

THE TOWN FLYER



CONNECTING THE COMMUNITY

On behalf of the Town Council I am pleased to provide this update on matters of importance and information for all members of the Southwold community. Permanent residents, second home owners, businesses and interest groups may have different perspectives, but the thing that unites us is the health and prosperity of our wonderful Town.

The Town Council has priorities in place to address the issues that affect us all. In this communication we set out to touch on some of them, and invite you to connect with us, in order that we may keep in touch.

As Councillors, we believe that connecting the community is vital to ensuring the future of our Town, preserving its character, and adapting to a changing world.

With best wishes,

Ian Bradbury

Town Mayor



COMMUNITY MATTERS

The Town Council has developed a list of seven Priorities to cover the central issues concerning the Town. For each one on the list, below, we have plans and ideas to address the issues, through committees and working groups reporting to the Town Council.

We recognise the critical importance of residents, visitors and businesses alike, as well as our place in the wider world.

1. Differentiate the tourism offer
2. Diversify and enhance the local economy
3. Encourage full time residency within the Town
4. Preserve and enhance the natural and built environment and respond, appropriately, to the climate change emergency
5. Effectively manage our income streams in order to secure a firm financial base
6. Improve access, parking and transport
7. Implement an improved communication strategy

During the coming months, workstreams will be developed and implemented with regard to all of these strategic issues. And, by completing the form on the last page here, the Town Council will be able to receive your feedback, directly, and keep you informed and **Connected**.

SOUTHWOLD TOWN COUNCILLORS

Town Mayor	Ian Bradbury
Deputy Mayor	Ann Betts
	David Beavan
	Simon Flunder
	Paula Goldsmith
	Jessica Jeans
	Julie Jordan
	Michael Ladd
	Michael Rowan-Robinson
	Simon Tobin
	Melanie Tucker
	Will Windell

East Suffolk Councillor	David Beavan - david.beavan@eastsuffolk.gov.uk
Suffolk County Councillor	Michael Ladd - michael.ladd@suffolk.gov.uk

Town Clerk 01502 722576 townclerk@southwoldtowncouncil.com	Lesley Beevor Town Hall, Market Place, Southwold IP18 6EF
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TOURISM MATTERS

Tourism is the lifeblood of Southwold's economy and many see the Town as the jewel in the crown of the Suffolk coast.

We see welcoming visitors as a privilege and recognise the need to provide proper facilities to enhance their experience of the Town. Presenting the Town in its best light for everyone's enjoyment is made up of many small things.

There are many examples, but keeping the pavements in the High Street clean and tidy, even in the height of summer, takes a massive amount of effort, and thanks to everyone who went the extra mile this year to help the Town look clean, even on the busiest of days. Many people come to Southwold and comment on its cleanliness – and it is therefore important that we all try and do our bit to keep the Town tidy.

Special thanks to the Norse workforce who empty bins, do litter picking in the High Street, and to those businesses who regularly clean the pavement immediately in front of their premises; every 5 minutes of cleaning/litter picking makes such a difference. The Town Council has paid for pavements to be washed down, and thanks to Norse for arranging this through Pegasus Welfare. The team did such a good job that we are aware that some businesses have employed Pegasus to do this work on a regular basis outside their own shops. This will make a huge difference to the Town – so thank you to those who seek to improve the image of their business in this way.

The hanging baskets and flowers throughout the Town also received many compliments, and it would



be lovely if more businesses felt able to support this initiative next year. It would be fantastic if, one day, the Town felt able to enter the Coastal Town category of the Anglia in Bloom competition. Thanks to all those who provided floral displays outside this

year, and if any other businesses would like to help in arranging hanging baskets, tubs or floral displays next year, or feel able to sponsor more floral displays in the Town then please do let the Town Clerk's Office know (admin@southwoldtowncouncil.com).

MIGHTS ROAD GARDEN

The Town Council is rightly proud of the landscaping created at the entrance



to the Town on Might's Road; it is another example of what is being achieved by way of good design and amenity. Thanks to Louis Champaign and his team for creating this colourful garden. The Town Council is now in the process of upgrading the bus stop with new side panels and roof and a seat will be put inside the structure.

