



COUNCIL

Wednesday, 25 September 2019

CABINET MEMBERS' REPORT AND OUTSIDE BODIES REPRESENTATIVES' REPORT TO COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

To receive the Cabinet Members' Report and the Outside Bodies Representatives' Report to Council, for information.

Is the report Open or Exempt?	Open
Wards Affected:	All Wards in the District
Cabinet Member:	Councillor Steve Gallant Leader of the Council

CABINET MEMBERS' REPORTS TO COUNCIL

Cabinet Member:	Councillor Steve Gallant, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member with responsibility for Resources
Contact Details:	steve.gallant@eastsoffolk.gov.uk Tel: 07860 478192

Status of the Audit

As reported at the Audit & Governance Committee meeting on 29 July 2019, the Chief Finance Officer advised that the audit of the predecessor Councils accounts would not be completed by 31 July 2019. It was noted that Ernst and Young's lack of resources and staff turnover was the cause of the delay and that it was in the process of training new staff. At that time Ernst and Young had intended to begin the audit at the start of September 2019, with its completion occurring in October. However, the audit has been delayed again by Ernst and Young for the same reasons, with an intended start date on site of 30 September and completion by the end of November. A special meeting of the Audit & Governance Committee has been set for early December 2019 in order to approve the audited accounts. In compliance with Accounts and Audit Regulations, a public notice (one for each predecessor Council) has been placed on the Council's website, explaining why the Council is not yet able to publish its audited final statement of accounts for 2018/19.

Spending Review

On 4 September 2019 a letter from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government was received providing a summary of the action Government is taking to support Local Authorities for the next year. The areas of funding affecting East Suffolk include further funding to combat rough sleeping and homelessness and an increase in Core Spending Power which includes the Revenue Support Grant currently received by the Council. Further Member updates will follow the technical consultation due to be issued shortly, which will set out further details for analyse and consideration for the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy. The provisional Local Government finance settlement is then received early December.

A delay to the longer-term reform of Local Government financing from 2020/21 until 2021/22, including business rates retention and fair funding was also referred to in the letter. This helps to provide some certainty in setting the budget for next year. Again, as further details are released Members will be updated.

Cabinet Member:	Councillor Mary Rudd, Cabinet Member with responsibility for Community Health
Contact Details:	mary.rudd@easstsuffolk.gov.uk Tel: 07867 372976

Licensing

Licensing Services has had a busy summer. In addition to the routine work of licensing and regulating taxis, pubs and gambling establishments, in June the team organised training seminars for licencees at both Melton and Lowestoft on some hot topics in Licensing including conflict management, combatting drugs in pubs and County Lines, noise nuisance and business marketing. The seminars, which were supported by guest speakers from Environmental Services, Suffolk Police, Suffolk County Council and local businesses, were well received by attendees. As well as knowledge sharing, the seminars provided a useful forum for networking.

Licensing Services has again played an important role in licensing and regulating the many summer festivals in the district, the largest of which is of course Latitude. Members of Licensing Services were working at Latitude on every day of the festival in July to ensure the film tent, bars and taxis were operating in line with regulatory requirements to prevent crime and disorder and public nuisance and to promote public safety and the protection of children from harm.

County Lines

The Council continues to share intelligence about County Lines through multi agency ASB meetings in the south of the district and via the Waveney Action Group in Lowestoft.

Police have confirmed that 2 lines are operating in Lowestoft, one of which originates from London. There is no indication that young people are being exploited through the operation of these lines currently, but there have been two incidents identified where the homes of adults have been 'cuckooed' in the town. Activity is being monitored and disrupted for Felixstowe and potential links to Leiston/ Saxmundham are police priorities. Officers continue to link in with the County Lines and Gangs monthly meeting where the need arises.

