



FULL COUNCIL

Wednesday, 26 January 2022

Subject	Cabinet Members' Report and Outside Bodies Representatives' Report to Council
Report by	Councillor Steve Gallant Leader of the Council

Is the report Open or Exempt?	OPEN
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Category of Exempt Information and reason why it is NOT in the public interest to disclose the exempt information.	Not applicable.
Wards Affected:	All Wards
Purpose of Report:	To receive the Cabinet Members' Report and the Outside Bodies Representatives' Report to Council, for information.
Options:	Not applicable.

Cabinet Members' Reports to Council

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

Communities

Community Partnerships – the 2021/22 Community Partnership Forum is planned for 25th March 2022 at Trinity Park. This was postponed from November 2021 and if Covid restrictions do not allow a face to face event it will become a virtual event (as in 2020). The Peer Challenge of Community Partnerships that took place in October 2021 provided lots of useful recommendations about tweaks to the eight Partnerships as well as highlighting their many strengths, and a report summarising key actions will be considered at the March meeting of the Board. A number of these are already underway including increased communication capacity and a development programme for Community Partnership Chairs and Vice Chairs.

Support for People with Disabilities – East Suffolk Council now funds services and support for individuals and families in both the north and south of the District through Disability Advice North East Suffolk (DANES) and Disability Advice Service, following agreement at Cabinet to provide a grant to Disability Advice Service.

Equalities and Diversity – officers have recently undertaken a self-assessment of our position against the Equality Framework for Local Government. This has identified a number of areas for action, including a review of our equality priorities and improved monitoring of our impact on equality. Following work to streamline our Equality Impact Assessment process and train staff on how to undertake EqIA, a renewed focus will be placed on our role in increasing equality and maximising diversity in 2022.

Leisure

East Suffolk Leisure Strategy

The first East Suffolk Leisure Strategy is being prepared following the work undertaken by KKP to complete the following documents, Built Facility, Playing Pitch, Play and Open Space strategies. These documents are required by Councils in order to achieve any funding for projects and help inform planning of sport needs. It is expected that the Leisure Strategy will be ready for adoption in spring/summer.

Football Foundation Funding to improve Grass Pitches

In 2019 working with the Suffolk Football Association and partnership we completed the Local Football Facility Plan and through this and the work with KKP to produce the East Suffolk Playing Pitch assessment East Suffolk were invited to submit an expression of interest to improve the grass football pitches owned and managed by the Council. East Suffolk have been successful with the application and invited to the next stage of the process which is assessing the quality of the Council's pitches.

Waterlane Roof Replacement

The replacement roof work at Waterlane Leisure Centre has been continuing as planned and is on target to be complete by Easter. It is important to complete on time so that all facilities can be used by customers as there are some temporary arrangements for changing for the pool, the play area is not being used and alternative access to the squash courts and fitness class room.

Everyone Active

Everyone Active (EA) have been in place now for nearly a year, although the centres in the north of the district that they operate didn't open immediately due to the lockdown. As well as operating the two leisure centres, in the first year of operation they have been creating relationships within the community. Everyone Active's Active Communities Manager is actively looking for opportunities and included within the community work that they do, they attend Community Partnership meetings in their jurisdiction, sit on Parish meetings to hear what the local issues are, and identify where they can help. They have also recently linked with the Work Development Team and attended the Skills and Employability Forum.

EA are working with the School Sports Partnership who have helped them cover higher level issues with the schools, such as deprivation. From this they have provided free access to swimming for over 500 children, run holiday activities offering a shelter, hot food, and healthy activity. They have also held events for the local schools, a Fitness Festival, and a Social Festival. They have also held a special needs swim gala.

Everyone Active's Active Community Manager has revisited a strong relationship with One Life, offering specialist healthcare such as GP referral, Cardiac Phase IV, health checks. This is just the beginning and they intend to grow this further as and when the more vulnerable feel confident coming back into the building.

Memberships numbers have consistently grown since commencing and currently sit at Waveney Valley circa 600 and Waterlane circa 1900 across both sites we have 2500 fitness members.

