



**Town Mayor
Cllr Ian Bradbury**

CONNECTING THE COMMUNITY

Boating Lake – update on lagoon

The regeneration of the Boating Lake and its 20acre site is one part of a comprehensive project to improve Southwold's natural environment. In 2019 Southwold Town Council received funding to deliver a feasibility study and options appraisal on the future use(s) and the viability of options for the whole of the boating lake site, whilst aiming to connect the wider Town, Harbour, Marshes & Common Land.



The results of the consultations and study by JM Environmental have identified future development and investment options to optimise the site for uses for green tourism, a year-round attraction and development for community use, to maximise its potential as a heritage asset ensuring that each element compliments each other.

The study also takes into consideration how signage could be improved, how interpretation could be developed and options for linking the asset with other attractions and places of interest within Southwold.

The study has enabled Southwold Town Council to assess the investment opportunities for this asset so that a full business case can be developed. This could then be used to lever external funding in order to undertake the capital restoration, and regeneration, of the boating lake and the wider area. These include;

- Restore the water area by clearing the silt and reeds, improve the water inlet supply and re-introduce boat hire.
- Install new bird hides around the lake.
- Improve welcome signs and wayfinding signage.
- Introduce interpretation boards throughout the site (historical & ecological).
- Re-landscape frontage of site.
- Improve access and upgrade footpaths.
- Re-model rear of café to improve access.
- Introduce toilet facilities.
- Improve the storage and maintenance area.
- Improve pop up shops, small retail outlets and the tourist information kiosk.
- Introduce a heritage trail / nature trail, inc. circular walks.
- Construct a new all-purpose education centre.
- Improved management of the Orchid field.
- Construct a new adventure golf complex



Throughout the course of the feasibility study, several more public consultation events have taken place including at the boating lake site on Saturday 29th June 2019 and at Southwold's Town Hall on 15th August 2019.



From the feasibility study an Expression of Interest application was developed to the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF). Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 of Spring 2020, the NLHF are only taking COVID-19 emergency funding grants until February 2021. This means there has been an unforeseen 12-month delay in project delivery. The Expression of Interest will therefore be submitted as soon as funding applications have reopened.

In conjunction with the above, other opportunities are being looked at. These have enabled an application to be submitted for the heritage trail, as an individual project, following another public consultation, drop-in event, at the Pit Stop Café on 10th September, and an online survey, in which 80% of respondents supported the concept of a trail.

In conjunction with the projects described above, the town council/common trust have also been looking at the potential to deliver some actions arising from the Southwold Marshes & Common Management Plan (2019 – 2024) compiled by the Suffolk Wildlife Trust following community and stakeholder consultations. This plan includes proposed projects such as:

- Installation of new sluices and repair existing to enable effective control over water levels on the Town Marsh and Buss Creek Marsh.
- Monitor and seek advice with regard to controlling or containing the *Crassula helmsii* in Buss Creek marsh.
- Begin 5 year rolling plan of dyke/ditch restoration on Town Marsh and Buss Creek north.
- Improve marsh infrastructure, replace/repair footbridges and gates on public footpath
- Review public footpaths
- Review wetland scrapes
- Create new scrapes in eastern section of Town Marshes.
- Coppice areas of gorse to create 7- 8m fire breaks alongside existing paths.
- Coppice the dying elm in Walters Copse.
- Trim back the Gardner Road hedge to 2m and remove all the tree guards.
- Start programme of rolling bracken to reduce vigour.
- Scrape areas with layers of deep litter to encourage regeneration.
- Open up old sand pit for benefit of sand martins, reptiles and invertebrates.
- Increase area of rough grassland across the Common and encourage/plant areas of scrub (Hawthorn).
- Install nest boxes in suitable areas on the Common.

We know that these are very ambitious projects that will take time to deliver. However, consultations and feedback from stakeholders and the community, in general, mean that we can now prioritise the works being suggested and aim to achieve a few of these over the short term while setting goals for the medium and longer term.

Station Yard Regeneration Project

As part of the Covid-19 review of the original business plan for the Station Yard Regeneration Project and in accordance with the terms of reference that the Town Council put in place, the Project Board has recommended that an independent review of the business plan takes place. Examining the need and demand for flexible workspaces, will be key to the review in order to ensure that the project is fit for purpose before advancing.

The review will begin early in December and its findings reported as soon as possible.

Ready, steady, census

The decennial census is almost upon us.

