

Friston Parish Council
Suffolk County Council Monthly Newsletter
October 2019

Thousands of illegal cigarettes seized in Lowestoft raids

Trading Standards has successfully targeted Lowestoft retailers in illegal tobacco raids, seizing 21,880 cigarettes and 10.9kg of rolling tobacco. The raids, which took place in October, involved officers from Trading Standards and Suffolk Police who targeted four different premises in the town. The cigarettes and tobacco failed a visual inspection as genuine products. Investigations into the seizures will continue and shop owners will face a formal interview.

It is illegal for anyone to supply and possess-for-supply such tobacco, be it smuggled, bootlegged or counterfeit. With these cheap products on the market, it is easier for young people to become hooked on smoking and makes it harder for people to quit and remain smoke free. Another consideration of illegal cigarettes is the fire risk they often pose. When genuine cigarettes are left for a period of time, they are designed to self-extinguish, reducing the risk of fires starting if left unattended. This design became European law in 2011, but many illegal cigarettes do not self-extinguish, increasing the risk of accidental fires.

You can anonymously report someone for selling illicit tobacco by calling the national Citizens Advice consumer helpline on 03454 040506.

Suffolk County Council leader announces Cabinet reshuffle

On 15 October, Councillor Matthew Hicks, the Leader of Suffolk County Council, announced changes to the councillors in his Cabinet.

The reshuffle creates closer links between key policy areas such as the environment and Sizewell C and brings new ideas into the Council's Cabinet.

In the reshuffle:

- Councillor Mary Evans remains as Deputy Leader and moves into the role of Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Skills.
- Councillor Gordon Jones moves into the role of Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources.
- Councillor Richard Smith leaves the Cabinet after four and half years in the finance role.
- Councillor Andrew Reid joins the Cabinet as Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Rural Affairs.

- Councillor Nick Gowrley takes on additional responsibility for the County Council's property portfolio and assets, in addition to his responsibilities as Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Housing and Enterprise.
- Councillor Richard Rout takes on responsibility for the council's policy on Sizewell C, in addition and linked to his role as Cabinet Member for Environment and Public Protection.

All other Cabinet positions remain the same.

In addition to the Cabinet changes, Councillor Karen Soons becomes chair of the Pension Fund Committee, a position previously held by Councillor Andrew Reid.

Councillor Matthew Hicks, leader of Suffolk County Council, said:

"I am confident that my Cabinet will continue to prioritise the needs of the people of Suffolk whilst making the difficult decisions that come with the role.

"It is important we refresh and revise the way in which we work so we can continue to challenge ourselves, expand our skill and expertise and improve what we do.

"I want to thank Richard Smith for his time as cabinet member for finance. He has made an outstanding contribution in ensuring we manage our finances in a measured, effective and prudent way and I know he will continue to make a difference to Suffolk residents."

Search for firm to build Lake Lothing Third Crossing gets underway

On 14 October, a tender process began to award the contract for constructing the Lake Lothing Third Crossing in Lowestoft.

Following the Public Examination, a report is on the desk of the Secretary of State for Transport, whose decision on whether to grant consent to build the bridge is expected by December 2019.

A similar, comprehensive tender process took place last year, when BAM Nuttall was awarded the contract to finalise the design of the crossing (Stage 1). The project has now moved onto Stage 2, where a firm will be selected to build the bridge.

Councillor Matthew Hicks, leader of Suffolk County Council, said:

"It is my responsibility as leader of the Council, to ensure that we get the best possible value for the Suffolk taxpayer. We will achieve this by completing the comprehensive tender process. When we asked the people of Lowestoft about the Lake Lothing Third Crossing, 96% of those consulted said they thought there was a need for a new bridge. The people of Lowestoft want the new bridge, but some still doubt that it will happen. I look forward to reviewing the applications to build this bridge, which will make an incredible difference to Lowestoft and the eastern region."

The bridge is planned to open in 2022.

Suffolk's gritting fleet gets personal

On 14 October, SprEd Sheeran, Benjamin Gritten and Grit Rhys Jones joined the ranks of Suffolk's gritting service as Suffolk Highways announced its newly named gritting fleet.

During the summer, Suffolk Highways asked attendees at the Suffolk Show to suggest names for its 41 gritting lorries as part of its first ever Gritter Naming Competition. The service received over 500 suggestions, the names were then judged by a panel including Councillor Mary Evans and BBC Radio Suffolk's Mark Murphy.

The people who suggested the winning names were invited to Suffolk Highways' depot at Phoenix House in Ipswich for a certificate presentation and photo with some of the gritting fleet.

Suffolk's gritters now have their names proudly displayed on the front and side of their cabs and are ready to grit the roads when the weather gets colder.

Councillor Mary Evans, Suffolk County Council's Deputy Leader and then Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Rural Affairs, said:

"It has been fantastic to see the enthusiasm from Suffolk's children and adults during Suffolk's first ever naming of the gritters.

