

Little Waldingfield Parish Council

Approved Minutes of the Remote Council Meeting held on Thursday 10 September 2020 at 7.30pm via Zoom

Present: Cllr Barbara Campbell (Chair), Cllr Chris White (Vice-Chair), Cllr Stewart Braybrook (arrived 7.35pm), Cllr Matt Foster (arrived 7.40pm), Cllr Tim Sheppard and Cllr Delme Thompson

Attendance: Cllr Clive Arthey (District Councillor), Cllr Margaret Maybury (District Councillor), Cllr Colin Spence (County Councillor), Jennie Jordan (Little Waldingfield Playingfield Committee), Simon Ashton (Parish Clerk & RFO) and one Member of the Public

1. Apologies and Approval of Absences

There were no apologies and absences for approval as all Members were present.

2. Declarations of Interests by Members and Requests for Dispensation

There were no interests declared or requests received by any of the Members.

3. Approval of Minutes of the Previous Meeting on 9 July 2020

Minutes of the previous meeting of the Parish Council on 9 July 2020 were received and approved as a true record. It was agreed that arrangements would be made for the minutes to be signed by the Chair once the restriction on physical meetings was removed.

4. Reports by the District Councillors and County Councillor

Copies of the district council reports from Cllr Arthey and Cllr Maybury and the county council report from Cllr Spence had been received in advance of the meeting. Copies of these reports have been made available at the end of these minutes for information.

5. Contributions by Members of the Public

A member of the public expressed an interest in the Council's response to the Planning for the Future White Paper included on the agenda (Item 10d).

6. Neighbourhood Plan

(a) Members had received a schedule of the responses received following the conclusion of the Neighbourhood Plan pre-submission consultation and a schedule of proposed amendments as a result. Following a review of the approximate 15% return and further discussion, approval was given to proceed with the proposed amendments. Approval was also granted to then make the Council's submission to Babergh District Council. Members of the committee were thanked for their contributions to the process.

7. Finance

(a) Members noted the Lloyds Bank account balances of (£21,926.23 & £2,524.15 as at 31 August 2020).

- (b) Members noted the receipt of bank account interest of £0.19 during the period from July to August 2020.
- (c) The receipts and budget and payments and budget reports to 31 August 2020 were reviewed and the Council's latest budgetary position was noted by Members.
- (d) The bank reconciliation of activity to 31 August 2020 was reviewed and approved by Members.
- (e) Following a review by Members of the risks included in the insurance policy compared against the asset register, Members approved the property insured cover of £20,000, fidelity cover of £50,000 and the overall insurance cover arrangements from 1 October 2020.
- (f) Members approved the purchase of an annual Remembrance Sunday wreath which was subject to making contact with the new representative at the Royal British Legion.
- (g) Jennie Jordan, a representative of Little Waldingfield Playingfield Committee, made a presentation to Members on the current state of the building and the efforts planned to refurbish the premises. Members agreed that the refurbishment of the Pavilion and its application for Section 106 funding from Babergh District Council received the Council's support.
- (h) Payments were authorised in favour of the Parish Clerk's wages and office and personal expenses (£457.09), Society of Local Council Clerks for annual subscription (to 31 August 2021) (£30.28), Business Services at CAS Ltd for annual insurance (to 30 September 2021) (£250.04) and Places 4 People Ltd for Neighbourhood Plan consultation fees (2019/20) (£1,007.82). These payments were approved by Members.

8. Governance

- (a) The Parish Clerk confirmed that a new application had been submitted for The Swan Inn to be considered by Babergh District Council as an asset of community value. There was currently a query relating to the border of the property on an accompanying map.
- (b) Members considered the merits of an agreement to purchase services from the Community Wardens and agreed to bring suggestions on the type of work required to be completed in the village to the next meeting.
- (c) Following discussion, Cllr Campbell and Cllr White agreed to make arrangements to carry out annual push tests in the closed churchyard and to update Members at the next meeting.
- (d) Following a comment made in the internal audit report (2019/20), the Parish Clerk agreed to look into the implementation of the GDPR matter raised following discussions with other parish councils with any progress reported to Cllr White as lead.