A BOARDS

Trying to balance the need for businesses to promote their goods and services whilst enabling the pavements to remain free-flowing during the summer, is sometimes challenging. Each year we receive complaints about cluttered pavements. With regularity the Town Council sends out a copy of the permitted size for A boards and the County Council's guidance for street furniture. The number of complaints did seem to reduce this year so thank you to all businesses for helping on this.

Tables and chairs outside eateries bring their own separate challenges and there is specific County Council guidance on this which we will distribute again in the New Year. To help to enable this guidance to be achieved the Town Council is looking into the possibility of whether, at a local level, it could be the 'permitted authority' for licensing the provision of tables and chairs outside individual premises. This could have potential benefits for Southwold and we will keep you informed should there be any progress to report.

ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

Within our list of Priorities we cover points relating to the natural and built environment, and also our responsibilities in relation to climate change.

CLIMATE EMERGENCY

The August meeting of the Town Council declared a climate emergency in line with other Councils across the country. Councillors are determined to effect change, however small and time-dependent, to mitigate an ever-expanding awareness of human complicity. The Town Council will seek to implement measures designed to reduce carbon emissions and take steps to set an example in its conduct and educational responsibility.

Readers should also be aware that the Town Council has a ***Single-Use Plastics' Policy***, that may be seen on its website: www.southwoldtown.com

WINDFARMS

The proposed offshore windfarm site developed by Scottish Power and East Anglia 2 Ltd is located in the North Sea off the coast of Southwold.

Suffolk County Council (SCC) has developed a visual impact assessment of proposals for 75 wind turbines, each 300 metres (984 feet) high; eight times the height of the Southwold Lighthouse, to be sited off the Suffolk coast overlooking the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).

The Project is at the stage of consultation with regard to its draft Environmental Statement, but the major effect will be on its visual impact as viewed from Gun Hill, in particular. Southwold, and its neighbouring coast, is popular because of its uncluttered seascape and open skies. The effect of 300m high wind turbines will change the relationship between people and the environment with, one presumes Natural England (NE) being a key Consultee for the Project.

Your Council supports the development of renewable energy, but believes that mitigation of the visual impact should be a principle worth fighting for in order to preserve the seascape, especially where tourism is so vital to the local economy.

With these considerations in mind Southwold Town Councillors were invited to look at SCC's visual impact assessment at a meeting on Gun Hill in October.

From now on, representations will be discussed and implemented, in accordance with open public debate, and it is important that the opinions of parishioners, visitors and neighbouring parishes are heard.

AS EVER, HAVE YOUR SAY ON MATTERS OF PROFOUND IMPORTANCE TO YOU.

ESC WILDLIFE

Rewilding is a great way to let nature fully recover while providing communities with new opportunities. It brings an abundance of life back to the land, encourages more animals, birds, trees and plants to thrive and creates more opportunities for human life to flourish.

During the recent East Suffolk Council (ESC) and Southwold Town Council consultation, people were asked to suggest areas where rewilding might be considered appropriate. Many felt that the most appropriate places would be along verges, hedgerows, and areas of land not regularly maintained, as well as in places on the Common. Some felt that the main greens should be kept cut and maintained as at present, with some requesting additional cuts and maintenance for specific areas. In addition, there were requests for more formal flower beds to be created in one or two of the greens. With a combination of these ideas, we will be able to encourage more natural habitats and provide a varied green landscape. The next steps are to engage with ESC on a plan to incorporate suggestions within a broader maintenance programme and test its functionality. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this consultation; your thoughts and opinions are invaluable.

OUR TOWN MATTERS

Here are just a few points of interest and information.

TOWN CYCLE RACKS - ACCESS FROM THE SWAN YARD

A facility, to park cycles at the rear of the Town Hall has, after some months' preparation, been recreated in an area once used as a bin store. It may be reached through the archway between the Town Hall and the Swan Hotel, past a locked blue gate, to the left, and through an open-access entrance. Planting of two climbers, a native Ivy and a Jasmine, should, in



due course, provide a green-roofed section to the front with covered roof shielding the bicycle racks from inclement weather, behind. To complete the installation of the site, an electric bike charging point is planned.

