



## District Councillors Report to Tuddenham St Martin Parish Council.

### December 2020

#### **East Suffolk enters Tier 2 (High Alert)**

The nationwide restrictions introduced by the Government last month were lifted this week and the Tier system, which was in place prior, has been reintroduced. Suffolk has been placed in Tier 2 (High Alert) alongside the rest of the East of England. For more details about what this means for East Suffolk's residents and businesses can be found on the Government's website.

#### **Financial support available for businesses**

East Suffolk Council is currently processing payments for two business grants provided by the Government in a response to the nationwide restrictions in November. Although the restrictions have now been lifted, there is currently no time limit on when applications must be received by.

The Local Restrictions Support Grant (LRSB) is available to businesses that were required to close in line with the restrictions, including non-essential retail, leisure, personal care, sports facilities and hospitality, and the Additional Restrictions Grant is available for small businesses outside the scope of the LRSB.

The online application forms and full details about how to apply with full eligibility can be found on the ESC website

#### **Free parking available from today**

From today, free 30-minute parking will be available in 48 of the Council's car parks, after it was agreed to extend the existing free parking scheme to an additional 13 car parks last month.

Having introduced new tariffs in August, which were designed to simplify charges and better reflect the needs and historic usage of parking facilities, it has become clear that issues created by the virus have affected parking behaviour.

Some car parks which previously did not offer this particular tariff were in towns where it was agreed that a large number of 'on street' parking bays were sufficient and the car parks themselves could prioritise shoppers and visitors making longer visits.

However, social distancing measures in towns have removed a number of these bays and because of this reduction in availability, the Council has decided to offer it more widely as part of its 'off street' car park provision.



The Council also believes that the overall impacts of Covid-19 on high streets and businesses mean that extra steps should be taken to encourage more people to return and 'shop local'. See which car parks offers free 30-minutes parking on the ESC website

**More information on Parking.....**

The parking officer team work incredibly hard to deal with the continued implementation of CPE (Civil Parking Enforcement) and the constant flow of queries. Illegal and dangerous parking has not been enforced for many years, this includes on street parking, time limited bays and residents parking. We have not changed any of the regulations (TRO`s) for permit parking only the way the system is administered. We have also introduced a new off street parking system (car parks) reducing the over 50 tariffs to less than 10 and along with it reducing over 50% of the charges. We have also introduced 30 minutes free parking in 48 of our town centre car parks. There has been almost 100% support and praise for the on street parking enforcement which has reduced illegal parking and dangerous parking significantly which is what had been asked for by almost every person in the area and the local councils and councillors. Due to the delay in issuing new residents permits caused by the Covid lockdown we took the decision not to enforce the permit areas to give everyone time to get their permits which we started to issue in August, however we are starting enforcement when the current lockdown ends on the 4th December

**Data for 25/05/2020 to 30/11/2020**

There are 1,157 streets in the district comprising 7,280 regulations for patrol; and 75 demand managed off-street parking places.

PCNs served	9,449	
PCNs 'appealed'	1,507	15.9% of served
'Appeals' accepted	452	4.8% of served
Permits, visitor vouchers and exemptions issued	1618	

**Operational services via [www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/parking](http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/parking)**

Web page	Service
Civil parking enforcement	Reporting illegal parking tool



Traffic regulation orders	Mapping tool for all the parking management regulations in Suffolk
Parking fines	Portal for viewing evidence and paying or 'appealing' a PCN
Permits, exemptions and dispensations	Portal for applying for all permit and exemption types (previously administered by SCC, Norse and ESC with no live data facilitating enforcement)
Parking management schemes	Portals for requesting changes to regulations and for new permit management schemes
Parking places	Information regarding and links to RingGo services – personal and corporate
Nuisance parking	Information regarding footways and verges

### Latest service additions

All the amended tariffs are completed and go live Friday 04/12/2020 and enforcement will commence. Patrols of resident permit management areas will commence 04/12/2020 following a cool-off period for residents to obtain the necessary permits. As a matter of interest there has been quite a number of requests for enforcement action to commence from residents and councillors. These are the last of the patrol services to go live and a complete CPE administration service will now be operation from 04/12/2020.

### Parking management schemes (primarily residential areas)

SCC confirmed that following discussions with the Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Rural Affairs, a total of £222,672 has been awarded to East Suffolk Council to deliver as follows:

- Framlingham on-street parking- £60,112 - Detailed design of parking management regulations focused on Market Hill, Church Street, Castle Street, Double Street, Fore Street and part of Fairfield Road.
- Lowestoft on-street parking- £106,480 - Detailed design of parking management regulations focused on the B1532 from Marine Parade to Kirkley Cliff Road.
- Southwold on-street parking- £54,080 - Detailed design of parking management regulations on North Parade.

SCC has confirmed that schemes may be geographically extended to manage strategically vehicle displacement, if funding allows.



