



October 2019 Monthly Parish Newsletter Samford Division

Fourth care home in Suffolk receives Outstanding rating

On 30 September, it was reported that Care UK's Mills Meadow care home in Framlingham has been officially rated as 'Outstanding' by the Care Quality Commission.

This is the fourth Care UK home in Suffolk to be awarded the Outstanding rating, following in the footsteps of Asterbury Place in Ipswich, Cleves Place, Haverhill, and Mildenhall Lodge, Mildenhall.

The report from the Care Quality Commission (CQC) highlighted a number of areas that were found to be of the highest quality, including:

"People were exceptionally happy with the outstanding care they received from Mills Meadow. They shared numerous examples of the high-quality care that met and exceeded their individual needs and expectations and enhanced their daily lives."

"Feedback from relatives, visitors and professionals was equally complimentary describing dedicated and compassionate staff, who repeatedly went the extra mile to ensure people's lives were filled with enjoyment, meaningful engagement and inclusion in the place they called home."

"People were consistently treated with dignity and respect in a way that celebrated and championed them as individuals."

(CQC Inspection report for Mills Meadow, Framlingham - 29th August 2019)

The CQC report also paid special attention to the notable presence that Mills Meadow has in Framlingham and within the local community. The recent inspection by CQC found that effective community links have been established, with different community groups regularly visiting the home, as well as residents of the home accessing the local area through a wide range of local activities.

The Brecks Fen Edge and Rivers Landscape Partnership Scheme wins £2 million National Lottery grant

Communities, schools and the landscape of the Brecks will benefit from another series of exciting landscape and heritage conservation projects.

On 30 September, Suffolk County Council and The Brecks Fen Edge and Rivers Landscape Partnership announced that the proposal for a £3.5 million landscape conservation scheme to follow hot on the heels of the popular Breaking New Ground Landscape Partnership Scheme has been successful.

Made possible by National Lottery players, the £2 million grant will unlock a further £1.5 million in match funding from partners and volunteers, and will engage local communities, schools and like-minded organisations to understand, reveal, celebrate and protect the lost heritage of the Brecks Fen Edge and Rivers over the next five years.

Rated as one of Britain's top three landscapes for freshwater wildlife, the Brecks are home to nature as significant as that in the New Forest and the Broads. Across the scheme area lie biodiverse chalk streams and networks of ancient Pingo ponds.

Anne Jenkins, Director, England: Midlands and East, The National Lottery Heritage Fund, said:

“Characterised by fascinating features such as river valleys, chalk streams, nationally rare Pingo ponds and fluctuating meres, it is no surprise the Brecks are rated within the top three of the UK's freshwater habitats. We know that National Lottery players hold natural heritage projects, such as this ambitious Landscape Partnership Scheme, in high esteem and I am sure that many of them will be delighted to learn more about the area and its hidden natural treasures. We are also heartened by Suffolk County Council's commitment to preserving and exploring their natural heritage, and that our funding will enable their work and passion to continue and benefit the communities of the Norfolk and Suffolk Brecks.”

The scheme will enable the partnership to capitalise on the successful Breaking New Ground Scheme which ended in 2017, and engage local communities and partners in telling the story of the Brecks and to develop a sense of pride and belonging to this fascinating landscape that will translate into a long lasting legacy.

The Hold Topping Out ceremony

Construction of 'The Hold' archives and heritage centre has reached its highest point.

On 25 September, contractors R G Carter, along with senior officers from Suffolk County Council, the University of Suffolk, Ipswich Vision and the National Lottery Heritage Fund, celebrated the official 'Topping Out' of the new building.

Located on the campus of the University of Suffolk, within Ipswich's unique and regenerating Waterfront, the building will house the majority of Suffolk's nationally and internationally significant archives.

More than just a new building, 'The Hold' project will also be the engine for a transformed, audience-focused Archives service reaching out to diverse

communities in Ipswich, the county and the nation, through its activity and digital programmes, engaging people in new and exciting ways.

Peter Gray, Chair of the Suffolk Archives Foundation, said:

“The ‘Make Your Mark’ campaign provides an opportunity for people across the county to get involved in The Hold right from the outset. We really hope anyone with an interest in local history will want to add their names to a specially crafted donors’ book, which will be kept and displayed at The Hold. This book has been hand made by local company Owl Bookbinding and it will itself become part of Suffolk’s historical archives.”

Bravery, fundraising and commitment recognised at fire awards in Ipswich.

On 18 September, firefighters, non-operational staff and volunteers from Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service were recognised for their bravery and commitment.

A special award was also presented to 15-year old, Harry Hall. He came to the aid of a friend who had lost control of their bike and fallen over the sea wall in Lowestoft.

Despite the immediate dangers, Harry jumped down to his friend and kept their head above the rising sea water until the emergency services arrived. Harry was presented with a Certificate of Merit for his actions.

