

Parish Report March 2016

Councillor

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Hate Litter and Love Suffolk? Then why not join Spring Clean Suffolk

Suffolk Waste Partnership is keen to support local community efforts to clean up towns, villages and countryside by getting involved in a litter pick.

Several groups across Suffolk are planning to give their neighbourhoods a sprucing up. It's hoped that with more groups and individuals taking part in litter picks this year, a real difference can be made; and also help make Suffolk the Greenest County.

Cllr Clive Arthey, Chairman of the Suffolk Waste Partnership, said: "Suffolk residents are good at getting stuck in with litter picks, as our gallery of recent local litter picks shows. I would encourage anyone who cares about their local environment to follow the lead of these dedicated volunteers and join in with a litter pick in their area. It is a great way to involve the community, get out and about and improve the habitats of local wildlife. Keeping the county litter-free is good for local residents and a clean and tidy environment is more attractive for visitors to our beautiful county."

The litter picking days are coinciding with the national campaign "**Clean for the Queen**" which encourages communities to carry out litter picks during the weekend of 4th to the 6th of March 2016.

There are numerous groups gathering for a litter pick but more are needed. Groups organising a litter pick in Suffolk can call their local district or borough council with their group information and give details of the location of the planned pick and the equipment they require.

They can also make arrangements for the council to collect the gathered litter by calling:

- Babergh & Mid Suffolk District Councils on 01449 724946
- Forest Heath District Council and St Edmundsbury Borough Councils on 01284 763233
- Ipswich Borough Council on 01473 432994
- Suffolk Coastal District Council on 01394 444000
- Waveney District Council on 01502 527100

Prime Minister David Cameron backs 'great' Suffolk 500 apprenticeships campaign

A "great" campaign to introduce 500 apprentices into the workplace across Suffolk in 100 days has been given a boost by the Prime Minister.

Suffolk 500, which is nearing its goal, was described by David Cameron as a "great initiative". "The Suffolk 500 campaign is a great initiative. Of course, creating 500 new apprenticeships in just 100 days is an ambitious target, but excellent progress has been made and I really hope it is one that the businesses of Suffolk can reach." he said. Since I became Prime Minister in 2010, there has been a huge increase in the number of apprenticeships in Suffolk – and indeed nationwide – but it's a trend that must continue. More people given the chance to learn a trade and embark on a fulfilling, long-term career, is exactly what I want to see in Suffolk and across our country."

The aim of Suffolk 500 is to promote all-age apprenticeships to Suffolk employers, highlighting why supporting an apprenticeship is easier than businesses may think, and to celebrate the range of apprenticeships available in different sectors.

It is being managed by the Apprenticeships Suffolk Business Service (ASBS) and delivered in partnership with The Consultancy Home Counties (TCHC), a company which uses Government-funded training and support programmes to deliver free and impartial advice to businesses in the East of England, and Suffolk Chamber of Commerce on behalf of Suffolk County Council. It is also encouraging employers to consider putting existing staff through an apprenticeship program that will enhance their workplace skills.

"It is great news for the campaign, for local businesses and for new apprentices to hear that the Prime Minister is supporting Suffolk 500," said Suffolk Chamber chief executive John Dugmore.

"Firms big and small have been working hard to get involved and are finding that apprentices are making a real difference to what they do. I hope that words of support from David Cameron will encourage many more to take part.

Dale Morgan, chief executive officer at TCHC, said the work being done by TCHC and Suffolk Chamber of Commerce was making "a real difference" to businesses and communities across Suffolk.

"The new Adult Apprenticeships and Advanced Apprenticeships standards are a great way to 'earn while you learn', which often enables a healthy work-life balance whilst enhancing further career prospects," he said.

"The Apprenticeship Suffolk Business Service (ASBS) will continue to support, encourage and inspire Suffolk businesses and the talented individuals taking on these exciting apprenticeship opportunities. I sincerely hope that organisations not yet involved with us at ASBS will consider the value of taking on an apprentice in 2016 and get in touch.

Suffolk County Council Leader Colin Noble said a lot of hard work had gone into the success of the campaign, and its chief executive, Deborah Cadman, said that the encouragement from the Prime Minister was very welcome.

"We are committed as an authority to play our part in building a strong and robust local economy. Placing the right apprentices in the right firms is a key foundation of that commitment. This successful campaign makes a real difference to young people and businesses across our county," she said.

"Nationwide, we are committed to supporting 3million quality apprenticeships over the next five years." Prime Minister David Cameron also said about the Suffolk 500 campaign.

