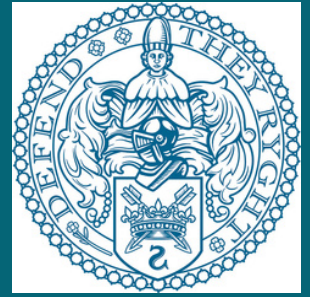


SOUTHWOLD NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2024

Southwold Town Council



Welcome from the Mayor of Southwold Simon Flunder



I am both honoured and delighted to have been re-elected as your Town Mayor for a second term. This role has provided me with an opportunity to continue celebrating the incredible work of volunteers across our town. Many of the events we cherish wouldn't be possible without the tireless efforts of these volunteers behind the scenes. Volunteers including my fellow councillors and the staff at the Town Hall also work year-round to maintain the beauty of our town, so that it remains a special place to live, visit and work.

Since the beginning of this Mayoral Year, the Council has hosted several important community and civic events, including the annual Charter Fair, Charter Lunch, and Civic Service. This year, we had the pleasure of holding the Civic Service jointly with the Arts Festival, a collaboration that proved so successful we plan to repeat it in 2025. A heartfelt thank you goes to the Band of the Royal British Legion, Leiston, who provided the musical accompaniment for the Civic Parade, making the event truly memorable. We are privileged to be one of the few towns they still march for, and it remains a highlight for both residents and visitors alike. Additionally, I'd like to acknowledge the musicians and singers who joined the Service at St Edmunds Church who helped create a really special atmosphere.

This summer, we've enjoyed a series of wonderful events including the Street Festival, Southwold Harbour Festival, Arts Festival, Music on the Green, RNLI Lifeboat Day, and the Anniversary of D-Day. Each of these events, which bring so much joy and pride to our community, was made possible by volunteers. Looking ahead, we have the much-anticipated Christmas Lights switch-on, organised by the Light Up Southwold team. I know it will be another magical evening.

The Town Council continues to work on projects and get involved in matters which are important to our community. The Station Yard Hub is now complete, opening its doors to its first clients in July. The new skatepark was officially opened in August, whilst the Tourist Information Centre should be ready to open very soon, following the purchase of the building by the Town Council earlier in the year. The new 'Visit Southwold' website is up and running – offering a one stop shop for information to help both visitors and residents. Council Members actively keep up to date with information from Lionlink and the other National Energy Projects which are likely to affect our area, and as a Council we ensure that we attend briefing meetings and respond to each consultation, to ensure that these companies understand the views and concerns of those who live here.

Finally, I'd like to welcome our newest Town Councillor, Carl Hurr, who was recently co-opted following the resignation of Cllr Jonathan Sutton. Carl is well known for his work with the Community Skatepark Group, and it's fantastic to see the skatepark project come to fruition, providing a space for all ages to enjoy. You can read more about this on page 2.

Thank you to all for your continued support, and I look forward to us all working together for the betterment of Southwold.

Cllr Simon Flunder - Town Mayor (2024/2025)

Southwold Town Council Contact details

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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 Carl Hurr
Cllr Rhys Jarvis
Cllr Jane Miller
Cllr Martin Palmer
Cllr Victoria Redington
Cllr Robert Temple
Cllr Michael Wells

Other Civic Dignitaries

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

New Skatepark at The Klondyke is open



L to R: Trevor Clifford (RDC), Town Mayor, Simon Flunder, Carl and Mel Community Skatepark Group. Photo credit: Rob Howarth Photography.

We are thrilled to announce that the long-awaited skatepark at The Klondyke is now complete and ready to welcome visitors! This project, a collaboration between the Community Skatepark Group, and the Town Council, marks a significant milestone. Both organisations are overjoyed to see this vision come to life and are excited to invite everyone to enjoy the new facilities.

The skatepark's completion is a testament to the hard work and dedication of the Community Skatepark Group. Their passion for providing a safe, fun, and inclusive space for skaters of all ages has driven this project from inception to reality. This new venue promises to be a hub of activity and a place where skaters can hone their skills, socialise, and engage in healthy recreation.

A special thank you must be given to the following organisations for their various levels of financial support alongside that of the Town Council. East Suffolk District Council who as well as providing a substantial grant, supported the design and construction of the park, Southwold and Reydon Recreational Development Council, which is the charitable organisation that enabled the funds to be channelled to the project. Suffolk County Council Cllr Michael Ladd provided funding from his locality allowance and the Southwold Trust made significant contributions. In addition there have been many community organisations and individuals that donated to the project.



Stakeholders who helped fund. Photo credit: Rob Howarth Photography.



Russ Heideman of Wheelscape. Photo credit: Rob Howarth Photography.

As we welcome you to the new skatepark, we kindly ask visitors to help keep the site clean and tidy. This will ensure that everyone can enjoy the facilities in the best possible condition. Additionally, please be mindful that the grass seed around the park has not yet fully grown. As a result, the surrounding areas might be muddy, so please keep to the concrete/grass areas.

Extension of Southwold Foopath and Town Trail

Southwold Town Council has successfully completed an extension to their Town Trail project, which now includes the shelter on the upper prom on North Parade. The extension of the project was made possible by funding from Southwold Town Council and the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.