To develop the swimming lessons they have recruited a swim manager for each site within the first 6 weeks. They have both been trained by their Regional Swim Managers and have since been doing a great job with currently almost 500 children signed up to lessons at Waveney Valley and 700 at Waterlane, giving a total of 1200 children in the North of East Suffolk learning the invaluable skill, to swim, across both venues. Obviously, Places Leisure in the South are providing similar opportunities.

Waterlane and Waveney Valley leisure centres have had substantial council investment and Everyone Active have started to add to this. Whilst they have branded both sites, to support the East Suffolk brand Everyone Active have amended their usual advertising colours throughout the facilities. In addition, they have installed Virtual Group Exercise classes at both sites meaning they can run back to back classes all day (they still offer a "blended" timetable of instructor led and virtual). Waterlane has a brand new Interactive Pool Inflatable which, once tested, should be ready to launch early February in time for the half term. Everyone Active have also added a pool cover to reduce the loss of heat over night time.

Places Leisure

Since the facilities resumed business in April 2021 attendance versus Pre-COVID across the East Suffolk Places Leisure Sites has achieved the following:

- Fitness 75%
- Swimming 98%
- Swimming Lessons 107%
- Full establishment of all club activity

Places Leisure have continued to provide activities and interventions to support Healthy Communities. These have included:

- a) COVID Recovery Programme launched across the contract, Partnership between Places Leisure and CAWs Training, delivering of 12-months support to those suffering mid-long term COVID effects. Support includes Consultation, exercise plans, Nutritional advice and 19 points of contact/support over the term.
- b) COVID recovery Pot fund the East Suffolk Council 23k will see extension to the above programme in establishing online and telephone consultations to hard to reach groups and monthly group support sessions in 3rd part locations. It will also see appointment of P/t Healthy Communities Manager to lead on this programme and the establishment of further partnerships.
- c) Re-engagement of full site wellbeing programmes GP Referral, Cardiac Rehab, Lung at Heart.
- d) Partnership arrangements with Allied, One Life Suffolk recommenced
- e) Alignment of our Gymnastics programmes to British Gymnastics “RISE Programme”

“Exclusive to British Gymnastics member clubs and partners, Rise Gymnastics is an exciting, fun packed programme that provides a progressive journey through recreational gymnastics, gradually replacing our current proficiency badge scheme. Designed using insight in consultation with the gymnastics community and by working together with the four home nations, Rise Gymnastics is one comprehensive gymnastics programme available UK-wide, providing consistency and synergy like never before. Created with the community, for the community.”

As part of their business recovery and getting people active & back into exercise, Places Leisure have distributed 16,000 leaflets to ‘hard to reach’ pockets over the district. The company have invested in Online bookings and IT Platforms, focusing on the Customer journey.

Going forward, both operators face challenges with staff recruitment and energy pricing and unknown longevity / impacts and the first quarter of 2022 will be extremely important on getting back to pre-COVID memberships.

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

I attend the Suffolk Waste Partnership meeting, as Chair, where we looked at a number of recent campaigns, along with a discussion of how we will be absorbing changes in waste collection resulting from the passing of the Environment bill late last year.

I was proud to highlight a number of activities in Lowestoft, where residents have made a noticeable improvement in their recycling, reducing substantially any contamination.

Outside Bodies Representatives' Reports

Suffolk Flood Risk Management Scrutiny	
Representative:	Councillor Linda Coulam
Contact Details:	linda.coulam@eastsoffolk.gov.uk Tel: 07818 577882

Please see Appendix A, which provides an update on Flooding on the River Waveney.

Association for Suffolk Museums Annual Report	
Representative:	Councillor Tony Cooper
Contact Details:	tony.cooper@eastsoffolk.gov.uk Tel: 07884 054882

AFSM acts as a representative and advocate for museums in Suffolk. AFSM worked closely with SHARE Museums East, National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) and Arts Council England (ACE) in 2020-21 to ensure that funding was invested where it was needed most. Museums were closed for most of the year due to Covid restrictions. This has a significant impact on their ability to generate earned income through admissions, retail, catering, and events.

Nearly all the funding from ACE and NLHF came through Covid emergency funding, as main grant streams were suspended. AFSM kept close communication with all its members throughout the year, implementing a traffic light guide to highlight those at most risk, and working with them to develop funding applications to ensure their resilience and stability was maintained.

