



# October 2018 Monthly Parish Newsletter

## **Contractor announced and designs to be finalised for Lowestoft's Lake Lothing Third Crossing**

On 24 October 2018, it was announced that leading civil engineering contractor, BAM Nuttall, has won the contract for the first stage of completing the Lake Lothing Third Crossing in Lowestoft. The contract starts on 1 November 2018.

Following a comprehensive tender process and approval by Suffolk County Council's cabinet, BAM Nuttall will now finalise the design of the crossing, ready for building. The award of the construction stage of the contract, is scheduled to be announced in the Autumn of 2019.

The Lake Lothing Third Crossing is being built with the aim of reducing vehicle congestion in the town and boosting the local economy.

BAM Nuttall already has strong links to the region, having worked on projects such as the Great Yarmouth Flood Alleviation Scheme and the ABP Ipswich Quay Works. They also have a regional base in Thetford.

This contractor announcement coincides with the next official stage of the project which involves the government's Planning Inspectorate. This is the Examination Stage, which should begin in December 2018, and will last up to six months. During this time interested parties, such as local businesses, are formally invited share their views of the project at hearings and in writing, with the Planning Inspectorate.

At the end of the Examination Stage, the Planning Inspector has up to three months to prepare a report and a recommendation on the application for the relevant Secretary of State.

## **Carers celebrate top accolade with 'Outstanding' rating from the Care Quality Commission**

On 19 October 2018, it was announced that the standard of care provided by Mid Suffolk Home First has been rated as Outstanding by the Care Quality Commission.

Mid Suffolk Home First, which is provided by Suffolk County Council, provides a short-term reablement service and a longer-term care service.

Inspectors, who visited in July, said the quality of care was 'exceptional'. Under CQC's programme of inspections, the service was rated according to whether it is safe, effective, caring, responsive and well-led. Mid Suffolk Home First is rated

Outstanding for being responsive and well-led, and Good for being safe, caring and effective.

The reablement and care services offered by Mid Suffolk Home First support people following a period of ill health or a significant loss in their ability to manage their day to day care needs. The service aims to help the person reach their optimum level of independence.

During the short-term reablement support period, which may last one or two weeks or for some people up to a maximum of six weeks, people's progress is monitored and reviewed. The team have been able to support many people to leave the service confidently and without the need for further social care support. All the people who receive Home First reablement and care services are assessed to see if they need to be supported by another service following this short-term care.

At the time of the inspection, the service was providing support to 55 people in their own homes including 12 people needing longer-term personal care.

Andrea Sutcliffe, Chief Inspector of Adult Social Care, said:

"The quality of care which our inspectors found here was exceptional and I am very pleased that we can celebrate the service's achievements.

"An outstanding service is the result of a tremendous amount of hard work and commitment. I would like to thank and congratulate everyone involved."

See the [full version of the inspection](#) on the CQC website.

## **A call for family carers to share their views**

Suffolk County Council is calling for family carers to share their experiences of support by completing a survey by 22 November 2018. All answers will be used anonymously.

Sharing their experiences will help Suffolk County Council to:

- understand what currently works well for family carers
- identify any gaps in support for family carers in Suffolk.

Carers can complete the survey online at

<https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/FamilyCarers/>

Carers can contact Helen Robinson (9am to 4pm Monday to Friday) on **01473 260354** or [family.carers@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:family.carers@suffolk.gov.uk) if they would like an alternative format of the survey, for example:

- easy read
- large print
- or an alternative language.

The survey has been created by a multi-agency group that includes:

- Family Carer representatives
- Suffolk County Council

- Clinical Commissioning Groups
- Health
- Suffolk Family Carers.

## Provisional GCSE results show continued progress for Suffolk students

Provisional GCSE results, released on 16 October 2018 by the Department of Education, illustrate that 1% more students in Suffolk are achieving the expected standards in English and Maths compared with last 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'.

Suffolk is now in line with national figures with 64% of students in the county achieving the standard pass in English and Maths. Suffolk is also in the top half of all authorities for achieving the threshold of grade 5 in English and Maths. Suffolk has risen by 40 places in national league tables for this measure, to 43 out of 151 authorities.

