

August 2018 report for the Thredling Division from Cllr Matthew Hicks

Plan for £6million upgrades to Suffolk recycling centres

On 24 July, Suffolk County Council's Cabinet approved a plan to invest £6 million into upgrading Suffolk's recycling centres. The plan has earmarked £3m for the Foxhall Recycling Centre - Suffolk's busiest with 20% of all recycling waste in the county - and £1m for Haverhill for "urgent improvements". The plans will see improvements to traffic access at Foxhall and measures to prevent people from having to climb steps to dispose of their waste in the containers. Existing planning permission for work expires in March 2021. At Haverhill, the site has to be closed when containers are emptied because of space, so the funding aims to double the size of the site and prevent such closures. Elsewhere £1m has been earmarked for a site to replace the Portman's Walk Recycling Centre in Ipswich town centre, and a further million for the same in Stowmarket. The existing Ipswich and Stowmarket sites are considered to be severely constrained for space, with no expansion opportunities available and the surrounding roads not offering a safe area to queue onto the facility. Detailed designs and planning applications will be drawn up this year, with the aim of securing land sites and carrying out necessary ecology and archaeology work this year as well. Construction for improvements is expected to get underway in 2019/20.

Suffolk leaders approve £225,000 grant to create one-stop point for domestic abuse victims

On 16 July it was announced that Suffolk leaders have granted a six-figure sum to improve domestic abuse support services in the county - including plans for a dedicated contact point. The Suffolk Public Sector Leaders group agreed funding of £225,000 to be awarded to the Safer and Stronger Communities Group (SSCG) for three key developments in domestic abuse support. Around £100,000 of that will create a Suffolk Co-ordination Centre, which will be a single point of contact for victims of domestic abuse as well as their family members, friends and others with concerns. It comes in response to feedback that services for victims were fragmented and did not work together well enough. Elsewhere, £65,000 will develop a domestic abuse champions network where industry professionals will train organisations in spotting the signs of domestic abuse earlier. The remaining cash will be used to help support joint schemes in tackling abuse.

Suffolk firefighters busy as extreme weather continues

Suffolk Fire and Rescue have been working tirelessly to tackle a large number of open air fires as a result of the recent hot weather. The team received over 60 calls over the weekend of 14 July, more than double what they'd usually expect to get. Thanks to the professionalism and dedication of firefighters, on-call firefighters and control room staff they successfully managed to respond to the fires and keep Suffolk safe. As the sunshine looks set to stay, the public is urged to be fire aware and remember to:

Put cigarettes out completely

Refrain from throwing cigarettes onto grass verges

Use barbecues on a hard, flat surface, away from grass, shrubs or fencing

When camping, not leave a campfire unattended and ensure the campfire is out completely before you leave it.

£1 million funding to boost youth employment in Suffolk

On 13 July, public sector leaders in Suffolk gave their backing to a major financial boost to help more young people in Suffolk get into education, employment or training. An extra £200,000 has been agreed by Suffolk's council leaders and the Police and Crime Commissioner, with a further £200,000 agreed in principle for a second year. This is on top of £600,000 committed by Suffolk County Council - £1 million in total. Currently in Suffolk 7% of 16 to 18 year olds are not in education, employment or training (NEET) and 12% of the county's 66,000 16 to 24 years olds are unemployed. Suffolk's youth unemployment position is in line with the national picture, but Suffolk continues to be challenged by significant volumes of young people who are wasting their talent and potential and are not able to enjoy the benefits that work can bring. The investment will support local projects to reduce the number of young people who are NEET or unemployed, including programmes to prepare young people to benefit from local Apprenticeship opportunities. Suffolk County Council will work with district and borough councils, local education providers and the voluntary and community sector to develop the programmes.

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