

Bawdsey Parish Council SCC News Update – April 2016

Suffolk continues upward trend towards national education excellence

Continuing to improve Suffolk's schools and ensuring excellence in their leadership and governance are two key parts of the Raising the Bar programme to ensure every child in Suffolk can reach their full potential. The increasing number of Teaching Schools and highly qualified school leaders demonstrates the action being taken by this administration to back this up. The County Council pledged to tackle educational attainment in its manifesto and the upward trend continues; improvements in the quality of education in Suffolk have been reinforced by a further four schools achieving Teaching School status. This means that more than 260 school staff across the county are currently undertaking national qualifications in leadership.

The following schools have joined five others cross the county that have already been recognised as National Teaching Schools:

- Springfield Junior School (Ipswich Teaching Alliance)
- Bedfield CoEVC Primary School (Five Rivers Teaching School Alliance)
- Highfield Nursery and Castle Hill Infants (Ipswich)
- Debenham High School

The Teaching School Alliances are part of The School to School & Settings Support Partnership which will be the driving force across Suffolk leading a school led self-improvement system. Other partners include:

- Bury Schools Partnership
- SWISS Partnership (South West Ipswich Secondary Schools)
- Gipping Valley Partnership of Schools
- Diocese of St. Edmundsbury and Ipswich and the Local Authority.

Over 90% of Suffolk children get 1st choice of primary school

At a time when many areas across the UK are facing real difficulties in sourcing sufficient primary school places, it is a real achievement that here in Suffolk we are able to give the majority of parents places for their children. In the majority of cases, we are able to allocate school places at the parents preferred schools.

Almost 91% per cent of Suffolk children got their first choice of primary school this year and 97.5% got one of their three preferences. The percentage of children allocated their first preference has increased by 0.5% between 2015 and 2016. In total, 7920 applications for reception places were received by the county council, compared with 7928 who applied in 2015. Chances of applications being unsuccessful increase when applications are submitted after the closing date, but there are some helpful FAQs to assist parents at: www.suffolk.gov.uk/offerday.

More Suffolk schools than ever now rated Good or Outstanding by Ofsted

80% of Suffolk's schools have now been rated Good or Outstanding by Ofsted in April 2016, an improvement of 6% compared to just 10 months ago, when 74% of schools were rated Good or Outstanding. This represents significant progress towards the county council's ambitious objective that all children in Suffolk can attend a Good or Outstanding school. Ensuring that every child can achieve their full potential is a key element of the Raising the Bar programme. Schools in Suffolk are also improving twice as fast as those across the country as a whole. Over the same ten months, the percentage of Good or Outstanding schools nationally has only risen 3%, compared to Suffolk's 6%.

The 80% of schools figure related to all publicly funded schools in Suffolk with a current Ofsted judgement; as inspections are carried out on a continual basis, the number and percentage is therefore subject to constant change.

Suffolk’s young people star in new film about positive mental health

The Mental Health Foundation estimates that 1 in 10 children and young people are affected by mental health problems; more children and young people are experiencing problems with their mental health today than 30 years ago and here in Suffolk, protecting the most vulnerable is at the very heart of everything we do. A new film highlighting the experiences of young people dealing with emotional wellbeing and mental health has been produced by young people in Suffolk. Finding the language to express how they are feeling, whilst overcoming any perceived stigma around mental health, are just two of the many challenges facing our young people today. The film has been designed to prompt discussion on the often taboo subject of mental health in the classroom and empowers young people to identify what support is available to them and to feel confident in this support should they need it. **Mind. Your Language** has been scripted and developed by aspiring film-makers from Samuel Ward Academy in Haverhill, alongside representatives from Norfolk and Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust’s (NSFT) Youth Council. Presented almost exclusively by young people and illustrated by personal stories, the film invites young people, teachers and parents to take up the subject and make simple pledges to tackle the stigma around mental health. The first public screening took place at Haverhill Arts Centre on 19th April and the film will be shared widely throughout schools in Suffolk. It can be viewed at: www.healthysuffolk.org.uk. To make a pledge to support others, or to encourage discussion around the issues highlighted in the film, please take the time to visit: www.healthysuffolk.org.uk/projects/mind-your-language

“Be Water Aware” urge Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service

Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service has joined other fire and rescue services across the UK in supporting the Chief Fire Officers Association’s Drowning Prevention and Water Safety Week, which takes place from 25 April to 01 May. SFRS is working with Anglian Water and UCS to promote this really important water safety campaign. The campaign will raise awareness, particularly aiming to reduce the number of fatalities in young adults aged 16-29. On hot days, rivers, lakes, reservoirs and other inland waterways can appear safe and all too inviting, but the campaign will raise awareness of the hidden dangers that lie below the surface. The campaign is not about stopping people from enjoying the water, but about highlighting the potential risks and dangers. For example, rivers may look calm and peaceful, but there can be strong currents below the surface which can put even the strongest of swimmers into danger. Working closely with Anglian Water, SFRS will be issuing advice on what to look out for and messages will be posted on social media using the hashtag #BeWaterAware Groups being targeted and the messages include:

Anglers - usually a solitary pastime, but make sure your spot is safe and won’t get cut off by the tide

Students and Young Adult Drinkers – age at risk most likely to be male, aged 15-29. Alcohol reduces inhibitions and can mean you take more risks. Last year in Suffolk there was one fatality and various water rescues by the fire service to alcohol related incidents.

Runners and Walkers – often distracted by their activity, not the hazards around them. River banks may be unstable, look out for hazards and trips and watch your footing.

Older Walkers – may have underlying health conditions and have an increased risk of tripping or falling.

Dog Walkers – don’t lean into the water and try to lift your dog out; you can topple in. Remember that dogs can get cold water shock too.

As well as safety messaging, the focus will also be on the “Fatal Five”:

1. **Cold water shock** – low water temperature can numb limbs and claim lives
2. **What is in or under the water surface?** There may be entrapment hazards, pollution, etc.
3. **Currents or water conditions** – includes floods, unknown depths, ice, riptides, eddies etc.

4. **Alcohol Consumption** – don't swim if you have been drinking
5. **Swimming Competency** – don't assume because you can swim in a pool that you can deal with the challenges of open water swimming. Swim in safe areas, or where supervised by a lifeguard

Suffolk's Trading Standards return funds to victim of rogue traders

Officers from Suffolk's Trading Standards Team presented a cheque totalling £59,000 to consumers who had fallen victim to rogue traders who had been operating in the Suffolk and Essex areas. The consumers who ranged from 57 years to 75 years were invited to Endeavour House where they were reunited once more with their hard-earned money – in some cases, this amounted to their life savings. Looking after those most vulnerable in our communities is paramount, particularly as they are often unaware in what to look out for with rogue traders and scams. In March 2015, Thomas Doran and Myles Doran, from Clacton-on-Sea, were found guilty of 10 charges under consumer protection legislation including the use of aggressive practices and demanding upfront cash payments from victims. Working under the name of Clacton Reinforced Paving Ltd, the Doran's performed works on driveways for older people in Suffolk and Essex, often starting their work before the end of the 7 day cancellation period. If asked to delay the start of work, the Doran's would carry on regardless and demand cash payment; on one such occasion they actually took the victim to a cash machine to withdraw the funds there and then. Orders for compensation for consumers were made at Ipswich Crown Court resulting in 9 Suffolk consumers and 3 Essex consumers being awarded £59,110.61. It is rare to achieve compensation for victims in doorstep trading investigations and this has been a great achievement for not only the victims themselves, but also for the Trading Standards team who have worked tirelessly to bring justice to the victims.

Greenest County awards winners announced

The county's most dedicated and innovative businesses and community groups were once again presented with "Creating the Greenest County" awards at this year's awards ceremony, held at Snape Maltings. Projects, organisations and individuals battled it out for 12 prestigious "Green Oscar" titles there TV presenter, writer, rural expert and Suffolk resident Paul Heaney was the guest speaker. Now in their 9th year, the awards have gone from strength to strength and celebrate the achievement of those working tirelessly to help Suffolk achieve its aspirations of becoming the Greenest County. Amongst the winners were great examples of environmental achievement and best practice, from large organisations taking significant steps to reduce their environmental impact, to individuals in communities growing local foods and educating others around how to live more sustainably. Winners were as follows:

Climate Adaptation - Aphonic Ltd
Greenest Building - Modemed Architects
Greenest Business - ichiban UK Ltd
Greenest Community Project - Ramsden Woodland Group - Evades Orchard
Greenest Farming Business - Euston Farms
Greenest Micro Business - Secret Meadows
Green Hero - Joanne Musher
Greenest Product or Service - Aphonic Ltd
Sustainable Tourism - Stoke by Nay land Hotel, Golf & Spa and Country Lodges
Local Food and Drink - Homewood
Waste and Recycling - The Teapot Project Ipswich
Landscape and Wildlife – The Public Vote – Waveney Bird Club

The awards are in partnership with Anglian Water and the main sponsors are East of England Co-Op and Flow Energy. Further information is available at: www.greensuffolk.org.uk/Awards2016

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