A well attended County Lines event was held at Stratford St Andrew in June 2019, delivered by national trainer Tony Saggars. Some 90 multi-agency partners attended to identify the signs of County Lines and how to report. Tony also provided a presentation to parents in the Saxmundham and Leiston area due to emerging concerns regarding gangs, exploitation and possible County Lines activity within the area. Another event is being delivered in October for Lowestoft.

AlterEgo theatre productions have been commissioned to deliver a performance in East Suffolk in November. An offer will be going out to schools at the start of the new school term.

Work on the East Suffolk County Lines Tactical Action Plan (TAP) continues, the document is regularly reviewed, with a number of projects already actioned.

Summer Activities

The new Fit and Fed programme, which provides four hours of activity, four days a week for four weeks was held in various locations in East Suffolk this summer. The successful bid for funding via Suffolk County Council aimed to address the rising number of young people who do not have access to a nutritious meal during the school holidays. The fund is only for children eligible for Free School Meals, however there was an understanding that if young people in the two areas wanted to become involved and providers had capacity, that it would be preferable to have them engaged rather than potentially becoming involved in some of the crime and ASB activities currently posing an issue in the area.

In Leiston and Saxmundham, Access Community Trust, FootStars and Procorda (Leiston Abbey performing arts centre) provided a diverse range of activities. Each participant was provided with at least one meal a day that met school food standards, activities that include an element of nutritional education, including growing fruit and veg or getting them involved in food preparation, and physical activity that meets Physical Activity Guidelines.

All activities were well received and subscribed, however gathering data from schools before the term ended proved challenging. Data is still being collated regarding attendance which will feed into future funding applications to offer future activities during school holidays.

In Lowestoft activities were held on the beach, Britten Fields and at Normanston Park. 107 individuals attend Fit and Fed, with 269 total attendances over 16 days of planned activity. In total 315 individuals attended, with 704 total attendances over the 16 days of planned activity. Some of the quotes below illustrate how well the programme has been received:

"My boy has learning difficulties and this summer he had a great time. All the leaders and volunteers were brilliant in including him, managing activities and the differing levels of challenge. At the beach, it was excellently organised and implemented. Thank you."

*"Can't fault anything. Lovely people and made friends with others I wouldn't have know before."
"I think it's been fantastic for the children to have these activities they can go to. Especially helpful for working parents and those on low incomes. Staff were brilliant and very friendly and welcoming. My children had a brilliant time."*

"Well done to all who worked hard to make the sessions fun for the children."

Crucial Crew Plus – Roll out to all East Suffolk High Schools

All schools will return in September to an information pack regarding the Crucial Crew Plus project, the offer of a meeting to discuss the logistics of the day and the information about how to sign up following the development of a timetable of available dates.

A number of providers are willing to participate in the delivery of the sessions but the roll out will also require the commitment of the police for delivery of some of the scenarios which we are confident will be provided. CSP funding through Suffolk Public Sector Leaders will enormously assist in the delivery of the project, enabling us to extend it across the District and offer all schools the opportunity to participate.

Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs)

The Latitude PSPO relating to Psychoactive substances was agreed by Cabinet in July for a further three year period. We are awaiting the data on the number of incidents at the 2019 Festival. PSPO's in former Suffolk Coastal area – the proposal is to discharge the 10 PSPO's (depending on Cabinet agreement) following extensive engagement, including with Town and Parish Councils. The PSPO's were due to run until October 2020 but if agreement is reached the signs can be removed and the PSPO's discharged before that date.

Community Safety Partnership

It was agreed at the last meeting that the current CSP action plan is not fit for purpose and needs to be refreshed in the context of the new Council. A workshop has been arranged for the 9th December with partners to develop the new action plan. The strategic assessment should be ready by the end of November which will inform the Action Plan development by helping to determine the CSP priorities.

Cabinet Member:	Councillor Letitia Smith, Cabinet Member with responsibility for Communities, Leisure and Tourism
Contact Details:	letitia.smith@easstsuffolk.gov.uk Tel: 07824 865973

Youth Voice

From the Autumn 2019 term, the Youth Voice initiative will go live in schools and youth settings across the whole of East Suffolk. The initiative, which started in the former Suffolk Coastal area as a response to the geographical challenges of bringing young people together, involves placing Suggestion Boxes in schools and other settings where young people come together to gather the views of young people about a whole range of issues.