"Not only will this offer a brighter future for those new apprentices, but it will help provide the skills our employers need and strengthen our whole economy."

New delivery model for County's rural transport set to improve existing services for residents

Suffolk County Council today confirmed details of the new service providers for rural transport provision across the county.

This is part of a major council transformation programme to connect communities with the services they want and need. The new service operators appointed to deliver transport arrangements will begin on **Monday 16 June 2016**. The contracts to deliver these transport services from June have been won by local organisations that have many years of experience delivering services across Suffolk, working together with the local communities they support.

The chosen tenders are:

- Babergh - HCTG (Haleigh Community Transport Group) and subcontracting to GoStart (Sudbury)
- Forest Heath - TVN (The Voluntary Network)
- Ipswich – Aspire Together and subcontracting to RVS (Royal Voluntary Service)
- Mid Suffolk – Aspire Together
- St Edmundsbury - TVN (The Voluntary Network)
- Suffolk Coastal - CATS (Coastal accessible Transport Services) and subcontracting to FACTS (Felixstowe Area Community Transport)
- Waveney - BACT (Beccles and Bungay Community Transport) and subcontracting to HVC (Halesworth Volunteer Centre)

The council received a number of high quality bids, submitted by local organisations who have worked in Suffolk and understand the challenges and demands of providing such services. With the announcement of these new providers, some residents may find that there is no change in their current provider. However, they will enjoy the fact that they will only ever need to use one set of contact details for that

service in the future, regardless of the type of community transport service they need. All the person will need to know is where they want to go.

The selected operators will make much better use of existing bus routes, linking with existing bus operators to make the best use of resources and available transport options in the local area. It is important to note that between now and Monday 16 June, residents should contact their current providers in the usual way.

Ipswich Hospital is joining forces with Suffolk County Council to develop the hospital site for the future

The Ipswich Hospital NHS Trust is planning to purchase, subject to Trust Board approval, the former Bridge School on Heath Road in Ipswich. The sale will mean that the hospital can plan for the future.

Nick Hulme, Chief Executive of The Ipswich Hospital NHS Trust said: "This is such a welcome opportunity to work in partnership with Suffolk County Council and look at how we can use the school site to really benefit patients and our community. We hope to be able to move many clinical services to the South end of the hospital so that they are very near all of the other services patients may need, such as theatres, or critical care. Bridge School will give us the flexibility to be able to move non clinical services out of the hospital." It will also mean that some areas of the hospital can be freed up and we can again work in partnership to look at how best this land should be used to address real needs such as housing," Mr Hulme added.

A proportion of the money generated from the sale of the Bridge School site will contribute to future specialist education provision being developed in the Ipswich area.

Developing the Suffolk workforce of Tomorrow

Suffolk students aged 14 to 18 to explore Science, Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) knowledge and skills used in high profile jobs and careers. These will be offered at special "STEM Schools" in Ipswich and Lowestoft during the February half term; **Monday 15 to 19 February 2016**.

The schools are part of a wider "STEM Accelerator" Project managed by Suffolk County Council, and delivered by a partnership of University Campus Suffolk, West Suffolk College and Connect Education & Business.

Planned activities include:

In Lowestoft: Five part-days of absorbing activities at Lowestoft College. These include engineering and environmental science projects delivered alongside Anglian Water, Geo Therm, The Environment Agency and Oil and Gas Industry employer Opito.

In Ipswich: Hands on work experience at placements at University Campus Suffolk (UCS) offering Research & Development Internships with a UCS Ipswich technology research group.

The "STEM Accelerator" project helps develop further understanding in core education areas that enable students to learn more about how the world around them works and the way in which technology is changing for the future. The aim is to challenge students to look beyond the obvious. This programme follows several successful STEM Accelerator events that were held in Ipswich, Lowestoft and Bury St Edmunds in August and October. Those programmes allowed, students from schools across the county to learn new skills including electrical engineering, bioscience, manufacturing, design, sports science and much more.

Participation in a STEM Accelerator School is free of charge to all Suffolk students aged 14 to 18.

To book a place and learn more about the STEM schools, including related videos visit <http://stemsuffolk.co.uk/>

The website also provides full details of the week's programme of activities. Alternatively contact Lauren Headland at stemschools@ucs.ac.uk or Claire Hopkins at stemaccelerator@ucs.ac.uk.

This project has been partly supported by HM Government with “Employer Ownership” funding.
You can also find STEM Accelerator on Twitter [@STEMsuffolk](https://twitter.com/STEMsuffolk) and on Facebook at facebook.com/STEMsuffolk