

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

### **Suffolk's leaders launch bid to find locations for Short Stay Stopping Sites**

Leaders across Suffolk's public sector are calling for landowners and other interested parties to suggest sites that could be used for Short-Stay Stopping Sites for the Gypsy and Traveller community. The call for sites aims to identify land on which to locate three short-stay stopping sites for the Gypsy and Traveller community. Suffolk currently does not have any sites of this type. Between 2009 and July 2015, the county has seen 280 unauthorised Gypsy and Traveller encampments. These encampments cost taxpayers tens of thousands of pounds each year to deal with. Other counties which have established short-stay stopping sites have seen a significant reduction in unauthorised encampments. The Call for Sites closes on 15 November. All sites submitted will be carefully assessed against the criteria so the Public Sector Leaders Group can decide which sites to put out for consultation in December 2015. Views received as part of the December consultation will be analysed to help inform the decisions the Public Sector Leaders Group take in February 2016 about which sites to put forward to the planning process. As part of the planning process there would be further periods of public consultation. The aim is to have the sites up and running by the end of 2016. The Call for Sites booklet, a series of FAQs and details of how to respond are all available at [www.suffolk.gov.uk/shortstay](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/shortstay)

### **Health teams in Suffolk launch new childhood illnesses app**

Public Health Suffolk and Suffolk's clinical commissioning groups have launched a comprehensive guide to common childhood illnesses aimed at parents and carers. The new booklet and app will provide a helpful information package during times when they may need a bit of extra help or advice. The free booklet "The Guide: Common Childhood Illnesses and Wellbeing in Suffolk", contains information on wellbeing, common illnesses and how to keep children safe and healthy. It also provides advice on when to consult the GP or health visitor and information on common illnesses such as chickenpox, colds, sore throats and ear infections. Suffolk residents can also download and view the information on their phones and tablets via the App Store and Googleplay by searching Suffolk Child Health. As well as a booklet, the information is available to view online in a downloadable form on [www.healthysuffolk.org.uk](http://www.healthysuffolk.org.uk)

### **Suffolk smokers urged to sign up to Stoptober with friends, family and colleagues to boost chances of quitting**

With data showing that 18.5% of Suffolk residents are smokers, Suffolk residents who smoke are being urged to sign up to Stoptober - the country's 28-day mass quit attempt initiated by Public Health England. Along the way, they will receive support and encouragement every step of the way from some of the nation's top comedians. To stand an even better chance of quitting, Suffolk residents are encouraged to sign up with their friends, family and colleagues, as evidence reveals that this type of collective quitting can dramatically improve people's chances of successfully stopping. Research shows that smokers are two thirds (67%) more likely to quit when their spouse stops smoking, and a third more likely to quit when a close friend (36%) or someone they work with (34%) stops. The data also show that individuals are much more likely (61%) to smoke if their partner or a close friend smokes – demonstrating the powerful influence that people's social networks have on their own smoking behaviour. This year, Stoptober will be providing quitters with a personal touch from some of the nation's leading comedians – Bill Bailey, Rhod Gilbert, Al Murray and Shappi Khorsandi. Messages of support and encouragement will be sent straight to quitters' phones and emails throughout October. Over a quarter of a million people across the country signed up to Stoptober last year with more than half making it to 28 days; this year, it is expected the campaign will welcome the millionth sign up. By stopping smoking for 28 days you are five times more likely to stop for good.

### **Graduates take the first step on the teaching career ladder in Suffolk**

More than 50 graduates have started new careers in Suffolk schools thanks to an innovative internship programme. In a partnership between Schools' Choice and Suffolk schools supported by SCC, interns get one academic year of paid experience, teaching and working with children and young people. Around 20 schools will host the interns including primary schools, a pupil referral unit, a special school, academies and Local Authority maintained schools. They will receive development support, the chance to work in specific interest areas, such as special education needs or social work, and help with making career choices or applications for further professional training. Recruiting, developing and retaining quality teachers in Suffolk are key aims of our Raising the Bar programme, as we recognise how crucial this is to continuing to improve educational standards in the county. This new programme of internships in schools is a fantastic opportunity for graduates to gain paid work experience and see if working in education is the right career path for them.

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