

October 2017 report for the Thredling Division from Cllr Matthew Hicks

Consultation announced for A12 four village bypass as part of SEGWay scheme

SCC is inviting people to have their say on proposals to build a bypass between Saxmundham and Wickham Market as part of Suffolk's Energy Gateway (SEGWay). The four-and-a-half mile single carriageway section of the A12 links two dual carriageway sections of highway. Tourism is a highly important sector for the economy in this area of Suffolk. There is limited rail access and so resorts and popular cultural events in the area depend largely on the A12, resulting in high traffic volumes during the summer months. At the end of 2016, SCC successfully secured funding from the Department for Transport's (DfT) to further develop the business case for a scheme which aims to deliver improvements to this section of the A12. The final case for government funding will be submitted before the end of the year. The proposed scheme aims to build a bypass for Farnham, Stratford St Andrew, Glemham and Marlesford to: reduce congestion and journey delay; improve journey time reliability, providing support for the local economy and improved productivity; reduce community severance; provide the capacity required to enable, support and deliver growth across all economic sectors, including the potential future construction and operation of Sizewell C nuclear power station; reduce accidents; improve air quality and reduce noise impacts for communities alongside the A12; future proof the function of the A12. The Council is now sharing two possible route options:

Option 1: A single carriageway route that would begin at a new roundabout junction with the A1094 and the A12 Saxmundham Bypass at Friday Street. It would then run south, to the east of the A12 and the four villages of Farnham, Stratford St. Andrew, Little Glemham and Marlesford, crossing the rivers Alde and Ore. It would re-join the current A12 alignment where the current dual carriageway Wickham Market Bypass begins. The new road would follow a relatively direct alignment, which reflects design standards for a 60mph single carriageway road.

Option 2: A dual carriageway route that would begin at a new roundabout junction with the A1094 and the A12 Saxmundham Bypass at Friday Street. Like option 1, it would then run south, to the east of the A12 and the four villages, crossing the rivers Alde and Ore. It would re-join the current A12 alignment immediately to the north of the A12/B1078 Wickham Market interchange. The new road would follow a more curved alignment, suitable for 70mph dual carriageway roads. The consultation will run until Wednesday 25 October and full details of the proposals can be viewed at www.suffolk.gov.uk/consultations

Reminder to check white goods as Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service marks UK Home Safety Week

People in Suffolk are being urged to check their white goods and to not use them unattended in an attempt to reduce the risk of fires starting in the home. As part of UK Home Safety Week, fire services up and down the country are recommending people register their appliances in case of recalls, but to also be aware that incidents can occur when a product isn't on a recall list. Damage and severity of a fire, should one occur, is dramatically reduced if they are not left running while everyone is asleep or out of the house. Early indicators of potential risks can be quickly noticed, such as smells, unusual sounds or the appliance not performing as expected. People are also being urged to check their smoke and carbon monoxide alarms, and to make sure they know how they will exit their home if a fire does occur. In 2015/16, more than 15,000 accidental fires in the home were caused by cookers and white goods across the UK. In 2016/17 in Suffolk, there were 29 incidents caused by white goods – to date in 2017/18, there have been 11. Suffolk Trading Standards are also informing people of the campaign, reminding them to regularly check the recalled list of domestic appliances, and to follow their weekly product recall campaign, #CheckItTuesday on Twitter. We would urge people to register their appliances at www.registermyappliance.org.uk This online safety initiative, which is supported by fire services and government represents nearly 90% of white goods brands and allows people to register appliances new and up to 12 years old so if there's a safety recall they can be contacted.

Suffolk County Council Guidance on Neighbourhood Planning

In recent months, there has been a significant uptake in local communities beginning work on neighbourhood plans across Suffolk. Their principal engagement is with District Council however many of the issues raised in these plans relate to County Council services, from education through to the rights of way network. A document has been prepared giving guidance on the impact that neighbourhood plans may have on matters that are this Council's responsibilities. For each topic there are sections on: What does the national policy say? What can a neighbourhood plan do and how we can help? What have others done? It is intended that this will prove useful for those groups developing neighbourhood plans and provide a more focussed discussion with County Council officers. For more info visit: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/planning-waste-and-environment/planning-and-development-advice/new-scc-page/>

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