9. Highways

- (a) Cllr Spence advised Members that the replacement no parking posts on Church Road had been ordered and a delivery date was awaited.
- (b) Members reviewed the SID data received from the Community Wardens. There were discussions on the position of the units and the busiest locations. Cllr Campbell agreed to refer the queries raised for updating Members at the next meeting.
- (c) Following discussion, Members agreed to publicise the recruitment of a Speedwatch Co-Ordinator by delivering leaflets in the village.

- (d) Following discussion, Members agreed for a referral to be made to Quiet Lanes Suffolk. This related to the minor road that runs from the junction with the B1115, beyond Humble Green, to the junction with the B1071, and is known as Washmere Green.
- (e) Members were advised that the fallen tree on the footpath had already been cleared.
- (f) Members were advised that the previously reported locked gate adjacent to The Grange had been removed.

10. Consultations

- (a) Following discussion, Members agreed not to submit a response to the BDC Housing Land Supply Statement consultation by the due date of 14 September 2020.
- (b) Following discussion, Members agreed not to submit a response to the BDC Statement of Licensing Policy consultation by the due date of 16 September 2020.
- (c) Following discussion, Members agreed that confirmation of their agreement with the contents of the NALC Changes to the Current Planning System consultation should be submitted by the due date of 17 September 2020.
- (d) Following discussion, Members agreed that confirmation of their agreement that, in relation to Question 13A on Page 43 of the Planning for the Future White Paper, neighbourhood plans should be retained in the reformed planning system should be submitted to the NALC consultation by the due date of 15 October 2020.
- (e) Following discussion, Members agreed not to submit a response to the NALC Transparency and Competition consultation by the due date of 16 October 2020.

11. Matters for Future Consideration

- (a) Consideration & Approval of Urgent Planning Application Consultee Comments

12. Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960

- (a) Following discussion, Members gave their approval to an outcome on confidential employment matters which excluded the press and the public.

13. Dates of the Next Meetings

- (a) 6 October 2020 (Planning Items & Documents Received by 28 September 2020)
- (b) 12 November 2020
- (c) 14 January 2021
- (d) The meeting finished at 10.05pm.

Simon Ashton, Parish Clerk
clerk.littlewoldingfieldpc@hotmail.co.uk
6 October 2020

BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL

By way of a written report, these are the issues I will (briefly) talk about tonight. They mostly relate to activity in July, with August traditionally being a quieter month. I have had sight of Margaret's report, so I am fairly sure we won't be doubling up on anything.

Local Development Scheme (LDS). The new LDS has been approved by Council. It sets out the proposed timetable for the Joint Local Plan (JLP) and the review of the CIL Charging Schedules. We are anticipating the next stage of the JLP will be presented to Council in early November, before a six week consultation and submission to the Secretary of State for an Examination in Public. It is hoped the new JLP will be adopted late 2021/early 2022.

BDC will be responding to the Government's two planning consultations 'Changes to the current planning system' and the White Paper 'Planning for the Future'. I see that you will be considering a response via NALC later in your agenda.

Walking and cycling. Proposals put forward by Babergh's Green councillors for a Sustainable Travel Action Plan have been approved. It will encourage a shift towards more sustainable transport such as cycling, walking or public transport. Whilst this is a new initiative, it will tie in with existing SCC initiatives (including Safe Routes to Schools).

CIFCO. There were several press articles over the summer about Babergh and Mid Suffolk's property investment company CIFCO Capital Ltd. Most recently it was to announce the purchase of a health centre in Nottingham, but previously it was as a result of the publication of the 2019-2020 Business Trading and Performance Report. The last year had seen reported losses as a result of asset re-valuation and acquisition costs, but £1.6m of net income was received (after debt repayment) which supports the Council's budget and is equivalent to 13.5% on Council Tax.