There have been requests for changes to existing regulations, primarily increasing the length of kerb-space designated for residents. Residents requesting changes and new schemes must be directed to the 'Parking management schemes' web page to complete the survey. The survey returns will be downloaded, validated and analysed statically and thematically. The results will then be considered by a panel, and discussions will be held with the local members and town or parish councils; only when potential schemes are fully supported will the statutory process for introducing traffic regulation orders begin. The statutory process can be lengthy and so a strategic approach is being adopted to optimise the efficiency and effectiveness of the Council's resources.

### **Other reporting**

- Six electric vehicles are used for CEO patrols and they have travelled more than 27,000 miles so far.
- The RingGo service is operating at 155% usage on 2019 with a total of 130,000 parking sessions; and increased revenue by 158% on 2019 taking nearly three ton of coins from the pay-and-display cash payment system, saving 33 vehicle loads of cash collection equating to more than 2,600 vehicle miles, plus cash handling time.

### **Residents urged to shop local this Christmas**

As East Suffolk has entered Tier 2 this week, shoppers can now return to the high street in the run up to Christmas with non-essential shops, personal care businesses, gyms and the wider leisure sector able to open their doors once again.

East Suffolk Council is continuing to encourage local shoppers to support their local towns through its ongoing 'Shop Local' campaign to support independent retailers, restaurants, theatres, cinemas, pubs and cafes as much as they can.

For the hospitality sector, the new Tier 2 restrictions mean that pubs and bars operating as restaurants must provide table service only and must remain closed between 11pm and 5am. They must also call last orders at 10pm, with the extra hour solely for finishing what has already been ordered.

For those enjoying the wide-ranging take-away and delivery options on offer, hospitality businesses and venues selling food and drink for consumption off the premises can continue to do so after 10pm. However, this must be via a delivery service, click-and-collect or a drive-through.

### **East Suffolk Council's leisure centres have re-opened**

Brackenbury Leisure Centre, Deben Leisure Centre, Felixstowe Leisure Centre, Leiston Leisure Centre and Waveney Valley Leisure Centre has re-opened this week with enhanced safety measure in place to ensure the safety of customers and staff. This includes hand sanitiser stations and cleaning stations to wipe down equipment before and after use, new floor and wall signage throughout and repositioned equipment to enable social distancing.



Meanwhile, as part of the Council's ongoing improvement programme for its leisure centres, Waterlane Leisure Centre remains closed while essential specialised work is carried out. This is expected to be completed by February 2021 and customers are encouraged to use other facilities, such as Waveney Valley Leisure Centre in the meantime. For more information about each centre, see the "Places Leisure website."

### **New Environmental Guidance Note approved**

East Suffolk Council continues to put the environment first as it approves new guidance which tackles the impact development can have on the environment.

The Guidance Note was produced after the Council declared a climate emergency and aims to support the Council's environmental vision in building the right environment for East Suffolk and its commitment to be carbon neutral by 2030.

It provides simple, concise information on best practices for reducing the impact on the environment in any new developments or renovations and measures to help achieve this, including energy efficiency, renewable energy, nature and wildlife, sustainable travel, water conservation, materials and waste and more.

### **Further funding available to tackle social isolation**

East Suffolk Council's Hidden Needs Programme, which supports people struggling with social isolation and loneliness, is now accepting new applications.

The programme, which originally launched in 2018, was relaunched by the Council in June with a fund of £100,000 in a response to Covid-19 and adapted to help fund projects which supports people of all ages who are particularly vulnerable during this time.

Following the success of two previous rounds of applications, a third round has now been opened. Applications are invited from local community groups and voluntarily organisations who are delivering projects which can help reduce social isolation and loneliness. Grants of up to £10,000 are available through the scheme and applications must be submitted by 15 January 2021..

### **Melton Hill case dismissed**

East Suffolk Council successfully defended its decision to grant planning permission to develop homes at the site of former offices, Melton Hill, Woodbridge. A Judge in the Administrative Court dismissed all of the claims made against the Council and found that its approach to the granting of planning consent was lawful.

With full Planning Consent in place, East Suffolk Council will now begin the process of marketing the site to interested developers, bringing much needed housing to the area in a prime location.



### **Council Tax**

Your council, during some long and detailed deliberations, has set a target of 0% District Council Tax rise for the next financial year. Of course this very much depends on the government agreeing to a favourable financial settlement and at present we have no reason to believe they will not. We will be told of this in the new year.

We are determined not to see a cut back in our services. The Government are paying the local councils all the money that is being promised for Covid compensation schemes, so we should not be in debt on that account.

### **And finally.**

It has been a privilege to be your District Councillor and meeting so many of you during the course of the last 12 months.

May I take this opportunity of wishing you all a very Happy Christmas and a prosperous and worry free New Year,

**Cllr Colin Hedgley**