NLHF awarded £1,496,300 to organisations in Suffolk in 2020-21 through their Heritage Emergency Fund and the Culture Recovery Fund for Heritage, of which £394,100 was awarded to members of AFSM.

ACE awarded £1,066,476 to Suffolk museums through two rounds of Culture Recovery Fund (CRF). Museums in the East of England comprised of 14.5% of all CRF2 applicants. No other region had higher than 8% share, with an average of 6-7%. Working with SHARE Museums East AFSM was able to ensure museums at risk were highlighted. This helped ACE prioritise and ensure that all museums in Suffolk that applied were awarded funding.

SHARE Museums East awarded £48,049 grants to Suffolk museums in 2020-21, this helped to make sure that smaller museums were also supported where needed.

The economic impact of visitors to Suffolk Museums was estimated to be at least £3,210,000 in 2019-20. AFSM therefore supports visits to museums to ensure that it is part of a vibrant, mixed economy. During 2020-21 work continued to maintain the profile of museums while they were closed and to attract visitors during brief periods when they were permitted to open.

AFSM Full Members and Members are usually offered the opportunity to pay a £20 supplement on their membership fee to have their profile included in the Suffolk Museums leaflet and website. This design update and print of the leaflet was suspended in 2020-21 due to the Coronavirus pandemic.

AFSM supports a range of joint promotional and advertising campaigns to encourage more people to visit museums. In 2020-21 this was more targeted and helped keep people informed of the changing opening times and events programmes in museums. AFSM placed Suffolk museums advertising features in Families Suffolk Magazine, Celebrate Suffolk, Hospital Radio & Community Magazine and Raring2Go Magazine. Editorials featured in the East Anglian Daily Times, Celebrate Framlingham, and Let's Talk Magazine.

Making Waves Together - Led by Great Yarmouth Borough Council and East Suffolk District Council, this project enabled communities and organisations in Lowestoft to work together to inspire and engage people as participants, audiences, and visitors. It is one of 16 pilot areas across England supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund and Arts Council England's Great Place Scheme.

The Association for Suffolk Museums worked in partnership with Norfolk Museums Service on **Seaside Heritage**, one of nine partners delivering activity across the two towns as part of the Making Waves Together project. The Making Waves Together Project Officer, Patricia Day worked with museums in Lowestoft and to build cultural partnerships and engage new audiences. Throughout lockdown Lowestoft Maritime Museum continued to engage and support local families. Lowestoft Museum worked on urgent repair of the current premises, while exploring opportunities for expanding the existing museum space.

Summer in a Box – Led by Suffolk County Council, this project worked with partners across the county to create and deliver activity packs to children across Suffolk receiving free school meals from the Suffolk Virtual Schools list in July and August 2020. It replaced face to face holiday activities that could not be delivered due to Covid restrictions. Museum partners worked to develop and deliver Arts and Heritage Activity Packs to children across Suffolk, including The Long Shop Museum, The Red House, Aldeburgh Museum, Ipswich Museums, Moyse's Hall Museum, West Stow Anglo-Saxon Village, Gainsborough's House, The National Horse Racing Museum, the Museum of East Anglian Life, and Lowestoft Maritime Museum.

The project created 1600 bespoke museum packs, most of which were sent to vulnerable children receiving support from Suffolk County Council, 137 were sent to young carers (via Suffolk Family Carers), 25 to children in care homes, and 12 to children in refuges.

Suffolk Steps – This project was developed to replace Summer in Suffolk Museums during the Coronavirus pandemic. Suffolk Steps was designed to keep people engaged with museums while they were closed. It is a collection of free walks developed to help all ages stay active and explore their local heritage in the towns and Suffolk countryside. The programme included accessible trails from 16 museums that could be downloaded to a mobile phone or printed at home. They remain on the Suffolk Museums website and were promoted throughout the year during lockdowns.

AfSM partnered with Keep Moving Suffolk to promote Suffolk Steps, a local campaign aimed at helping people stay active during the Covid-19 pandemic. A combination of digital, social media and hard copy marketing was used to promote the programme. Project partner Families Suffolk Magazine featured a double page spread of the various trails in the summer issue of the magazine.

