

Parish Report July 2016

Councillor

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Relief as news of free middle school plan withdrawal is confirmed

The Department for Education have confirmed that the Secretary of State has decided to withdraw her approval for a new free middle school in Bury St Edmunds.

Bury St Edmunds Academy Trust (BSEAT) had previously applied for the school and had received initial approval, with a proposed opening of September 2016. After hearing the news of the application for a new free middle school, Suffolk County Council submitted a formal legal challenge to the DfE to express its concerns. This was submitted alongside concerns from parents and education leaders from Bury St Edmunds.

Given the obvious strength of feeling arising from the decision to approve the proposal from Bury St Edmunds Academy Trust (BSEAT) for a new free school in the town, the Department for Education (DfE) decided to withdraw its decision of 24 March 2016 for the school to open in September 2016. All parties will be holding discussions on how BSEAT's proposals for all-through education could best serve the children of Bury St Edmunds within the context of Suffolk County Council's recent reorganisation of other provision in the town,

Councillor Gordon Jones, Suffolk County Council's Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education & Skills said: "I am very encouraged to hear that the Secretary of State has withdrawn her approval. It is vitally important that the range and type of education works for all our children in Bury and I look forward to working with the DfE and all the schools in the town including Bury St Edmunds Academy Trust and the Bury Schools Partnership to ensure the very best provision is made available for young people in Bury. The development of this new free middle school would have jeopardised and undermined our efforts to move towards a two tier education system for the town, which we have successfully been working towards over the last few years with great support and encouragement from many local schools throughout the Bury area. We were very robust in our representations to the Secretary of State to explain that the town is already well served with many good and outstanding schools able to meet the local education needs for young people."

Parents who may have applied for this middle school should be advised that if they have not already applied for or been allocated a place at an existing school in Bury, please contact the Admissions Team at admissions@suffolk.gov.uk or call **0345 6000981**.

Pigs Gone Wild!

Suffolk County Council; one of the official partners for Suffolk's biggest ever mass participation public art event – 'Pigs Gone Wild' has today unveiled the design chosen to appear on the public trail around Ipswich between **27 June** and **2 September 2016**.

Designed and painted by Norfolk artist, Martin J Wall 'Ed Sheer-Ham' is a tribute to the double Grammy award-winning singer song-writer Ed Sheeran who was raised in Suffolk and still has close connections with Ipswich. Pigs Gone Wild will see approximately 40 pig sculptures set out on a walkable trail around Ipswich and the Waterfront this summer, raising money for St Elizabeth Hospice.

Ed Sheeran has given his full backing to the event saying: "I'm really excited to have a pig sculpture made in my honour and I hope Ed Sheer-Ham will be a huge hit on the Pigs Gone Wild trail in Ipswich this summer. The artist, Martin J Wall, has done a great job – I think he looks awesome."

Suffolk County Councillor Christopher Hudson, Cabinet Member for Ipswich said: "We hope Ed Sheer-Ham will create a real buzz around Pigs Gone Wild and will unite our town in its biggest ever mass participation art event, encouraging people and families to get active and to explore all areas of Ipswich. It's fantastic that Ed has given his support to this, I'm sure this will really help promote civic pride as well as raising funds for St Elizabeth Hospice."

Norman Lloyd, St Elizabeth Hospice's Special Projects Manager, said: "We are delighted to have Suffolk County Council on board as an official partner. Their pig design is absolutely fantastic and will certainly generate huge interest as well as helping us all deliver a great project to Ipswich. I hope Ed Sheer-Ham will not only appeal to local people, but will also bring thousands of visitors to the town and help put Ipswich - and Suffolk - on the map!"

After the 10-week extravaganza, the large pigs will be auctioned off to raise funds for St Elizabeth Hospice, helping to provide vital care and support to people living with a progressive illness and their families. Pigs were chosen for the event to celebrate Suffolk's rich agricultural heritage and association with pig production in the county.

New Powers to tackle Fly Tipping

New powers came into force in May 2016 that allow local authorities to issue Fixed Penalty Notices to any person found to have fly-tipped.

