power station began 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/szcproposals/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,
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 and Social Club, High Road,
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.

We will continue discussions with SPR in advance of their next round of public consultation in seeking to maximise mitigation opportunities for this difficult site. We have a responsibility to safeguard our fragile, unique environment in Suffolk but we also do understand that there is a desire for new jobs and economic development as part of a vibrant local and national economy.

The leaders of Suffolk Coastal, Waveney Districts and Suffolk County have written to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy asking that the Government takes a more strategic view in planning how we manage energy infrastructure in the future so that issues such as this are dealt with properly.

Although we are still opposed to the Friston site, we don't have the authority to turn down the planning of these major infrastructure projects. So, we will do what we can to work with Scottish Power Renewables to find the maximum mitigation possible to ensure their project causes the least impact in the event that it is accepted by the Secretary of State in due course.

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.

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To find out how your local councillor is spending their budget, visit their contact details pages at: www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/yourcouncil/councillors/suffolk-coastal-district-councillors For more information about the Enabling Community Budget, visit: www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/community/community-grants-and-funding/suffolk-coastalenabling-communities-budgets.

Dog owners - clear up after your pets! A Winesham 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 Mr Mason at Ipswich Magistrates' Court. When Mr Mason failed to attend, the court heard the matter in his absence and fined Mr Mason £150 for failing to clear up after his dog on two separate occasions, in Winesham, Suffolk. He was also ordered to pay £450 costs.

In April 2018, council officers were notified of two separate incidents where Mr Mason had failed to clear up after his dog had fouled on public land. Mr Mason 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.

Not only is dog fouling highly unpleasant, it is also a hazard to health. So dog owners are being urged to clean up after their pets!

Night-time clean up before Christmas - While most of us were safely tucked up in our beds, a team of workers have been out cleaning up a busy stretch of the A12 in time for Christmas.

A two-man team from Suffolk Coastal's operation partners, Suffolk Coastal Norse, worked overnight (8pm - 5am) for 11 nights in early December to clear up the rubbish on the A12, from the Seven Hills roundabout to Woodbridge.

The team cleared away 2.700 tonnes of litter in total. Some unusual items were collected, such as an iPad and shoes, as well as fast food wrappers, empty bottles, plastic sheets and vehicle parts to mention a few.

How will proposed changes to the local Citizens Advice (CAB) 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.

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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 from 12 noon on Monday 17 December 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>

Happy New Year Everyone

Regards Sue