Transforming People to Transform Museums (TPTM) – AfSM is supporting this project led by Colchester + Ipswich Museums. The project is creating 27 traineeships in four museums across the county to develop both core heritage and transferable business skills. Working closely with local community groups to recruit young adults from lower socio-economic backgrounds, the project aims to develop and support a more representative and resilient workforce at each museum.

TPTM is funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund's Skills for the Future programme from 2018 to 2022. The second cohort of 9 trainees were recruited in 2020. Four trainees are based in Colchester + Ipswich Museums, two in Museum of East Anglian Life in Stowmarket, one in The Long Shop Museum in Leiston, and two trainees based in National Horse Racing Museum in Newmarket.

Throughout their one-year placement trainees develop a wide range of core heritage skills, including research, documentation, conservation, and interpretation. They also learn practical skills required to manage, plan, develop and deliver heritage events and exhibitions.

The trainees have made a real difference to their local communities by applying their new skills to bring about relevant and creative programmes and help secure the future resilience of each museum.

Suffolk Museums Inspire, Learn & Engage (SMILE) Network – The SMILE Network was established to enable best practice in education, learning and engagement in Suffolk Museums by working collaboratively and sharing knowledge locally, regionally, and nationally. Membership is open to all learning leads from the Association for Suffolk Museums member museums. Meetings take place on a quarterly basis at varied locations. The network supports the development and delivery of AfSM education, learning and engagement projects.

Suffolk Children's University - The Association for Suffolk Museums partnership with the Suffolk Children's University started in 2019. The partnership has created projects that reach

out to engage a wider range of children and young people. Working collaboratively, the partnership has increased the number of Children’s University destination museums, created a generic museum trail designed to get children engaging with museums, and worked with 10-year-old Byron to gather some feedback on the Suffolk Steps trails

Special Delivery – AFSM supported this project led by Suffolk Artlink. It is an intergenerational project that is exploring the art of communication through letters and other documents held in Suffolk Record Offices and museums.

It began in September 2020, with students via Zoom from Abbots Green Academy, Bury St Edmunds, supported by the Theatre Royal Act Your Age theatre group. Participants in the project investigated historical approaches to letter-writing and considered them in the light of current methods of communication. They then shared significant personal correspondence of their own.

The project is also focusing on primary schools and supported living and residential care homes in Lowestoft to explore the stories and characters behind letters originally sent into a local newspaper. In Halesworth Museum, the project looked at a collection of letters written in the early 19th century by members of a wealthy merchant family that lived the town.

A key outcome of the projects is the creation of a legacy of digital interpretation for use in Suffolk Record Offices and museums and a literacy resource for use in schools.

Ipswich Strategic Planning Area Board	
Representative:	Councillor David Ritchie, Cabinet Member with responsibility for Planning and Coastal Management
Contact Details:	david.ritchie@eastsoffolk.gov.uk Tel: 07920 503527

The Ipswich Strategic Planning Area (ISPA) Board last met in person on 20 February 2020 prior to the covid lockdown in March 2020. Since then the only necessity to meet has been to sign off the Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) covering cross boundary strategic planning matters for the ISPA authority area (East Suffolk (south), Ipswich BC, Babergh and Mid Suffolk Districts and Suffolk County Council) in relation to the submission of the Babergh and Mid Suffolk Local Plan for Examination by an independent inspector. This sign off was undertaken via email in March 2021 and the Babergh and Mid Suffolk Local Plan Examination is underway.

An important element of this SoCG relates to taking a joint approach to mitigating traffic impacts due to Local Plan growth across the Ipswich Strategic Planning Area. To this end SCC produced a Transport Mitigation Strategy in August 2019. In the light of a changing national and local context, WSP were commissioned by the 5 Councils in September 2021 to undertake further work to help inform an agreed approach to funding and delivering the modal shift mitigation in connection with Local Plan growth across the ISPA area.