A report will be collated summarising the issues raised and opportunities identified, for each Community Partnership area, and these will be considered by the eight Communities Partnerships at their first meetings in 2020.

Exemplar Grants programme

2019/20 is the last year of the Exemplar Grants programme and there was an amazing response to the call for projects. More than £260,000 of applications were received against a funding pot of £160k. Representatives from the Community Partnerships Steering Group formed a Funding Panel which considered an appraisal of each project produced by the Funding Team. From the 32 applications submitted, a total of 17 projects were recommended for approval.

From 2020/21 onwards, funding will be available through the Community Partnership Budgets (£25,000 per area per year) and Strategic Budget (£300,000 per year).

Community Right to Bid

The Council now has a total of 44 assets listed on its Register of Assets of Community Value including twenty public houses, four sports facilities, four community centres/village halls, four commons, three allotments, two hospitals and two garages.

If an asset is listed on the Register and its owner decides to sell, they are obliged to notify the Council. The group that nominated the land or building then has six weeks to indicate whether it wants to trigger the full six-month moratorium period. This allows them additional time to explore sources of funding for the purchase and develop a business plan. The owner can sell to whoever they choose at the end of the six-month period – it is not a ‘Right to Buy’, just a ‘Right to Bid’. We would always encourage a local community group to talk to the owner of an asset as early as possible once they have decided to sell.

Period Poverty

The Council’s Period Poverty initiative continues to go from strength to strength thanks to funding from a number of Councillors through their 2018/19 Enabling Communities Budgets. The website - www.eastsuffolkperiodpoverty.com – is now live and provides an easy search facility for girls and women to identify where their nearest supply of free sanitary products is. Host facilities display a window sticker to indicate the premises has a PP Box on site. Those in need of sanitary products can then access these products, free of charge and without question.

The Communities Team have produced a useful booklet, included in each of the boxes, which contains information about what period poverty is, FAQs, statistics and more information about various projects and initiatives in East Suffolk including some Top Tips from Felixstowe Academy.

Cabinet Member:	Councillor James Mallinder, Cabinet Member with responsibility for The Environment
Contact Details:	james.mallinder@eastsuffolk.gov.uk Tel: 07810 815879

I have been busy with the Environmental Portfolio and have been reaching out to stakeholders and concerned bodies.

I attended a Transitional Woodbridge Committee meeting to understand their concerns and projects and I have reached out to Town Councils, to offer assistance when they have declared a climate emergency.

I also attended meetings with the organisers of the Siren Festival to investigate possible support and rolling out to other locations in 2020 and I have had meetings with Suffolk County Council in looking at how we can establish County wide initiatives, especially when looking at small changes that make a big difference.

Further meetings have taken place with Suffolk Waste Partnership, especially with regard to improving communication and highlighting the reduction of food waste.

I continue to be actively involved with the Green Print Forum, sitting on its Steering Group, with particular engagement with the Plastic Action Champions, Yellow Fish and Bin the Butt campaigns.

Cabinet Member:	Councillor Richard Kerry, Cabinet Member with responsibility for Housing
Contact Details:	richard.kerry@eastsoffolk.gov.uk Tel: 07903 301075

Housing Strategy

The Homelessness Strategy is to be presented to Cabinet on 1 October followed by the Development Strategy and the Housing Asset Management Strategy in November. This will leave a corporate Enabling Strategy for early next year. Work to develop a policy and procedure for Temporary Accommodation is to start shortly.

Tenancy Services

This year we have implemented new Predictive Analytical software called RentSense and are continuing the contract for this for a further year to demonstrate its long-term ability to reduce our Officers case load and in turn arrears on accounts. Early indications are that arrears have plateaued and are starting to reduce.