Michael Edmondson-Bloom, firefighter at Newmarket Fire Station was presented with the prestigious Silver Axe. This award is presented to the individual judged to have had the best performance of all those who completed the new firefighter recruit ‘Approved to Ride’ course in the last year.

Ken Ashby, the service’s on-call firefighter liaison officer, received the Paul Proctor Award for his outstanding professional contribution. Ken started as a firefighter and has completed over 42 years’ service, raising over £250,000 for the Firefighter’s Charity, thanks largely to the car draw which he founded in 1987 at Newmarket fire station.

Over 40 awards were given to the Service’s firefighters and staff, including those for good conduct and long service, charity fundraising, teamwork, and actions at 999 emergencies.

Suffolk, How Are You?

On 17 September, Public Health Suffolk and Ipswich and East Clinical Commissioning Group launched a campaign focused on wellbeing and healthy weight.

Suffolk How Are You? looks at improving wellbeing and maintaining a healthy weight through eating well, moving more and sleeping well.

Residents are encouraged to complete the How Are You? quiz, linked to the national 'One You' campaign, which assesses different aspects of a person's lifestyle and helps to identify ways to improve emotional and physical wellbeing.

For those who complete the How Are You? quiz, there is a prize draw to win 1 year's subscription to Spotify. The prize draw is open until 10 March 2020.

Throughout the campaign there will be lots of exciting opportunities to take part in various activities linked to moving more, eating well and sleeping better.

Those who take part in Active Suffolk's This Girl Can, Health Walks, or RED January could be in with a chance of winning a Fitbit. People can also send in their #5adaysuffolk photos via Twitter and Instagram. Be sure to tag @SCCPublicHealth or @OneLifeSuffolk in your posts to be in with a chance of winning a cookbook. There is also a place up for grabs on a 1-hour workshop on sleeping well with Suffolk MIND. Visit www.suffolkhowareyou.co.uk for further details of the competitions.

Coming up in November, there will be three exciting light displays which will take place in Stowmarket, Ipswich and Felixstowe at their Christmas lights switch-on events.

Visit www.suffolkhowareyou.co.uk to complete the How Are You? quiz.

Window now open to apply for primary and secondary school places

Parents and carers can now apply for primary and secondary school places for September 2020.

The deadline for applications to secure a place at a Suffolk secondary school is Thursday 31 October 2019 and for a primary school it is Wednesday 15 January 2020. Secondary schools include high and upper schools and primary schools include infant, junior and middle schools.

Last year, Suffolk County Council received nearly 16,000 applications. 92% of applicants received offers for their first preference school and nearly 98% of applicants received an offer for one of their top three preferred schools.

Parents and carers need to be aware that some schools have their own admissions policy which sets out how places will be prioritised, so it is important to check each school's admissions policy before applying.

When applying for their preferred school parents and carers also need to consider how they will get their child to and from school. To find out more about SCC's school travel policy please visit www.suffolkonboard.com/schooltravel.

As reported in the press (EADT) I said:-

“Making the right school choice is one of the most important decisions a parent makes on behalf of their child.

“I would urge all parents and carers to complete and submit their application by the closing date of 31 October 2019 for a secondary school place and 15 January 2020 for a primary school place to give their child the best chance of getting in to one of their preferred schools. We will process all of the applications received by these dates at the same time using schools’ oversubscription criteria to prioritise applications when necessary.

“Parents and carers can list up to three schools on their application form and we recommend applying for more than one school.”

Parents and carers should apply online at www.suffolk.gov.uk/admissions as they will receive confirmation that we have received their application. If for any reason parents and carers are unable to apply online they should apply on a paper CAF1 application form. Suffolk County Council is unable to acknowledge receipt of paper applications and therefore suggest that proof of posting is obtained.

A completed application must be submitted for every child wanting a secondary school place or a primary school place from September 2020. If you are planning to move house or you think your circumstances may change before September, it is still important to make an application on time. Advice and guidance about this process is available at www.suffolk.gov.uk/admissions.

Suffolk Councils set out their concerns, expectations and areas of focus as part of a joint response to EDF Energy’s Stage 4 Sizewell C consultation

On 16 September, Suffolk County Council and East Suffolk Council published their proposed joint authority response to EDF Energy’s Stage 4 public consultation for a new nuclear site on Suffolk’s east coast. The councils held cabinet meetings on Monday 23rd (East Suffolk) and Tuesday 24th (Suffolk County Council) September to confirm the details of their response.

Both councils welcomed the further round of public consultation so that EDF Energy could provide additional detail and amendments to the proposals presented at Stage 3. However, both councils were somewhat disappointed that EDF Energy did not use this opportunity to respond to key elements of some of the concerns raised earlier in the process.

The joint report makes it clear that the authorities continue to support the principle of a new nuclear power station at Sizewell and recognise the significant benefits that such a development would bring. However, there continues to be concern about the environmental, social and economic impacts of such a large-scale development, especially regarding the cumulative energy-related projects which are currently muted for the east Suffolk coast.