GCSE progress remains above average and has seen a steep increase this year for Suffolk pupils, with a Progress 8 score of +0.07, compared with the national figure of -0.03. This figure also puts Suffolk at number 1 among our statistical neighbours (11 other local authorities with similar geographic and social structures).

Progress 8 measures how well GCSE students, of all abilities, have progressed since age 11 by comparing them with students who achieved similar levels in Key Stage 2 across the country.

## Budget consultation launches as Suffolk County Council looks to save £25 million in 2019/2020

On 8 October 2018, Suffolk County Council launched its annual budget consultation. The consultation closes at **5pm on Friday 16th November 2018**. Resident are being asked to give their views on the services provided by the council as it faces the challenge of making savings of £25 million in 2019/2020.

Like all local authorities, Suffolk County Council faces significant financial challenges in the delivery of essential frontline services to support the lives of the most vulnerable young people and older residents across the county.

As part of its careful financial planning and management in recent years, the council has saved £260million since 2011. It has also established innovative new ways to engage with communities and deliver services in the digital age, but there are still tough calls ahead. The council want to hear residents' views on which services are most important to them.

A proposed budget will be presented at the Cabinet meeting on Tuesday 29 January 2019 and the final budget will be discussed at Full Council on Thursday 14 February 2019.

Residents can visit [www.suffolk.gov.uk/budget2019](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/budget2019) to learn more about the budget setting process and to take part in the short survey to give their views.

Details are also available on [Suffolk County Council's Facebook page](#) and on its Twitter account [@suffolkcc](#).

## **Phoenix Enterprise Park officially opens for business**

The site of the former Wessex Foods factory in Lowestoft has been brought back to life as a new business and enterprise park for local businesses to grow and flourish. Phoenix Enterprise Park celebrated its official opening on 5 October 2018. With a project budget of £6.5million, the site occupies two acres of land and comprises 17 business units of differing sizes.

There are already six business units occupied with the remaining eleven units available for tenants right now. Businesses that move in before 31 March 2019 can apply for reduced business rates over the next three years. The units are being marketed by local agents Aldreds.

The former factory site was purchased by Suffolk County Council in 2015 after remaining empty since 2010 when a fire destroyed the Wessex Foods plant. The purchase was funded with £2.5m from the New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership through its Growth Deal with Government.

In 2013, the site received its enterprise zone status from central government. This unlocked the opportunity to turn the redundant land into a location for business generation. This government status included the provision of ensuring the site had access to superfast broadband, reduced business rates and a simplified planning process to enable appropriate development in a timely fashion.

Leader of Suffolk County Council, Councillor Matthew Hicks, who has the portfolio for economic development said:

“Completion of this business and enterprise park demonstrates our commitment to regeneration in Lowestoft and supporting local companies that are looking for premises to help to start up or grow.

“We could not have delivered this project without the financial support from Waveney District Council and the New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership. This project has been a real team effort.”

## Parents urged to have their say on school admissions consultation

On 1 October 2018, Suffolk County Council launched a consultation on its proposed admissions policy for the 2020/2021 school year as well as future arrangements.

This is to ensure school places are offered to children in a fair way.

The consultation, which started on Monday 1 October, will run until **5pm on Monday 12 November 2018**.

The county council are not proposing to make any significant changes to the admission arrangements for schools in Suffolk for the 2020/2021 school year. They would, however, still like to seek views on the proposed admission arrangements, including potential future changes to the oversubscription criteria and the continued use of catchment areas to rank applications.

Governing bodies and academy trusts are responsible for admissions to academies, voluntary aided, foundation and free schools. If parents and carers want to view the arrangements for these schools, they should contact the school directly.

To find out more about the consultation and how they can have a say, parents and carers can visit [Consultation on admissions to schools in Suffolk for the 2020/2021 school year](#).

They can also request a paper copy of the survey or take the survey over the phone by calling 0345 603 1842.