

Parish Report April 2016

Councillor

Richard Kemp

Tresco
New Road
Long Melford
Suffolk
CO10 9JY
01787 378149
richard.kemp@suffolk.gov.uk

Volunteers needed to help get Suffolk Composting

Suffolk Master Composters are inviting green-minded enthusiasts to join their ranks and master the art of composting this spring time.

New volunteers will receive expert training from the Suffolk Waste Partnership and Garden Organic to enable them to act as composting ambassadors – encouraging the public to compost through promotional talks, events and demonstrations. The next two-day Suffolk Master Composter foundation course takes place in April. Day one takes place in one location, but those who attend do have a choice of locations for attending day two.

- **Saturday 2 April at Red Gables Community Centre, Stowmarket** (Day 1 of training)
- **Tuesday 12 April at Lackford Lakes Nature Reserve, Bury St Edmunds or Saturday 16 April at the Copleston Centre, Ipswich** (Day 2 of training)

Composting resources and ongoing support will also be provided throughout the volunteers' involvement. In return, volunteers are asked to commit a minimum of 30 hours to the scheme – promoting the composting message through a wide range of methods such as; talks to local organisations, visits to schools, writing articles and running information stalls at public events. No experience is required to join the scheme – all that is needed is an interest in composting and a desire to support your local community.

Councillor Clive Arthey, Suffolk Waste Partnership Chair said: "Many people are unaware that more than a third of the contents of the average household bin can be composted. It's environmentally the best way of dealing with this waste and better for our pockets. As well as creating great free fertiliser for the garden, home composting helps towards achieving the council's recycling targets and divert as much waste from disposal as possible. Suffolk Master Composter volunteers have an important role to play in promoting the many benefits of home composting to the people of Suffolk and supporting those who are already trying it."

Master Composter, Claire Tolliday from Ipswich, is one of 70 volunteers who have completed their training since the scheme began in November 2007. Claire said: "The training course was informal and fun and of a really high quality. It included the essentials of home composting, loads of information and practical demonstrations, which cover most of the questions that you might have to deal with as a Master Composter. I love meeting people from all walks of life and so many people are very receptive and glad of the advice we can give. It has also been a joy to meet and volunteer with a great group of like-minded people."

If you are interested in attending please contact Craig Renton, Waste Advisor on **01473 264795** or email mastercomposters@suffolk.gov.uk

For more information on the Suffolk Master Composter scheme and training course content, please visit: www.suffolkrecycling.org.uk/

Suffolk retail chain caught repeatedly selling alcohol to minors fined £10,000

A local business, with a history of selling alcohol to underage people was fined yesterday at Ipswich Magistrates Court after two of their stores were caught three times on two occasions in a 12 month period

Representatives of Martin McColl Ltd's Wickham Market and Great Cornard stores appeared at Ipswich Magistrates Court as the shops had continued to sell alcohol to young people despite warnings and interventions by Suffolk Trading Standards. The company pleaded guilty to all three counts under section 146 Licensing Act- selling alcohol to underage persons which carries a maximum £5000 fine.

The Wickham Market branch was fined £6000 for two incidents whilst the Great Cornard branch was fined £4000. McColl Ltd was also ordered to pay £1618.63 in costs and a £200 victim surcharge.

The Magistrates took into consideration the guilty pleas, and the fact that McColl Ltd had cooperated with the investigation. The company have also reviewed and updated their procedures since the sales took place. One of the aggravating factors of the case was that one of the sellers was only 16 years old and had been using a manager's till access code at the time of the sales.

Councillor Sarah Stamp, Suffolk County Council's Cabinet Member for Communities said:

"Suffolk Trading Standards received intelligence that there had been numerous occasions where underage sales had taken place at the Wickham Market and Great Cornard sites and acted accordingly. Retailers know the law and that it is illegal to sell alcohol to anyone under 18 years old. Trading Standards advice is to operate a 'Challenge 25' policy so anyone who looks under 25 should be asked for ID. It is important that action is taken against traders who sell alcohol to children; in particular, those traders who repeatedly break these laws, which are in place to protect these young people associated health risks that underage drinking has on young people."

Anyone with information about illegal sales of alcohol, tobacco, knives, butane gas or other age-restricted products can inform Trading Standards by contacting the Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline on **03454 040506**.

£1bn Devolution deal announced for East Anglia

Weeks of negotiation between Government and local councils and LEPs has led to a deal worth over £1bn for East Anglia. As part of the deal, announced by George Osborne MP, Chancellor of the Exchequer, East Anglia would receive:

- £900m (£30m a year for the next 30 years) to invest in infrastructure
- £175m to invest in housing

The Deal, which sets out a fundamentally different relationship between Government and local public services, was negotiated by Leaders from councils across Suffolk, Norfolk, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough and the New Anglia and Greater Cambridge Greater Peterborough LEP.

If ratified by the relevant councils and LEP Boards, The Deal would see decisions currently being made by Government on such things as infrastructure, growth, employment and skills being made in East Anglia in the future.

Councillor Jennie Jenkins, Chair of Suffolk Public Sector Leaders Group said: "The Deal reflects the fact that Suffolk and the rest of East Anglia delivers some significant economic benefits to UK PLC and beyond through agriculture, on and offshore energy and research and innovation in science and technology. However, it is important to be clear that what has been published today isn't a done deal. It requires ratification by each of the local councils and the LEP Boards. We will also be carrying out extensive engagement over the coming months with local communities and businesses across Suffolk with feedback being used to inform the paper that councils will consider in the summer".