We are introducing new digital channels for Tenants in early 2020 with a Tenants Portal and text messaging allowing customers to access their rent account balances and make payments 24/7. In 2020 we will be putting together a tenant engagement strategy to further strengthen our engagement with our tenants.

We will be continuing with successful projects such as 560 London Road South, Lowestoft. This is East Suffolk Council's first House in Multiple Occupation and is in partnership with Solo Housing to provide good quality housing for single homeless people. This has been so successful that we are looking for other sites to refurbish in the same way, and other Local Authorities are also copying this model.

The purchase of another long-term empty property at 98 Park Road, Lowestoft, empty for 20 years, has enabled an exciting refurbishment project which should be completed by the end of the month.

Housing Maintenance – John Brown

East Suffolk continues to invest in its housing stock, maintaining and improving properties for our tenants. £6.8M is provided for investment this year (19-20) and will deliver programmes such as rewiring, new heating, replacement roofs, kitchens and bathrooms to name but a few.

Since the tragic Grenfell Tower fire in 2017 East Suffolk has scrutinised its only high-rise tower block St Peters Court, Lowestoft. A great deal of investment has been made to the building to ensure it remains as safe as possible for tenants. Works have been completed to install a full sprinkler system,

replace all flat entrance doors with new 1-hour fire protected door sets, replacement of all window reveals with fire protected boarding, and various other internal works.

Housing Development and Enabling

Lowestoft Post Office

It is hoped a full planning application will come to Planning Committee North in November and I would like to invite ward members for a tour and discussion beforehand.

Suffolk County Council (SCC)

Children and Young Persons Services and Mental Health and Learning Disability Commissioning Team /Adult & Community Services (ACS), are looking for new homes in Lowestoft and Felixstowe. East Suffolk Council do not have any stock that meets their needs. Homes for sale on the open market are now being looked at as potential options. One option would be for SCC to lease properties acquired by ESC.

Training Hubs for Trades and Apprentices

Discussions are taking with CITB, West Suffolk College and New Anglia LEP with a view to increasing training opportunities to help young people wishing to enter the building trade and to help meet the growing skills shortage,

Housing Development

Duncan's Yard

Our award-winning development at Duncan's Place was handed over in July 2019. All units are occupied and the residents are settling in.

Brampton

We have entered into contract with Orwell HA to develop our first shared ownership of 6x 2bed houses in Brampton. Wellington (the contractor) have recently started on site. These units will be ready for occupation in autumn 2020.

Community Housing Funds Schemes

School Lane, Bawdsey

We have now signed and sealed a funding agreement with the Peninsula Villages Community Land Trust (PVCLT), a CLT comprising members from 6 parishes (Alderton, Bawdsey, Boyton, Hollesley, Shottisham and Sutton) to fund their acquisition of 4 affordable houses at School Lane, Bawdsey from Crocus Homes (Development arm of Saffron Housing Trust). This is the first acquisition being funded through the Community Housing Fund which is aimed at tackling the lack of affordable housing in areas of high second home ownership. We are really pleased that we have got this project over the line.

Southwold Hospital

We are continuing to support SouthGen and Hastoe Housing Association to deliver a community-led scheme in Southwold for nine affordable units. At a recent National Housing Federation awards event this project was highly commended in its group. Congratulations to Southgen; it has been great to work with them.

Commuted Sums

Parham

We have agreed in principle to fund Orwell Housing Association to convert two shared ownership houses into affordable rent houses on a rural exception site in Parham. This will be funded through our commuted sums fund and will provide more rented stock in the area meeting a local need.

Housing and Health

Private Sector Housing

The transition to East Suffolk Council has been seamless and the new PS Housing strategy is now fully operational across the District. Of particular note, is the high level of interest in the renovation grant, particularly in the Lowestoft area.

The team has been tackling some difficult issues, with colleagues in planning, around the letting of industrial premises, in two locations, for housing – contrary to housing and planning law.

