



October 2018 Thedwastre North

Suffolk's businesses invited to comment on fair enforcement

On 24 September, Suffolk's businesses and residents were invited to comment on Suffolk County Council Trading Standards' proposed updated Enforcement Policy. This policy is used to make sure Trading Standards enforces the law fairly, to keep Suffolk safe.

Suffolk County Council Trading Standards carries out a range of enforcement action in the county, from investigating online sales of counterfeit clothing to fraudulent business practices or poor workmanship by rogue traders.

Often such investigations involve working with partner agencies. This year, Suffolk County Council Trading Standards has been working more closely with Norfolk County Council Trading Standards to develop a joined-up approach to enforcement, including cross-border crime.

This updated policy incorporates guidance from Norfolk, to offer a consistent approach to enforcement in the East. It provides a framework to ensure that enforcement is delivered in an equitable, practical and consistent manner.

Comments are invited on the newly revised Enforcement Policy which includes proposed changes arising from changes to legislation and national guidance. The proposed Enforcement Policy and a short survey can be found on the [Trading Standards draft enforcement policy consultation](#) page.

Have your say on a bright future for local design

Inspired by award-winning designer Wayne Hemingway, a ground-breaking "Design Guide" for building and development in Suffolk is being created by the county's local authorities.

Critical to its success will be local input and, with this in mind, a survey was launched on 17 September to ensure that the views of Suffolk people play a key role in future decisions. The [survey](#) asks people to say what they do and don't like about the way Suffolk is currently built, from its public buildings to street lighting.

The survey, which takes as little as 10 minutes to complete, closes on Wednesday 31 October 2018. Although other counties have produced similar guides, this will be the first that incorporates the wishes and opinions of the people that matter most: those that live (or have lived) in, work in or visit the county. Essentially, the people that love Suffolk.

The survey is just the start of the process and the councils will work with other public bodies, land owners, developers, parish councils, architects, engineers, artists, and amenity

groups to finalise the finished guide. A wide range of events will also take place including conferences, study tours, community events, developer meetings and interactive exercises.

The Suffolk Design Guide will provide ground rules for planning applications for future Suffolk projects.

Window now open to apply for primary and secondary school places

Parents and carers can now apply for primary and secondary school places for September 2019.

The deadline for applications to secure a place at a Suffolk secondary school is Wednesday 31 October 2018. For a primary school it is Wednesday 15 January 2019. Secondary schools include high and upper schools and primary schools includes infant, junior and middle schools.

Information to help parents and carers make their application is available at www.suffolk.gov.uk/admissions.

Search on to find Suffolk's most active communities

On 12 September, Suffolk County Council and Suffolk Association of Local Councils launched their annual search to find the most active town and villages in Suffolk.

The idea behind the competition, now in its fifth year, is to recognise and celebrate the hard work that communities across Suffolk, both large and small, do to encourage their residents to be active. It seeks to find the most active town, most active large village (population of more than 1,000) and most active small village (population of less than 1,000).

Besides the honour of being named as the most active town or village in Suffolk the winner from each category will receive an engraved brass plaque as a permanent recognition of their achievement. In 2017 the award winners were Mendham and Withersdale Street, (who triumphed for the second year running) Shotley, Stradbroke and Kesgrave.

Entry forms for this year's competition can be downloaded from www.mostactivecounty.com. The closing date for entries is Wednesday 17th October 2018.

Shortlisted communities from each category will be invited to the SALC AGM on the 6th November 2018 where the winners and runners up will be announced.

New approach agreed for the development of specialist education placements in Suffolk

On 11 September, Suffolk County Council's Cabinet agreed a recommendation to introduce a new approach to the development of specialist education placements for children and young people.

The need will be met in Suffolk by developing a combination of new specialist support centres and new special schools, using independent placements from private providers for only a small number of very specialist needs.

The demand for specialist education places in Suffolk is rising rapidly due to the county's population growth, advances in medicine and increasing complexity of special educational needs. The challenges Suffolk is facing mirror the national picture.

Several of the county's existing special schools have expanded and a new campus with additional space for Riverwalk School in Bury St Edmunds opened this September.

New support for those bereaved by suicide

On 10 September 2018, Suffolk's suicide prevention steering group announced it will be launching a new service to support individuals, families and others bereaved by suicide.

The 12-month pilot service will be joint funded by Suffolk County Council (SCC) Public Health and Ipswich & East Suffolk and West Suffolk Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs). The total funding for the service is £30,000, with Suffolk County Council providing £22,000 and CCGs funding £8,000.

The service will be operated by Listening Ear. They will work in close partnership with the police, coroner service and other partners to offer support following notification of a suspected suicide, including one-to-one individual support, practical help and signposting to local services that can help.

When the new service launches, it will be widely advertised in Suffolk with options for self-referral and referral by professionals.

Suffolk's suicide prevention strategy was launched in October 2016 with the aim of reducing the number of suicides in Suffolk by 10% by 2021 which, in Suffolk, would equate to six deaths a year. Since then, more than 400 people in Suffolk have been trained to prevent suicide and 150 have become "Suffolk Life Savers" as part of a far-reaching campaign to reduce the number of people in the county who take their own lives.

The suicide prevention partnership comprises health and wellbeing partners including Suffolk County Council Public Health, police, coroner, Clinical Commissioning Groups, Samaritans, Suffolk Mind, Healthwatch Suffolk and others.

Decades of service and bravery recognised across Suffolk's fire service

On 5 September, firefighters, staff and members of the public were honoured for their bravery and commitment at the annual Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service awards. This year has been exceptionally busy for the Fire Service, mainly due to the long, hot summer which has contributed to so many field fires.

41 certificates of merit and awards for good conduct and service were presented, including Special Certificates of Long Service to staff who have each given over 40 years of duty.