Waste and Recycling. The market for recyclable materials is changing and becoming ever more demanding. As a result the percentage of 'rejects' from the MRF at Blakenham is rising. We will soon be embarking on a new campaign to encourage households to present us with good quality recyclables, and only materials which are accepted at the MRF. Further details can be found at <https://suffolkrecycling.org.uk/my-bins/what-can-i-put-in-my-recycling-bin-at-home> You should have been notified of the Composting Event on 19th September (9am-12pm) where free compost is available to collect (max 2 bags) from the Bridge Street car park in Hadleigh.

Solar carports. A grant has been secured from the Government's 'Getting Building Fund' to install multifunctional solar carports which will generate and store electricity and provide electric vehicle charging points. The car park at Station Road in Sudbury is currently being assessed as BDC's first possible site.

Coronavirus restrictions led to the closure of Leisure Centres, but Kingfisher Leisure Pool in Sudbury has re-opened and we are hoping the new Hadleigh Pool will be ready to open in November.

I will be attending tonight, so if there is anything else, I will try to pick it up then.

Thanks and best wishes,

Clive

BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL

I have put some topics together which may be of interest to the parish council.

August has tried to be a quieter month at the District Council, although I still seem to be rather busy. However, I did manage a short break away.

Interesting topics I have noted recently are:

- Littering and fly tipping seems to be on a resurgence. Bags of rubbish have been dumped outside a neighbour's house within Acton where a recent bereavement occurred which has led to an outpouring of help and support for the family. Here we have the unreasonable culprits but the amazing trail of help from others. I hope the culprits are ashamed of themselves.

Lavenham, I know had a spate of it around the recycling bins at Church Street which was removed, but I hope this has now stopped.

- To save an amenity, the parish council at Little Waldingfield have again listed the closed public house as an asset of community value.
- The Chilton Woods development has been sold to Taylor Wimpey and a working group has been formed from District Councillors and parish councillors to facilitate this large development and it hopes to meet sometime next week. I am part of this group.
- I have found it strange that the BDC emerging needs fund will not help out our organisations, societies, etc for re-opening after Covid19 closure if the organisation was successful at securing a business grant during lockdown. I am pursuing this.

Business awards have been inaugurated for Babergh businesses and I hope to see nominations from the Ward:

Business innovation to be celebrated at new awards event.

Forward thinking businesses, large and small, are being invited to enter the inaugural Innovation Awards 2020, being run by Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils.

- **Shopping local could provide lasting impact on the high street**

High Streets across Babergh and Mid Suffolk could benefit from almost £19m of additional income over the next 6 months, if all adults spent an extra £5 by shopping local every week.

- **Babergh and Mid Suffolk receive Government funding to install solar carports**

Environmentally-friendly initiatives across Babergh and Mid Suffolk, including electricity micro-generation and solar storage carports, received a major boost last month, with government matched funding of up to £800,000.

- As members we received an interesting briefing on economic development which prompted me to have a say on the parking at Sudbury's Market Hill, which although commendable in its thinking appears to be holding residents back from safely visiting the town to shop.

Lavenham has managed a way to welcome visitors and shoppers without curtailing so much space. My recent visit to Devon also had me noting how towns were accommodating self-distancing with economic delivery. To refer back to Sudbury, I was concerned at traffic/pedestrian safety as pedestrians appeared to have a false sense of security in crossing the road in front of cars which were still moving at a pace along the highway. The large amount of removed car parking also appeared to be affecting the town's economy too. I am hoping residents will comment on how they feel about the market hill in Sudbury so a more refined system can be implemented which benefits residents, businesses, and the local economy.

- BDC are currently compiling a Public Realm initiative which will shortly go before the Cabinet. This has occurred as the current contract for services with IdVerde which includes grass cutting, street cleansing, litter and dog bin emptying, etc is coming to an end. IdVerde have had the contract for a number of years and we have to find a new way of delivering these services to our residents.

With kind regards,

Margaret Maybury

Member for Lavenham Ward

Genesis Corner, Clay Hall Lane, Acton CO10 0AQ

01787 464358

August 2020 Monthly Parish/Town Newsletter

Visit [suffolk.gov.uk/coronavirus](https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/coronavirus) for health advice, service changes, business support and schools' guidance.

