



# August 2020 Monthly Parish Newsletter

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## Lowestoft Third Crossing officially named as project is given final green light

Suffolk County Council's Cabinet has unanimously approved the building of the Lake Lothing Third Crossing in Lowestoft, now officially named as *Gull Wing* by children from Somerleyton Primary School.

The bridge will be Suffolk's most significant infrastructure development in recent memory and one of its most visually iconic. It sits alongside several integral projects to transform Lowestoft in the coming years, showing that the area is well and truly open for business.

With no unforeseen delays, construction work is planned to begin in Spring 2021, with a target of Summer 2023 for the *Gull Wing* to officially open.

**Councillor Matthew Hicks, Leader of Suffolk County Council, said:**

"I've looked forward to this day for a long time, and with the full backing of my Cabinet, we can now get this bridge built for Lowestoft and for Suffolk.

“But most excitingly, what an occasion for the children from Somerleyton Primary School who have given the bridge its name! I think it’s perfect and they should feel extremely proud. Thank you to all the local children who gave us 22 imaginative ideas to consider.

“It was important for me that the local community was involved with the project right from the start. This is a theme which will continue during the construction of the bridge, and throughout its life, as it will provide apprenticeships and jobs.

“There will also be opportunities for schools and students to visit the site and meet our teams. I hope that younger generations will be inspired by the stunning engineering and learn about the bridge’s positive impacts on Lowestoft and Suffolk.”

Somerleyton Primary School pupils thought up the name *Gull Wing*. Headteacher, Louise Spall, explains the thinking behind it:

“The children wanted to come up with a name which reflected living by the seaside, but they also thought that the shape of bridge was really interesting. The V-shape of the new bridge looks like a bird’s wings and, of course, what seaside town is complete without gulls!

“They are really excited that their name is going to be part of Lowestoft’s history, it is something they can be proud of and tell their children in years to come.”

A panel of representatives from the local councils, local organisations and the town council, led by Peter Aldous MP, unanimously agreed that *Gull Wing* was an excellent suggestion and agreed that it would become the new bridge’s name.

**Peter Aldous, Member of Parliament for Waveney, said:**

“We’d like to thank all the children who gave their suggestions. There were some really interesting choices and clearly a lot of thought had gone into them.

“When we all looked at the list, *Gull Wing* jumped out at us straight away. We were looking for a name with a local context which had some meaning to it, but which would also be snappy and descriptive so people will use it.

“Many congratulations to the pupils from Somerleyton Primary School. When the bridge is open, they will be able to walk and cycle over it, knowing that they gave it its name. And who knows, when they are older, maybe drive their electric car over it too!”

**Councillor Steve Gallant, Leader of East Suffolk Council, said:**

“This is a really welcome moment now that everything has been made official. With our Masterplan ambitions and being able to protect businesses and residents from flooding for 100 years, Lowestoft will be increasingly important to Suffolk and beyond. Giving the bridge its name is a statement of intent for the project and for the future of the town. We are building for our future, so it is entirely appropriate that the bridge has been named by our younger residents.”

The next step is for the project’s final business case to be submitted to the Department for Transport by the end of August. The company chosen to build the bridge will then be announced in September, along with the appointment of a new

project director at the council. Funding from the Department of Transport is expected to be available in November, with construction work starting on site in Spring 2021.

## **Preparations are finalised for SCC funded school travel for the new school term**

Suffolk County Council (SCC) have made preparations to ensure all pupils who are eligible for SCC funded school travel are transported to school safely for the start of term. SCC transports approximately 12,000 pupils, which is around 12% of the school population.

On 11 August 2020, the Department for Education published official guidance on the measures that need to be in place to ensure that school transport is COVID-19 safe. SCC have been working closely with bus operators and schools to put these into place.

There are three types of school transport that children travel on - either a dedicated closed contract, shared route, or public transport route. The guidelines for these routes are slightly different.

The majority of eligible pupils travel to school on dedicated, closed routes. This means that the vehicle only carries school children. On these routes, social distancing will not apply. There will be other measures in place to ensure pupils' safety. For example, children need to make sure they wash their hands before and after travelling, and no eating and drinking will be allowed on these vehicles. Face coverings are also recommended for children aged 11 and over.

Some children travel to school on shared routes. This is where most passengers are pupils going to school or college, but there are also a few members of the public travelling on the vehicle. SCC have worked closely with operators to ensure that there is enough space on these shared transport routes. Pupils should observe social distancing guidelines with members of the public and sit in the seats marked; they can sit next to members of their family or fellow pupils. On these routes, face coverings will be mandatory unless a child is exempt from wearing one, in line with guidance.

