

REPORT TO HADLEIGH TOWN COUNCIL – 19th April 2018

Cllr Mick Fraser – County Councillor for Hadleigh Division

Dear Madam Mayor and fellow Councillors,

More than 94% of Suffolk children offered first choice of primary school

Suffolk's primary school admission figures show that 94.6% or 7,435 children have been offered a reception place for September 2018 at their parents' preferred school, with 98.8% offered one of their three preferences. 0.6% more children received their first preference this year than last year. Suffolk County Council (SCC) received a total of 7,544 applications for a place in the Reception year from parents outlining which school they would prefer their children to be educated at from September 2018. 98.4% of pupils moving to a junior school have secured their first preference place with 99.68% being offered one of their three choices.

The number of people choosing to apply online has increased from 93% to more than 94%. These applicants will be able to see their school place offer online and will receive an email confirming the offer. Letters have been sent to all applicants today by second class post.

Funding for transport schemes to bring forward housing

The government has announced that SCC's bids to the Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF) have successfully got through to the next stage. This is an important step forward for the bids which have been supported by Ipswich Borough Council, St Edmundsbury Borough Council and Suffolk Coastal District Council. It means that the schemes have been considered attractive enough to be shortlisted and will subsequently undergo further development work.

The £5 billion HIF forms part of a comprehensive programme to enable the government to fulfil its commitment to build 300,000 homes a year by the mid-2020s. It aims to support the development of infrastructure which will enable the development of new homes. In Suffolk's case the HIF would be used to construct enabling road infrastructure in Bury St Edmunds and to the east of Ipswich. The council's bids are for:

- £15 million - East Ipswich junction and capacity improvements on or near to the A12 corridor between A14 and A1214.
- £12 million - Improvements to A14 Junctions 43 and 44 near Bury St Edmunds.

The next stage will require the councils to work with Government officials to further develop the bid and a final decision on the bid is expected later in 2018.

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.

Residents are invited to take part in Suffolk's biggest walking festival to date

There will be up to 125 walks on offer at this year's Suffolk Walking festival and it is shaping up to be the biggest yet. There is something for everyone, including a Dawn Chorus walk, a Twilight Safari, Nordic Walking and GeoCaching where one can seek out the treasures dotted around the landscape.

The festival launches with two walks at St Peter's Brewery in Bungay, on Saturday 12th May and each walk including a brewery tour. Once again, the festival will include a challenge walk, which this year covers over 60 miles in just four days which takes in The Sandlings, a landscape of sandy soils, heathlands and forests stretching between Southwold and Ipswich.

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

One for all you sports fans out there; 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 13th 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 1st July.

County Council set to kick start Chilton Woods development

SCC plans to kick-start the Chilton Woods development within weeks, subject to Cabinet approval. A planning application has been agreed with Babergh District Council (BDC), allowing SCC to forge ahead with the development as quickly as possible.

The county council's Cabinet will be asked to agree to proceed with an upfront land sale approach to delivering the homes and jobs planned for the area. An upfront land sale would see the council sell "un-serviced" land to housebuilders/residential developer(s) either in lots/parcels or as a whole. Various delivery options were evaluated against the council's objectives for the area, which are:

- Delivering homes as soon as possible, ensuring that 25% of the homes are affordable
- Securing capital receipts to enable greater investment in other council services
- Helping to enable the delivery of employment land and considering opportunities for third party funding

As well as agreeing the delivery approach, the Cabinet will also be asked to set aside funding of up to £2.7m, to be released over a 10-year period, to engage the necessary professional services that will ensure the council achieves the best return possible. SCC is committed to working with developers who will deliver the development in line with the agreed planning permission. Furthermore, developers will need to gain agreement from BDC, on a range of detailed matters including the detailed layout of the scheme, design and appearance of buildings and landscaping. Public consultation will be carried out as part of this process.

The scheme includes the following:

- 1,150 new homes (288 (25%) of which will be affordable)
- Employment land (15 ha) to provide circa 1,900 new jobs
- A new primary school and pre-school provision
- Improvements to key highway junctions in the town prioritised to come forward at an early stage and investment into public transport, walking and cycling improvements
- Open space, community woodland and children's play areas as well as sports pitches, changing facilities and parking
- A village centre comprising local retail, pub and village hall
- A new household waste recycling centre

I have nothing further to report.

Yours Sincerely

Mick

Cllr Mick Fraser
Hadleigh Division
Suffolk County Council