

Bawdsey Parish Council
January 2016
Suffolk County Council News Update

Suffolk County Council launches competition to crown the county's Most Active Community

Building on the success of previous years, the county council is once again on the search for Suffolk's most active community for 2015. This competition gives people the chance to celebrate the great work taking place in so many communities across the county. Encouraging and supporting people to live active lifestyles in their communities is incredibly important because it keeps them healthy and independent in the short and long term. The awards are about recognising the fantastic work of communities right across Suffolk so whatever your communities are doing - whether it's dog-walking, new walking or cycling routes, yoga, football or Zumba, please make sure that SCC's Most Active County team are informed. The county council wants to celebrate your communities and these activities are vital in helping the county council achieve Suffolk's collective ambition of becoming the most active county in England. The competition seeks out the most active town, small village and large village in Suffolk from 2015 and the winners are presented with an engraved plaque at a special presentation event in March 2016 as a permanent recognition of their achievements. In addition, all entrants who make it through to the first round of judging will receive a "Most Active Community 2015 Finalist" certificate. Anyone in the community can enter the competition either online at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MACTV2015> or via telephone on 01473 260722 to request a paper application form. **The closing date for applicants is 5 February 2016 so please encourage your own communities to take part.**

Consultation on the future of Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service – meetings announced for 2016

Details were recently announced on the public consultation to shape the future of Suffolk's Fire and Rescue Service. As part of this consultation looking at the future provision for Suffolk's fire service, a timetable of Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) hosted public meetings has been set for early 2016 to enable people to hear directly about what is being proposed, and have their say, as well as completing the online questionnaire. SFRS officers are encouraging people to attend these meetings across the county so that their views can be taken into account before the proposals are finalised and any decisions are made. **The consultation closes on 22 February 2016.**

The remaining public meetings are as follows:

- 14 Jan 2016 – Ipswich – Endeavour House, 6.30pm-8.30pm
- 28 Jan 2016 – Wrentham – Village Hall, 6.30pm-8.30pm
- 01 Feb 2016 – Lowestoft – Riverside Centre, 6.30pm-8.30pm
- 03 Feb 2016 – Sudbury – Town Hall, 6.30pm-8.30pm

Please do ensure your communities are aware of these events. If anyone you know would like to attend, please encourage them to email fireservicedesign@suffolk.gov.uk confirming which meeting date and venue they would like to attend. This will help the team to ensure that there are sufficient facilities available for each meeting. In addition to the meetings hosted by SFRS, officers and councillors have also been invited to attend a number of other town, parish and area meetings and dates will be published on the SFRS website as they are confirmed. The details of those meetings can be found on the Fire Service Redesign page [here](#) . Full details of the proposals and consultation are available at www.suffolk.gov.uk/fireredesign

Suffolk embarks on second round of superfast broadband deployment

In December, the county council announced 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.

Details of the coverage planned up until September 2016 have now been released on the Better Broadband for Suffolk website at: www.betterbroadbandsuffolk.com. 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 in autumn 2015, but these are still being finalised. Community meetings are being planned across the county from early 2016 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. Also in December, the council announced 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, which provides broadband by satellite, has been trialled in Suffolk over the last few months ahead of the 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 at www.betterbroadbandsuffolk.com. The 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. Please note that further information on this is available at www.communityfibre.bt.com. It is important for all residents and businesses to understand that where high speed broadband service is available, they must contact their service provider to make the switch. The switch to superfast is **NOT** an automatic process. The Better Broadband for Suffolk website lists the areas now offering faster speeds so please do encourage anyone who is interested in upgrading to check the website and contact their provider.

