

Parish Council Newsletter – February 2018

Newmarket & Red Lodge Division (incorporating the Parishes of Newmarket, Red Lodge, Herringswell, Kentford, Moulton & Dalham)

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I also post updates on Division news and my activity regularly through facebook
(<https://www.facebook.com/robinmillar4suffolk>).

PARISH NEWS

Red Lodge

Over Christmas and throughout January, I have been involved with discussions surrounding the nursery provision at the Millennium Centre. The county council will continue to work with all parties to try and resolve the situation and also to ensure there is sufficient good quality pre-school provision for parents in the village.

I have offered to help residents with ambitions to create foot/cycle path linking Kennett, Red Lodge and Freckenham (I am currently working with Kentford and Moulton PCs on the same project).

To be clear, I am not aware of any funding that is available for these projects. Nevertheless, there are some preparatory steps we can take to help should money become available, for example through development.

SUFFOLK NEWS

Community Self-help for Highways

Suffolk Highways is looking to develop a Community Self Help scheme to enable local community groups, including town and parish councils, to undertake work that Suffolk Highways does not have the budget to undertake.

Like all local authority departments, Suffolk Highways is facing financial challenges. We have recently restructured our service to remove inefficiencies and we continue to work hard to improve our service. You may also have heard that Suffolk County Council has boosted our funding for road maintenance, specifically resurfacing and surface dressing.

However, despite this, Suffolk Highways is simply unable to deliver everything that communities would like us to. To manage this as effectively as we can, we deliver our service by adhering to our [Highway Maintenance Operational Plan](#) (HMOP), which sets out the standards that Suffolk Highways will meet for safety inspections and reactive maintenance (works that have been triggered by defects or safety concerns such as potholes). The HMOP is aimed at the inspection team and others within Suffolk Highways, to

provide the standards and methodology to use when maintaining the county's highways; with limited budget and resource.

To give our budget pressures some context, from 2010/11 to 2018/19, there will be a 40% reduction in revenue funding – that's funding that we use to undertake routine maintenance and our reactive service e.g. emergency repairs, grass cutting and energy costs for street lighting and signals. An example of how the available budget restricts what we can do in local communities is the allocation for sign maintenance. We have an annual budget of £112,000 – that covers everything from replacement of missing and damaged signs to sign cleaning. In Suffolk we have over 102,000 signs, that equates to little more than £1 per sign and may explain why many of our non-mandatory signs are not replaced if damaged and why many signs have remained uncleaned for several years.

So, how can you help?

We know that many communities are willing and able to help in undertaking minor works in their areas. We have been considering what our community self help offer would look like. In order to ensure that our offer meets your needs, we would like to better understand what areas communities are most interested in doing for themselves. This is not about communities undertaking work that we are able to and do undertake, but about how communities can add to and undertake more, on top of what we provide.

We would therefore appreciate it if you could take a few minutes to share with us your views on the areas of work you would be interested in getting involved in.

At this stage we cannot make any promises about what will or won't be part of our offer and the examples provided in the survey are purely for us to gain an understanding of the level of interest. Whilst the surveys are being returned we will be working with our insurance, legal and health and safety teams to develop a clear view of what is and isn't acceptable for communities to undertake themselves. Whilst we do not want to slow communities down with red tape and bureaucracy, we need to ensure that anyone working on the highway is kept safe and that the travelling public are also not put at risk.

Once we have the results we will analyse the results from all surveys to develop a picture of the main things that communities would like to see as part of the offer.

Our focus will then be on trying to make those a reality and develop a process that communities can then use to get work done in their area. By the end of March we hope to have the key principles for the Community Self Help offer agreed by the Suffolk Highways Senior Leadership Team. We will then aim to develop detailed guidelines and a process ready to launch with communities in June 2018.

The survey is now open and can be completed by visiting www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/SuffolkHighwaysCommunitySelfHelp

If you have any questions relating to the briefing below, or the survey, please email communications@suffolkhighways.org with the subject: 'Community Self Help Survey'.

The survey will close on **Wednesday 28th February 2018** at which point a thorough review will take place and proposed next steps will follow.

Information about your area

The Suffolk Observatory

www.suffolkobservatory.info

The Suffolk Observatory contains all Suffolk's vital statistics; it is the one-stop-shop for data, statistics and reports all about Suffolk, provided by a variety of organisations. Through data, reports and analysis, the Suffolk Observatory provides a comprehensive picture of the County and is a great source for useful facts and figures that will help you write reports and presentations, inform strategic and business planning, prepare funding applications or support academic research.

Open Data Suffolk

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/open-data-suffolk/>

Find free data about Suffolk and the Council available to the general public and organisations.

Fingertips

<https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/>

These Public Health England profiles are a rich source of indicators across a range of health and wellbeing themes. They have been designed to support JSNA and commissioning to improve health and wellbeing, and reduce inequalities. With these profiles you can:

- Browse indicators at different geographical levels
- Benchmark against the regional or England average
- Compare Suffolk to other similar local authorities
- Export data to use locally

Local Health

<http://www.localhealth.org.uk>

Local Health presents data for small areas: wards and middle super output areas (MSOAs). The tool also provides data for clinical commissioning groups (CCGs), local authorities, and England as a whole.