Keep up to date on the latest guidance on Covid-19 from central government here:
www.gov.uk/coronavirus

Lowestoft Third Crossing officially named as project is given final green light

Suffolk County Council's Cabinet has unanimously approved the building of the Lake Lothing Third Crossing in Lowestoft, now officially named as *Gull Wing* by children from Somerleyton Primary School.

The bridge will be Suffolk's most significant infrastructure development in recent memory and one of its most visually iconic. It sits alongside several integral projects to transform Lowestoft in the coming years, showing that the area is well and truly open for business.

With no unforeseen delays, construction work is planned to begin in Spring 2021, with a target of Summer 2023 for the *Gull Wing* to officially open.

Councillor Matthew Hicks, Leader of Suffolk County Council, said:

"I've looked forward to this day for a long time, and with the full backing of my Cabinet, we can now get this bridge built for Lowestoft and for Suffolk.

"But most excitingly, what an occasion for the children from Somerleyton Primary School who have given the bridge its name! I think it's perfect and they should feel extremely proud. Thank you to all the local children who gave us 22 imaginative ideas to consider.

"It was important for me that the local community was involved with the project right from the start. This is a theme which will continue during the construction of the bridge, and throughout its life, as it will provide apprenticeships and jobs.

"There will also be opportunities for schools and students to visit the site and meet our teams. I hope that younger generations will be inspired by the stunning engineering and learn about the bridge's positive impacts on Lowestoft and Suffolk."

Somerleyton Primary School pupils thought up the name *Gull Wing*. Headteacher, Louise Spall, explains the thinking behind it:

"The children wanted to come up with a name which reflected living by the seaside, but they also thought that the shape of bridge was really interesting. The V-shape of the new bridge looks like a bird's wings and, of course, what seaside town is complete without gulls!

"They are really excited that their name is going to be part of Lowestoft's history, it is something they can be proud of and tell their children in years to come."

A panel of representatives from the local councils, local organisations and the town council, led by Peter Aldous MP, unanimously agreed that *Gull Wing* was an excellent suggestion and agreed that it would become the new bridge's name.

Peter Aldous, Member of Parliament for Waveney, said:

“We’d like to thank all the children who gave their suggestions. There were some really interesting choices and clearly a lot of thought had gone into them.

“When we all looked at the list, *Gull Wing* jumped out at us straight away. We were looking for a name with a local context which had some meaning to it, but which would also be snappy and descriptive so people will use it.

“Many congratulations to the pupils from Somerleyton Primary School. When the bridge is open, they will be able to walk and cycle over it, knowing that they gave it its name. And who knows, when they are older, maybe drive their electric car over it too!”

Councillor Steve Gallant, Leader of East Suffolk Council, said:

“This is a really welcome moment now that everything has been made official. With our Masterplan ambitions and being able to protect businesses and residents from flooding for 100 years, Lowestoft will be increasingly important to Suffolk and beyond. Giving the bridge its name is a statement of intent for the project and for the future of the town. We are building for our future, so it is entirely appropriate that the bridge has been named by our younger residents.”

The next step is for the project’s final business case to be submitted to the Department for Transport by the end of August. The company chosen to build the bridge will then be announced in September, along with the appointment of a new project director at the council. Funding from the Department of Transport is expected to be available in November, with construction work starting on site in Spring 2021.

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.

On 11 August 2020, the Department for Education published official guidance on the measures that need to be in place to ensure that school transport is COVID-19 safe. SCC have been working closely with bus operators and schools to put these into place.

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 pupils who travel to school by public transport, where routes are used mainly by the general public, social distancing will apply and face coverings will be mandatory unless the child is exempt from wearing one.

For pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) most of their routes are dedicated, so this means there is little change to their transport. Where changes are being made, we are getting in touch with the families to explain the arrangements for the new term.

