

## **Bawdsey Parish Council**

### **SCC Newsletter - November 2022**

#### **£2.5m saved on energy costs as LED streetlight project nears completion**

A project with the aim of replacing all 43,400 streetlights across Suffolk with sustainable, longer-lasting, and cost-saving LED bulbs nears completion.

It has saved more than £2.5 million pounds so far.

The change to LED streetlights supports Suffolk County Council's aim to reduce carbon, light pollution, and bring down ongoing maintenance costs for the council, all whilst providing the best value to residents.

It was expected that the council would reduce costs by around 76%, however, the target was exceeded, with 77.64% savings made to date.

In June 2021, Bouygues Energies and Services were announced as the partner to deliver the project to upgrade 43,400 Suffolk streetlights with new, reduced energy LED lanterns. The total number of upgraded streetlights is currently at 40,692 excluding any of the Ipswich Borough Council, or Town/Parish council owned streetlights. There are approximately 1,700 upgrades outstanding, which includes any remaining heritage lantern upgrades. It is hoped that around 1200 of the remaining lanterns will be completed by the end of the year.

Prior to the commencement of the project, Suffolk Highways contacted towns and parishes to provide them with the opportunity to have their parish-council owned street-lighting upgraded at the same time. All heritage-style lanterns are also being upgraded as part of the project.

The upgrade of the lighting system will include a further rollout of SCC's central management system which will allow lights to be switched on or off and dim individual or groups of lights.

This smart technology will increase the control the council has over its power consumption which will further reduce costs. The system will also automatically flag any lights that are not working which reduces the need for night-time inspections.

#### **Suffolk County Council adopts new Streets Guide for building more sustainable, people-first developments**

It was announced on November 3<sup>rd</sup> that ground-breaking new guidelines for developers to help them design sustainable and low-carbon neighbourhoods have been launched by Suffolk County Council.

The [Suffolk Design: Streets Guide](#) is the first document of its kind to prioritise walking and cycling in the routes people will use - and the infrastructure required to make them safe and attractive - over the needs of private vehicles.

The guide can also be used by highway engineers, drainage engineers and Public Rights of Way officers in responding to planning applications and in the technical review and approval of new highways infrastructure.

While not compulsory, the guide has been prepared with Suffolk's other authorities using [government policies, guidance and best practice](#).

It replaces the Suffolk Design Guide for Residential Areas, last updated in 2000, and has been drawn up with [Stantec – a global leader in sustainable design and engineering](#).

In 2019, every local authority in Suffolk declared or acknowledged a climate emergency.

The design of streets has a significant role to play in the reduction of carbon emissions by prioritising walking, wheeling, cycling and access to public transport, as well as managing the effects of flooding through effective sustainable drainage systems.

By placing greater priority on designing for people as pedestrians - whether wheeled or walkers - and cyclists, the council is contributing to its ambitions for reducing carbon.

## **Port workers get on their e-bikes with County Council scheme**

November 15<sup>th</sup> saw Workers at ABP's Port of Ipswich plugging in to an e-bike trial scheme with Suffolk County Council.

The council's Way To Go Suffolk team, which helps people to travel sustainably, has launched a scheme for businesses where employees are encouraged to ditch the car and try out an electric bike free of charge.

Employees can choose to trial commuting for a week at a time with some of the bikes, whilst others are used as pool bikes allowing staff to pop out at lunchtime for a break and some exercise.

The Port of Ipswich is the first organisation to get involved with the scheme, having taken delivery of eight e-bikes for a trial period of three months.

The bikes are supplied by e-bike rental provider [Hurricane](#).

They have a range of around 50 miles and, other than punctures, are covered with a call-out service for any breakdowns and repairs.

They are different to conventional bikes as they are powered by a battery to assist the rider, increasing the distance that someone can cycle.

The council is initially looking to work with organisations that have at least 50 employees and are based in a large town environment.

## **New scheme ‘multiply Suffolk’ to offer adults a chance to improve their numeracy skills**

On November 15<sup>th</sup>, new initiative named Multiply Suffolk, which will offer adults an opportunity to improve their numeracy skills, was launched in Suffolk. The scheme is for those who do not already have a GCSE grade C/4 or higher in Maths or equivalent.

Adults can sign up for free courses and activities including Money Management and Numeracy for Parents/Carers. Unaccredited, informal learning as well as Level 1 and Level 2 accredited learning is available to residents on either a part-time or intensive basis and are offered in flexible settings to fit around people’s lives.

Multiply Suffolk has been created thanks to a £3.7m government investment from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund aimed at boosting opportunities for more people to progress and secure well-paid jobs. SCC’s Multiply Suffolk Team will work with subcontractors Realise Futures and Menta to deliver the scheme.

Multiply Suffolk was officially launched during the adult learning engagement event at Trinity Park, Ipswich on 9 November 2022.

For more information and/or to sign up for the scheme visit: <https://learnsuffolk.org/multiply-coming-soon/>

## **Suffolk County Council launch All Age Carers’ Strategy**

Suffolk County Council has launched its All-Age Carers’ Strategy at today’s Health and Wellbeing Board.

The strategy which has been developed with young carers and adult carers across Suffolk aims to support carers across Suffolk in their roles and will lead to the development of an action plan in the coming months.

This will help SCC to provide carers with the right kind of quality support at the right time, in the right place, and in the right way.

