

Bawdsey Parish Council Suffolk County Council News Update November 2015

GCSE results show Suffolk on the rise

Provisional GCSE results released today show Suffolk's 16 year olds have performed better than the national figure for the first time since 2007. The statistics from the Department for Education show 53.4% of Suffolk pupils achieved 5 or more A*-C grades including English and Maths. The national figure for all schools was 52.8%. Suffolk's results have increased by 2.6% from last year's provisional results and see Suffolk rise 17 places in the overall league table, going from 124th to 107th. Suffolk is making significant improvements with a higher percentage of pupils making the expected levels of progress in English and Maths – the county climbs from 110th to 75th in Maths and from 119th to 87th in English (out of 151 local authorities). Students making expected progress in English have narrowed the gap to the national figure, from a gap of 3.5% to 0.7%. Expected progress in Maths is now at the national figure; last year's provisional results showed Suffolk as 3.6% below.

Further indication of improvement at Suffolk Schools

The number of Suffolk schools, colleges and academies assessed as being in a good position to help their students achieve good or better learning has increased significantly. Across the county, 108 schools have received a positive "Green" rating, 31 more than in 2014 (equivalent to 11% improvement in top-rated schools). This year has also seen a significant reduction in the number of schools where there is concern that support may be needed to help ensure students achieve good results. In 2015 a total of 83 schools were rated "Red", down from 90 in the previous year (equivalent to a 3 per cent improvement). The annual risk ratings conducted by SCC help improve education in several ways. These include identifying good practice in schools that can be shared with others, and schools that will benefit from support to secure rapid improvement in learning by pupils.

Suffolk's five-year-olds overtake national average

More five-year-olds in Suffolk are 'school ready' according to new figures published today by the Department for Education. With an 8% increase in the proportion of Suffolk children achieving a 'good level of development' at the end of reception, this puts the county above the national average at age five. Nationally 66.3% of pupils achieved this level, with Suffolk pupils 1.3% above this at 67.6%. The 'good level of development' measure is the assessment of children at the end of reception class, or Early Years Foundation Stage Profile. Teachers assess whether children are achieving the expected levels in literacy and maths, as well as in physical development, communication and language, and personal, social and emotional development.

Residents urged to have their say on school admissions consultation

The county council is seeking views on its proposed admissions policy for the 2017/18 school year; ensuring school places are offered to children in a fair way. The consultation runs until Monday 14 December 2015. As part of this, the council is considering whether or not to include the children of staff employed by a school within the oversubscription criteria to give them some priority for school places. These criteria are used to rank applications when a school receives more applications than it has places available. There are different ways we could introduce this and your views are important to us. Other proposals include: minor changes to the Suffolk Co-ordinated Admission Scheme, which sets out the details of our arrangements for the 2017/2018 school year; and some amendments to the Fair Access Protocol which supports the admission of unplaced young people who live in Suffolk, especially the most vulnerable, so that they are offered a suitable place as quickly as possible. The governing bodies of voluntary aided, foundation, academies and free schools are responsible for admissions to their schools. If you want to view the arrangements for

these schools you should contact the school directly. To view the consultation documents and to have your say on the proposals, please visit www.suffolk.gov.uk/consultations, alternatively you can write to Georgina Beard, Suffolk County Council, Endeavour House, 8 Russell Road, Ipswich, IP1 2BX or email: admissionsconsultation@suffolk.gov.uk. School admissions is a very sensitive subject, and the council is keen to listen to what residents and parents are telling us before making any decision.

Thousands attend Suffolk Skills Show

Several hundred Suffolk businesses supported the second annual Suffolk Skills Show; a skills and careers event reaching over 4,500 young people. The event set out to engage with Suffolk's young people and provide an insight into the career opportunities available to them locally. The show, which took place at Trinity Park in Ipswich, targeted those aged between 11 and 24. The diverse range of businesses exhibiting at the event worked hard to ensure those attending left with their eyes opened to the many career streams across Suffolk. There were many interactive indoor and outdoor stands; showcasing opportunities in energy, IT & technology, finance and business services, creative digital, agriculture, construction, motor vehicle, advanced manufacturing, ports and logistics as well as HM Forces and a 'have a go' area where attendees were able to try their hand at new skills. Those unable to make the event during the day were encouraged to come along for a drop in session in the evening to explore options available to them locally; giving them an opportunity to talk to employers, colleges, training providers and advisers about their future careers.

£250,000 fund announced for school projects to boost disadvantaged Suffolk students' attainment and achievement

SCC is inviting bids from the county's publicly-funded schools for money to enable projects that will boost the attainment of disadvantaged students. In the latest round of the 'Raising the Bar Challenge Fund' a maximum of £250,000 has been allocated for innovative that will help reduce the gap between the examination success of students who are disadvantaged, and so help improve social mobility. Successful bidders will receive up to half the cost of projects and the remainder of the costs must be covered by the schools. Up to 80% of each grant will be funded up front, with the final 20% paid if the project achieves its targets, with extra money available if targets are exceeded. Bids for funding need to have ambitious and measureable targets, involve more than one school, and feature innovative or best practice approaches to help boost student success. Projects need to enable parents to be involved, and to be able to continue once Challenge Funding ends. Each school involved in a successful bid can receive up to £5,000 from the County Council. For more information and an application form visit www.suffolk.gov.uk/challengefund. The deadline for schools to make applications is 5pm on Wednesday 25 November.

Promoting a new vision for Ipswich

A Suffolk delegation travelled to London in September to promote a new vision for Ipswich. The group sought to attract investment and raise awareness of the significant opportunities for housing and employment growth in the Greater Ipswich area - with a particular focus on the Waterfront. Public and private sectors came together via SCC, Ben Gummer MP, Ipswich Central, the Chamber of Commerce, New Anglia LEP, the borough council and University Campus Suffolk, to attend MIPIM (Marche International des Professionnels d'Immobilier) and promote development opportunities in the town. The show is the UK's largest exhibition and conference for property professionals and will provide a market place for UK players and international investors to meet, discuss projects and opportunities and do business. The Ipswich stand, focusing on a new Ipswich Vision, enabled visitors to the exhibition to find out more about the town. The stand included a rolling video showing an animated fly round of the Waterfront plus images around Ipswich. An interactive screen allowed users to focus on individual sites and companies. A 20-page prospectus was also available to investors and developers.

County Council progress the campaign for A12 Four-Village Bypass

SCC's cabinet has agreed to set aside up to £450,000 towards building a business case for a major highways project to develop a new bypass of the villages of Marlesford, Little Glemham, Stratford St Andrew and Farnham. This project, commonly known as the 'A12 Four Village Bypass', is an infrastructure priority for the county council. Suffolk Coastal District Council is to contribute £50,000 towards the support of the business case. Following a public enquiry in 1995, the Government accepted recommendations that this road should be developed to alleviate the constraints and impact of traffic on this stretch of the A12. In 2001, the road became the responsibility of SCC and the bypass concept remains the authority's preferred development option if the funding can be secured. The current estimated cost ranges from £45m to £105m, depending on the carriageway provision that is made. The future business case to be discussed with the government will consider both options. With the government keen to develop the county's infrastructure, the county council is fighting hard to ensure that vital schemes in Suffolk secure the funding required. To meet the timescales involved in delivering this project ahead of the potential building of Sizewell C, the county council needs to act now to build a strong case. We will continue talking to MPs, New Anglia LEP and the government, with a view to presenting our case to the Secretary of State as soon as possible.

Andrew Reid

County Councillor – Wilford Division

Tel: 07545 423799

Email: andrew.reid@suffolk.gov.uk