



## Leader's monthly bulletin – March 2022

Welcome to the March edition of my monthly bulletin, aimed at keeping Councillors up to date on the main news stories from East Suffolk and, where possible, giving you a heads up on issues which are emerging.

Regards,  
Steve

**Steve Gallant**  
**Leader of East Suffolk Council**

### Taking action to address housing issues

As you will be aware, the Council has undertaken an in-depth, four-month review of its Housing Landlord Service and is now taking steps, with the guidance of the Regulator of Social Housing, to resolve a number of outstanding issues.

You can read the full statement at [www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/news/council-taking-action-to-address-housing-issues/](http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/news/council-taking-action-to-address-housing-issues/)

### Oak trees distributed for 'Treebilee' celebrations

Two hundred oak trees have been distributed to communities across East Suffolk to plant in commemoration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

The Council purchased the trees to be donated to every town and parish council in the district – marking the occasion while helping to tackle climate change and promoting environmentally sustainable communities.



### East Suffolk Council budget approved

The Council's budget for the 2022/23 financial year has been approved, and as part of our commitment to improve the lives and outcomes of local people, finance has been approved for a range of different areas, including £3.35m for economic development and regeneration, £2.46m supporting and enabling communities and £2.39m for our housing services.

The budget also includes a further £428,000 to support our green agenda, as part of our pledge to be carbon neutral by 2030.

Read more at [www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/news/essential-services-in-difficult-times-east-suffolk-council-budget-approved/](http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/news/essential-services-in-difficult-times-east-suffolk-council-budget-approved/)

## Honour Run returns



Honour Run is returning to Rendlesham Forest on Sunday 13 March to raise money for the Suffolk British Legion Poppy Appeal.

Entries are now open for the 5km (all ages), 10km (12+) and half marathon (17+) routes, which people can choose to walk, jog or run.

This is a unique opportunity to run within MOD Woodbridge, and with some of the route on the historic runway, it's one not to miss.

Spaces are limited and must be pre-booked at <https://frontrowtickets.co.uk/event/honour-run/>

## Relocation of Felixstowe beach huts to be considered

Planning Committee South will be considering an application for the relocation of beach huts which are temporarily housed on Felixstowe's promenade at its next meeting on 7 March.

The huts, for which the Council provides a site licence, were initially situated on the beach itself, however a combination of erosion and unpredictable conditions led to their temporary relocation for safety reasons.

Over the past three years, and in regular consultation with the beach hut owners, we have looked for new locations and thoroughly explored all reasonable options, including beach platforms. However, it is now clear that there is no safe option for their return to the beach and the temporary solution, which impacts on other users on the promenade, is not a viable permanent option.

We are therefore seeking approval for a number of smaller, safer sites and the Planning Committee will now consider whether consent should be granted for the huts to be moved



to their new locations. However, should permission be refused, licences will reluctantly be terminated on the basis that no safe and viable location remains.

## Entries now open for second, award-winning Felixstowe Triathlon

The second Felixstowe Triathlon will take place this August Bank Holiday weekend.

Individuals and teams of all abilities can sign up to take part in the award-winning event, organised by Suffolk Tri with support from the Council and Felixstowe Town Council.



Last year's inaugural race was named Large Event of the Year 2021 for the East Region in the Triathlon England awards has been shortlisted for the National Awards later this month.

People can sign up for the Sprint, Supersprint or Standard distance at [www.felixstowetriathlon.uk/](http://www.felixstowetriathlon.uk/).

## Recognising the best in design and conservation in East Suffolk

The winners of our 'Quality of Place Awards', which celebrates building design and conservation projects in East Suffolk, have been announced.

Nominations were judged on quality of design and detailing, quality of workmanship, use of materials and sustainability.

You can find a full list of the winners and highly commended entries at [www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/news/annual-awards-recognise-the-best-in-design-and-conservation-in-east-suffolk/](http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/news/annual-awards-recognise-the-best-in-design-and-conservation-in-east-suffolk/)

## Dates announced for markets in Beccles and Leiston

Two festival-style markets are taking place as part of the First Light Market Place project:

### **Beccles 'Wild About Art' market takes place tomorrow (5 March) between 10am – 2pm**

The market will be a family-orientated, celebratory event based around art in all its forms. Located mainly within the New Market area of the town, the centre piece will be a set of three life-size marsh ponies created by local artists Sarah Cannell, Rachael Long and Andy Jarrett. A family walking trail linking the three ponies with 12 other hand-crafted ponies and 50 smaller ones will take place across the town. In addition, there will be a makers' market,



hands-on family activities and street entertainment as well as locally-sourced food and drink, all creating a mini festival feel to attract local as well as out-of-season visitors.

