

Updates from Southwold Town Council – July 2020

As a 'new norm' starts to emerge it has been another busy month for the Town Council.

Volunteers and councillors continue to support members of the community who might need with such things as prescriptions or help with shopping and this help will continue. For those who are shielded and for whom the restrictions do not ease until the end of July this help continues to be essential and thanks again go to all of the volunteers, organisations and businesses involved in working together to help the local community throughout the pandemic. A local food bank of non-perishable goods has been established and collections are still being taken at the Co-op for anyone who feels able to donate to this.

As businesses have started to open and the town has become busier, council has been busy making sure that that amenities can cope with the demand. Extra bins and bin collections have been arranged through Norse and volunteers have been carrying out local litter picks (thank you). All of the public toilets have remained open and recognising that many people are only using cashless at present, the town council has agreed to provide the toilets at Kilcock free of any charge until the end of August.

To bring some colour into the town the bunting in the High Street has been erected, and at the Town Hall the hanging baskets and flower tubs have been planted up and the planters around the Pump are looking lovely. Thanks also to Jan and Chris for planting up and looking after the planter on the corner of Victoria Street and for looking after the gardens at Electricity Green – spot the new seat that has been bought.

The Pedestrian One-way system on the High Street has been receiving national acclaim – with many other towns now following our lead. There are always improvements that can be made, and we are regularly reviewing the system, especially as visitor footfall changes. The Town Ambassadors are present throughout the town and are offering information to visitors as well as supporting the pavement one-way system.

The pedestrian fingerpost signage will be cleaned, and checks made to ensure that the fingers are pointing the right way! We are aware that dropped kerbs might be needed in additional locations – and if you know of anywhere that you feel might benefit then please just let the Town Hall know.

In order to try and guide vehicles directly to the car parks, instead of vehicles driving straight through the High Street, the Town Council Sustainable Travel Cttee has been looking at ways to improve the traffic flow throughout the town by improving signage to car parks. An analysis of priority signage has been drawn up – and this is being progressed in partnership with ESC and SCC. The first priority is the signage when you come over Might's Bridge. A new sign is being designed by SCC which will include a prominent display of the number of spaces at the Pier Car Park and it is hoped that this will be in situ very soon. This will be followed by signage to the York Road parking, Gardner Road car park and to Ferry Road and Harbour car parking – all directing car park traffic away from the High Street. Existing traffic signage will be cleaned and overgrowing vegetation on signs will be cut back.

For the longer term the cttee has also asked Suffolk County Council to consider whether there are any other traffic flow improvements that might be able to be made and the County has agreed to review traffic data and flow to see if there is anything that they would recommend – bearing in mind that any change in one area would create an impact in another area.

With regards to vehicle electric charging points – the cttee have recently met with several providers of these chargers and is continuing its research to find an appropriate provider and location for more of these within the town.

Further updates, including on the work of the Planning Cttee and Leisure and Environment cttee, will be made next month.

Southwold Town Clerk

Southwold Town Council, Town Hall, Southwold. Tel 01502 722576 e mail;
admin@southwoldtowncouncil.com