

Parish Report January 2016

Councillor

Richard Kemp

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

Compliments of the Season

Dear Residents, Here we are once again at that point where we are facing a New Year not only full of hopes and aspirations, but also the continued challenges and uncertainties of an ongoing restricted economy and the impact on Local Government Finance with yet further cuts to Budgets. It is a certainty that however difficult the past three years have been, 2016 is likely to continue testing our financial resources and management plans for services. Over the year having visited on a regular basis the nine parishes of the Melford Division, I continue to be both amazed and proud of the immense effort in volunteers in each of the Parishes who rise so admirably to the challenges placed upon communities by funding cuts from Government funds..

Despite all the recent cuts I am pleased to say I still have a small amount left in my Locality Budget that has to be spent by March 2015. The other small budget is called a small Highways Budget and covers small works such as dropped kerbs and highway signage.

Melford Ward: The 'Ward' covers the Parishes of Long Melford, Glemsford, Boxted, Stanstead, Somerton, Hartest, Lawshall, Shimpling and Alpheton. There are approximately 7,600 voters and a population circa 10,000 residents. If you wish to contact me with any queries my telephone numbers are; 01787 377861 (office), 01787 378149 (home), or email richard.kemp@suffolk.gov.uk

Wishing you all a peaceful, prosperous and joyous New Year!

Are you this years winner??

Competition launched to crown the most active communities in 2015

Building on the success of previous years, Suffolk County Council is once again on the search for Suffolk's most active community.

Active towns and villages across Suffolk are being urged to come forward and join winners like Kesgrave, Sudbury and Brantham to shout about how they're championing physical activity as well as sport in their local community. Whatever your community activity the Most Active County team want to hear from you. Whether it is dog-walking, yoga, football or Zumba; the county council wants to celebrate them as part of Suffolk's ambition to become England's most active county.

Launched with last year's winners of the small village category Middleton cum Fordley, the competition will seek out the most active town, small village and large village in Suffolk in 2015. Then at a special presentation event in March, the winner in each category will receive an engraved plaque as a permanent recognition of their achievements.

The competition is looking for communities that can demonstrate how they are getting people active, whether through:

new walking or cycling routes
improved community facilities

programmes of activities in village halls
new community events

For example, Middleton were winners because despite its small population, they have a vast range of activities available to local people such as:

Tai Chi Table Tennis Rambling Tennis Pilates Golf Zumba Rounders

They also proactively sought funding to install a new cricket pitch and small pavilion.

Anyone in the community can enter online or by phoning 01473 260722 to request a paper application form. The closing date for applicants is **5 February 2016**.

All entry forms will be carefully considered and those that successfully make it through the first round of judging will receive a 'Most Active Community 2015 Finalist' certificate. A final round will then take place, before the winners and runners-up for each category are announced with a presentation evening in March 2016.

Councillor Tony Goldson, Suffolk County Council's Cabinet Member for Health, said: "The competition will give people the chance to celebrate the work taking place in so many communities. There are a lot of inspired initiatives and groups getting people active in Suffolk. Encouraging and supporting people to live active lifestyles in their community is incredibly important because it keeps them healthy and independent in the short and long term. These awards are about recognising the fantastic work of communities right across Suffolk so I would urge people to send in their applications to the Most Active County team. The opportunities provided in communities across Suffolk are vital in helping us to achieve Suffolk's collective ambition of becoming the most active county in England."

Participation in sport and active recreation in Suffolk has grown by 2.2% (source: Sport England Active People 6 data) since 2012. This has lifted the county from the 25th (out of 27) to the 20th most active county in England.

The application form and a list of frequently asked questions are also available to download on the [Most Active County website](#).

Making Suffolk's Rail Demands clear to Franchise Bidders

Demand for new trains and more frequent passenger rail services on Suffolk's railway will be made at the Suffolk Rail Conference on 4 December 2015.

The Suffolk Rail Conference at Ipswich Town Football Club will see delegates speaking directly to the three short-listed franchise bidders competing to run the new East Anglia Rail Franchise about the rail improvements that are required to meet passenger and economic growth needs for the future.

