

Exning and Newmarket September 2017
Monthly Parish Newsletter

CONTACT DETAILS

Please feel free to contact me on rachel.hood@suffolk.gov.uk or on 07713 211555.

SUFFOLK NEWS

Stage 6, Tour of Britain passed through Exning and Newmarket

On Friday 8th September some of the world's elite riders raced through Suffolk as part of the prestigious Tour of Britain. The stage started in Newmarket and cycled to Exning where, despite the inclement weather, hundreds of spectators lined the route through Newmarket, Exning, Mildenhall, Bury St Edmunds and through the Suffolk countryside finishing in Aldeburgh at around 3pm.

Suffolk students celebrate as GCSE results continue to rise

Self-reported statistics from Suffolk schools released today show that more students in Suffolk have achieved expected levels of GCSE attainment in English and Maths this year.

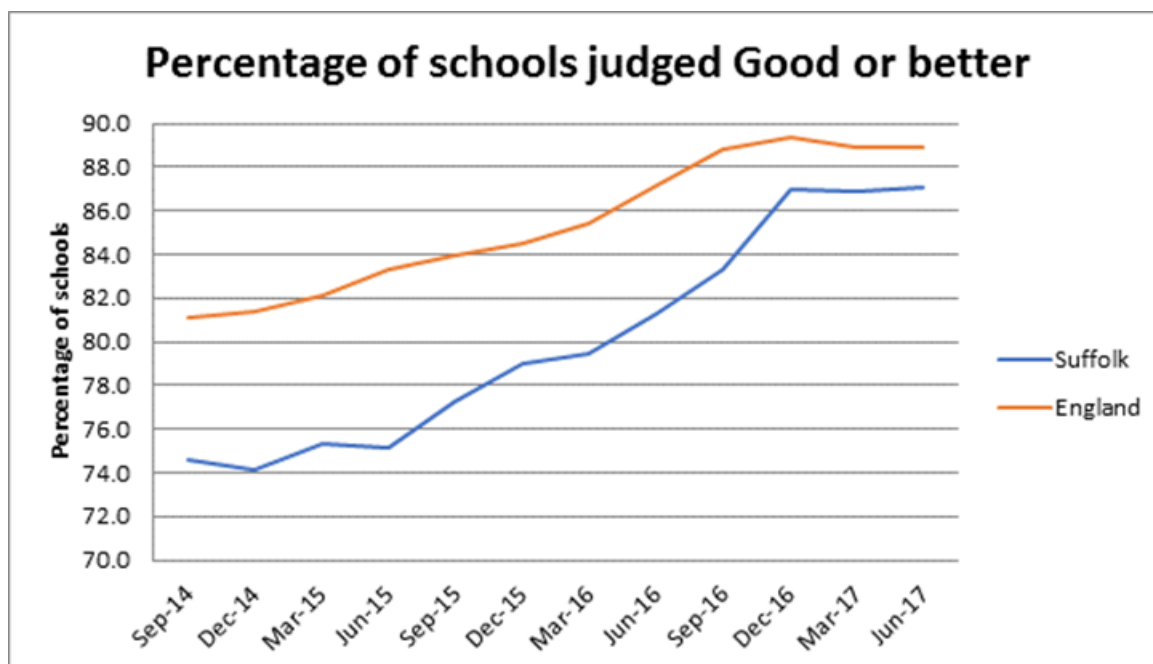
Newmarket Academy pupils also have done very well with the results.

This year, there has been a change to the way that English and Maths GCSEs are graded. Results are now graded from 9 to 1, (previously A to G) with 9 being the highest and 1 being the lowest. The expected standard for pupils to achieve is now a grade 4 and above (previously a C grade and above), with grade 5 considered a 'strong pass'. These changes will be phased in to cover all subjects by 2020.

More than 7,000 students in Suffolk were entered for GCSE results. According to provisional results collated from around 80% of schools in Suffolk, 63% of students achieved a grade 4 and above in English and maths this year. The figures suggest more than 2% more students have achieved the expected standard for English and maths, compared with last year.

The self-reported figures also show a significant increase in the number of disadvantaged pupils achieving the threshold measure in English and maths. Approximately 6% more students in Suffolk achieved this measure this year compared to last year.

Oftsed Performance



More students in Suffolk pass A level exams than across the country

Provisional A level figures show that Suffolk pupils have once again performed well with the number of A*-E grades awarded above the national average.

Almost 3,000 pupils were entered for A Levels in Suffolk. Although yet to be verified, the figures show that 98.2% of A levels taken in the county have been awarded an A*- E grade, compared with 97.9% nationally. 77% of A level grades achieved were within the A*- C bracket, in line with national figures and a 1% increase on last year's results.

Early indications show that Suffolk's Academic average points per entry has risen to 33.37 this year, compared with 30.44 last year.

