

## **April 2018 report for the Thredling Division from Cllr Matthew Hicks**

### **Suffolk Highways goes to war on potholes**

Suffolk Highways has declared war on the potholes which are opening on the county's roads, following one of the worst winters in recent years. Since the start of 2018, Suffolk Highways has received in excess of 11,000 customer reports, which compares with approximately 6,000 reports in the same period last year. This demonstrates the impact the bad weather Suffolk has experienced since November has had on the county's road surface.

Suffolk Highways has put in place the following measures with immediate effect to help cope with the demand:

- Deploying additional gangs to undertake pothole and road repairs across the county.
- Switching to a different temporary material to repair emergency potholes which, although slightly more expensive, provides a longer-lasting repair in damp conditions.
- Considering for large areas of intervention-level pothole defects whether 'making safe' (through organising traffic management and temporary road closures) is required in advance of making extensive repairs.
- Bringing in extra resource to undertake larger-scale patching works as part of a planned programme for dealing with sites on which traffic management or road closures have been arranged or areas where small-scale repairs will not sufficiently address the road deterioration.
- Moving internal resources from other teams to support the inspection of customer reports, particularly from staff with previous experience of dealing with customer reports and inspections.

This extra push to repair the high volume of potholes in the county is being assisted by the extra £21 million funding which has been borrowed to resurface a quarter of all roads managed by Suffolk Highways, by 2021.

### **Suffolk Waste Partnership awarded £10,000 to help tackle blight of litter**

Suffolk Waste Partnership have been awarded £10,000 from the Government's Litter Innovation Fund to run innovative local projects aimed at reducing litter. Suffolk Waste Partnership's member authorities are responsible for clearing litter from public land and highways, with the cost of removing litter from Suffolk's major A-roads the A14, A12 and A11 standing at £300,000 per year. The Suffolk Waste Partnership's project will:

- Work with businesses such as drive-throughs, service stations, garages and logistics firms to seek their support in promoting responsible attitudes to litter disposal.
- Trial new style litter bins at key layby locations and improve labelling and signage of litter bins along the A11, A12 and A14 in Suffolk.
- Trial new remote monitoring technology to help councils coordinate litter bin emptying more efficiently and effectively.
- Ensure that any person taken to court and convicted for a littering offence anywhere in Suffolk is named and shamed publicly.
- Run an awareness campaign to remind residents and visitors alike about the issues and the consequences of littering.
- Educate residents and businesses about how to prevent their waste inadvertently escaping their control and ending up as litter.

### **Suffolk to host opening stage of OVO Energy Women's Tour**

The OVO Energy Women's Tour will return to Suffolk this June, as the county hosts the opening stage to the UCI Women's World Tour race on Wednesday 13 June. Over 100 of the world's top cyclists will race from Framlingham to Southwold, home of race sponsors Adnams, taking in a 130-kilometre route through Suffolk, including Wickham Market, Woodbridge, Ipswich, Stowmarket and Halesworth. It will mark the fourth time that Britain's biggest women's cycling event has returned to the county, and in a boost for fans there will also be a chance to ride much of the route, in the OVO Energy Tour Ride sportive event supporting Breast Cancer Care on Sunday 1 July.

In total 17 teams will compete in the 2018 OVO Energy Women's Tour, including four British squads, Wiggle HIGH5, Trek Drops, WNT Rotor and Storey Racing, with the riders set to compete in the race being announced during the early summer. You can find further details of the [OVO Energy Tour Ride](#) supporting Breast Cancer Care on their website, including how to enter.

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