Households across the country will soon be asked to take part in the nationwide survey of housing and the population. It has been carried out every decade since 1801, with the exception of 1941.

Information from the digital-first census will help decide how services are planned and funded in your local area. This could mean things like doctors' surgeries, housing or new bus routes.

Households will receive a letter with a unique access code in the post, allowing them to complete their questionnaire online. Paper questionnaires will be available on request. Census day is March 21.

For more information, visit census.gov.uk.

Council encourages businesses to apply for funding

East Suffolk Council is now processing the payment of grants for local businesses provided by the Government in a response to new national Covid-19 restrictions.

The Local Restrictions Support Grant (LRSRG) is available to businesses that have been required to close in line with new national restrictions which came into force on 5 November. These include non-essential retail, leisure, personal care, sports facilities and hospitality businesses.

To qualify for this grant, businesses must be in the East Suffolk area and have been:

- trading as usual prior to the date the restrictions came into force on 5 November 2020
- liable to paying business rates as at 5 November 2020
- required to close due to Government lockdown restrictions

Eligible businesses are being asked to complete a straightforward online form which will capture the data required by central Government and allow the Council to make payment to each eligible business as soon as possible.

Once each business has completed the online form, they will receive an automated email to confirm receipt of the form. The Council will then undertake verification checks and make payment of the grant as soon as possible. Once payment has been submitted to the business an automated email will be sent to confirm payment has been made.

Cllr Craig Rivett, Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Tourism, said: "This is a challenging time for our businesses who have been forced to close their doors once again due to Covid-19. We have a responsibility to ensure they can access this funding as quickly as possible and by setting up a clear and straightforward online form, the application process will be as smooth as possible. We hope to encourage everyone who is eligible to apply and get the funding they deserve."

If you are not registered on the business rates system and/or your business is not eligible for the LRSRG grant under the Government guidelines, you may be eligible for the Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG). The details of this scheme are still being developed and once we have more details, we will announce it.

Nov 2020



Do you need help with food as a result of Covid 19?

If you have been affected financially due to the current crisis please do not suffer in silence.

The Voluntary Help Centre (VHC), Sole Bay Care Fund, the local churches, Southwold Town Council and Reydon Parish Council are working together to ensure local people have access to fresh and store cupboard food.

If you are self-employed and out of work, waiting for tax credits, or are unsure when you will be paid and are struggling to buy food please call us on **01502 724549**. You will be asked a few basic questions to assess your need but there is no lengthy referral process and no paperwork for you to complete.

We are not able to provide people with an endless supply of food, but we are able to help in the short term. It will be expected that people contact landlords/mortgage providers and utility companies to arrange payment breaks or lower payments whilst their income is being affected by Coronavirus, food needs to be your main priority and companies are being very accepting of this at the moment.

Your details will not be shared with others without your knowledge and consent and any information you give us will be held securely and confidentially.

Phone lines are manned Monday to Friday from 9am -1pm with an answer phone available outside these hours.

Food Donations – we are always grateful for non-perishable food donations. These can be taken to the Co-op Southwold, Barbrooks and Boydens Stores, Reydon.

The scheme is supported by The Southwold Trust and The Reydon Trust. You may wish to contact the Reydon Trust directly, the Trust has been helping our communities for the past 50 years.

theclerk@thereydontrust.org.uk

Registered Charity Numbers: VHC – 1164155, Sole Bay Care Fund – 1144108, The Southwold Trust – 206480,
The Reydon Trust - 206873

You can also contact Lowestoft Foodbank – **07307 866146**

If you need advice and support around benefits please contact
Cllr David Beavan **01502 724904** or David.Beavan@eastsoffolk.gov.uk



Remembrance Sunday 8th November 2020

A short service took place at the War Memorial to commemorate Remembrance Sunday on 8th November 2020. Serjeant-at-Mace, Steve Wright (pictured) played the Last Post followed by the laying of wreaths and the Blessing by Reverend Simon Pitcher.



St Edmund's Day – Friday 20th November 2020

Sticky Buns to mark a sticky situation for St. Edmund



All the pupils and staff were very kindly treated to a sticky bun from the Town Council on the 20th of November to mark the commemoration of Edmund's sticky end – tied to an oak tree, pierced by arrows, beheaded and martyred for his faith. Key Stage 2 recalled the gruesome story, buns were wrapped and duly taken home to be devoured.