"The activity has drawn Suffolk residents closer to our gritting service and helped personalise the fleet, whilst celebrating the fantastic commitment shown from all those involved in the winter service year after year. "

I want to say a huge thank you and congratulations to all those who put forward the winning names for our gritters. I will be very excited to see the gritters out and about keeping our county safe and moving during the winter."

Residents will be able to follow the gritting activity on Twitter at [@Suff_Highways](https://twitter.com/Suff_Highways) during the season and if they spot one of the newly named gritters in action they can send a picture to us on Twitter at [@Suff_Highways](https://twitter.com/Suff_Highways) [#WinterReady](https://twitter.com/Suff_Highways)

Braking Point returns to help young adults stay safe on Suffolk's roads

The Suffolk Roadsafe board is working with 16 and 17-year-old students to encourage young people to stay safe on Suffolk's roads.

The Suffolk Roadsafe board is a partnership between Suffolk County Council, Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service, the Police and Crime Commissioner, Suffolk Constabulary, Highways England, and the East of England Ambulance Service.

The Road Safety Team's Braking Point project relaunched in the week of 7 October and will be visiting 20 schools across Suffolk to deliver the Braking Point play. The

play, delivered by Performance in Education, is designed to encourage the safe behaviours of both drivers and passengers.

Once the theatre tour ends, just before the autumn half-term, the Road Safety team will provide classroom-based follow-up sessions in schools, which will continue to run into 2020. These sessions are designed to change student behaviour by normalising sensible decision making on the highway. These interactive sessions have been shown to shift students' attitudes to road safety and to provide them with more knowledge which they can take forwards as they become responsible drivers on Suffolk's roads.

Find out more information about Braking Point on the [Suffolk Roadsafe website](#).

First time central heating systems for Suffolk residents

A further 200 Suffolk homes without central heating will soon be able to have their first ever system installed.

On 7 October it was reported that Suffolk's local authorities have secured an additional £760,000 of funding from the Warm Homes Fund. This will enable the installation of 204 first time central heating systems in eligible, fuel-poor households across Suffolk over the next three years.

This is in addition to the original funding secured by the partnership in 2017 for 514 systems, over 200 of which have already been delivered.

Around four million UK households are in fuel poverty, unable to affordably heat their home to the temperature needed to stay warm and healthy. As well as being on low incomes many of these households are also faced with the additional burden of relying on heating systems that are inefficient and expensive to run.

The £150m Warm Homes Fund was established by National Grid using part of the proceeds from the sale of the company's majority stake in its gas distribution business. It funds the installation of affordable heating solutions in fuel poor households which don't use mains gas as their primary source of heat.

The Suffolk project is being managed by Suffolk County Council, administered by Suffolk Warm Homes Healthy People based at East Suffolk Council and is supported with further funding from Ipswich Borough, Babergh District, Mid-Suffolk District, East Suffolk and West Suffolk Councils. Alongside the first-time central heating system, eligible households can also benefit from new insulation measures to make their homes more energy efficient, as well as grants from the Suffolk Community Foundation's 'Surviving Winter Appeal'.

Councillor Richard Rout, Suffolk County Council Cabinet Member for Environment and Public Protection said:

“I am delighted that this extra funding has been secured. Suffolk’s local authorities work very hard to secure funding to support our most vulnerable residents and this additional funding will help even more fuel poor households stay warm and healthy. I would encourage anyone who does not have a central heating system and finds it a challenge to afford their energy bills to contact Suffolk Warm Homes Healthy People on **03456 037686** quoting the **Warm Homes Fund** or visit www.greensuffolk.org/whf to find out more.”

Launch of the Annual Public Health Report - Suffolk Through a Child’s Eyes

The Annual Public Health Report, ‘Suffolk Through a Child’s Eyes’ was launched at the Health and Wellbeing Board Conference on 2 October. This year’s Annual Public Health Report – an independent report from the director of public health – focuses on what it is like to live and grow up in Suffolk from a child’s perspective. Integral to this year’s report is the accompanying short film produced in conjunction with Signals (an arts and education charity) and Public Health Suffolk, to capture what Suffolk children and young people think about four topics; Friends and Family; Feelings; Fit and Healthy and Future Hopes and Dreams. Watch the film on the Healthy Suffolk website <https://www.healthysuffolk.org.uk>

Their feedback has been used, together with local and national evidence, to produce the report’s recommendations. These recommendations form areas for action, and focus on how families, practitioners and policy makers can continue to support all children in Suffolk to reach their full potential. The Health and Wellbeing strategy has recently been refreshed for 2019-22 and identifies four key priorities:

- Every Child in Suffolk to have the Best Start in Life
- People of working age are supported to optimise their health and wellbeing
- Older People in Suffolk have a Good Quality of Life
- People in Suffolk have the Opportunity to Improve their Mental Health and Wellbeing.

The Annual Public Health Report addresses the Health and Wellbeing Board’s first priority: ‘Every child in Suffolk to have the best start in life’. The full report can be viewed on the Healthy Suffolk website <https://www.healthysuffolk.org.uk>.

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