

April 2015 report for the Thredling Division from Cllr Matthew Hicks

Suffolk communities express deep concern at Sizewell traffic impact

Local communities who will see dramatic increase in traffic through their villages should Sizewell C get the go-ahead, have expressed their deep concerns. Community representatives met with councillors who sit on the Joint Local Authorities Group (JLAG) comprising of Suffolk Coastal DC and Suffolk County Council. At the time of EDF's stage one consultation on the proposed Sizewell C development, the two councils expressed grave concern at the inadequacy of EDF's proposals for the B1122. While EDF has not come forward with a proposal for the villages along the B1122, they have acknowledged that it would experience a substantial increase in traffic. EDF also accepts other communities will suffer, including Yoxford, as the gateway for all Sizewell C traffic, and Middleton and Theberton. Graham Newman, SCC's cabinet member for roads, transport and planning said: "If Sizewell C is to be built, I want EDF to consider fully the needs of the local communities which will be most affected. EDF must understand that as the developer, they must come forward with meaningful proposals to offset the impacts. There are very real environmental and community impacts that would come with the predicted substantial increase in traffic on the B1122 which must be fully addressed. The D2 route is strongly advocated by these communities and EDF must address this as part of their response." Suffolk is playing a vital part in ensuring that our country has the energy generation it needs and it is only right that, in turn, our county receives the infrastructure investment it is due. We will fight hard to ensure Suffolk gains significant community and long-term infrastructure benefits from this scheme

New Suffolk Rail Prospectus identifies rail priorities to grow local economy

The newly-written Suffolk Rail Prospectus reveals a number of rail priorities to be delivered in the county over the next 20 years. With focus being placed on new passenger trains, shorter journey times and improved passenger rail service frequency; the prospectus details how these aspirations alongside others will generate big economic returns for the Suffolk. The priorities include: early commitment to high quality new trains; faster journey times to principal destinations such as London Liverpool Street, Cambridge, Lowestoft, Peterborough and Norwich; improved frequency of rail services to key locations and within Suffolk. This includes a direct hourly service between Ipswich and Peterborough and a half-hourly service between Ipswich and Cambridge; up-grading major rail stations, including Lowestoft, Ipswich, Stowmarket, and Bury St Edmunds; and a new direct rail service between Ipswich and Oxford via the East-West Rail Link. Improving rail services in Suffolk and across East Anglia would bring a great many major benefits, not least improving our economic prospects, and job creation. We will work hard with our partners and the government to achieve our much-needed priorities.

Suffolk's Year of Cycling has arrived

Suffolk's Year of Cycling was officially launched to kick off a year of focused activity and to celebrate all that is cycling across Suffolk. The event, which took place at The Apex in Bury St Edmunds, launched the county's bid to promote the many cycling activities taking place between March 2015 and February 2016. Suffolk's Year of Cycling will support a variety of aims, including: encouraging cycling across all sectors of the community, supporting Suffolk's 'Most Active County' ambitions; promoting a transfer to cycling for short distance trips, supporting Suffolk's 'Creating the Greenest County' ambitions; promoting the benefits of cycling for health and for the subsequent savings in the health budget; fostering enthusiasm for cycling in young people; planning and designing for the future with cycling in mind; creating a safe and cycle friendly environment.

Fire Service receives £10K donation from Rotary Clubs to help make homes safer

To support the work that SCC's Fire and Rescue Service carry out in fitting smoke alarms in the homes of vulnerable people, the Rotary Clubs of Suffolk organised an evening presentation to hand over a cheque for £10,000. Held at Cedars Hotel in Stowmarket, the event was attended by over 60 guests including SCC's cabinet member for public protection, Colin Spence, Mark Hardingham, the council's chief fire officer, and Ian Bowell, the area commander. Also in attendance was Rotary President Guy Wiltshear, alongside Peter Andrews and Arnie Bennett from Stowmarket and Gipping Valley Rotary Club, who are also community fire volunteers. The money will be a great boost to the work of the fire service as part of the Safer Home visits programme. The fire service and the Rotary Clubs of Suffolk have been working in partnership for a number of years now to provide and fit smoke alarms in the properties of vulnerable people across Suffolk. The fire service fit between 1500-2000 smoke alarms a year as part of the Safe Home visits.

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