

SOUTHWOLD NEWS

APRIL 2024

Southwold Town Council



Welcome from the Mayor of Southwold Simon Flunder



The theme for my mayoral year has been volunteering. It is to celebrate those people who work hard behind the scenes within local organisations and don't always receive the public recognition and the thanks they deserve. This became very evident to me when the Town Council decided to set up a stall for Tourist information in the market place last summer. Very quickly we were overwhelmed by the offers of support to man the stall.

The Town Council made contact with Community Action Suffolk and there have now been three meetings with members of volunteering organisations within the area, helping with networking, funding and governance advice. What has been most pleasing is the attendance at these meetings. With the cost-of-living crisis we are all experiencing two of the most satisfactory outcomes have been the setting up of the Pantry in the Reydon Village Hall and the Food bank in the Southwold Methodist Church.

Last May's election brought eight new councillors onto the Council who are all volunteers too. I am sure they will agree with me that Southwold faces a diverse range of issues, and it takes time to understand the issues and challenges. But everyone has now found their feet and we have commissioned a range of projects, many of which are detailed within this newsletter.

The Trustees of Southwold Common are managing the common in line with advice from Suffolk Wildlife Trust. The sports clubs are flourishing on the Common with the Rugby, Football and Cricket Clubs all experiencing success and the Golf Club has invested in a swing room and new irrigation system.

The Arts Centre is thriving and will be hosting the Summer Theatre with Aldeburgh. There are many events run by volunteers to look forward to within the town - the Arts Festival is at the end of June, and the RNLI have their 200 year activities, whilst the Sailing Club are celebrating their 75th year with a Harbour event on Saturday 29th June. On the same date the Street Festival is taking place in the High Street, whilst the Lions fete is on Sunday 26th May. I would also like to highlight the work of Light Up Southwold who made the Christmas Lights such a success in 2023 and who are already planning the switch on event on Saturday 30th November 2024.

It is clear, that without everyone who gives up time to volunteer, many of the activities that the town relies on would not be happening – so thank you again to everyone who volunteers in any way at all.

Cllr Simon Flunder - Town Mayor (2023/2024)

Southwold Town Council Contact details

Address: Town Hall
Market Place
Southwold
Suffolk IP18 6EF

Tel: 01502 722576

Town Clerk email:
townclerk@southwoldtowncouncil.com

Admin email:
admin@southwoldtowncouncil.com

Website:
www.southwoldtown.com

Town Hall Opening Hours

Monday - Friday
9.30am - 12pm
2pm - 4pm

Southwold Town Councillors

Cllr David Beavan
Cllr Philip Davy
Cllr Simon Flunder
Cllr Vicky Gladwell
Cllr Paula Goldsmith
Cllr Rhys Jarvis
Cllr Jane Miller
Cllr Martin Palmer
Cllr Victoria Redington
Cllr Jonathan Sutton
Cllr Robert Temple
Cllr Michael Wells

Other Civic Dignataries

High Steward - Graham Denny
Sgt-at-Mace - Steve Wright
Town Crier - David Burrows

April Update on Projects

The completion of the building for the **Station Yard hub** is a project which was started with the view of diversifying the local economy by establishing space for knowledge-based businesses. Mixbrow the contractors, the architects and project managers have done a good job and the building is coming along well. The building is due to be completed in May 2024 and will then be operated by Menta who have commenced advertising the workspaces and units with the first occupants moving in during June. Menta will be supporting new business start-ups and existing businesses throughout the town.

As part of the project, there is also a new shop at the corner of Station Road with a one bedroom flat above, both of which are presently being advertised for rent - see https://www.rightmove.co.uk/properties/145892096#/?channel=RES_LET



Site before construction



Block 2 April 2024

Promoting the town and the businesses and organisations within it is vital to the success of this area. To this end the Town Council has so far hosted five **meetings for businesses and organisations** to come together, encouraging participation and networking throughout Southwold and neighbouring parishes. As a Town and community, we have so much to offer. From those meetings the first request was that a 'one stop shop' be created to give an opportunity to showcase the businesses and organisations, and to provide residents and visitors with important information about the town, including maps and dates of events. As a result the Town Council is working with the businesses and organisations to develop a 'one stop shop' website for the Town which will hopefully become live in June. More information to follow soon.

The recent consultation by the Town Council **Roads Committee** received over 500 replies and the results can be viewed in full on our website: www.southwoldtown.com. On the 3 matters for which feedback was requested, the majority of respondents were in favour of a 20mph speed limit for the town. The Council took note of the feedback provided re the suggestion of raised crossing points in the High Street and is taking forward to Suffolk County Council a request now for just 2 of these to help pedestrian safety without taking away any car parking spaces. The Town Council is liaising with Suffolk County Council to have these schemes costed and will then consider the next steps. On the third part of the consultation, the selected resident parking areas have been maintained as they are.

Road signage is the other part of the project which the Committee is dealing with and the Council request for improved road signage is also being costed by SCC.

The Town Council installed a 7kw **vehicle electric charging unit** on Church Green in Cumberland Road several years ago which has been very successful and well used. The Council is now delighted to have enhanced the provision of electric charging units by installing 2 x 47kw fast chargers in the Gardner Road car park. These are now fully operational and available for use with designated spaces marked out.



April Update on Projects

Having completed the opening of Ferry Road Garden, the **Leisure and Environment Committee** is now working on the next stage of this project which is to gain funding to link the footpath over the new Jubilee Bridge from Waters Copse, into the garden. Grant applications have been submitted to several funding pots and fingers crossed that this can progress later in the year. Whilst waiting for the outcome of these bids, the Committee is also undertaking a project to spruce up the large shelter on North Parade for which it has already received funding. The shelter has recently been decorated, and the next stage is to then incorporate some colourful information boards inside the shelter which are due to be installed by the summer. Staying along the prom, the Council is working with the Community Payback team to have all the seafront railings painted – and this project should be starting in June.