The Deal requires the creation of a Combined Authority and directly elected Mayor and it is proposed that the first mayoral elections would be in May 2017 alongside county council elections. The directly elected Mayor would act as Chair to the East Anglia Combined Authority and would exercise the following powers and functions devolved from Government:

- Responsibility for a multi-year, consolidated and, devolved local transport budget
- Responsibility for a new Key Route Network of local authority roads that will be managed and maintained by the Combined Authority on behalf of the Mayor
- Powers over strategic planning and housing, including £175m ring-fenced funding to deliver an ambitious target of new homes

The new East Anglia Combined Authority, working with the Mayor, would receive the following powers:

- Control of a new additional £30 million a year funding allocation over 30 years, to be invested to the East Anglia Single Investment Fund, to boost growth
- Responsibility for chairing an area-based review of 16+ skills provision, the outcomes of which will be taken forward in line with the principles of the devolved arrangements, and devolved 19+ adult skills funding from 2018/19.
- Joint responsibility with the government to co-design the new National Work and Health Programme designed to focus on those with a health condition or disability and the very long term unemployed.

Further negotiation and clarification on the specifics of the Deal will continue over the months ahead before each of the councils debates the Deal at Full Council meetings in the summer. Ahead of these meetings there will be extensive engagement with communities and businesses.

This is the first Deal for East Anglia but, as has happened elsewhere in the country, the local authorities and LEPs are keen to negotiate further Deals over the coming months and years.

Country Park may be locked up over night

The trustees of Clare Country Park are seeking to stop residents using its car park for off-street parking and is considering locking the site overnight. The proposals were outlined in a newsletter sent out to residents and businesses in the town.

Regular incidents of vandalism and alleged drug dealing at the park have culminated in the steps being considered, as well as a recent planning application which suggested the car park could be used by residents from a potential flat development.

Geoffrey Bray, chairman of the trust, said: "The car park is primarily for people using the park and visitors who come to Clare for the day. It should not be used by residents for off-street parking."

In the design and access statement submitted by Clare Antiques in Malting Lane for nine flats, it states residents should be allowed to use the car park at an annual cost of £50 with 13 permits required. However, although a small number of residents who visit the park regularly have permits, the trust says a reasonable amount for residents parking everyday would be £500 a year.

The metered car park has around 90 spaces which bring in around £45,000 a year and during summer weekends is often full. "We have to ensure we safeguard the income we generate from car parking for the park," said Mr Bray. "We don't want people buying houses on the basis the permit will be £50 when it won't." Mr Bray added that anti-social behaviour at the car park was a persistent issue at night time and re-installing an entrance gate, which would be locked overnight, was a 'sensible' option. "The car park has been used by drug takers and dealers and those who drive here and indulge in mindless vandalism," he said, "That is not the sort of anti-social behaviour we want. At this stage the trust has made it clear that no final decision has been made and although the present £50 permit charge used by those who work in the town or visit the park often will be reviewed, it will not be changed for the 'foreseeable future'.

Fire Station Car Wash

Firefighters from Long Melford grabbed their buckets and sponges on Saturday, March 5, to raise money for a charity close to their hearts.



The crew members spent six hours washing, waxing and polishing in Hall Street, Long Melford, to raise funds for The Firefighters Charity.

Long Melford crew commander Scott Powell said: "We raised a grand total of £628. A fantastic amount for a little village brigade."

Armed police arrest man with flintlock pistol and knife in Sudbury

A man arrested after he was spotted in two Sudbury pubs with weapons has been cautioned.

Police were first called at 4.22pm today to the White Horse pub in North Street after the man place an antique or replica gun on the bar. Staff called officers after asking the man to leave, but nothing was found in a search of the area and a visit to the suspect's address. The Suffolk police control room then received a call at 5.35pm to the Black Boy Hotel in Market Hill to with a report of a man matching the same description with a wooden-handled knife or bayonet in his pocket.

Armed officers were deployed discreetly and arrested the man, aged 59, who was found in possession of a large knife and a flintlock pistol. The man was given a police caution after being assessed for mental health issues while in custody. No-one was hurt in the incident and the weapons were not brandished, with only the two calls being made to Suffolk Constabulary.

Four 100mph-plus Suffolk speeders including two aged 83 and 65 are banned

Four 100mph-plus drivers, including an 83-year-old and a 65-year-old, have lost their licences after pleading guilty to speeding in Suffolk.

William Hall, of Westholme Road, Ipswich, admitted driving at 112mph, when he appeared before South East Suffolk Magistrates' Court. The 48 year old was caught on the A14 at Sproughton while driving a BMW 530d M Sport. Hall's speed was recorded by a Laser Speed detection device at 7.15pm on September 7th last year. Magistrates banned Hall for 56 days and fined him £240. He was also told he must pay £85 costs and make a £24 contribution to the victims' fund.

Motorcyclist Lee Rogers, of Lacey Street, Ipswich, was disqualified from driving after being caught travelling at 109mph on the A14 at Higham, between Bury St Edmunds and Newmarket.

The offence occurred just after 6.30pm on September 6. The 33-year-old was riding a Yamaha YZF R1 at the time. The court banned him for 42 days and fined him £255. Rogers must also pay £85 costs and £26 to the victims' fund.

An 83-year-old has lost his licence for 14 days after his VW Golf was clocked travelling at 103mph on the A12 at Wickham Market. The offence happened shortly before 4.20pm on September 5.

In addition to his ban Alan Catchpole, of Broke Hall, Nacton, was fined £660 and ordered to pay £85, as well as £60 to the victims' fund.

The fourth motorist to be disqualified was David Bebb, of Harlow, Essex, who was also caught travelling at 103mph. The 65-year-old committed the offence at around 11.25am on September 5 on the A14 at Exning, near Newmarket. He was driving a Porsche Cayman at the time. Bebb was banned from the road for 14 days and fined £660. He must also pay £85 costs and £60 to the victims' fund.