A child **must not** travel on any of these routes if anyone in their household has symptoms of COVID-19, which are a new persistent cough, high temperature and/or a change in their sense of taste or smell. If the child or anyone in the household has these symptoms, then public health advice should be followed as usual.

Spare seats

Planning school transport has been complex, as SCC has to plan transport across the three types of school travel routes. This involves, trying to predict how many fare-paying passengers there will be on shared and public routes. This has an impact on dedicated routes and how many spare seats will be available. We may need to use some of the spare seats for entitled pupils, but this will not be known straightaway. Therefore, spare seats will still be unavailable, to enable SCC to monitor capacity. Parents will be able to apply for spare seats from October half-term, subject to availability.

Councillor Mary Evans, Suffolk County Council Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Skills said: "The Passenger Transport Team has worked closely with schools and transport operators to ensure that suitable travel arrangements and safety measures are in place for all eligible pupils for the start of the school term. I appreciate that going back to school will be an anxious time for many families. I would like to reassure them that our priority is to ensure the safety of children on their journeys to and from school."

"I am very disappointed that we are not able to open up applications for spare seats until October half-term. While spare seats are never guaranteed, I recognise that these are important transport options for some families. If a parent has no means whatsoever of getting their child to school, SCC may be able to help by using discretionary power to offer transport arrangements. This would only be done where it is clear that this is absolutely essential to enable a child to attend school."

For further information visit www.suffolkonboard.com.

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

Article by Councillor Mary Evans, Suffolk County Council Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Skills; published 25 August 2020.

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. I thank them for all their hard work. It is important that we get children back into schools, nurseries, and colleges as it is the best place for their education and wellbeing.

While many children and young people will be looking forward to a full-time return, I know some families may be feeling anxious about the return to schools, nurseries and colleges; it could feel quite difficult for many children and young people. I would like to reassure them that we have been working very closely with schools to make sure safety measures are in place for the start of the new term. These include staggered start times, staggered breaktimes, increased hygiene and children remaining in consistent groups. These steps will all contribute to minimising the risk, while allowing teachers to get back to teaching children. Each school is different and will have put specific systems in place, based on individual risk assessments. School leaders will be in contact with parents prior to the start of term to advise on the arrangements. If parents do have any concerns, I would recommend they have a conversation with their school.

I realise that going back to school after weeks, indeed months, at home could feel quite difficult for many children and young people. It may take time for them to get back into a routine and adjust to life back at school. Children who continued to go to school throughout lockdown may also find it hard with the return of more children and a focus back onto academic work. Schools will work closely with children to listen to their concerns and help them make the transition back into the classroom and there is a wealth of helpful resources and top tips for parents on our website. For example, getting back into a routine can be a good way to prepare for the return to school. Bedtimes, waking times and mealtimes may well have changed during lockdown so adjusting these gradually to establish a routine to prepare children for the new school term will help them.

To access these resources visit; www.suffolk.gov.uk/children-families-and-learning/pts/if/five-tips/

In preparation for the start of term, we would also advise families to think about how children will travel to school as arrangements may be a little different. Families are encouraged, where possible, to walk or cycle to school, but I appreciate that this is often not possible. If children or young people use public transport to travel to school, we would advise families to check that their route is still running as some changes may have been made due to the pandemic. Families also need to take into account that, due to social distancing, there will not be as much space on the vehicle. If children and young people travel by public transport, they will need to understand whether they need to wear a face covering and how to do this safely, unless a child is unable to wear one for health, age, or other reasons.

The months out of school will doubtless have had a bigger impact on some pupils than others. We fully expect that there will be gaps in learning. The Education and Learning team at Suffolk County Council is committed in its work with all schools to help them bridge these gaps. Where parents have particular worries about their child's education and the impact of the lockdown, we would encourage them to talk to their child's school. Staff at the school will be best placed to offer advice about how individual children can be supported in the post-lockdown period, how learning topics can be prioritised and how parents can support their children.

I would like to thank leaders and teachers across the childcare and education sector for the huge part they have played in the COVID-19 pandemic response and their hard work in getting everything organised and ready for the start of term. I wish children and young people and all school staff the very best as they return for the new school year.

