

October 2019 report for the Thredling Division from Cllr Matthew Hicks

Fourth care home in Suffolk receives Outstanding rating

On 30 September, it was reported that Care UK's Mills Meadow care home in Framlingham has been officially rated as 'Outstanding' by the Care Quality Commission. This is the fourth Care UK home in Suffolk to be awarded the Outstanding rating, following in the footsteps of Asterbury Place in Ipswich, Cleves Place, Haverhill, and Mildenhall Lodge, Mildenhall. The report from the CQC highlighted a number of areas that were found to be of the highest quality, including: "People were exceptionally happy with the outstanding care they received from Mills Meadow. They shared numerous examples of the high-quality care that met and exceeded their individual needs and expectations and enhanced their daily lives. Feedback from relatives, visitors and professionals was equally complimentary describing dedicated and compassionate staff, who repeatedly went the extra mile to ensure people's lives were filled with enjoyment, meaningful engagement and inclusion in the place they called home. People were consistently treated with dignity and respect in a way that celebrated and championed them as individuals."

Suffolk Councils set out their concerns, expectations and areas of focus as part of a joint response to EDF Energy's Stage 4 Sizewell C consultation

On 16 September, Suffolk County Council and East Suffolk Council published their proposed joint authority response to EDF Energy's Stage 4 public consultation for a new nuclear site on Suffolk's east coast. Both councils welcomed the further round of public consultation so that EDF Energy could provide additional detail and amendments to the proposals presented at Stage 3. However, both councils were somewhat disappointed that EDF Energy did not use this opportunity to respond to key elements of some of the concerns raised earlier in the process. The joint report makes it clear that the authorities continue to support the principle of a new nuclear power station at Sizewell and recognise the significant benefits that such a development would bring. However, there continues to be concern about the environmental, social and economic impacts of such a large-scale development, especially regarding the cumulative energy-related projects which are currently muted for the east Suffolk coast. Based on the proposals put forward by EDF Energy at Stage 4, both councils want to see a sustainable transport strategy put in place by the energy firm to ensure that every effort is made to reduce the impact on road use and congestion as part of any development that takes place. As part of this mitigation, each council continues to expect EDF Energy to maximise the development and use of marine and rail transport options. The scale of investment surrounding development of a new site at Sizewell would be similar to the London 2012 Olympics, believed to be worth around £14 billion. As part of Stage 4, EDF Energy has projected that the development's workforce would be around 8,500 at its peak which is around 2,500 higher than previously suggested. Once in operation, the power station would create 900 permanent jobs. EDF Energy expects the development to generate £100m for the regional economy during construction and £40m each year during its operation.

Suffolk rail vision

On 6 September, representatives from Suffolk County Council, West Suffolk District Council and the Newmarket Racecourses met with stakeholders from the horse racing industry and Members of Parliament to call for more investment in passenger rail services. The priorities include demands for a half-hourly passenger rail service to Cambridge and direct rail connectivity with Oxford, London, the Midlands, the North of England and Scotland. Information was also presented on the new East West Rail Link, a rail project that will connect Suffolk and Norfolk with Oxford via Cambridge. Delegates learnt how local authorities across Suffolk are working together with key stakeholders in Norfolk and Cambridgeshire, and with the East West Rail Consortium, to improve rail connectivity in the East of England. Investment is considered vital to achieving more frequent passenger rail services and provide wider rail connectivity to the rest of the UK. We are delighted that Suffolk is getting brand new trains, which will do great things for the county, but we also need government to invest in our railway infrastructure. Such investment will deliver more frequent services and make towns more accessible to the rest of the UK.

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