Suffolk's Trading Standards Team foils counterfeit goods company – director sentenced to 12 months and ordered to pay over £30,000

Thanks to the work of Suffolk Trading Standards Officers, a Suffolk company director who was caught manufacturing and selling counterfeit goods to unsuspecting victims through eBay, has been handed a 12 month sentence suspended for 18 months. The company was also fined £6000 today at Ipswich Crown Court. In addition to the criminal prosecution against Mr Taylor and Sticar-It Ltd Suffolk, Trading Standards obtained a Confiscation Order under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 ordering Mr Taylor to pay a further £25,200; the agreed figure of his criminal benefit. Last month, Christopher Taylor, 42, of Lidgate Court, Felixstowe, along with his company, Sticar-it Limited, pleaded guilty to 15 counts of Trade Marks Act 1994 violations and five counts against the Copyright Designs & Patents Act 1988. Some of the trademarks affected included Land Rover, Ford Motor Company and Tweety Bird.

More counterfeit items are being sold online than ever before and spotting copies is not always easy. Trading Standards officers have provided the following top tips to stop Suffolk residents falling victim to buying counterfeit goods online:

- Ensure the website address begins with “**https**” at the payment stage. This indicates that any payments will be secure.
- Keep security software and firewalls up to date. Regularly update your internet browser when a new patch-security update is released.
- Don't access links in unsolicited emails; always type in the website address or use a search engine to find a site.

- Check the spelling and grammar on the website, and also of the URL. Often the people behind these sites do not pay a lot of attention of care to this detail. Fraudsters may also try to deceive you by slightly changing the spelling of a well-known brand or shop in the website address.

For further advice on counterfeit goods, or if you suspect someone of selling counterfeit goods please contact Trading Standards via Citizens Advice consumer service on **03454 040506**.

Parents in Suffolk are being encouraged to get “Sugar Smart”

Parents in Suffolk are being encouraged to get “Sugar Smart” and take control of their children’s sugar intake as part of a new campaign. Supported by Public Health Suffolk, the Change4Life campaign follows revelations that 4-10 year olds consume an estimated 5,500 sugar cubes a year (22kg), weighing the same as an average five-year-old. Currently 20.9% of four to five-year-olds in Suffolk are overweight or obese, increasing to 31.8% in 10 to 11-year-olds. This means they are more likely to become obese adults who are more prone to a range of serious health problems, including heart disease, some cancers and Type 2 diabetes. These latest figures for Suffolk highlight the importance for families to cut back on sugar in the diet. Sugar is lurking in everyday food and drink, taking children well over the maximum recommended amount. To help parents take control, a new Sugar Smart app has been launched to help show how much sugar there is in everyday food and drink. The free app works by scanning the barcode of products and revealing the amount of total sugar it contains in cubes and grams. The county council is encouraging all parents across the county to download the app, to help protect their families from the health risks of consuming too much sugar. The Change4Life Sugar Smart app can be downloaded free of charge via the App Store or Google Play. The ‘Change4Life’ website also offers lots of free support, tips, ideas and recipes. Change4Life has also created a short film, which warns parents about the health harms of eating and drinking too much sugar, including becoming overweight and tooth decay. The film can be found on the Public Health Suffolk YouTube channel: <https://youtu.be/Tk05krUxjr4> . In addition to the video, five million Sugar Smart packs will be given away to primary school children and their families via schools and retailer. There will be 25 Change4Life Sugar Smart roadshows, taking place across the country from January to March. Singer and TV presenter Jamelia is supporting the national campaign and will be starring in a series of Sugar Smart films starting in January.

Deadline for Suffolk Primary Schools place application - 15 January 2016

Parents and carers who need to apply for a full-time place for their child at their preferred primary school for the 2016/2017 school year have until **Friday 15 January 2016** to do so. For parents with a child who will turn 4 before 31 August 2016, time is running out to apply for a reception school place for September 2016, if they have not already done so. Anyone with children born between 1 September 2011 and 31 August 2012 can apply for up to three schools either online (which is recommended) or using the paper application form. Applications can be made for up to three schools, in order of preference, and the county council recommends that applications are made online at www.suffolk.gov.uk/admissions . Once the application has been submitted, parents will receive confirmation that the county council has received their application. Alternatively, applications can be made on a paper CAF1 application form, although it should be noted that the county council do not acknowledge receipt of paper applications. Parents are encouraged to obtain proof of posting for peace of mind. Application **must** be made, even if the child already has a place in a nursery class, pre-school or children’s centre. It is critical that applications are received by the 15 January 2016 deadline as this gives parents the best chance of securing a place for their child at one of their preferred schools. Suffolk County Council has a good track record of offering places at preferred schools, using the application rules to offer school places, but the chances of an application being successful reduce when received after the closing date. Any applications received after the deadline will be considered after all the other applications have been processed. This could mean there are no places left at a preferred or nearby school. Last year, Suffolk County Council received over 950 late applications for primary school places. For those planning to move house or who think their circumstances may change before September, it is still important to make an application on time. Any queries should be directed to the county council’s Admissions Team on 0345 600 0981. Last year, the