For pupils who travel to school by public transport, where routes are used mainly by the general public, social distancing will apply and face coverings will be mandatory unless the child is exempt from wearing one.

For pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) most of their routes are dedicated, so this means there is little change to their transport. Where changes are being made, we are getting in touch with the families to explain the arrangements for the new term.

A child **must not** travel on any of these routes if anyone in their household has symptoms of COVID-19, which are a new persistent cough, high temperature and/or a change in their sense of taste or smell. If the child or anyone in the household has these symptoms, then public health advice should be followed as usual.

## **Spare seats**

Planning school transport has been complex, as SCC has to plan transport across the three types of school travel routes. This involves, trying to predict how many fare-paying passengers there will be on shared and public routes. This has an impact on dedicated routes and how many spare seats will be available. We may need to use some of the spare seats for entitled pupils, but this will not be known straightaway. Therefore, spare seats will still be unavailable, to enable SCC to monitor capacity. Parents will be able to apply for spare seats from October half-term, subject to availability.

**Councillor Mary Evans, Suffolk County Council Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Skills said:** "The Passenger Transport Team has worked closely with schools and transport operators to ensure that suitable travel arrangements and safety measures are in place for all eligible pupils for the start of the school term. I appreciate that going back to school will be an anxious time for many families. I would like to reassure them that our priority is to ensure the safety of children on their journeys to and from school."

"I am very disappointed that we are not able to open up applications for spare seats until October half-term. While spare seats are never guaranteed, I recognise that these are important transport options for some families. If a parent has no means whatsoever of getting their child to school, SCC may be able to help by using discretionary power to offer transport arrangements. This would only be done where it is clear that this is absolutely essential to enable a child to attend school."

For further information visit [www.suffolkonboard.com](http://www.suffolkonboard.com).

## **Working together to ensure a safe start to the new school year**

**Article by Councillor Mary Evans, Suffolk County Council Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Skills; published 25 August 2020.**

The start of the new school year can present challenges for families and schools alike. The prospect of walking back through the school gates for the first time since mid-March may feel both exciting and daunting.

COVID-19 has impacted on all of us in different ways and for many children and young people this has affected their education, with thousands not being in school for five months. Parents and carers across Suffolk have done a wonderful job educating their children at home. I thank them for all their hard work. It is important that we get children back into schools, nurseries, and colleges as it is the best place for their education and wellbeing.

While many children and young people will be looking forward to a full-time return, I know some families may be feeling anxious about the return to schools, nurseries and colleges; it could feel quite difficult for many children and young people. I would like to reassure them that we have been working very closely with schools to make sure safety measures are in place for the start of the new term. These include

staggered start times, staggered breaktimes, increased hygiene and children remaining in consistent groups. These steps will all contribute to minimising the risk, while allowing teachers to get back to teaching children. Each school is different and will have put specific systems in place, based on individual risk assessments. School leaders will be in contact with parents prior to the start of term to advise on the arrangements. If parents do have any concerns, I would recommend they have a conversation with their school.

I realise that going back to school after weeks, indeed months, at home could feel quite difficult for many children and young people. It may take time for them to get back into a routine and adjust to life back at school. Children who continued to go to school throughout lockdown may also find it hard with the return of more children and a focus back onto academic work. Schools will work closely with children to listen to their concerns and help them make the transition back into the classroom and there is a wealth of helpful resources and top tips for parents on our website. For example, getting back into a routine can be a good way to prepare for the return to school. Bedtimes, waking times and mealtimes may well have changed during lockdown so adjusting these gradually to establish a routine to prepare children for the new school term will help them.

To access these resources visit; [www.suffolk.gov.uk/children-families-and-learning/pts/if/five-tips/](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/children-families-and-learning/pts/if/five-tips/)

In preparation for the start of term, we would also advise families to think about how children will travel to school as arrangements may be a little different. Families are encouraged, where possible, to walk or cycle to school, but I appreciate that this is often not possible. If children or young people use public transport to travel to school, we would advise families to check that their route is still running as some changes may have been made due to the pandemic. Families also need to take into account that, due to social distancing, there will not be as much space on the vehicle. If children and young people travel by public transport, they will need to understand whether they need to wear a face covering and how to do this safely, unless a child is unable to wear one for health, age, or other reasons.