Photo credit: Rob Howarth Photography

The information panels in the Shelter consist of a series of questions and answers prepared by the students who use Southwold as part of their work alongside the Geography Fieldwork Academy, and were designed by the Academy alongside JM Environmental Limited - with designs by local artist Joe Barnes.

The original trails were completed as part of a grant from the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) in association with the Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE) under their Growth programme.



Photo credit: Rob Howarth Photography

The Town Trail includes 4 wooden sculptures, 6 sky watching seats, and information boards detailing the history of various sites, located on lamp-posts and in individual boards around the town.

Station Yard Hub

Station Yard Hub is now complete - inside the Hub there is shared office space as well as individual offices to rent, plus a meeting room is available to hire – all enquiries should be directed to Jess at the Hub on jessica@menta.org.uk. Menta themselves are supporting both new business start ups and existing businesses throughout the town, and will soon be holding an open event for people to go and have a look around the building.

As part of the project, there is also a new shop available to rent on the corner of Station Road which is being advertised through; https://www.rightmove.co.uk/properties/145910225#/?channel=COM_LET

Taking Pride in our Community - 'Clean Up Southwold'

Sunday 13th October 2024

The Town Council is organising a "Clean Up Southwold" morning on Sunday, October 13th. We will be meeting outside the Town Hall at 10am and we would love everyone who can to join us. We will provide litter-picking equipment and gloves, so all you need to bring is your enthusiasm!

Many volunteers, businesses and organisations already help year-round to maintain the beauty of our town. From weeding and planting bulbs to regular litter picking and pavement sweeping, their efforts help to retain the appearance and cleanliness of Southwold. Thank you also to Craig Smith from East Suffolk Services for his assistance in clearing pavements and weeds and to the Community Payback Team for the painting of the railings on the seafront.

If you're unable to join us on 13th October, but would still like to get involved, please get in touch with the Town Hall at admin@southwoldtowncouncil.com.

Information from National Grid Ventures: LionLink Ground Investigation Survey Works

LionLink is one of currently five energy projects that are planned to impact East Suffolk over the next decade or more of construction, thereafter leaving lasting visual footprints of a third nuclear power station at Sizewell, an enormous new sub-station at Friston with equally enormous convertor stations clustered in proximity to the substation serving a number of cable projects. The impact for residents and on tourism and businesses will be telling, not to mention on the tranquil landscape and ecologically important sites of East Suffolk. STC is alive to this threat and engaging with other affected councils to try and discuss with Government the broader issue of the cumulative effect of these projects and alternative offshore options, as well as focusing on the home front danger posed by LionLink.

LionLink, part of National Grid, is planning an interconnector electricity cable to run between the Netherlands and England and proposing to bring the cable onshore either north of the Southwold pier car park or south of Walberswick before running underground to a convertor station near Saxmundham. STC as a statutory consultee is using every opportunity to comment on these proposals.



As the latest stage in the project, LionLink is about to embark on ground investigation surveys along its two chosen cable paths and works will shortly be noticeable over the area north of the pier car park with works traffic approaching from Pier Avenue and through the car park. STC will be monitoring the impact of these works on the Town.

We expect to know in the first quarter of next year which is LionLink's chosen landfall site and whether Southwold will be directly impacted by the project. The wider impact on East Suffolk's community remains whichever site is chosen and STC will be involved as much as resources allow in the ongoing planning process and thereafter. We would be interested to learn of anyone with relevant expertise who would be willing to work with the Council in this endeavour.

Craftco/Tourist Information Centre Opening

As part of its strategy to help retain independent shops in the High Street, the Town Council has recently purchased the property at 40a High Street – previously known as Craftco.



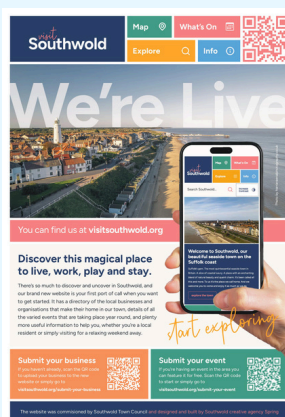
Photo credit: Rob Howarth Photography

The Town Council worked with those owners of Craftco who wished to continue the business to understand their needs, with the result that both the business and a Tourist Information Centre will be catered for in the building. More information about the TIC is set out below.

Visit Southwold Website

Promoting the town, businesses and organisations in Southwold.

The 'one stop shop', which was requested at one of the first meetings of the businesses and organisations networking events, has now come to fruition with the development and launch of the new town website showcasing all that Southwold has to offer. See 'Visit Southwold' – www.visitsouthwold.org.



From events and things to do, tide times, parking information, where to shop or eat, bus timetables, and any information which is regularly requested by residents and visitors, has been made available through the website, which was designed and completed by Spring.

Also available through the website is the webcam installed on Gun Hill (kindly supplied by Mumfords) see QR code.



To help visitors access the information which they might need when staying locally or visiting for the day, a digital portal has been installed within the newly created Tourist Information Centre within Craftco on the High Street (see photo).



Photo credit: Rob Howarth Photography

Next Town Council Meeting Dates All at the Town Hall

Tuesday 1st October 2024 at 7.30pm

Tuesday 29th October 2024 at 7.30pm

Tuesday 26th November 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: 0333 016 2000

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: 0330 016 6111

Police

Phone: 101 for non emergency or
Suffolk Constabulary on-line reporting tool:
<https://www.suffolk.police.uk>