Many carers do not identify themselves as carers for approaching 2 years - they are reluctant to do so - therefore a key goal within this strategy is to reduce this timeframe and help them access the support they need. The five key priorities are;

1. Early identification of carers
2. Improved information and advice
3. Young carers to have the same priority as adult carers
4. Systems and services that work for and support all carers
5. Improved health and well-being for carer

An action plan will be developed in the coming months which will provide more detail how the priorities will be delivered and raise the profile of carers in Suffolk.

In 2020, research from Carers UK indicated that there were 13.6 million unpaid carers in the UK, which is estimated to have saved the country in the region of £193 Billion during the

COVID-19 pandemic alone. In the 2011 census, 17,194 carers in Suffolk said they provided 50+ hours of care per week.

Currently, about 1 in 5 people living in Suffolk are aged 65 or over. It is estimated that over the next 20 years, this is forecast to change, with 1 in 3 Suffolk residents being aged 65 or over, compared to 1 in 4 for England.

Projections also suggest that the number of people aged 65 and over who provide unpaid care in Suffolk will increase between 2019 and 2035, from 25,300 to 33,700 (an increase of 33%).

[Read the Suffolk All Age Carer's Strategy 2022-2027.](#)

## **Statement following chancellor announcing a devolution deal for Suffolk**

**By Leader of the Council, Matthew Hicks.**

“We welcome the Chancellor’s announcement that the Government has committed to agreeing a truly historic deal for Suffolk – the first county deal of its kind in the country. This deal will be a significant step on our county’s journey towards devolution and more control over our future.

“If agreed, this provisional deal would deliver decades of significant additional investment into local priorities that will improve the lives and outcomes of Suffolk’s residents; secure greater decision-making powers around transport, infrastructure and skills; and give us the powers we need to achieve our net zero ambitions and create the Greenest County.

“The powers and funding on offer have changed since we made our initial bid in August 2021. The Government is actively progressing only the most ambitious devolution deals but, in return, is seeking greater changes to the way local government is led. Therefore, in exchange for the greatest freedoms and funding, we are now minded to pursue a model whereby the Leader of Suffolk County Council is directly elected by the people of Suffolk. This proposed change would not add any new levels of bureaucracy nor create any new offices.

“In keeping with Suffolk’s collaborative way of working, we have developed this deal in partnership with our district and borough colleagues, the Police and Crime Commissioner and our MPs. It will now be taken forward to public consultation with Suffolk’s communities and businesses.”

## Thousands more new trees for Suffolk

It was announced on November 23<sup>rd</sup> that 7,526 trees will be planted across the county this winter by Suffolk's councils.

Suffolk County Council successfully submitted a joint bid on behalf of itself, Babergh District Council, East Suffolk Council, Ipswich Borough Council and West Suffolk Council.

£138,219 will come into the county as one of 100 grants under the government's Local Authority Treescapes Fund, directly contributing to achieving the country's ambitious tree planting targets. The funding is for the planting of the trees and three years' maintenance.

The trees are to be planted in non-woodland areas, including those that have been neglected in the past, ecologically damaged or affected by tree diseases like ash dieback.

More green spaces around Suffolk will support wildlife and offer the chance for people to get in touch with nature and support their health and wellbeing.

One of the projects will see the creation of a second 'Miyawaki' tiny forest in Sudbury, Suffolk, following Ipswich Borough Council using previous funds to create a number of these across the town last year.

Named after the renowned Japanese botanist Akira Miyawaki, this form of woodland management sees local species of trees densely planted in small urban plots of land. This enables them to create biodiversity-rich habitats quickly and absorb more carbon than a traditional forest.

All planting schemes will be delivered by borough and district councils and will continue to contribute to Suffolk's commitment to support the Queen's Green Canopy project. This announcement comes on the eve of National Tree Week (26 November to 4 December).

## Suffolk supports significant scams settlement

Suffolk Trading Standards is helping to compensate victims across the county who lost thousands of pounds to an online fraudulent sweepstake scheme discovered by the United States Government.

The Next-Gen sweepstake sent tens of millions of personalised documents to unsuspecting recipients across the world promising prizes of up to \$2 million in exchange for a fee of between \$9 to \$140.

Many victims made several payments before realising they had been scammed, and it is estimated that consumers collectively lost more than \$110 million since Next-Gen began its operation in 2013.

Upon discovering the fraudulent activity, the US Federal Trade Commission worked with international partners, including the UK's National Trading Standards Scams Team, to enable them to obtain the evidence needed to take Next-Gen to court.

Almost \$25 million will be returned to victims of the scam, with over \$631,000 (£523,075) paid out via prepaid Mastercard debit cards to those in the UK.

These payments include \$10,000 (£8,291) for Suffolk residents who were scammed, and Suffolk Trading Standards has recently hand-delivered refunds ranging from £30 to £1,000.

Next-Gen conducted its fraud via email and letters, with postal scams on the rise, but only around 5% of these crimes ever being reported.

To help tackle this, the Friends Against Scams Team is running a [SCAMnesty campaign](#) to encourage everyone in the UK to send any unwanted scam and nuisance mail they receive to the National Trading Standards Scams Team free of charge.

Postal and email scams can also be reported to Suffolk Trading Standards via the Citizens Advice Consumer Service on **0808 223 1133**.

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