

Bawdsey Parish Council SCC News Update – July 2015

Raising the Bar Awards celebrate excellence in Suffolk education

The achievements of Suffolk pupils, teachers, schools and many more, were honoured last month at SCC's second Raising the Bar Awards. Some 60 shortlisted finalists across 20 categories were invited to the awards ceremony, at Ashlar House in Bury St Edmunds on Thursday 25th June. The ceremony was a celebration of education in Suffolk and how the county is Raising the Bar, and included a performance from Suffolk soprano singer Laura Wright. The winners of 20 award categories were announced at the ceremony, including categories for: Rising Star of the Year (sponsored by SITA); Young Achiever of the Year (sponsored by EDF Energy); Inspirational Young Person of the Year; Excellence in Teaching (sponsored by TeachSuffolk); Unsung Hero (sponsored by Norse); Innovation of the Year (sponsored by Anglian Water); and Educational Leader of the Year (sponsored by EADT). Hundreds of nominations were submitted by the people of Suffolk, who had the chance to nominate the people, places and projects they believed were raising the bar. For more information about the awards, the categories and the shortlisted finalists visit www.rtbawards.com. Raising educational attainment is our number one priority, and one that we can only achieve in partnership with schools, teachers, governors, parents and the young people themselves.

Coming to a high street near you...Suffolk County Council's Leader is listening

Last month, SCC leader, Colin Noble, began his series of Suffolk high street events. He visited The Arc in Bury St Edmunds town centre. This Saturday, the 4th July, Colin will be at the Britten Centre in Lowestoft between 10am and 2pm to listen to your views and answer any questions. If you have something on your mind and want to ask Colin about local matters or anything affecting your life in Suffolk, please come along. Talking ahead of the first 'We Are Listening' event, Colin said: "I want to get out there and meet our communities across the county, speaking to residents who care passionately about Suffolk. I want to hear about the things that are close to people's hearts, to find out what issues are at the top of their agenda and what they want to see happening locally." Looking beyond Saturday, the next two dates in the diary will be Saturday 18th July, when Colin will be at Market Hill in Haverhill, and then Saturday 1st August, when he'll be on the seafront at Felixstowe. To find out more about forthcoming We Are Listening events, visit the SCC website at: www.suffolk.gov.uk/wearelistening.

On-call Firefighter Experience Day to be held across the county

As part of an on-going recruitment drive across the county, Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service is holding an Experience Day across the county at fire stations in Ipswich, Bury St Edmunds and Lowestoft on Saturday 4 July. Firefighters from all walks of life are needed and anybody who wants to find out more about becoming an on-call firefighter is welcome to join the morning session. There will be two sessions on the day at each station with a female-only session in the afternoon as part of the event. To be an on-call firefighter, you must: have a strong desire to support the local community; be enthusiastic about working as part of a team; have a reasonable level of personal fitness; live or/and work within five minutes of your local fire station; if employed, make sure your employer gives permission to release you to respond to emergencies; be available to respond to an emergency during a set number of hours each week (on average, on-call firefighters are paged to attend an emergency situation 2-3 times a week). While the Experience day events are taking place at Ipswich East, Lowestoft South and Bury St Edmunds fire stations, on-call firefighters are required throughout Suffolk. As part of the day, there will be a taster of the recruitment process such as a fitness test as well as opportunities to talk to current firefighters about their role. Sessions will be held between 10am-12.30pm (all welcome) and 12.30pm-3pm (females

only). To book a place, or for further information, call 01473 260588 (Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm). Suffolk benefits hugely from on-call fire fighters in stations around the county. They play an invaluable role in helping keep our county safe.

Programme to support Suffolk's vulnerable recurrent mothers shows success

SCC is delivering positive, results in supporting and reducing the number of vulnerable women across the county who are susceptible to repeated pregnancies and whose babies are removed through assessment and court proceedings. In 2010, the council began analysing data available concerning women who have multiple children removed through court proceedings. The 'Positive Choices' programme was developed as a result. In the 12 months from April 2011, 34 babies were removed from their mothers at birth in a local hospital. Of these, 24 women were mothers who had previously had babies removed, and four of these mothers had had as many as eight children removed previously. In just four years, the programme is starting to really show signs that the support and advice it offers to vulnerable women is making a difference. During its initial pilot, a team of three worked with a group of women, providing advice and support to address some of the underlying issues behind the women's' recurrent pregnancies. As a result of the pilot's success, SCC established the Positive Choices Team, whose primary objective is to support women who have previously had their children removed from their care, or are at risk of having further children removed. The team is currently working with 45 women and of these 25 are receiving intensive support, in addition 16 women are being further supported in an outreach capacity. We are wholeheartedly committed to supporting vulnerable people in Suffolk. That's why the work we have done in helping these mothers is so important. But it is outcomes that matter, and that is why the clear positive results are so encouraging.

Have your say on the re-shaping of Suffolk's Fire & Rescue Service

Suffolk Fire and Rescue (SF&R) is asking the public for their views on helping to shape the future of the Service. The pre-consultation, running until 24th July, is asking members of the public, our staff and other partner organisations to put forward their thoughts on how to maintain a service with a reduced budget, detailing what they value about the current service and what aspects should be preserved. SF&R provides a round-the-clock, seven-days-a-week emergency service to the people of Suffolk. The service currently employs 701 people; 208 full-time firefighters, 435 on-call firefighters and 58 fire service staff in non-operational support roles. It is further supported by 26 community fire volunteers, a number that the service is keen to increase. In 2014/15 SF&R received 6,762 emergency calls for help and subsequently responded to 5,003 emergencies across Suffolk. This is a reduction of about 40% from the number of 999 calls we attended 10 years ago. In Suffolk we are expecting to have to make savings in excess of £1m over the next two years with details becoming clearer in government spending review announcements later this year. To participate in this pre-consultation and let us know your views, you can either contact us by e-mail, at: FireServiceRedesign@suffolk.gov.uk ; call us on: 01473 260588 between 9am and 5pm (Monday to Friday); or write to us at: Service Redesign Programme Manager, Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service HQ, 8, Russell Rd, Ipswich, IP1 2BX. To ensure your views are considered in the development of ideas for the future they must be received by 24 July. Maintaining valued services in a tough financial climate requires some difficult decisions. The Fire and Rescue Service is one such valued service, and it is vital that we hear from as many people as possible before coming up with our proposals for the future. We would urge everyone who is interested to get in touch and let us know their views.

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