The Local Health tool allows users to map data and provides spine charts and reports for small areas. Users can also define their own geographies and add their own data.

Nomis

<https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/>

Nomis is a service provided by the Office for National Statistics, ONS, to give you free access to the most detailed and up-to-date UK labour market statistics from official sources. Its also the home for Census data!

The Office for National Statistics (ONS)

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/>

The UK's largest independent producer of official statistics and the recognised national statistical institute of the UK.

The links above are just some of the places we gather data from! We use these to inform our knowledge of local areas, as well as building on internal and local knowledge and data! All these help to inform a robust evidence base for the JSNA.

For access to this month and all previous blog entries visit:

<https://www.healthysuffolk.org.uk/blog>

Online safety among younger children improving in Suffolk, but support must be sustained

This year's annual Cybersurvey results show that more parents are delivering messages of online safety to their children from a young age.

The survey, now in its 10th year, shows that parental influence is having an impact on risk-taking behaviour, with 62% of children (up from 57% in 2016) saying they always listen to their parent/carers advice and 80% taught about online safety at school.

Since last year we have seen:

- A 4% reduction in young people using chatrooms. (17% less than 4 years ago)
- A 2% reduction in young people meeting up with someone they knew only online.

Suffolk has previously seen a three-year downward trend in nearly all forms of online risk-taking behaviour across all ages in the county. There has been minimal change in the rates of risks encountered between 2016 and 2017 in the total sample, however among 15 year olds we are seeing increases in risk taking behaviour. This reflects national research which has shown that age is the key factor that determines children's online experiences.

Since last year we have seen:

- A 9% increase in 15 year olds visiting pro-anorexia sites (from 35% to 44%)
- A 13% increase in 15 year olds visiting self-harm promoting sites (from 16% to 29%)
- An 8 % increase in 15 year olds sexting (from 11% to 17%)

The results show a clear drop in parental input for children 15 years and over, which correlates with the increase in risk taking behaviour. This reflects that early intervention is working, but this support needs to be sustained throughout the teenage years.

The Cybersurvey research has shown that a user can encounter risk in under half an hour online, so time spent, or 'screen time' is not the only indicator of risk. Age, context, gender, vulnerability, emotional health and the content viewed online are all factors that contribute to their online experiences and their ability to be cope with what they encounter on the internet and in social media.

Councillor Gordon Jones, Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Skills, said: "The results show that parental influence has a huge impact on a child's online behaviour. The fact that more parents and carers are having conversations early with their child, is making a real difference in Suffolk.

"I would urge parents and schools to continue to re-enforce messages of online safety with children from a young age and vitally, sustain this support through their teen years. It is also important to keep a close eye on what children are viewing online as well as the length of time they spend.

"Suffolk County Council is striving to increase awareness about keeping children safe online. We will continue to work closely with parents, education settings, and other partner organisations to improve online safety in the county."

The Suffolk Cybersurvey can be viewed at www.esafersuffolk.org from 9.00am on Tuesday 6th February.

The results released today coincide with National Safer Internet Day. To find out more or to register as a supporter visit: <https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/>

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Grenfell lessons shared in Suffolk

A London borough Chief Executive who oversaw the aftermath of the London Bridge terror attack and played a major role in the response to the Grenfell Tower fire disaster has been in Suffolk to share vital lessons from the tragedies.

Eleanor Kelly, Chief Executive of Southwark Council, stepped in to support the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea in the immediate aftermath of the fire, helping to coordinate support for the victims, their families and local residents affected by the fire. Kelly also played a lead role publicly fronting the Gold Command operation after the fire.

During her visit to Ipswich, Kelly met with the Suffolk Public Sector Leaders group, which includes the Leaders and Chief Executives of Suffolk's eight councils, the Police and Crime Commissioner, Chief Constable, Cabinet Member for Public Protection, Chief Fire Officer and representatives from Suffolk's Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs).

In an eye-opening meeting, Kelly talked about the importance of public sector organisations

really knowing their communities and how they will react when a major incident happens, the need to listen to what people are saying they need and to focus communications on victims.

Eleanor Kelly said: “Suffolk has been really proactive and is one of the first areas seeking to learn the lessons from the Grenfell Tower disaster. What happened in Kensington last year was something that will stay with the people affected, and the people who worked to help them, for the rest of their lives. We must learn lessons from every emergency situation, and following the Grenfell tragedy, local government and its partners need to really challenge themselves about how well they understand and listen to local communities, as well as ensuring they have solid plans in place for any future emergency.”

Since Grenfell, Suffolk’s Fire and Rescue Service has inspected and visited the more than 100 residential high-rise buildings in the county, and practiced its 999 high rise responses in Ipswich and Lowestoft. Ipswich Borough Council has installed a sprinkler system in Cumberland Towers, its only high-rise block in the town, and held a series of reassurance meetings with tenants after the tragedy. Cumberland Towers is used by the firefighters for regular training exercises. Waveney District Council immediately responded to concerns raised by the Grenfell disaster by agreeing to install a brand new, whole-building sprinkler system and have undertaken numerous exercises in partnership with Suffolk Fire & Rescue to reassure residents.

The visit was arranged through the Suffolk Local Resilience Forum, a group that has responsibility for overseeing emergency planning arrangements for Suffolk.

Photos available to download: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/suffolkcountycouncil/>