Demands will include:

- new rolling stock
- faster and more frequent rail service between Suffolk and London Liverpool Street
- an hourly passenger rail service between Ipswich and Peterborough
- a half-hourly service between Ipswich and Cambridge
- faster line speeds and more frequent passenger rail services on East Suffolk Line
- a more resilient service on the Felixstowe branch line
- improvements to stations.

Conference delegates will learn more about the East Anglia Rail Franchise Invitation to Tender and the actions needed to ensure the best possible rail franchise and infrastructure deals. Ben Gummer, MP for Ipswich will provide information about the work of the Great Eastern Main Line Taskforce and representatives from Network Rail will identify plans for expanding and improving Suffolk's railways. A presentation on the Invitation to Tender will also be delivered by a speaker from the Rail Executive.

A series of workshops will take place during the day to draw together discussions and ideas regarding how the county's needs should be addressed by the new rail franchise. The outcomes of these workshops will be reported back to the audience at the end of the conference.

Suffolk County Council's Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport, Cllr James Finch said: "This is an important opportunity for us to send a clear and united message to the franchise bidders about what Suffolk needs from the new 10 year rail franchise. I will be listening carefully to what they propose and will offer challenge to ensure they are fully aware of the need for a clear plan that delivers improvement in the quality and provision of network services and new rolling stock. Suffolk has been overlooked for far too long and we need to use this opportunity of the new franchise to redress the balance."

The importance of this meeting is demonstrated by the attendance of Vicky Ford MEP, James Cartlidge MP and Jo Churchill MP, in addition to Ben Gummer MP who is speaking as part of the conference.

Suffolk begins second round Broadband Deployment to even more homes and businesses

Suffolk County Council is proud to announce that it has started the second round of Superfast Broadband deployment ahead of schedule.

The £30m contract with BT is part of the Government's Broadband Delivery UK (BDUK) programme, and the aim is to extend coverage of Superfast Broadband to 95% of Suffolk premises by 2019, as the next major step in our plans towards full coverage by 2020.

The start of the second-round deployment was marked with a new cabinet in Eye becoming ready for service - this cabinet was actually the first in the UK to be delivered under the second round of the BDUK programme, so another first for Suffolk! Details of the coverage planned up until September 2016 have now been released on the [Better Broadband for Suffolk website](#).

Details of coverage planned for later phases will be released in due course - initially it had been hoped that full details of the phased rollout of the scheme could be announced this autumn but they are still being finalised.

Community meetings are being planned across the county from early next year to share plans with local communities, and to get input from residents, landowners and businesses on how to extend coverage in their areas as far as possible.

Suffolk County Council is also pleased to announce the public launch of a basic broadband service to fulfil the Government's commitment that everyone should have the option of access to a broadband service of at least 2Mbps by the end of 2015. The scheme, providing broadband by satellite, has been trialled in Suffolk over the last few months ahead of today's public launch.

It is intended as an interim solution for businesses and homes that currently get less than 2Mbps, and which are not included in the planned coverage in the next 12 months. Eligible people can now apply for a voucher to cover the initial installation and commissioning costs of a satellite broadband receiver. A guide and application form for the satellite broadband scheme can be found on the [Better Broadband for Suffolk website](#).

Suffolk County Council is also supporting BT's 'Never Say No' community fibre broadband scheme. As the second-round rollout continues, those areas where connections will be a challenge will be contacted to discuss the options open to them. Further information on this is available at www.communityfibre.bt.com.

The first round of broadband deployment under the Better Broadband for Suffolk Programme was completed in September 2015. It has made fibre broadband available to 105,000 more premises in the county, bringing total coverage so far to around 85 per cent of premises in Suffolk. This programme of work was delivered ahead of schedule, and extended fibre broadband to an additional 5,000 properties beyond the original plan.

As broadband deployment under the programme continues, residents and businesses interested in upgrading are encouraged to frequently visit the [Better Broadband for Suffolk website](#) to check to see if their home or business can now receive faster broadband services.

Mixed reaction to Sudbury Bypass cash announcement

News that £100,000 has been pledged to fund initial designs for a Sudbury bypass has been met with a mixed reaction, with some residents claiming it is a "waste of money" because the road will "never be built".