The months out of school will doubtless have had a bigger impact on some pupils than others. We fully expect that there will be gaps in learning. The Education and Learning team at Suffolk County Council is committed in its work with all schools to help them bridge these gaps. Where parents have particular worries about their child's education and the impact of the lockdown, we would encourage them to talk to their child's school. Staff at the school will be best placed to offer advice about how individual children can be supported in the post-lockdown period, how learning topics can be prioritised and how parents can support their children.

I would like to thank leaders and teachers across the childcare and education sector for the huge part they have played in the COVID-19 pandemic response and their hard work in getting everything organised and ready for the start of term. I wish children and young people and all school staff the very best as they return for the new school year.

## **New project website for Suffolk County Council's A140 improvement scheme**

Suffolk County Council has partnered with Interserve Construction to deliver a vital upgrade to the A140 road near Eye, Suffolk.

This stretch of road has seen a number of issues over the last five years. The scheme will improve journey time reliability and road safety in the area, and advance access to the Eye Airfield Development Area.

The improvements include:

- Two new roundabout junctions on the A140 Castleton Way and south of Rectory Road.
- A link road through to B1077 from the Northern roundabout.
- Restricted movements at the A140/B1077 junction: prohibit right turns in and out, improving journey times and safety.
- Closure of the A140/Rectory Road junction.
- Landscaping and new pathways for walkers and cyclists.

Keeping the local community and key stakeholders updated and informed is a vital part of the project. Therefore, the project team is happy to announce that a dedicated website has been developed.

<https://eyea140scheme.co.uk/> aims to update all interested stakeholders regularly about the project's recent activities and any traffic management measures which may be in place to help support the work. A phone number is also available (07917 598 686) to directly contact the project's representatives.

### **Councillor Andrew Reid, Suffolk County Council's Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Rural Affairs, said:**

"I would like to thank residents for their patience regarding these vital improvement works.

"The scheme's new website will ensure interested parties can be kept updated on the project's developments.

"There have been delays due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which have been unavoidable. We are trying to claw back some of the time we have lost and the best way to keep people updated with this work and the revised time scale is via the new website.

"Once the improvement works are completed, the new road layout will unlock Eye Airfield for economic development. There will also be significant highway benefits, because access to the A140 will be safer and more efficient, resolving long-standing safety and congestion issues."

More stakeholder events, including face-to-face events, are planned once the current COVID-19 situation is resolved. The scheme is expected to be finished early 2021.

## Suffolk winners announced for Food Savvy's Delicious Drawings competition



Two children will have their 'Delicious Drawings' on display in local East of England Co-op stores after winning #FoodSavvy's 'Delicious Drawings' Competition.

The competition organised by the pioneering food saving campaign #FoodSavvy, a partnership between the Suffolk Waste Partnership, Norfolk County Council and environmental charity Hubbub, challenged primary aged children to create a colourful design around saving and valuing food, in collaboration with The East of England Co-op. The children of Suffolk responded with lots of creative entries, which were judged by the East of England Co-op.

Congratulations go to Jacob Brough, age 11 from Ipswich, who created the winning entry for Suffolk, and now has the title of number one food saving artist in the county. The runner's-up prize went to food hero Demi-Blu Harris, age 9, also from Ipswich. There is an online gallery of the winners and all the highly commended entries at [foodsavvy.org.uk/kids-competition](https://foodsavvy.org.uk/kids-competition). Winners received a personalised apron and cooking kit, as well as East of England Co-op vouchers.

The competition was a great success and brought families together in a creative way to talk about the value of food and ways to use up every bite. It also raised awareness around the £730 worth of food the average East Anglian households waste every year (WRAP). These young, creative change makers proved that no one is too small to make a difference.

If you are looking to save money and reduce food waste, the Food Savvy website is packed with recipes and ideas to cut down food waste and make your food go further. This includes planning your shopping, storing food correctly, and lots of other savvy living tips to help with lockdown life.

## Remembering VJ Day, 75 years on

Saturday 15 August was the 75th anniversary of VJ Day in the UK, marking Victory in Japan at the end of the Second World War.

With celebrations often centred around VE Day earlier in the year, this period of the Second World War is sometimes overlooked, but it is important to remember that the war between the Allied Forces and Japan continued until August. In fact, on VE Day in 1945, Churchill reminded the British public that the country should “not forget for a moment the toil and efforts that lie ahead” and for many people this certainly proved to be true.