The team have recently been filmed for the BBC programme Housing Enforcers and, assuming they make the cut, will be seen on television this autumn.

Focussing on specific areas:

Fuel Poverty – Warm Homes Healthy People

The Stepping Home project which supports patients to solve housing issues that are preventing them from going home, continues to grow and in August we were approached by the West Suffolk CCG and asked to deliver the same project in the West of the County. The inaugural meeting for this project was held recently and the project will start in October ready for the winter pressures that hospitals experience. *(East Suffolk Council are involved in a West Suffolk project because we are the lead authority for all the Suffolk Councils on fuel poverty, energy efficiency and Warm Homes issues).* The project is fully funded by the CCG.

Warm Homes continues to work with the Rural Coffee Caravan to deliver energy advice in rural areas and we were awarded funding to provide information on SMART metering. The first events around this are targeting residential park homes and will link in with other energy advice for these communities.

We delivered the full initial allocation of 'First Time Central Heating' grant for gas homes by the end of July and have successfully bid for funding from National Grid Affordable Warmth Solutions to install over 200 more gas central heating systems across Suffolk over the next 2-3 years. The take up of oil systems under the same funding regime, has been slow and we are working with a range of partners to try and increase the awareness of the link between cold homes and ill health to try and

reach more vulnerable households who could benefit from this funding. We are also able to offer air source heat pumps for suitable properties.

Private Rented Sector Energy Efficiency Standards.

It has been unlawful to rent out a property with an energy efficiency rating of F or G since 1 April 2018. In April 2020 this rule applies to existing tenancies. Landlords can register an exemption if any of the works required to improve the rating cost more than £3500 or there are other reasons, such as the Listed status of the building, that prevent them from improving matters for their tenants. There have been discounted and free insulation schemes around for many years and little excuse not to top up insulation. The team have beginning to contact landlords with these poor performing properties and will shortly be issuing penalty notices against those who cannot demonstrate good reasons for not addressing the situation.

Home Improvement Agency

East Suffolk Council is part of the Suffolk wide Home Improvement Agency which provides a service to residents needing disabled adaptations. The contract ends in December 2021 and work has begun to review the service and define the nature of the future agency support. This piece of work is seen as particularly important against a backdrop of an ageing population and the pressures on the health and social care system.

Cabinet Member:	Councillor David Ritchie, Cabinet Member with responsibility for Planning and Coastal Management
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From 2011 until 2019, I was the Cabinet Member for Planning and Coastal Management at Waveney District Council, a responsibility that I relished. I am now delighted to have the same role at East Suffolk Council. This is a much greater responsibility as I now have twice as much coast and three times as much planning! However, I have a strong team of councillors to support me. Debbie McCallum is Chairman of the Southern Planning Committee, and Paul Ashdown is Chairman of the Northern Planning Committee. Both chairmen, as well as chairing their committees, take a lead on other aspects of Development Management. Tony Cooper has recently been appointed as my Assistant Cabinet Member. He is taking a special interest in the Local Plan for the former Suffolk Coastal Area and in planning for Sizewell C. James Mallinder, as Cabinet Member for the Environment, has joined me on the Board of Coastal Partnership East, and on the board of the Lowestoft Flood Risk Management Scheme. James is taking a proactive interest in all aspects of coastal management. Councillor Melissa Allen has joined me on the Suffolk Coast Forum where we represent East Suffolk Council. Another East Suffolk Councillor with an increasing interest in the coast.

Under the, excellent and well established, leadership of Philip Ridley we have a strong team of planning officers, building control inspectors, and support staff.

We also have a strong and growing team at Coastal Partnership East. Karen Thomas is the new leader of the partnership having replaced Bill Parker after his retirement. Bill was an inspirational leader who was instrumental in the creation of the partnership. A partnership between North Norfolk District Council, Great Yarmouth Borough Council, and East Suffolk Council. Karen was chosen from an extremely strong short list and has already shown that she is well able to fill Bill Parker's rather large shoes!