county council received some 7928 applications from parents outlining which school they would prefer their children to be educated at from September 2015. Of those, 90.2% of applicants received offers for their first preference and 97.2% of applicants receiving an offer from one of their three preferences.

Any parents or carers who have not yet applied for a school place should be encouraged to apply online or download an application form at: www.suffolk.gov.uk/admissions or contact Suffolk County Council immediately on 0345 600 0981.

Significant improvements confirmed for Suffolk's schools at Key Stage 2

It has been confirmed that the percentage of pupils in Suffolk primary schools achieving expected levels in reading, writing and maths is continuing to rise, according to latest data from the Department for Education. Verified results released last month confirm that 77% of 11 year olds achieved level 4 or higher in their SAT tests in the three subjects in 2015 – a 3% rise from 2014. This closes the gap to the national average to just 3% and furthermore, this is the third consecutive year that the gap between Suffolk and the national figure has closed. Back in 2012, Suffolk was 7% points behind the national average – these latest results show that Suffolk is the most improved local authority in the entire Eastern region, with a higher percentage rise than the other 10 local authorities in the area. Suffolk has also improved in the national ranking and is now in 134th place out of 152. This is an improvement of six places from last year. Further improvements have been made in progress in writing between Key Stages 1 and 2. The percentage of pupils making the expected progress went up from 89% in 2014 to 91% this year. The percentage of children making expected progress from Key Stage 1 to 2 in Reading and Maths also increased – with both seeing a 1% point rise. In all three subject areas the increase in Suffolk was greater than the national rise. The gap in performance between Suffolk's disadvantaged pupils and other pupils has also narrowed by 5% compared to a 1% increase nationally. These results clearly demonstrate that education standards in Suffolk are continually improving as a result of the Raising the Bar programme, alongside the efforts of teaching staff, students and parents across the county. This work will continue as the county remains committed to ensuring that all of our pupils have the very best opportunities in life.

Suffolk schools launch new partnership

December saw schools in Suffolk launching a new partnership to share good practice and support each other in school improvement. The **School to School Support Partnership**, which is supported by the county council, will bring together Teaching Schools and partnerships of schools from across the county, to promote and develop a system of school-led self-improvement. The partnership will share best practice and enable school leaders to get support from other Suffolk schools that have expertise and experience in raising standards in particular subjects or disciplines. The first step of the partnership was the launch of a new website, with case studies from more than 50 Suffolk schools highlighting projects that show evidence of a positive impact on pupils' learning. Central to this partnership are the six Teaching Schools in Suffolk, outstanding schools that support other schools in the county. Their remit is to support areas including initial teacher training, development opportunities for school staff and leaders, and research and development. Along with the teaching schools, the group also includes other strong partnerships of schools in the county. This Partnership is all about developing education and learning opportunities for all children and young people in Suffolk. It isn't just about individual schools, but about all schools in Suffolk joining together and raising their game to give everyone the opportunity to do their very best. Developing strong school to school support is a key priority of the county council's Raising the Bar programme and this partnership recognises the importance of schools sharing best practice and supporting each other in Suffolk. The county council's education officers have been quality assuring all of the case studies to ensure that they are suitable and have a real impact on pupils. The county council remains committed to working with its Teaching Schools and recognises the important role that they play in raising attainment in Suffolk. For more information about the School to School Support Partnership visit www.stssp.co.uk.

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