The idea of a western relief road, which has been on the cards for more than two decades, is seen by many as the only long-term solution to heavy congestion on Sudbury's overcrowded one-way system. Last week the New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP), the delivery platform for major projects in the county, announced it will be putting £100,000 into building the business case for a bypass. While the move has been welcomed by some Sudbury residents, others are more sceptical.

Town councillor Luke Cresswell, who organised a public meeting in Sudbury last year to debate the ongoing traffic issues, said: "If I thought we were actually going to get a bypass then I would welcome this initial funding. But convincing the Government to fund a bypass is never going to happen because it would cost millions and it would never be seen as a priority. In that case, sinking £100,000 into a study could be seen as a waste of money. With public transport in the area so inadequate, this is where we

should be looking to make improvements. Then encouraging more people to use public transport and changing the strategic lorry route to divert HGVs away from the town centre would be more effective short term ways of improving the situation.”

South Suffolk MP James Cartlidge who has been heading a campaign for a bypass said while the funding did not “guarantee” a bypass would be built, it would result in a “professional business case” that he could share with Government ministers.

Sudbury’s Cross Street is one of the county’s most polluted roads because it is part of the A131 strategic lorry route from Essex and many believe a bypass would help alleviate the problem. But local Green Party member Robert Lindsay says it would simply increase the amount of traffic on the county’s roads. He added: “If the bypass ever does get built, which is extremely unlikely, it will increase carbon emissions and pollution that’s already a problem in Sudbury and will spread it to a larger part of Suffolk. If it doesn’t go ahead, then sinking £100,000 into the initial design work is just a complete waste of tax payers’ money. We have been waiting for years for the county council to improve bus services and reduce speed limits to improve the traffic problems in Sudbury, but nothing has been forthcoming. This £100k pledge is just tokenism and is sending us in the wrong direction. Why not put the money into a feasibility study into rebuilding a Sudbury to Cambridge rail link. That would take cars and lorries off the roads and help vulnerable people who can’t drive.”

Meanwhile Lorna Hoey, chair of the Sudbury Society, said members’ opinions were mixed on the subject of a bypass. She added: “There are some strong feelings for and against, but my personal opinion is that it’s £100,000 set aside which is the starting point that we really need. As an organisation we would look at it very positively and says let’s move it forward.”

Self sustaining Free Range Egg facility will be the first of its kind in UK

A Suffolk-based farming business has been awarded almost £150,000 to set up a self-sustainable free range egg-laying facility for 16,000 birds - the first of its kind in the UK.

David and Tracey Laurie, who have set up DR and TJ Laurie Family Partnership at the family farm at Place Farm, Stuston, near Diss, are using the Eastern Agri-Tech Growth Initiative grant to build the new laying facility which is designed with innovation, energy efficiency and animal welfare in mind.

The facility will use new technologies to contribute to birds’ welfare and improve their health and productivity, including eradicating feather pecking and reducing disease and pests. It includes a range of technologies including a heat exchange unit and separate air source heat pump to create an ideal climate, a state-of-the-art nesting and laying system with automated feeding and separate waste and egg conveyors, an automated egg grading, labelling and packing system, LED lighting and a rainwater harvester.

The new plant is currently under construction and the Lauries hope to have it up and running around February. Thanks to the grant, business has already secured a contract with Noble Foods to supply up to 16,000 eggs per day for Marks & Spencer food stores.

David Laurie said he was extremely excited about the new venture, which was bringing together a number of new and established technologies. “Grant assistance from the Agri-Tech Growth initiative will make a huge difference to this project and will provide the business with a significant boost which will enable it to grow at a much quicker rate than would have been otherwise possible. Without the grant we would have only been able to build a very standard unit but the facility we will now have is state of the art and will be industry leading,” he said.

Grants are available to organisations looking to invest in specialist equipment, new market and supply chain development, ways to improve productivity and efficiency, and the application and commercialisation of Research and Development.

To find out how the Eastern Agri-Tech Growth Initiative could help to grow your business, visit www.agritechgrants.co.uk or call the LEP on 01480 277180.

