



January 2020 Monthly Parish Newsletter Samford Division

New SEND provision identified – ready to offer 168 additional spaces from September 2020

Suffolk County Council is now in a position to provide further information regarding the development of new Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) units attached to mainstream schools in the county. The authority is very pleased to announce that, following a thorough evaluation process, a number of suitable schools have been identified to develop:

- **Two Generic Key Stage 1 Units** – Pipers Vale Primary Academy and Burton End Primary Academy
- **Three Communication and Interaction Key Stage 2 Units** – Murrayfield Primary Academy, Houldsworth Valley Primary Academy, and Causton Junior School
- **One Cognition and Learning Key Stage 2 Unit** – Clements Primary Academy
- **Three Communication and Interaction Key Stage 3/4 Units** – Copleston High School, Ixworth School, and Newmarket Academy
- **One Cognition and Learning Key Stage 3/4 Unit** – Castle Manor Primary Academy.

In total, this means an additional 168 new specialist placements will be available for children and their families in Suffolk from September 2020, on top of existing specialist provision. Successful schools are currently working with the council to ensure the appropriate infrastructure and support is in place to enable these new units to be open in September 2020.

A further commissioning round will begin in Spring 2020 and will consider further expressions of interest from mainstream schools who hope to open units in September 2021. This will include targeted work from our provider development team in areas of the county where gaps have been identified to ensure we are able to offer local provision for our children and their families.

David Waters jailed for 2 years and 8 months for misleading vulnerable customers

On 19 December, Suffolk businessman David Waters (71 of Manwick Road, Felixstowe) received a 32-month custodial sentence.

He has also been banned from being a company director for 10 years and been made the subject of a criminal behaviour order, which prevents him from selling any products in a person's home and any involvement in a mobility aid company.

His company, Anchor Mobility Ltd, was also fined a total of £15,000 for 15 counts of unfair commercial practice, following a successful prosecution by Suffolk County Council's Trading Standards.

Mr Waters failed to fulfil orders and refused to refund customers in his position as sole director of Anchor Mobility Limited, a company meant to provide life-improving furniture to vulnerable and elderly people.

Instead, many customers received no goods, no refunds and poor customer service. One customer paid over £8,000 for two beds, which were never delivered, and no refund was ever received.

A hearing to consider compensation for victims will take place in the new year.

On 31 October 2019, a jury found Mr Waters and Anchor Mobility Limited guilty on 31 counts following a three-week trial at Ipswich Crown Court. Offences included fraudulent trading under the Companies Act 2006, engaging in unfair commercial practices, multiple offences of misleading consumers by taking large deposits with the promise of delivering goods without doing so, and failing to refund consumers under the Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulations 2008.

On sentencing Mr Waters, Judge Peters said:

"This case is about people. The continuing and constant theme in victims' statements is that these weren't rich people in large houses who could afford to lose thousands of pounds. These people suffered and can't afford to buy another chair or bed. They were all left feeling very stupid as a result of being taken in. They shouldn't feel stupid, they were taken in and they are not alone.

"Any sentence I pass is not of my making – it is of your making, reflecting your culpability, harm and offending. I have read much and been moved by all of it. In my view, the only appropriate sentence is immediate custody."

Stuart Hughes, the Senior Trading Standards Officer who led the case, said:

"I'm pleased the verdict has adequately recognised the callous attitude Mr Waters exhibited by exploiting elderly, vulnerable and disabled customers. Having heard directly from his victims throughout the trial, I hope this verdict provides them with some satisfaction that justice has been done, and provides Mr Waters with an opportunity to reflect on the serious consequences of his offending.

"His victims paid money in good faith, often up front, for furniture intended to improve their quality of life. Anchor Mobility Limited and David Waters owed their customers a

special duty of care, but instead caused vulnerable people great stress, anger and financial loss that they could ill afford.”

New bridleway opens up traffic free link

A newly created bridleway in Bury St Edmunds, linking the south east side of the town with Suffolk Business Park, was officially opened on 17 December.

Suffolk County Council’s Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Rural Affairs, Andrew Reid joined Councillor Richard Rout, representing the Hardwick Division, and the Mayor of Bury St Edmunds, Councillor Peter Thompson, in cutting the ribbon. Children from Sebert Wood Primary School were also in attendance.

The new path will provide an off-road route for walkers and cyclists avoiding the busy A14 junction 44. Work started on reconstructing the bridleway on Monday 21 October 2019 and lasted for seven weeks.

The bridleway cost approximately £150k to construct and has been surfaced using recycled materials from roadworks. The bridleway will also link through to Sustrans National Cycle Route 13, and provide access into the Moreton Hall estate, Suffolk Business Park and the new Rougham Tower Avenue and Sybil Andrews Academy. The route is a continuation of Rougham Road, providing a route beyond the lorry park running parallel to the A14.

Suffolk Highways worked closely with the landowner and with West Suffolk Council, which identified the route as a possible new sustainable connection in the town.