The work includes three strands:

- 1) Reviewing the August 2019 Suffolk County Council Transport Mitigation Strategy in respect of relevant changes around national policy, funding, climate change, sustainable journeys.
- 2) Recommendations on a 5 year delivery programme, incorporating reasonable flexibility to respond to changes in policy direction. This will also consider the role of projects that are already committed / funded.
- 3) Options for funding the 5 year delivery programme.

This is a 3 to 4 month project and outputs from the work are expected soon. It is anticipated that the next ISPA Board meeting will consider the outputs of this work.

Benacre and Kessingland Flood Relief Project	
Representative:	Councillor David Ritchie, Cabinet Member with responsibility for Planning and Coastal Management
Contact Details:	david.ritchie@eastsoffolk.gov.uk Tel: 07920 503527

I have previously reported on the Lowestoft Flood Relief Scheme. The Benacre and Kessingland project is the other major project on our coast. The work for this is coordinated by Kessingland Town Council and led by the Water Management Alliance (it is not the responsibility of our Coastal Management Team).

In draft outline the project will involve removing the present Benacre Pumping Station, creating up to 100 Hectares of new intertidal habitat, creating two new bunds set well back from the coastline, and building new pumping stations to go with each bund. (The pumping stations pump out the water from the hundred river into the sea). Last year this project received 3.5 million pounds from the governments green recovery fund which was excellent news. Unfortunately, there was still a very significant funding gap and the project was semi on hold. Thus the board has not met recently. However, before Christmas I received the very good news in an email from Emma Dixon which I have included below. (Emma leads the project for the Water Management Alliance).

‘Since our last update people have been very active in the background and I am pleased to announce that following technical approval back in July (full approval was withheld until the funding gap was closed), we have now received financial approval for our business case from the Environment Agency - the full £28million has been found through various channels! Many thanks to everyone who has been working hard to achieve this. A Board meeting is now required to discuss next steps of this project and where we move to from here, particularly with the Habitat creation project, which was out of scope for the current project costs.’

Well done to Emma and her team at the WMA, I look forward to attending a board meeting soon.

Network Rail Group	
Representative:	Councillor Norman Brooks, Cabinet Member with responsibility for Transport
Contact Details:	norman.brooks@eastsoffolk.gov.uk Tel: 07824 821539

There have been no meetings or communication from the group during the past 12 months. Our contact with the rail transport system is via East West Rail Consortium.

A47 Alliance Annual Report	
Representative:	Councillor Norman Brooks, Cabinet Member with responsibility for Transport
Contact Details:	norman.brooks@eastsoffolk.gov.uk Tel: 07824 821539

There was only one meeting of the group last year the on the 8yh October 2021.

The discussion centred almost solely on the Acle Straight Dualling Scheme missing out on funding in the RIS2 round and there was a huge level of disappointment at this news.

The feeling of the entire meeting was that the “levelling up agenda” was not working as far as the East of England was concerned.

Highways England acknowledged they had made mistakes in the presentation of the case for the dualling of the Acle Straight and will take note of these in the preparation for a bid in RIS3.

At this time there are no major improvements scheduled or included in any future plans at this time but the meeting agreed to redouble their efforts to secure improvements in the future.

Norfolk County Council has launched a campaign “Just Dual It” and is working to gather support from all interested parties and local MP`s.

Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB	
Representative:	Councillor James Mallinder, Cabinet Member with responsibility for The Environment
Contact Details:	james.mallinder@eastsoffolk.gov.uk Tel: 07810 815879

I attended the Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB and was delighted to second Nick Collinson as Chair of this organisation.

Nick brings a huge amount of experience from working in nature focused organisations. He is currently the manager of the local National Trust. Importantly, he doesn't bring any political agenda and his only focus is on what is right for the AONB in protection and in champion its merits.

Personally, I will be pushing for greater inclusiveness, reaching out to those that might not appreciate the AONB is for them, and also emphasise the importance of the climate emergency. Along with making sure any grants awarded to local landowners have robust conditions to see a change in farming methods, along with reinstating of historical landscapes, in particular seeing tree and hedge planting along with more wildflower borders of fields and reinstating ponds and ditches. Much work needs to be done, but Nick will be a strong advocate for the AONB.

Appendices

Appendices:	
Appendix A	River Waveney Winter Flooding Briefing

Background reference papers:	
None.	