Development Control and Planning Policy

Liz Beighton is the Development Control Manager, I was very pleased when she was chosen to replace Phillip Rowson when he left us for North Norfolk. I have worked closely with Desi Reed since I became a councillor in 2006, she is our excellent head of planning policy.

At the recent Strategic Planning Committee held on the 9th September I presented three reports relating to the work of: The Planning Policy and Delivery Team, Planning Application performance, and the outcome of Planning Appeals. These reports all related to work done since the start of the new council in April.

The Strategic Planning Committee, in noting the contents of the report, were reassured of the sound performance on the determination of planning applications in a timely manner and the high success rate at defending appeals. Additionally, they were also provided information relating to the recently published Housing Action Plan drafted as a result of a requirement of the government's Housing Delivery Test. There was also an update our current Housing Land supply figures for the year. East Suffolk has a strong Housing Land supply position, so is able to support those planning applications proposing housing that are in accordance with our Local Plan policies and more importantly to refuse and defend those applications that are contrary to our policy. It was also interesting to note the Council had been successful on having costs awarded against two applicants who had withdrawn their appeals (proposing housing) where the main issue in both cases was the sites noncompliance with policy and the appellants argument on housing land supply matters. Members and the Council should be reassured on these matters for taking forward the important role planning has to play in shaping East Suffolk.

Members will also be aware that the East Suffolk (the former Suffolk Coastal area) Local Plan is currently being examined by an independent Inspector. I have attended a number of the sessions and am pleased with the work of the Planning Policy and Delivery team in supporting the Local Plan through these onerous sessions. We are working towards adoption of the Local Plan early next year so there is still much work to do but I am encouraged with the work to date.

Building Control

Mark Harvey is Head of Building Control for East Suffolk Council and Ipswich Borough. Another successful partnership with strong leadership. In recent months the Building Control team have continued to embrace numerous challenges.

The review of the Building Regulations continues post Grenfell with legislative changes to the Approved Documents, particularly those relating to Fire being launched early in October. Scrutiny on the Building Control profession to ensure consistent delivery and interpretation of the legislation via the Regulations continues to grow.

It has been made very clear Building Control Surveyors are to be trained and qualified to the most appropriate level, and in recent months two further Building Control surveyors in our team have

achieved full professional chartership. This demonstrates our commitment to achieving the highest standards. The East Suffolk Building Control team can now proudly claim to employ the highest percentage of fully qualified Building Control professionals at any point in recent Building Control history. The team can also demonstrate a structure which fully supports progression and career development with all posts occupied from trainees to management.

The Building Control partnership with Ipswich continues to grow, this collaboration has seen improved efficiencies and a marked improvement on market share which is now approaching 80%. Finally, some of our private sector competitors have failed/ceased to operate recently which brings a great opportunity to the Building Control team in terms of growing our client base even further, our next challenge will be to service this work and retain our highly sought after Surveyors.

Coastal Partnership East

Karen Thomas, Head of Coastal Management has been in post for three months following the retirement of Bill Parker and has made a great start in taking the team forward. Coastal Partnership East brings together the coastal management resources and expertise from East Suffolk Council, North Norfolk District Council and Great Yarmouth Borough Council providing an innovative approach to managing the coast between Kelling in North Norfolk & Landguard Point in Felixstowe all 173km. I will be liaising with Karen to establish member briefing sessions to highlight the important work of this Partnership.

I am the chairman of The Suffolk Coast Forum, and for the past seven years the coast forum conference has been the highlight of my councillor year. The Suffolk Coast Forum Annual Conference 'Collaboration in a changing climate. Working together achieving more' is being held on 11 October 2019 at Wherstead Park Conference Centre Ipswich. Key note speakers include Lord Bassam of Brighton, Chair House of Lords Regenerating Seaside Towns and Communities Committee and Catherine Wright Head of Evidence, Environment Agency. To book a place please contact alysha.stockman@eastsoffolk.gov.uk.