Sizewell C Consultation on Proposed Changes

EDF Energy launched a consultation on potential changes on 18 November to run until 18 December (30 days). EDF Energy state that the consultation is in response to feedback from stakeholders within their Relevant Representations. The document is available at www.sizewellc.co.uk

Several potential changes relate to the freight management strategy for the construction of Sizewell C, with suggestions to increase deliveries of materials by rail and sea and thereby reduce HGV numbers. EDF Energy propose to run an additional train per day, which would increase the number of train movements from 6 to 8 (or from 3 to 4 deliveries). EDF Energy is also considering running trains six days a week (Mon to Sat), and potentially running a further 5th train a day during the busiest period of construction (this would require alterations to the passenger rail service timetable). Most rail freight movements would be overnight which has implications for noise disturbance for properties within close proximity to the rail line. We understand that the applicant is investigating the most effective ways to reduce the noise from freight trains.

In order to increase deliveries by sea, EDF Energy suggest the possibility of constructing a second temporary beach landing facility (in addition to the permanent beach landing facility currently proposed). The consultation document includes four different options for such a temporary beach landing facility of different sizes and capacities. Chapter 3.3. in the consultation document shows these options.

EDF Energy indicates that, if these rail and beach landing facility options are deliverable, this could reduce the number of HGV movements proposed on the busiest day from 1,000 to 700 and on a typical day from 600 to 500. (Each HGV equates to 2 movements).

Other changes in the consultation include: an altered design for the SSSI crossing over Sizewell Marshes SSSI, with a 30m bridge to replace the previously proposed culvert within the causeway; additional fen meadow habitat in Pakenham, West Suffolk; an outfall pipe onto the beach in the early years; a revised design of the hard coastal sea defences; revised locations of the water resource storage area; changes to the Sizewell B Relocated Facilities proposals; and a number of minor changes primarily to red lines.

Southwold Neighbourhood Plan Consultation On New Housing Policies Response Extension to 31st January 2021

The consultation began on Monday, 2 November 2020. The new policies are posted on the Town Council website at <https://southwoldtown.com/southwold-neighbourhood-plan/> If you are a Southwold resident who does not use the internet, please call the Town Hall on 01502 722576 to obtain a printed copy.

Any comments about these proposed policies can be sent to the Neighbourhood Plan Group by email: (admin@southwoldtowncouncil.com) or letter (Town Hall, Market Place, Southwold IP18 6EF). Please indicate whether you are a resident, visitor, employee/employer, second home owner, or owner of a holiday let. The last date for response has now been extended to Sunday 31st January 2021.

POTTERS BRIDGE UPDATE

The Environment Agency advise:

“We have been managing the main river outfall to the sea at Easton Broad for several decades by the use of plant excavating the beach, channel and outfall. Machinery, for this purpose, has been permanently located at this site. This section of coast, which is otherwise undefended, has been subjected to ongoing average coastal erosion of a rate 2 to 3 metres per year.

Recent coastal weather events have resulted in a spike in erosion rates which has rendered the Easton Broad outfall infrastructure inoperable due to exposure by outflanking. During the normal operation of the outfall structure the B1127 road and the marshes were subjected to frequent flooding for periods of time during winter months. The loss of the structure has led to increased duration of flood events which has had an impact on road users and may eventually impact the designated features of the site upstream of Potters Bridge. No homes or properties are located within the floodable area.

We manage this site to help control water levels on Easton Broad as consistent levels are critical to the status of the protected environmental features of the site which are principally breeding birds in the spring and summer months from February onwards. We appreciate the work also benefits the road by reducing the length of time water is on the road. However, the road will still be regularly subject to fresh and seawater flooding as it is low lying and undefended. Any measures necessary to manage the road are the responsibility of Suffolk County Council Highways. This includes maintenance and signage along with any decisions that need to be made on the future of the road. We have had several discussions on this.

In the near future we plan to construct a footbridge over the channel (subject to consents) to reinstate full access over the site during times when the site is draining. We will also remove the old, redundant outfall which is now on the beach. We will continue to maintain the outflow for the foreseeable future.”

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
	Will Windell
East Suffolk Councillor	David Beavan - David.Beavan@eastsoffolk.gov.uk
Suffolk County Councillor	Michael Ladd - Michael.ladd@suffolk.gov.uk
Town Clerk	Lesley Beevor 01502 722576
	Town Hall, Market Place,
	Southwold IP18 6EF
	townclerk@southwoldtowncouncil.com

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