Pass rates remain high across the county, with Newmarket Academy reporting a 100% pass rate (A*-E grade achieved).

Energy Efficiency grants now available for local retail businesses in Suffolk

Recent changes to European funding rules mean that retail businesses across Suffolk can access grants for energy efficiency measures.

Suffolk County Council is collaborating with Norfolk County Council to use EU funding to support businesses from a range of sectors. A number of shops have already benefitted from free and independent advice and a change in the funding regulations means that shops can now also access grants towards the capital costs of any energy saving measure.

The Carbon Trust calculate that taking 20 per cent off the energy spend of any business is equivalent to a 5 per cent increase in sales.

One of the businesses already benefitting from the scheme, is Clickers Archery in Norfolk. Owner Graham Harris said: “Business Energy Efficiency Anglia’s help has enabled us to reach our long-term goal of carbon saving in a shorter period of time. It would have taken us a few years to generate the funding ourselves but receiving the grant funding through BEE Anglia has accelerated that process.”

Grants are available for up to a maximum of £20,000, with a minimum of £1,000 for those businesses which take part in the scheme. To date, the Business Energy Efficiency Anglia (BEE Anglia) project has reviewed 371 organisations in Suffolk and Norfolk (156 in Suffolk), identifying cost savings of £2.26m (which equates to £6,146 per business), and carbon savings of 22,371 tonnes (61 tonnes per business).

These savings are equivalent to the carbon used in 6,648 flights from London to Sydney.

This initiative is not just about identifying savings. BEE Anglia has so far awarded over £118,000 in grant funding for various energy efficiency projects in Suffolk including radiant heating, vehicle tracking, wood burners and more efficient lighting.

The BEE Anglia project is funded by the European Regional Development Fund and is being delivered across the region through a partnership of Suffolk County Council, Norfolk County Council, Groundwork and NWES. The project has three core offers that have been designed to help businesses reduce carbon and save money using independent advice. Energy experts will visit the business’ premises to conduct a free, impartial and independent review that identifies the best cost and carbon saving opportunities.

Businesses interested in any aspect of this service can find out more and register online at www.beeanglia.org or call Groundwork on 01473 350370. Dedicated advisors will be able to answer any queries about eligibility for the programme or potential grant projects.

Highways

Suffolk Highways finished a period of major restructuring in early September. This is designed to fully integrate Suffolk County Council and Kier staff into a single team, remove hand offs and duplication and ensure that the service is efficient and effective. This includes improving our customer service by bringing together a centralised communications and customer service team for the whole county. The new service was launched on Monday 4 September.

As always, the first point of contact for members of the public and town/parish councils and standard defect reports should be the Suffolk Highway reporting tool via <https://highwaysreporting.suffolk.gov.uk/> or over the telephone on 0345 606 6171.

Using these methods ensures that reports are recorded, managed and tracked. The operational performance of our service cannot be audited without accurate reporting and tracking of reports and casework. Please help us to improve our service.

Customer Service is delivered principally through:

- Customer Co-ordinators will be responsible for reviewing reports and enquiries and ensuring that customers receive clear updates.
- Community Wardens will spend the majority of their time out on the road network inspecting reported defects, delivering advance warning letters/leaflets and engaging with some town and parish councils when required. They will ensure action is taken when a defect meets our intervention criteria, as set out in the Highways Maintenance Operational Plan (HMOP), details of which can be found here: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/highwaymaintenance/how-highways-are-maintained/>
- Community Engineers are there for more complex problems and to support Councillors in understanding issues and help to identify potential solutions within the budget.

A number of posts within our new structure currently remain unfilled and so there are a number of interim staff to help support us through the transition.

Travellers

In recent weeks, our locality has seen several unauthorised traveller encampments – on both public and private property in and near the town. Two different groups have been involved and have been treated separately. The response to both groups has been developed by a combination of police, land owners, council and legal officers.

This is a very difficult subject that understandably is of great concern to many. It is very important people report any problems or disruption they may have experienced to their councillor or direct to the relevant agency.

The various different agencies responded swiftly to these encampments. Councillors will continue to press for the interests of residents and local businesses to be at the forefront of any future responses or planning.

Newmarket Vision

Robin Millar, as the new Chair of the Newmarket Vision Steering Group, has had his first meeting. In his SCC Cabinet role, he is involved with several such town or area partnerships across the County and says: 'Each has developed in response to local issues, partners and pressures. It is certainly true that "one size" does not fit all'.

Exning

There have been various Highways works progressed recently in Exning, including the new roundabout, although the pedestrian crossings and some other items currently remain outstanding. I am chasing all outstanding work. Please let Cathy know if you have comments or concerns.

Additionally, my Highways Locality funding has been processed for the new automated speeding signs. Cathy will update you on the status but they will be installed very shortly.