

Shottisham Parish Council

Suffolk County Council Newsletter – December 2020

New SEND provision identified – 168 additional spaces from September 2020

Suffolk County Council is now in a position to provide further information regarding the development of new Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) units attached to mainstream schools in the county. The authority is pleased to announce that, following a thorough evaluation process, a number of suitable schools have been identified to develop:-

- **Two Generic Key Stage 1 Units** – Pipers Vale Primary Academy and Burton End Primary Academy
- **Three Communication and Interaction Key Stage 2 Units** – Murrayfield Primary Academy, Houldsworth Valley Primary Academy, and Causton Junior School
- **One Cognition and Learning Key Stage 2 Unit** – Clements Primary Academy
- **Three Communication and Interaction Key Stage 3/4 Units** – Copleston High School, Ixworth School, and Newmarket Academy
- **One Cognition and Learning Key Stage 3/4 Units** – Castle Manor Primary Academy.

In total, this means an additional 168 new specialist placements will be available for children and their families in Suffolk from September 2020, on top of existing specialist provision. Successful schools are currently working with the council to ensure the appropriate infrastructure and support is in place to enable these new units to be open in September 2020. A further commissioning round will begin in Spring 2020 and will consider further expressions of interest from mainstream schools who hope to open units in September 2021. This will include targeted work from our provider development team in areas of the county where gaps have been identified to ensure we can offer local provision for our children and their families.

Suffolk County Council’s Cabinet Member for Children’s Services, Education and Skills, Cllr Mary Evans said:

“We are delighted with the interest shown by our mainstream schools and would like to thank all those who came forward wanting to work in partnership to deliver this provision. If you are a mainstream school that would like to become involved, or would like further information, there is still time.

“Regular updates will follow as we continue to work hard in the delivery of our capital programme across the next five years, resulting in an additional 870 specialist places.”

Please contact Jamie Mills Jamie.mills@suffolk.gov.uk for further information if your school is interested in developing a SEND unit.

David Waters jailed for 2 years 8 months for misleading vulnerable customers

On 19 December, Suffolk businessman David Waters (71 of Manwick Road, Felixstowe) received a 32-month custodial sentence. He has also been banned from being a company director for 10 years and been made the subject of a criminal behaviour order, which prevents him from selling any products in a person's home and any involvement in a mobility aid company. His company, Anchor Mobility Ltd, was also fined a total of £15,000 for 15 counts of unfair commercial practice, following a successful prosecution by Suffolk County Council's Trading Standards. Mr Waters failed to fulfil orders and refused to refund customers in his position as sole director of Anchor Mobility Limited, a company meant to provide life-improving furniture to vulnerable and elderly people. Instead, many customers received no goods, no refunds and poor customer service. One customer paid over £8,000 for two beds, which were never delivered, and no refund was ever received. A hearing to consider compensation for victims will take place in the new year. In relation to Anchor Mobility Ltd, Suffolk County Council's Trading Standards received several calls and accumulated 26 witnesses, an indication of the scale of this operation. It is calculated that the loss to customers is around £82,000. However, it is likely that many other people have made payments to Anchor Mobility Limited and not received their goods. Local businesses also lost out to Anchor Mobility Limited, who built up a debt of over £20,000 for lease or rental payments over a six-month period. Waters and his business were eventually locked out of their offices as a result. Furniture manufacturers also suffered by not being paid for products they had made, or lost time which was set aside for production.

If people are concerned about services, goods or products that they have agreed to or purchased on the doorstep, advice is on hand from the national Citizens Advice consumer helpline on 03454 040506.

New bridleway opens up traffic free link

A newly created bridleway in Bury St Edmunds, linking the south east side of the town with Suffolk Business Park, was officially opened on 17 December. Suffolk County Council's Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Rural Affairs, Andrew Reid joined Councillor Richard Rout, representing the Hardwick Division, and the Mayor of Bury St Edmunds, Councillor Peter Thompson, in cutting the ribbon. Children from Sebert Wood Primary School were also in attendance. The new path will provide an off-road route for walkers and cyclists avoiding the busy A14 junction 44. Work started on reconstructing the bridleway on Monday 21 October 2019 and lasted for seven weeks. The bridleway cost approximately £150k to construct and has been surfaced using recycled materials from roadworks. The bridleway will also link through to Sustrans National Cycle Route 13, and provide access into the Moreton Hall estate, Suffolk Business Park and the new Rougham Tower Avenue and Sybil Andrews Academy. The route is a continuation of Rougham Road, providing a route beyond the lorry park running parallel to the A14. Suffolk Highways worked closely with the landowner and with West Suffolk Council, which identified the route as a possible new sustainable connection in the town.

As part of the improvement works, Suffolk Highways will also be trialling solar powered lighting. Much like road studs, these units will provide a delineation of the route to assist users along the bridleway. The lighting provides low-level illumination to guide users; it is not designed to replace street lighting.

Councillor Andrew Reid, Suffolk County Council's Cabinet Member responsible for Highways, Transport and Rural Affairs, said:

"I am delighted we have been able to provide this link and create an attractive route from the Moreton Hall to the South East side of Bury St Edmunds for cyclist and walkers.

"Following our climate emergency declaration, the council is looking into all aspects of how projects like this can help us be more sustainable, from encouraging walking and cycling, to using reclaimed materials and renewable energy. This bridleway makes active travel an appealing alternative and I hope local residents and commuters take full advantage of it."

Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service rated "Good" in Government inspection

Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service has been rated "Good" for its effectiveness, efficiency and how well it leads and manages its staff. Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service has undergone its most comprehensive, independent inspection in many years and has been rated as "Good" for its effectiveness, efficiency and how well it leads and manages its staff. The findings come from [a report](#) published on 17 December by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS), who inspected Suffolk's service earlier this year. Inspectors reviewed every aspect of the service, from how we respond to 999 emergencies, to looking at policies and interviewing a wide range of firefighters and staff. The report praised many aspects of the service, particularly how well it collaborates with other emergency services and agencies, how it responds to fires and other emergencies, how it ensures fairness and promotes diversity, and the financially sound way the service is run.

New £3million Fund announced for Suffolk projects

A £3million pot has been formed to fund projects such as new speed cameras, electric charging points or new cycle lanes. On 16 December, Suffolk County Council's Finance Cabinet Member, Gordon Jones, unveiled the Suffolk 2020 fund - a one-year fund which organisations can bid for a share of. Bids between £50,000 and £500,000 will be accepted within 100 days of the new financial year and will be for Suffolk-wide projects. Councillor Jones said nothing is ruled out, so the fund could be used for schemes such as new cycle lanes, electric charging points, road safety schemes, automatic number plate recognition cameras, tree planting or other projects.

Councillor Jones said:

"I think it's quite exciting to take the opportunity to continue to engage with the communities and respond to some of our priorities. These are really significant and if there is an opportunity for match-funding the projects can be even better. It's not essential, but it can provide an opportunity to kick start some really sizeable projects.

The one-year financial settlement from central government, which effectively dictates how much the council will get, has enabled the creation of the fund because that money would normally be absorbed in other departments across a financial settlement of several years.” Councillor Jones confirmed that bids can only be for one-off project costs, rather than being used to prop up the running costs of any project or organisation. The council currently has cross-party policy development panels investigating measures to help with climate issues and provision for cycling. Councillor Jones said the fund could well be used to help fund recommendations from those groups.

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