Based on the proposals put forward by EDF Energy at Stage 4, both councils want to see a sustainable transport strategy put in place by the energy firm to ensure that every effort is made to reduce the impact on road use and congestion as part of any development that takes place. As part of this mitigation, each council continues to expect EDF Energy to maximise the development and use of marine and rail transport options.

The scale of investment surrounding development of a new site at Sizewell would be similar to the London 2012 Olympics, believed to be worth around £14 billion. As part of Stage 4, EDF Energy has projected that the development's workforce would be around 8,500 at its peak which is around 2,500 higher than previously suggested. Once in operation, the power station would create 900 permanent jobs. EDF Energy expects the development to generate £100m for the regional economy during construction and £40m each year during its operation.

EDF Energy has always said that Stage 4 was an extension of its Stage 3 public consultation and they have used this latest round to offer further detail on freight management strategy options, which explain broadly how they intend to move materials, machinery and people through Suffolk to access the development site. All three strategies offered by EDF Energy include road transport movement. This remains a key area of concern for local communities close to the proposed site.

Suffolk County Councillor Richard Smith, Chairman of the Sizewell C Joint Local Authorities Group (JLAG) said:

“We held a really well attended community event in July, with representation from every local community close to the Sizewell area. Residents shared their views with us regarding what has been presented by EDF Energy at Stage 4. This feedback has been welcomed by both local authorities and has been a key part in how we have come to consider our joint response. I really want to see a much greater use of rail and marine transport used during any construction period. I welcome that a rail-led strategy is still one of the proposed options.

“Both local authorities are willing to assist EDF Energy through further discussions with the Department for Transport and Network Rail to see what can potentially be done. Whilst it has only been around six months since the end of Stage 3 consultation, there are many areas that we wish to see progressed and resolved before EDF Energy submit a DCO. This is the view of our local communities as well as both councils.”

Proposals for Sizewell C will be considered under the Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) process which is part of the Planning Act 2008. It is expected that EDF Energy will submit their plans early next year for a Development Consent Order (DCO) to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) for consideration.

Based on the nature of this planning process, both Suffolk councils have an important role to play in putting forward the views of the local community. As consultees, the councils are committed to doing all they can to make sure the

development can work for the people of Suffolk as well as significantly contributing to the nation's energy needs. There will also be a key role for the councils in providing a Local Impact Report for the examination of the application by the Planning Inspectorate. The councils will be responsible for discharging the requirements (planning conditions) on the Development Consent Order and be responsible for the monitoring and enforcement of any DCO made.

[Suffolk County Council's Cabinet papers can be accessed here.](#)

Newmarket sets out rail vision.

On 6 September, representatives from Suffolk County Council, West Suffolk District Council and the Newmarket Racecourses met with stakeholders from the horse racing industry and Members of Parliament to call for more investment in passenger rail services in Newmarket.

The delegation listened to a series of speeches on Newmarket's rail priorities from the Newmarket Racecourses, Suffolk County Council, West Suffolk District Council, Railfuture, the Department for Transport and Network Rail. The priorities include demands for a half-hourly passenger rail service to Cambridge and direct rail connectivity with Oxford, London, the Midlands, the North of England and Scotland.

Information was also presented on the new East West Rail Link, a rail project that will connect Suffolk and Norfolk with Oxford via Cambridge. Delegates learnt how local authorities across Suffolk are working together with key stakeholders in Norfolk and Cambridgeshire, and with the East West Rail Consortium, to improve rail connectivity in the East of England. Investment is considered vital to achieving more frequent passenger rail services at Newmarket and provide wider rail connectivity to the rest of the UK.

Amy Starkey, Regional Director for the Jockey Club's East Region, said:

"Rail has played a crucial role in the history of horseracing in Newmarket and it is has a vital part to play in its future too. We have exciting ambitions for the town but in order to ensure that our growth is sustainable, we need a high quality and well-connected transport system to make our town more accessible to our community, visitors, racegoers, employees and investors.

"The horseracing and bloodstock industries are a significant contributor to the regional and national economies, generating £242 million in gross value added to the UK treasury in 2016 and jointly provide over 8,500 jobs to local people.

"Opening Newmarket to a wider audience cannot be achieved by relying on the roads alone. It is rail that has the potential to better connect our town across the county, the region and the country."

A plan will now be developed to set out actions and timescales for delivering rail improvements, with further meetings scheduled to discuss progress.

Upcoming We Are Listening events

Suffolk residents are invited to come along and chat with the Leader of the Council, other County Councillors and senior managers about their concerns and ideas for the county of Suffolk. The following We Are Listening events are scheduled for September:

- Saxmundham, forecourt in front of Market Hall: 11am-1pm, Wednesday 9 October
- Hadleigh, Marketplace: 11am-1pm, Friday 18 October
- Ipswich, Marketplace, outside Barclays Bank: 11am-1pm, Thursday 24 October

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