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.

This stretch of road has seen a number of issues over the last five years. 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.

Keeping the local community and key stakeholders updated and informed is a vital part of the project. Therefore, the project team is happy to announce that a dedicated website has been developed.

<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.

Councillor Andrew Reid, Suffolk County Council's Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Rural Affairs, said:

"I would like to thank residents for their patience regarding these vital improvement works.

"The scheme's new website will ensure interested parties can be kept updated on the project's developments.

"There have been delays due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which have been unavoidable. We are trying to claw back some of the time we have lost and the best way to keep people updated with this work and the revised time scale is via the new website.

"Once the improvement works are completed, the new road layout will unlock Eye Airfield for economic development. There will also be significant highway benefits, because access to the A140 will be safer and more efficient, resolving long-standing safety and congestion issues."

More stakeholder events, including face-to-face events, are planned once the current COVID-19 situation is resolved. The scheme is expected to be finished early 2021.

Suffolk winners announced for Food Savvy's Delicious Drawings competition



Two children will have their 'Delicious Drawings' on display in local East of England Co-op stores after winning #FoodSavvy's 'Delicious Drawings' Competition.

The competition organised by the pioneering food saving campaign #FoodSavvy, a partnership between the Suffolk Waste Partnership, Norfolk County Council and environmental charity Hubbub, challenged primary aged children to create a colourful design around saving and valuing food, in collaboration with The East of England Co-op. The children of Suffolk responded with lots of creative entries, which were judged by the East of England Co-op.

Congratulations go to Jacob Brough, age 11 from Ipswich, who created the winning entry for Suffolk, and now has the title of number one food saving artist in the county. The runner's-up prize went to food hero Demi-Blu Harris, age 9, also from Ipswich. There is an online gallery of the winners and all the highly commended entries at foodsavvy.org.uk/kids-competition. Winners received a personalised apron and cooking kit, as well as East of England Co-op vouchers.

The competition was a great success and brought families together in a creative way to talk about the value of food and ways to use up every bite. It also raised awareness around the £730 worth of food the average East Anglian households waste every year (WRAP). These young, creative change makers proved that no one is too small to make a difference.

If you are looking to save money and reduce food waste, the Food Savvy website is packed with recipes and ideas to cut down food waste and make your food go further. This includes planning your shopping, storing food correctly, and lots of other savvy living tips to help with lockdown life.

Remembering VJ Day, 75 years on

Saturday 15 August was the 75th anniversary of VJ Day in the UK, marking Victory in Japan at the end of the Second World War.

With celebrations often centred around VE Day earlier in the year, this period of the Second World War is sometimes overlooked, but it is important to remember that the war between the Allied Forces and Japan continued until August. In fact, on VE Day in 1945, Churchill reminded the British public that the country should "not forget for a moment the toil and efforts that lie ahead" and for many people this certainly proved to be true.

Troops from the Suffolk Regiment served across the Far East including in the Razmak District of Pakistan, Burma, and Singapore, as well as in Europe and Africa. It was following the loss of Singapore in February

1942 that the 4th and 5th Battalions spent three and half years as Prisoners-of-War, initially in the infamous Changi Jail, then constructing the Burma to Thailand Railway.

The team at Suffolk Archives have put together a [special online exhibition marking VJ Day](#), exploring the stories of two Suffolk men who were taken prisoner in the Far East, Able Seaman Harold Lock and Private Raymond Suttle, from the 4th Battalion of the Suffolk Regiment, as well as looking at the way our county marked the end of the Second World War.

The Suffolk Archives display also features a digitised version of a 1944 War Office handbook explaining the challenges of contacting and supporting POWs in the Far East, and a series of extracts showing how VJ Day activities across Suffolk were reported in local newspapers.

The development of online displays such as this has been made possible thanks to funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, aimed at increasing use and understanding of the archives through a series of countywide initiatives.