Photo credit: Southwold Press Ltd

You will have noticed the construction of the new skatepark on the Klondyke area which the Council owns. We hope that this exciting project is one which both local residents and visitors will enjoy using once the park is completed in May. The Council is also looking at the play equipment at Tibbys Green play area, as several pieces which have been greatly used over the years are now in need of some improvement and upgrade. Other maintenance which we are presently undertaking is to some of the memorial benches throughout the town, the town sign in Electricity Green, and the stocks in Bartholomew Green.

With the amount of rainfall we have had, the Town marshes were flooded over the winter months, but the Town Council has been working with its tenant farmer and the Harbour management team to clear blockages in the dykes and ensure the sluices are working well. This has resulted in the marshes draining well again, to enable the cattle to go on as usual.

'The effect of climate change and impact of the high level of rainfall is very clear and Potters Bridge has been the subject of much debate - a recent agency meeting has developed a Road Map which identifies short, medium, and long term actions, with all parties working together to keep access open.

Consultations

Southwold Town Council responds to consultations at both national and local level on behalf of Southwold.

The Council is a statutory consultee on planning applications and other issues around planning in the parish area. The Planning Committee takes its role very seriously and meets twice per month to consider applications received from the District Council and to then respond to them within the statutory timescales. If the District Council then considers any Southwold planning application at its own monthly public meetings, the Town Council will attend to speak on behalf of the parish. In 2023 alone the Town Council looked at and responded to 73 planning applications.

In addition, the Council considers and responds to national consultations – the most significant presently being the Lionlink project which has been the subject to a scoping report and will focus on landfall options at Walberswick and Southwold as well as the cable route to a converter station at Saxmundham and substation at Friston.

Many other consultations have been considered and responded to by the Town Council throughout the year and present ones which we are looking at include the Suffolk County Council proposed Devolution Consultation - www.suffolk.gov.uk/devolution and the Southwold Harbour and Static Caravan site consultation - www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/visitors/southwold-harbour for which there will be a drop in event being held at Southwold Town Hall on Tuesday 14th May 2024 at 1.30pm for people to learn more about the options being considered and the consultation ends on Wednesday 22nd May 2024.

Come along and join us at these civic events

Opening of the Charter Fair on South Green on Thursday 30th May at midday
(with the Fair then staying until Sunday 2nd June)

D Day Anniversary commemoration event – Thursday 6th June 2024 at St Edmunds Church at 7pm

Civic Songs of Praise alongside the Southwold Arts Festival on Sunday 23rd June 2024
- parade leaving the Town Hall 10.40am with the service at St Edmunds Church at 11am

Council Tax Information

Council Tax is a locally set tax which is charged on domestic properties which helps to pay for the services provided by all the local authorities in your area. These include East Suffolk Council, Suffolk County Council, the Police and Crime Commissioner for Suffolk and the town or parish council where you live.

Local Precept Information

The Parish Precept forms part of resident's council tax which funds services provided by the Town Council. Despite inflationary pressures, and rising costs, the town council was once again keen not to increase the tax charge from itself onto households. So, for the 7th year in a row the council has kept the charge the same as the year before. In 2024.25 this will mean that a Band D equivalent property will pay £2.10 per week towards the work of the Town Council. The monies paid by households, together with income generated from other means funds the management and maintenance of items such as;

- General maintenance around the town
- Seating, Memorial Seats, Bus Shelters, Notice Boards, Directional Fingerposts, Directional Signage, Flower Tubs and some planters
- Additional footpath cutting
- Community events
- 2 Defibrillators
- Some of the bin emptying
- Tibbys Green play area equipment and open space
- Klondyke play equipment and open space
- Ferry Road Garden and the garden at the entrance to town
- Donations to community organisations
- CCTV
- Part of the Public wi fi provision
- 3 Electric Vehicle Chargers
- Southwold Website (launching June 2024)

Note that alongside the above, the maintenance of the council property portfolio is paid for by the income generated from renting out the properties- and is not funded by the precept tax.

Next Town Council Meeting Dates

All at the Town Hall

Tuesday 30th April 2024 at 7.30pm

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**Tuesday 7th May 2024 at 6pm**  
**Annual Meeting of the Town Council**  
**with Election of Mayor**

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Tuesday 28th May 2024 at 7.30pm

Other contacts

Suffolk County Council

For queries relating to:

Roads: Transport and Potholes

Local History and Archives

Registration Services

Blue Badges

Libraries

Education and Schools

Children's Services

Street Lights

Email: customer.services@suffolk.gov.uk

Phone: 0345 606 6067

SCC Highways on-line reporting tool:

<https://highwaysreporting.suffolk.gov.uk>

East Suffolk Council

For queries relating to:

Planning

Elections

Licensing

Housing

Dogs on the beach

Events

Refuse collections

Dogs on the beach

Email: customerservices@eastsuffolk.gov.uk

Phone: 0330 162 000

East Suffolk Services Ltd

Undertake a range of services on behalf of East Suffolk Council including:

Grounds maintenance

CCTV

Home Alarms

Street Cleansing

Facilities Management

Parking enforcement

Email:

customerservices@eastsuffolkservices.co.uk

Phone: 03300 166111

Police

Phone: 101 for non emergency or

Suffolk Constabulary on-line reporting tool:

<https://www.suffolk.police.uk>