Cabinet Member:	Councillor Stephen Burroughes, Cabinet Member with responsibility for Customer Services and Operational Partnerships
Contact Details:	stephen.burroughes@eastsoffolk.gov.uk Tel: 07783 357940

PARTNERSHIP BOARD MEETINGS

I have chaired my first meetings of the Partnership Boards for our key contracts – Norse, Sentinel Leisure Trust and Places Leisure. These boards are the way in which we manage the performance of our key contracts, and look in detail at operational issues, financial performance, risks and opportunities, and to get an overview of any projects currently being undertaken. The board meetings were positive and constructive – and I will be working with officers to push all of our partnerships to deliver good value, innovation and strong customer service.

BUNGAY POOL AND GYM REFURBISHMENT

The Bungay Pool and Gym closed on the 12th September for a major, ten month refurbishment. The council has committed £3.4 million to bring the facility up to date – including major improvements in the pool and changing rooms, the installation of a sauna and new flume, and the introduction of state of the art equipment in the gym. Car parking will be improved and extended, and electric vehicle points introduced for visitors. The complete refurbishment of this third leisure centre is a major project and represents a further commitment by the council to ensure that residents of East Suffolk benefit from the very best leisure facilities in the country.

CUSTOMER SERVICES

Emma Bloom the new Head of Customer Services, Communications and Marketing started with the Council on 2 September. Emma is settling in well, getting to know her team and colleagues and studying the various operations for which she is now responsible.

LOWESTOFT FULL FIBRE NETWORK

Contractual negotiations have still to be completely finalised and officers from ESC and SCC are liaising regularly to move things on. It is still planned that the installation of full fibre in Lowestoft will commence in October 2019 and will be completed by June 2022.

CIVIL PARKING ENFORCEMENT (CPE)

Planning continues on the introduction of Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE). CPE will give East Suffolk the power to issue parking tickets to people who park illegally on roads (for example, on double yellow lines). Illegal parking is a significant resident concern and a public safety issue. Currently, the council can only issue tickets in car parks. Start dates are yet to be agreed by the County Council and the Department for Transport, but we would anticipate that this will go live in the first half of 2020.

Outside Bodies Representatives Reports

Suffolk Flood Risk Management Scrutiny Sub Committee (attended as a Substitute)	
Representative:	Councillor Judy Cloke
Contact Details:	judy.cloke@easstsuffolk.gov.uk Tel: 07810 815879

I volunteered to attend a meeting of the Suffolk Flood Risk Management Scrutiny Sub Committee on behalf of ES Council. The meeting took place at Endeavour House on 15 July. It is a small sub committee and deals with surface flood water issues.

We were given a presentation on the Surface water Management plans, how the plans are derived and how they are used to support the development control process in Suffolk. It became a bit technical at times and I'm not sure I understood it all, but it was my first meeting.

There was a further presentation on the work of the SCC flood team and some of the larger projects with which they are engaged currently, to reduce to reduce flood risk at locations across Suffolk; one of the big schemes on which they are working is a drainage channel alongside Bloodmoor Road in Lowestoft.

We also looked at the 2019 Suffolk Flood Risk Management Strategy, which highlights the fact much localised flooding is caused by poor maintenance. In the three years to March 2019, 4962 incidents of surface water flooding occurred in Suffolk, whereas in the preceding 3 years, there were 2169. I am unsure if the two are connected, or whether we are just getting heavier rain.

There is a scheme their officers are developing – in fact, it has been given to an Apprentice, who is making a success of it – to train groups of local people to observe potential flood risk sites and they can help by clearing gulleys, reporting damaged sluices, that sort of thing. It is proving successful where it has been rolled out so far and the Committee encouraged the officers to widen the scheme county wide.

RECOMMENDATION

That the report be received.

APPENDICES – None**BACKGROUND PAPERS – None**