Troops from the Suffolk Regiment served across the Far East including in the Razmak District of Pakistan, Burma, and Singapore, as well as in Europe and Africa. It was following the loss of Singapore in February 1942 that the 4th and 5th Battalions spent three and half years as Prisoners-of-War, initially in the infamous Changi Jail, then constructing the Burma to Thailand Railway.

The team at Suffolk Archives have put together a [special online exhibition marking VJ Day](#), exploring the stories of two Suffolk men who were taken prisoner in the Far East, Able Seaman Harold Lock and Private Raymond Suttle, from the 4th Battalion of the Suffolk Regiment, as well as looking at the way our county marked the end of the Second World War.

The Suffolk Archives display also features a digitised version of a 1944 War Office handbook explaining the challenges of contacting and supporting POWs in the Far East, and a series of extracts showing how VJ Day activities across Suffolk were reported in local newspapers.

The development of online displays such as this has been made possible thanks to funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, aimed at increasing use and understanding of the archives through a series of countywide initiatives.

Councillor Paul West, Suffolk County Council Portfolio Holder for Heritage, said; “We hope that this new display will help people to remember and recognise those Allied Forces who served in the Far East, in particular those who were imprisoned or who lost their lives. Not only did the Allied Forces have to contend with the War itself but also faced the menace of deadly and unfamiliar tropical diseases as well high temperatures, high humidity and monsoons. Seventy-five years on it is important to look back and realise how many people made the ultimate sacrifice.”

## Suffolk celebrates 1,000 miles of newly surfaced roads

Suffolk Highways has completed its 1,000th resurfaced mile, following the Council's commitment to relay new road surfaces on a quarter of Suffolk's road network.

In 2017, Suffolk County Council's Cabinet committed to resurfacing 1,000 miles of road across Suffolk over a four-year period; in a bid to improve the quality of roads, reduce the number of potholes and to help stop potholes from forming in the first place.



The commitment also makes sound financial sense, as preventing the deterioration of road surfaces by machine surfacing or surface dressing helps reduce the need to spend more money on reactive maintenance repairing potholes now, and in future years.

The 1,000th mile was laid at Horham Road in Eye on Tuesday 4 August 2020.

**Councillor Andrew Reid, Suffolk County Council’s Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Rural Affairs, said:**

“I am delighted to see our teams deliver on our promise to lay new road surfaces on a quarter of Suffolk’s roads. Not only that, but we are also due to exceed the 1,000 miles and complete this work sooner than expected.

“Residents and businesses have always been clear that they want to see roads and infrastructure improved in Suffolk. This continues to be the biggest discussion point in our local communities. By delivering this programme we have been able to focus our budget and resources on improving our roads countywide and keeping them pothole-free for longer.

“I want to take this opportunity to thank all those who have worked through a very challenging time to stick to this programme and deliver even better roads for Suffolk and its residents. We remain committed to focussing our efforts and resources where possible on this type of road improvement.”

## **Free cycling sessions for the people of Suffolk**

The County Council’s Bikeability team is now offering FREE cycling sessions to provide practical skills on how to cycle on today’s roads. Everyone is welcome to take part - adults, families, and children. The sessions are aimed at those who want to cycle more regularly, whether to keep fit, to commute to work or school, or to visit friends.

A session lasts between 2 and 2.5 hours and is delivered by a fully qualified Bikeability Cyclist Trainer. The trainer chats to you first about what you are trying to achieve and tailors the session to your specific needs.

Travel behaviour has transformed during lockdown, both nationally and in Suffolk, as more people turn to cycling for essential journeys and exercise. It has been a cycling revolution!

- Journeys made by bike rose by 120% during the pandemic, while bus, rail, ferry, plane and car journeys fell by as much as 95%.
- Latest research also suggests that as much as 16% of the population in England (8.9 million people) have been cycling per week during the pandemic.

Suffolk County Council wants to encourage more people to get out and about by cycling and walking for their short journeys. The aim is to embed active travel as part of a long-term habit and reap the associated health, air quality and congestion benefits.

Suffolk has already implemented several cycling schemes in Ipswich as a result of funding received from the Department for Transport and further schemes are now

being considered in Bury St Edmunds, Newmarket, Beccles, Felixstowe, Stowmarket and Sudbury.

It is also promoting the Government's Fix Your Bike £50 voucher scheme, and has provided funding to Greater Anglia to install more cycle racks at their train stations across Suffolk to help more people make cycling part of their commute or daily routine.

**Councillor Andrew Reid, Suffolk County Council's Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Rural Affairs, said:**

"I am proud that we are rapidly rolling out more space for walking and cycling and upgrading cycle routes here in Suffolk. But we also need to equip people with the confidence they need to cycle in and around our county, so I'm delighted we are now able to offer free cycling sessions for local residents."