Councillor Paul West, Suffolk County Council Portfolio Holder for Heritage, said; “We hope that this new display will help people to remember and recognise those Allied Forces who served in the Far East, in particular those who were imprisoned or who lost their lives. Not only did the Allied Forces have to contend with the War itself but also faced the menace of deadly and unfamiliar tropical diseases as well high temperatures, high humidity and monsoons. Seventy-five years on it is important to look back and realise how many people made the ultimate sacrifice.”

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.

Councillor Andrew Reid, Suffolk County Council’s Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Rural Affairs, said:

“I am delighted to see our teams deliver on our promise to lay new road surfaces on a quarter of Suffolk’s roads. Not only that, but we are also due to exceed the 1,000 miles and complete this work sooner than expected.

“Residents and businesses have always been clear that they want to see roads and infrastructure improved in Suffolk. This continues to be the biggest discussion point in our local communities. By delivering this programme we have been able to focus our budget and resources on improving our roads countywide and keeping them pothole-free for longer.

“I want to take this opportunity to thank all those who have worked through a very challenging time to stick to this programme and deliver even better roads for Suffolk and its residents. We remain committed to focussing our efforts and resources where possible on this type of road improvement.”

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.

Suffolk County Council wants to encourage more people to get out and about by cycling and walking for their short journeys. The aim is to embed active travel as part of a long-term habit and reap the associated health, air quality and congestion benefits.

Suffolk has already implemented several cycling schemes in Ipswich as a result of funding received from the Department for Transport and further schemes are now being considered in Bury St Edmunds, Newmarket, Beccles, Felixstowe, Stowmarket and Sudbury.

It is also promoting the Government's Fix Your Bike £50 voucher scheme, and has provided funding to Greater Anglia to install more cycle racks at their train stations across Suffolk to help more people make cycling part of their commute or daily routine.

Councillor Andrew Reid, Suffolk County Council's Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Rural Affairs, said:

"I am proud that we are rapidly rolling out more space for walking and cycling and upgrading cycle routes here in Suffolk. But we also need to equip people with the confidence they need to cycle in and around our county, so I'm delighted we are now able to offer free cycling sessions for local residents."

"Walking and cycling will be absolutely central to Suffolk's recovery from coronavirus and our free cycling sessions are making sure everybody who wants to cycle can do so safely and easily. Many of our newly upgraded cycle routes in Ipswich, coupled with cycling training, will make journeys to school, work and the hospital a reality for more people."

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

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 *

The new incentive scheme across Suffolk and Norfolk, will complement and enhance the new Government apprenticeship incentives announced recently by the chancellor Rishi Sunak (£2,000 for 16-24, £1,500 for 25+), and also the existing age incentives of £1,000 for 16-18s (19-24 with an Education Health Care plan).

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.

It is hoped that the project, which is sponsored by the East of England Employer Ambassador Apprenticeship Network, will encourage apprenticeship starts across Suffolk and Norfolk, post COVID-19.

Suffolk County Councillor Mary Evans Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Skills said: "I am delighted to see the launch of this reward package for businesses in Suffolk. The project provides an excellent package of support for our local employers who are keen to find and develop emerging talent and invest in the future growth of their organisation."

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 and 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.

Commenting on the resources Councillor James Reeder, Suffolk County Council's Cabinet Member for Public Health and Prevention, said:

“The publication of these resources is very timely given emerging evidence that young people’s mental health and wellbeing has suffered during lockdown”.

“The link between exercise and mental health cannot be over-stated, but sadly is something that often gets forgotten. So, to have a clear and concise reminder of the all the benefits we gain from being active is extremely helpful and something, I hope, will act as an incentive to encourage our young people to think about moving more”.

Charlie Green, Senior Emotional Needs & Resources Trainer at Suffolk Mind, was instrumental in the development of the resources. She said:

“Research shows that physical activity and movement, in all it’s different forms, is at the centre of good mental and physical health for young people and, as lockdown eases, it’s important to help them find the motivation to move in enjoyable ways so it becomes part of their daily lives”.

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 and thesource.me.uk/move.