Any person issued one of the new Fixed Penalty Notices for fly-tipping would then have 14 days to comply by paying £200, which is reduced to £120 if paid within 10 days, although individual local authorities will have the power to fix the level of the penalty at up to £400. Failure to comply with the notice may result in prosecution proceedings, which in the event of a conviction by a Magistrates Court can result in a maximum fine of £50,000 and / or a prison sentence of 6 months being imposed, with Crown Courts able to impose even steeper penalties of up to 5 years imprisonment and an unlimited fine.

Householders also have a legal duty of care to ensure that their waste does not end up being fly-tipped and can be prosecuted and fined up to £5,000 if convicted by a Court for failing to fulfil this duty. So to stay safe, always carry out the following **SCRAP** checks when arranging for your rubbish to be removed by anyone other than your local district or borough council:

- **Suspect** - Beware of rogue waste carriers – reputable companies do not usually make direct approaches. If in any doubt as to whether someone is a legitimate waste carrier, do not allow them to take your waste.
- **Check** - Ask for their waste carrier registration details. You can verify them by visiting the online register at <https://environment.data.gov.uk/public-register/view/search-waste-carriers-brokers> or by calling 03708 506 506. Note down the registration number of the vehicle used to take your waste away.
- **Refuse** – Any unsolicited offers to have any rubbish taken away. Always carry out your own research and choose who you wish to approach.
- **Ask** questions - Always ask what exactly is going to happen to your rubbish and seek evidence that it is going to be disposed of appropriately. A legitimate, professional waste carrier who wants your business should not object to being asked reasonable questions.
- **Paperwork** - Make sure you get a proper receipt containing the written information for your waste. This should include what has been removed and where it will be going. Make sure the Company or tradesman's details are included.

If you see someone dumping rubbish, please report it to your local council along with any details that might help us to identify and trace those responsible, including the registration of any vehicle involved:

- Suffolk Coastal District Council 01394 444000
- Waveney District Council 01502 562111
- Babergh District Council 01473 826622
- Mid Suffolk District Council 0845 606 6170
- Ipswich Borough Council 01473 433115
- Forest Heath District Council 01638 719000
- St Edmundsbury Borough Council 01284 763233

East Anglian Children's Art Festival returns to Bury St Edmunds

Need help keeping the kids entertained? Event looks at this year's Once Upon a Festival, running June 12-26.

Launched by the Theatre Royal, Bury St Edmunds, last year the festival is back - bigger and better than before with more than 60 live performances from leading national and international companies.

“I’m really delighted the theatre is producing the second East Anglian Children’s Arts Festival which we have named Once Upon a Festival.” says Karen Simpson, artistic director. “We’ve a really exciting line-up of shows this year and are presenting work right across the region in schools, village halls and arts venues including Theatre Royal, The Apex and Conservatoire East and in a wonderful tent in the grounds of the cathedral. The festival spans three weekends and there are many different ways to get involved.

Making Once Upon a Festival a reality is down to a £15,000 Arts Council grant and the help of 11 local councillors from St Edmundsbury Borough Council and Suffolk County Council who are supporting professional performances in 16 schools with £9,600.

Continued sponsor Taylor Wimpey has donated £2,000. Hayden Dolby, financial director for Taylor Wimpey East Anglia, adds: “We’re very pleased to be able to support the Theatre Royal again this year. The festival is an incredibly worthwhile event which will give children the opportunity to experience live performances and workshops, so we’re delighted to get involved.”

Highlights include family favourites Pinocchio and Roald Dahl’s Revolting Rhymes, adaptations of Julia Donaldson’s Tiddler and Other Tales and The Gruffalo’s Child while circus act In Situ Circus and Tell Tale hearts perform the open air show The Wind and The Sun.

There are weekend tickets on Sunday, June 19, where you can enjoy baby discos, circus and classic stories. There are fun-filled evening performances at Conservatoire East, Disco Bambino at the Athenaeum, films at The Apex and an opening day at the Theatre Royal with the Dragon Festival rounding things off on the final weekend.