

### News and updates from Southwold Town Council Leisure and Environment Cttee

- Spraying on greens - Glyphosate will not be used around the town this year. Instead Norse will trim around verge obstacles in June and September. The County will still spray the road/verge margins.
- Rewilding Project - a small area at Hospital (St Edmunds) Green will become a conservation area as a pilot for a year. Paths will be cut as normal but the conservation area will be left until the September cut. Volunteers will be needed to trial wild flower establishment techniques, and to clear mowings in September if this is what is desired. The Town council will look at more trees and bulb planting in the autumn and explanatory notices will be placed around the area. A volunteer has come forward to create a round flower bed on North Parade and to water the area.
- The management report for the Common and the Marshes has been completed by Suffolk Wildlife Trust. Suggested points for further consideration include; extra information boards, a possible bird hide area, creation of new scrapes, improvements to paths / gates. Drainage works are already taking place on some of the ditches/ dykes on the marshes area and there are people interested in tenancies for the vacant marsh areas.
- Ferry Road Garden - Cllr Goldsmith has taken on the project to improve the garden and would be delighted to hear from anyone who would be happy to help out. Possible schemes for the area include making the previous paved areas into plant beds, and the unpaved areas to rewild, and a sensory garden. This will include the area at the back of the garden that goes onto Ferry Road footpath. Lady from market could provide some wild seeds
- Bus shelter corner Pier Avenue/ Mights Road – the work on the shelter and the living roof have now been completed by volunteers – thanks to all that helped on this project.
- Commonwealth Day Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2020. At the Town Hall at 9.50am the Town Mayor will be reading messages from Her Majesty The Queen Head of the Commonwealth followed by the Commonwealth Affirmation prior to the raising of the Flag at 10am. All welcome to come along.
- VE Day 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – *Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2020* – this is now a Bank Holiday and the Town Council will be putting on the events as suggested by the VE75 Armed Forces Charity – all at the Town Hall at the following times, 2.55pm – Last Post, 3pm – Lone piper, 3pm Nations Toast to the heroes of WW11 and at 6.55pm a Cry for Peace around the World.
- There are 2 cruise ships scheduled to bring passengers into Southwold on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2020 and 20<sup>th</sup> September 2020. The Town Council is liaising with the tour companies to ensure that rather than going on tours elsewhere, as many passengers as possible are encouraged to stay in the town and visit the many places that the town has to offer.

- 'Ping' Project initiative from Suffolk County Council is to encourage people to try their hand at table tennis by making the facility available free of charge with outside table tennis tables. The Town Council has purchased an outside table which has been installed at Tibbys Green play area – just take along your own bats / balls or call into the Town Hall to borrow some.
- Beach and prom – The Town Council will arrange its regular walk round of the beach and prom with Norse and other stakeholders before Easter to ensure that all signs, bins maintenance etc is in place. Norse have also been reminded of the need to repair the erosion that has taken place at Gun Hill as well as that on the footpath from Ferry Road to Gun Hill.
- Cliffs – the alexander should be cut before seeding and regularly thereafter - Norse presently fund 1 cut per year and the cttee will need to consider funding any extra cuts.
- Cleaning of pavements along the High Street and throughout Southwold – Several complaints have been received about the cleanliness of the pavements especially along the High Street. The Town Council is aware that some businesses are taking action individually to ensure that their boundary pavements are kept clean and tidy and the Town Council will be doing the same for the frontage of all of its properties and trying to encourage others to do the same.
- Community Beach wheelchair for 2020 – After requests last year a community beach wheelchair will be available this summer. Lowestoft Beach already has 2 such chairs and thanks to contributions from the Enabling Budget of ESC Ward councillor Beavan and Sole Bay Care, it has been possible to purchase a beach wheelchair for Southwold. Once the chair arrives it will be kept at the Pier until the lifeguard hut is manned – then it will be made available by request to the lifeguards at Pier end of beach. A second chair will then be purchased for the Gun Hill end of the beach too.
- New Years Eve Fireworks on beach – Both the police and ESC received complaints regarding the potential H and S risks - which have risen as this event gets larger each year. Some people do now believe that this is an organised display. In its recent newsletter the town council has notified that this is not the case and that fireworks must only be set off in lawful places. ESC manage/own the prom and it will be in their remit to take any action as they feel appropriate.
- Litter Pick – Love East Suffolk campaign – The annual 'Love East Suffolk' scheme encourages east Suffolk residents to organise group litter picks in their local area. ESC can provide groups with litter-picking equipment including sacks, as well as removing any collected litter. Litter pick sticks, bag hoops and tabards can also be hired, subject to availability, for a refundable deposit of £25.00. <https://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/waste/litter/love-east-suffolk/>
- Phone box pier Ave – the phone box is being decommissioned by BT and the Town Council has noted their interest in it. BT will release such phone boxes to local councils to house defibrillators.

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