"Walking and cycling will be absolutely central to Suffolk's recovery from coronavirus and our free cycling sessions are making sure everybody who wants to cycle can do so safely and easily. Many of our newly upgraded cycle routes in Ipswich, coupled with cycling training, will make journeys to school, work and the hospital a reality for more people."

For further information on the active travel measures Suffolk County Council is putting in place across Suffolk and to sign up for a free cycling session visit: [suffolk.gov.uk/cyclingandwalking](https://suffolk.gov.uk/cyclingandwalking)

## **Suffolk and Norfolk businesses set for extra boost for apprentices**

Apprenticeships Suffolk and Apprenticeships Norfolk are launching a reward package, **Recruit Retain Reward**, providing £1,000 grants for businesses taking on new and/or redundant young apprentices, aged 16-24.

In a bid to give small and medium-sized Suffolk and Norfolk businesses as much support as possible, the project aims to offer a flexible 'Apprenticeship Incentive Fund' of £1000, giving businesses a boost to recruit their workforce for the future.

Employers who take on apprentices can experience a wide range of benefits. Developing apprentices' skills to be relevant to the organisation, along with improved productivity, better quality of product or service, and higher staff morale are benefits highlighted by around three-quarters of employers. More than 8 out of 10 employers recommend an apprenticeship to others \*

The new incentive scheme across Suffolk and Norfolk, will complement and enhance the new Government apprenticeship incentives announced recently by the chancellor Rishi Sunak (£2,000 for 16-24, £1,500 for 25+), and also the existing age incentives of £1,000 for 16-18s (19-24 with an Education Health Care plan).

In addition to the one-off financial payment, there will also be continued support for organisations who are new to apprenticeships. A collection of online resources is being created to support businesses employing an apprentice for the first time. This

includes practical guidance and useful information from existing, local apprenticeship ambassadors to help add real value to the business.

It is hoped that the project, which is sponsored by the East of England Employer Ambassador Apprenticeship Network, will encourage apprenticeship starts across Suffolk and Norfolk, post COVID-19.

Suffolk County Councillor Mary Evans Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Skills said: "I am delighted to see the launch of this reward package for businesses in Suffolk. The project provides an excellent package of support for our local employers who are keen to find and develop emerging talent and invest in the future growth of their organisation."

Apprenticeships Suffolk and Apprenticeships Norfolk provide an impartial service to all employers, providers, apprentices and stakeholders. Further details of the project can be found here: [apprenticeshipssuffolk.org](http://apprenticeshipssuffolk.org) and [apprenticeshipsnorfolk.org](http://apprenticeshipsnorfolk.org)

\* Data source: [GOV.UK publications](https://www.gov.uk/publications)

## **New resources will help young people understand the link between movement and mental health**

New resources have been published to help young people in Suffolk understand how movement and physical activity can improve their emotional wellbeing.

The resources, which include a handy, pocket-sized information card, have been developed for young people with input and feedback from young people.

Made possible by Suffolk Mind and the Suffolk Most Active County Partnership, with assistance from Suffolk County Council's Children and Young People's engagement hub, the resources provide essential information about seven ways young people can improve their mental health through movement.

They also include three simple and effective ideas that young people can try straight away to help them take control of their mind and mood through movement, as well as a range of key local contacts for further support.

### **Commenting on the resources Councillor James Reeder, Suffolk County Council's Cabinet Member for Public Health and Prevention, said:**

"The publication of these resources is very timely given emerging evidence that young people's mental health and wellbeing has suffered during lockdown".

"The link between exercise and mental health cannot be over-stated, but sadly is something that often gets forgotten. So, to have a clear and concise reminder of the all the benefits we gain from being active is extremely helpful and something, I hope, will act as an incentive to encourage our young people to think about moving more".

### **Charlie Green, Senior Emotional Needs & Resources Trainer at Suffolk Mind, was instrumental in the development of the resources. She said:**

"Research shows that physical activity and movement, in all its different forms, is at the centre of good mental and physical health for young people and, as lockdown

eases, it's important to help them find the motivation to move in enjoyable ways so it becomes part of their daily lives”.

The resources will be distributed to schools, GP surgeries and libraries across the county. They are also available as a direct download from [keepmovingsuffolk.com/wellbeing](https://keepmovingsuffolk.com/wellbeing) and [thesource.me.uk/move](https://thesource.me.uk/move).