As part of the improvement works, Suffolk Highways will also be trialling solar powered lighting. Much like road studs, these units will provide a delineation of the route to assist users along the bridleway. The lighting provides low-level illumination to guide users; it is not designed to replace street lighting.

“I also welcome the use of recycling material in the construction of the bridleway and the trialling of the solar power lights. It is important we consider new technology and sustainable materials in our highways works.”

Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service rated “Good” in Government inspection

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Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service has undergone its most comprehensive, independent inspection in many years and has been rated as “Good” for its effectiveness, efficiency and how well it leads and manages its staff.

The findings come from [a report](#) published on 17 December by Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS), who inspected Suffolk’s service earlier this year. Inspectors reviewed every aspect of the service, from how we respond to 999 emergencies, to looking at policies and interviewing a wide range of firefighters and staff.

The report praised many aspects of the service, particularly how well it collaborates with other emergency services and agencies, how it responds to fires and other emergencies, how it ensures fairness and promotes diversity, and the financially sound way the service is run.

Mark Hardingham, Chief Fire Officer, said:

“The ‘Good’ rating we have been given is pleasing and positive for our first inspection. This is down to the hard work and dedication of all our staff and I’m extremely proud to be their, and Suffolk’s, Chief Fire Officer.

“The inspection has reported a balance between what we do well and what we need to do better, much of which is already in hand and some of which will be new work.

“I’m especially pleased that the work we have all been doing on leadership, culture, values, equality and inclusion has been recognised.

“We will never stop working to ensure we provide a good and professional fire and rescue service to Suffolk’s communities whenever they need us.”

New £3million fund announced for Suffolk projects

As part of the 2020/21 Budget process it is proposed that a £3million fund is formed to fund projects such as new electric charging points, new cycle lanes carbon reduction and offset projects and road safety (ANPR cameras).

On 16 December, as part of my Cabinet Member responsibilities, I announced the proposed Suffolk 2020 Fund - a one-year fund which organisations can bid for a share of with the support of the relevant Cabinet Member

Bids between £50,000 and £500,000 will be accepted within 100 days of the new financial year and will be for Suffolk-wide projects.

As reported in the EADT I said nothing is ruled out, so the fund could be used for schemes such as new cycle lanes, electric charging points, road safety schemes, automatic number plate recognition cameras, tree planting or other projects.

"I think it's quite exciting to take the opportunity to continue to engage with the communities and respond to some of our priorities.

"These are really significant and if there is an opportunity for match-funding the projects can be even better. It's not essential, but it can provide an opportunity to kick start some really exciting and sizeable projects."

The one-year financial settlement from central government, which effectively dictates how much the council will get, has enabled the creation of the fund because that money would normally be absorbed in other departments across a financial settlement of several years.

I confirmed that bids can only be for one-off project costs, rather than being used to prop up the running costs of any project or organisation.

The council currently has cross-party policy development panels investigating measures to help with climate issues and provision for cycling. Councillor Jones said the fund could well be used to help fund recommendations from those groups.

Schoolchildren's mission to create 1,000 endangered animals from waste

From turtles to snow leopards, Suffolk schoolchildren have created 1,000 endangered animals from recycled material.

Thirty schools and groups from across the county took part in the project, initiated by the Suffolk Waste Partnership, to make endangered animals from reused and recycled materials. The idea is to raise awareness of the effects of population growth and climate change, as well as the impact that littering and pollution has on animal habitats.

St Pancras Catholic Primary School in Ipswich was one of the schools which took part. Children used homemade glue made from flour and water, with recycled paper and cardboard to make tigers, whales, turtles and gorillas.

Justine Hughes, a class teacher at St Pancras, said:

“It was so lovely to have been given the green light to be creatively green, making recycled and totally biodegradable art work.

“The project linked seamlessly with our science topic about animals and the changing environments they inhabit.”

A spokesperson for the Suffolk Waste Partnership said:

“This project is important because it helps young people realise that lots of everyday materials can be reused and recycled – that waste can be a helpful resource.

“It is inspiring to see such colourful creations and it is well worth a visit to see the art on display. We hope the children enjoyed the opportunity to learn about recycling.”

This is the fifth year of the Christmas display with previous themes including 1,000 stars, baubles, birds of peace, polar bears and penguins.

The artwork will be on display at Ipswich Town Hall café Gallery from 27 November to 11th January and at The Apex, Bury St Edmunds, from 2 December to March 2020.

Cabinet Meeting 14th January

A link to the agenda for this meeting

[https://committeeminutes.suffolk.gov.uk/DocSetPage.aspx?MeetingTitle=\(14-01-2020\), The Cabinet](https://committeeminutes.suffolk.gov.uk/DocSetPage.aspx?MeetingTitle=(14-01-2020),%20The%20Cabinet)

Happy New year to you all. Gordon.jones@suffolk.gov.uk Mbl 07860 208760