### **The 'Discover Leiston' market takes place on Saturday 26 March between 10am – 2pm**

The market will celebrate the opening of the new Church Community Garden and include a number of eclectic musical performances, a makers' market, plants and vintage stalls as well as antiques and crafts stalls hosted at the Long Shop Museum. Street entertainers, Dance

### **Bold new beach huts reach next stage of construction**

Work to build contemporary new beach huts on Lowestoft's South Beach has taken a step forward with the delivery of materials for the huts themselves.



The first delivery of components for the huts arrived on 10 February and for the following 7 weeks, deliveries are being made every Thursday and Friday, followed by offloading the following Monday.

Read more at [www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/news/bold-new-beach-huts-reach-next-stage-of-construction/](http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/news/bold-new-beach-huts-reach-next-stage-of-construction/)

### **Surveys and consultations**

We are currently running one survey and, as always, we want to encourage participation as feedback from people in East Suffolk is invaluable and helps us ensure we're making the right decisions for our communities.

- **Community Partnership Survey**

Residents in the Melton, Woodbridge and Deben Peninsula Community Partnership are invited to take part in a survey to help the development of the Partnership at [www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/features/melton-woodbridge-and-deben-peninsula-community-partnership-survey/](http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/features/melton-woodbridge-and-deben-peninsula-community-partnership-survey/)

### **Staying up to date on the latest East Suffolk news**

The Communications Team share all media coverage on SharePoint, so you can easily stay up to date on all media stories relevant to East Suffolk Council, whether on local, regional or national news outlets, tv, radio, print or online.



Access these at any time at

<https://eastsuffolk.gov.uk/sharepoint.com/sites/Communications/Lists/Media%20coverage/AllItems.aspx>

If you have any questions or need any help with this service, you can email the team on [communications@eastsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:communications@eastsuffolk.gov.uk)

### **Don't forget to share your own news!**

We do a lot of great work in East Suffolk and we want everyone to know! I would therefore like to encourage all Councillors to share their own good news stories with the Communications Team so they can help showcase some of this work, whether this is from projects funded through your Enabling Communities Budget or supporting an initiative which will benefit our local communities.

You can email the team on [communications@eastsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:communications@eastsuffolk.gov.uk)

### **Social media**

We keep our communities up to date in a variety of ways and social media has an important role to play. Please follow us and share our posts with your audiences!

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/eastsuffolkcouncil](http://www.facebook.com/eastsuffolkcouncil)

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/EastSuffolk>

### **Diary dates**

- 7<sup>th</sup> March at 10.30am – Strategic Planning Committee (ESH)
- 7<sup>th</sup> March at 2pm – Planning Committee South (ESH)
- 7<sup>th</sup> March at 6pm – Community Partnership Board (The Riverside Centre, Stratford St Andrew)
- 8<sup>th</sup> March at 2pm – Planning Committee North (Riverside)
- 9<sup>th</sup> March at 3.30pm – Aldeburgh, Leiston, Saxmundham and villages Community Partnership (Waterloo Centre, Leiston)
- 9<sup>th</sup> March at 6pm – Lowestoft and northern parishes Community Partnership (Zoom)
- 10<sup>th</sup> March at 4pm – Southwold Harbour Management Committee (Stelle Peskett Millennium Hall)
- 14<sup>th</sup> March at 6.30pm – Audit and Governance Committee (ESH)
- 17<sup>th</sup> March at 2pm – Felixstowe Peninsula Community Partnership (TBC)
- 17<sup>th</sup> March at 6.30pm – Scrutiny Committee (ESH)
- 22<sup>nd</sup> March at 2pm – Planning Committee South (ESH)
- 23<sup>rd</sup> March at 6.30pm – Full Council (ESH)



- 24<sup>th</sup> March at 6pm – Framlingham, Wickham Market and villages Community Partnership (TBC)