

## **August 2015 report for the Thredling Division from Cllr Matthew Hicks**

### **New partnership set to inspire young people**

Councils in Suffolk have announced that they will be working with the Mason Trust to inspire young people about careers in the region. As part of this initiative, a new website and mobile phone app will be developed to provide young people with information and insight into the potential opportunities for fulfilling careers in the local area. The website and app will primarily target 13 to 24 year olds across Suffolk and will enable users to gain an understanding of what many local businesses do, what working for them would be like and what current career opportunities exist. SCC are investing in the development of the platform along with Ipswich Borough Council, Mid-Suffolk District Council and also Babergh District Council as part of a wider work-inspiration programme of activity across Suffolk. The website and app will be developed over the next few months and will be officially launched at the upcoming Suffolk Skills Show on 21 October 2015 at Trinity Park. Employers that would like to be featured on the site can contact Michael Gray at SCC : email [michael.gray@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:michael.gray@suffolk.gov.uk); or 01473 264053. That first step on the career ladder can be the most difficult to take. We are committed to helping our young people get the best start in life, through education, training and on into their careers. There are exciting opportunities for young people to live and work in Suffolk, and this new partnership is a great way of helping demonstrate this.

### **Landlords urged to act on new fire safety laws by Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service**

Landlords in Suffolk are being urged to act now to ensure they are ready for new safety laws aimed at saving dozens of lives a year nationally. From 1<sup>st</sup> October 2015 every privately rented property will need to have a working smoke alarm on every floor as per the new regulation announced by the government. A working carbon monoxide alarm is also required in properties that use and burn solid fuels. Landlords must check the alarms are working at the start of every new tenancy with potential penalties of up to £5,000 if they don't comply. To help landlords in Suffolk gear up for the new regulations, the government has provided the county's fire and rescue service with a number of smoke alarms and carbon monoxide alarms to give out to local landlords. Smoke and carbon monoxide alarms will be distributed on a risk based approach. To apply for smoke alarms and /or carbon monoxide alarms Suffolk Landlords can contact the fire service by: phone on 01473 260588 or via email at [fire.businesssupport@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:fire.businesssupport@suffolk.gov.uk) Fire prevention is extremely important, saving not only money and property, but, far more importantly, lives. We strongly urge landlords to follow up on these new laws and ensure smoke alarms are installed as soon as is possible.

### **Refinancing proposal for Suffolk's Energy from Waste facility will save over £24million**

SCC's cabinet discussed proposals to re-finance part of the capital costs of the Energy from Waste facility at Great Blakenham, when it met in July. The new agreement will reduce contract-fee payments to Suez Environment (formerly SITA UK), saving over £24million over the remaining lifetime of the contract. If all goes to plan, the hope would be that the refinancing will take place later this year. Our energy-from-waste facility is a remarkable success story, helping affirm our commitment to being the greenest county while saving a large amount of money. The refinancing of the deal adds yet another benefit as we look to manage our finances in the coming year.

### **Active for Life: Launch of first Suffolk Walking Strategy**

July saw the launch of the first Suffolk Walking Strategy: a county-wide project to encourage people to walk more, and for organisations to create opportunities for people to enjoy walking wherever they live. Active for Life: Suffolk Walking Strategy 2015-2020 aims to make walking the default choice for journeys of 20 minutes or less on foot and for walking to be seen as fun, beneficial, easy, inclusive, accessible, and safe. The case for walking is clear – most people could improve their health through more physical activity and most of us can walk, yet nearly half of us are inactive to the extent that it is harming our health and wellbeing. Walking is ideal for people of all ages and fitness levels who wish to become more active. It has been shown to reduce the risk of chronic illnesses, such as heart disease, type 2 diabetes, respiratory diseases, stroke and some cancers, all of which are key causes of premature deaths in Suffolk. Alongside the Walking Strategy, partners in Suffolk are hoping to make 2016/17 the 'Suffolk Year of Walking', building on the success of this year's 'Suffolk Year of Cycling' to develop a countywide celebration of walking and encourage new walking opportunities. As part of the Year of Walking, a partnership made up of local councils, voluntary groups and others is calling on local groups and organisations with an interest in walking to come forward with ideas to get Suffolk people involved. To find out more, contact Alexandra Blowers on 01473 260080 or via email [Alexandra.blowers@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:Alexandra.blowers@suffolk.gov.uk)

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