The Town Council hopes that the cycle park will be well-received as an attempt to improve both the security and ease of parking bicycles in the vicinity of the Market Place.

PCSO BEN REPORTING

Summer 2019 has been very positive for the Town with some fantastic weather bringing in hundreds of visitors. Many businesses, both new and established, have reported a successful few months and parking issues were noticeably less significant than during the Summer of 2018. A meeting between Police, Southwold Town Council, East Suffolk Council and Suffolk Highways was held in September to help improve traffic management, in general.

As winter approaches, the number of people visibly reduces, so residents are being asked to **keep an eye open for each other**, due to hours of daylight diminishing, and the potential for isolation and loneliness increases. Further, Suffolk Constabulary has been running a Crime Awareness week to highlight how crime can uniquely affect real communities.

There have been two reported thefts from High Street shops, and an attempted break-in, recently; in each case, investigations continue. Shops looking to ordering and displaying Christmas stock are being asked to think about the prevention of criminal activity; something that can be achieved by limiting the amount of merchandise on the floor while allowing for greater visibility.

As everyone knows, Southwold's PCSO is always happy to give advice and guidance whenever possible and he is ideally placed to seek advice from other professionals, too, should he be unable to supply an immediate answer to a question. Members of the public seeking advice on police-related matters in general can be signposted to the Suffolk Constabulary website advice page at: <https://www.suffolk.police.uk/advice>

MAYOR'S CHARITIES

Michael Rowan-Robinson, Southwold Town Mayor, 2018/19, raised money for two different charities during his Mayoral Year.

(1) **The Southwold and Reydon Recreational Development Council**, to support sporting opportunities for young people and children.

If you are involved with a local organisation offering sporting opportunities for young people and children, please consider submitting a bid for financial assistance to the SRRDC to the Town Clerk's Office: admin@southwoldtowncouncil.com

(2) **The Mayor's Science Outreach Project** to provide science outreach opportunities for young people and children. Southwold Primary School and the Darsham and Surrounding Hamlets Astronomical Society (DASH) have been invited to submit bids, but if you are involved with a local organisation which could offer a science outreach activity for young people and children please consider submitting a bid for financial assistance to the Town Clerk: townclerk@southwoldtowncouncil.com

The total amount raised was £3359. Grateful thanks to all the local organisations that submitted prizes for the 'Tour of the Night Sky' event and for 'The Mayor's Spring Ball'. Thanks, also, to the many local residents who supported these events, so generously.

SAVE THE DATES

- 10 NOVEMBER 2019 Remembrance Sunday - Parade from the Market Place at 10.35am and Church Service (10.50am) in St. Edmund's Church
- 11 NOVEMBER 2019 Armistice Day – Wreath laying at the War Memorial (10.50am) and Two Minutes' Silence
- 30 NOVEMBER 2019 Southwold Christmas Lights' Switch-On at 5pm - Market Place. High Street closure from 2pm Market Stalls & Entertainment
- 22 DECEMBER 2019 **Drop-in community drinks reception – all welcome at the Cardinal Newman Hall 3.30pm – 5pm.**
The Christmas Carol Service follows at St Edmund's Church at 6pm



We would like to keep in touch

We would like to use your information to keep in touch with updates and information about the work we do, events we organise, and other general information.

Our preference would be to contact you by email as it is more environmentally friendly, also quicker and cheaper, but understand that this may not be your preferred method.

Please let us know the ways in which you are happy for us to contact you:

Contact me by email	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Contact me by post	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Contact me by telephone	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

You can change your mind at any time by emailing admin@southwoldtowncouncil.com or calling the Town Hall on 01502 722576

For further information about our use of and access to your personal data, details of organisations with whom we regularly share data, information about how long we retain your data, and how to change or remove the consent you have provided, please visit: www.southwoldtown.com

I am a: (please tick box below)

Permanent resident 2nd Home owner Business Other

Full name

Address

.....

.....

..... Postcode

e-mail

Contact telephone number

Signed



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The Town Flyer was developed with support from our friends at Imagineer.
It is an attempt on the part of Southwold Town Council to look at an overall communication strategy,
and should be viewed as one part of this endeavour.