



# September 2020 Thedwastre North

## Highways works in your area

When a utility company or Suffolk County Council (SCC) Highways make plans to dig up a road or pavement because of repairs or development they will generally check with other departments and companies to see if there is work that can be done at the same time – in order to save time and money. Sometimes this is not possible and this can be very frustrating for members of the public.

Several years ago SCC stopped putting notices of intended works in the local press and advising local parishes. Instead they use a website called <https://one.network/> This can be used for a particular council area, village, or other designation and includes the option to be notified for any up and coming works. It is particularly useful if a sign of intended works appears – the website gives information on who, why, when and diversions, if applicable.

Other useful sites:-

Highways Reporting <https://highwaysreporting.suffolk.gov.uk/>

To check to see if the highway problem meets the criteria for remedy

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/assets/Roads-and-transport/how-we-manage-highway-maintenance/Suffolk-Highway-Maintenance-Operational-Plan.pdf>

For HGV incident reporting <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/lorry-management/report-a-heavy-goods-vehicle-incident/>

## Preparations are finalised for SCC funded school travel for the new school term

Suffolk County Council (SCC) have made preparations to ensure all pupils who are eligible for SCC funded school travel are transported to school safely for the start of term. SCC transports approximately 12,000 pupils, which is around 12% of the school population.

There are three types of school transport that children travel on - either a dedicated closed contract, shared route, or public transport route. The guidelines for these routes are slightly different.

The majority of eligible pupils travel to school on dedicated, closed routes. This means that the vehicle only carries school children. On these routes, social distancing will not apply. There will be other measures in place to ensure pupils' safety. For example, children need to make sure they wash their hands before and after travelling, and no eating and drinking will be allowed on these vehicles. Face coverings are also recommended for children aged 11 and over.

Some children travel to school on shared routes. This is where most passengers are pupils going to school or college, but there are also a few members of the public travelling on the vehicle. SCC have worked closely with operators to ensure that there is enough space on these shared transport routes. Pupils should observe social distancing guidelines with members of the public and sit in the seats marked; they can sit next to members of their

family or fellow pupils. On these routes, face coverings will be mandatory unless a child is exempt from wearing one, in line with guidance. For further information visit [www.suffolkonboard.com](http://www.suffolkonboard.com).

## **Working together to ensure a safe start to the new school year**

The start of the new school year can present challenges for families and schools alike. The prospect of walking back through the school gates for the first time since mid-March may feel both exciting and daunting.

COVID-19 has impacted on all of us in different ways and for many children and young people this has affected their education, with thousands not being in school for five months. Parents and carers across Suffolk have done a wonderful job educating their children at home.

## **New project website for Suffolk County Council's A140 improvement scheme**

Suffolk County Council has partnered with Interserve Construction to deliver a vital upgrade to the A140 road near Eye, Suffolk.

It is hoped that the scheme will improve journey time reliability and road safety in the area, and advance access to the Eye Airfield Development Area.

The improvements include:

- Two new roundabout junctions on the A140 Castleton Way and south of Rectory Road.
- A link road through to B1077 from the Northern roundabout.
- Restricted movements at the A140/B1077 junction: prohibit right turns in and out, improving journey times and safety.
- Closure of the A140/Rectory Road junction.
- Landscaping and new pathways for walkers and cyclists.

<https://eyea140scheme.co.uk> aims to update all interested stakeholders regularly about the project's recent activities and any traffic management measures which may be in place to help support the work. A phone number is also available (07917 598 686) to directly contact the project's representatives.

## **Suffolk celebrates 1,000 miles of newly surfaced roads**

Suffolk Highways has completed its 1,000th resurfaced mile, following the Council's commitment to relay new road surfaces on a quarter of Suffolk's road network.

In 2017, Suffolk County Council's Cabinet committed to resurfacing 1,000 miles of road across Suffolk over a four-year period; in a bid to improve the quality of roads, reduce the number of potholes and to help stop potholes from forming in the first place.

The commitment also makes sound financial sense, as preventing the deterioration of road surfaces by machine surfacing or surface dressing helps reduce the need to spend more money on reactive maintenance repairing potholes now, and in future years. The 1,000th mile was laid at Horham Road in Eye on Tuesday 4 August 2020.

## Free cycling sessions for the people of Suffolk

The County Council's Bikeability team is now offering FREE cycling sessions to provide practical skills on how to cycle on today's roads. Everyone is welcome to take part - adults, families, and children. The sessions are aimed at those who want to cycle more regularly, whether to keep fit, to commute to work or school, or to visit friends.

A session lasts between 2 and 2.5 hours and is delivered by a fully qualified Bikeability Cyclist Trainer. The trainer chats to you first about what you are trying to achieve and tailors the session to your specific needs.

Travel behaviour has transformed during lockdown, both nationally and in Suffolk, as more people turn to cycling for essential journeys and exercise. It has been a cycling revolution!

- Journeys made by bike rose by 120% during the pandemic, while bus, rail, ferry, plane and car journeys fell by as much as 95%.
- Latest research also suggests that as much as 16% of the population in England (8.9 million people) have been cycling per week during the pandemic.

For further information on the active travel measures Suffolk County Council is putting in place across Suffolk and to sign up for a free cycling session visit: [suffolk.gov.uk/cyclingandwalking](https://suffolk.gov.uk/cyclingandwalking)

## Suffolk and Norfolk businesses set for extra boost for apprentices

Apprenticeships Suffolk and Apprenticeships Norfolk are launching a reward package, **Recruit Retain Reward**, providing £1,000 grants for businesses taking on new and/or redundant young apprentices, aged 16-24.

In a bid to give small and medium-sized Suffolk and Norfolk businesses as much support as possible, the project aims to offer a flexible 'Apprenticeship Incentive Fund' of £1000, giving businesses a boost to recruit their workforce for the future.

Employers who take on apprentices can experience a wide range of benefits. Developing apprentices' skills to be relevant to the organisation, along with improved productivity, better quality of product or service, and higher staff morale are benefits highlighted by around three-quarters of employers. More than 8 out of 10 employers recommend an apprenticeship to others \*

In addition to the one-off financial payment, there will also be continued support for organisations who are new to apprenticeships. A collection of online resources is being created to support businesses employing an apprentice for the first time. This includes practical guidance and useful information from existing, local apprenticeship ambassadors to help add real value to the business.

Apprenticeships Suffolk and Apprenticeships Norfolk provide an impartial service to all employers, providers, apprentices and stakeholders. Further details of the project can be found here: [apprenticeshipssuffolk.org](https://apprenticeshipssuffolk.org) and [apprenticeshipsnorfolk.org](https://apprenticeshipsnorfolk.org)

\* Data source: [GOV.UK publications](https://gov.uk/publications)

## **New resources will help young people understand the link between movement and mental health**

New resources have been published to help young people in Suffolk understand how movement and physical activity can improve their emotional wellbeing. The resources, which include a handy, pocket-sized information card, have been developed for young people with input and feedback from young people.

Made possible by Suffolk Mind and the Suffolk Most Active County Partnership, with assistance from Suffolk County Council's Children and Young People's engagement hub, the resources provide essential information about seven ways young people can improve their mental health through movement.

They also include three simple and effective ideas that young people can try straight away to help them take control of their mind and mood through movement, as well as a range of key local contacts for further support.

The resources will be distributed to schools, GP surgeries and libraries across the county. They are also available as a direct download from [\*\*keepmovingsuffolk.com/wellbeing\*\*](https://keepmovingsuffolk.com/wellbeing) and [\*\*thesource.me.uk/move\*\*](https://thesource.me.uk/move).