

Date: 1/9/22

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For information on local support during the Cost-of-Living Crisis, visit:

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19/suffolk-advice-and-support-service/>

Latest SCC COVID information is available here: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19/>

For information on supporting Ukrainian refugees in Suffolk, email: refugeesupport@suffolk.gov.uk

County Council

August has been a quiet month at County Council. They released a Press release about the initiative to allow GPs to prescribe cycling and other exercise:

“Walking and cycling to improve mental and physical health is to be offered by GPs in Suffolk as part of a nationwide trial.

The county is one of just 11 areas in England to take part in the £12.7 million scheme announced by the government.

The pilots, part of the government’s [Gear Change plan](#) published in 2020, aim to evaluate the impact of physical activity through cycling and walking on a person’s health, such as reduced GP appointments and reliance on medication.

The scheme in Suffolk will receive £1.5 million and will focus on Ipswich and Lowestoft.

The funding will go towards several pilot projects including adult cycle training, free bike loans and walking groups.”

It is regrettable that the Peninsula doesn’t appear to be included in this pilot and I have asked the Cabinet member concerned for the reasons why and pressed for this Division to also be included in the scheme.

Pop up Library at Shotley on Monday afternoons - planned closure in November.

As you know, that due to a deficit of £400,000 this year Suffolk Libraries are looking to make cuts and one of the proposed is the Pop up Library at Shotley. This will save about £8,500 a year.

The Libraries are indirectly funded by Suffolk County Council and I am meeting with the Cabinet member Bobby Bennett, and the head of Suffolk Libraries to try to stop or at least delay this until other sources of funding can be found.

Shotley Peninsula Cycling News

I recently met with officers of Babergh District Council and Suffolk County Council who are working to identify suitable areas to improve access for cycling and walking. The B1456 has been identified as a road that would especially benefit from a cycle path from Wherstead, and especially up Freston Hill and designs are being prepared to bid for funds to do this (from central government). We walked the route and discussed the details.

Shotley Peninsula Cycling Campaign sent representatives to the above meeting as well. *A reminder that they are organising a publicity ride on the Bridleway from Holbrook towards Wherstead and back again on Sunday 18th September at 10.00, if you would like to join the ride please contact Cathy on chair@spcc.info so that she knows likely numbers and for insurance purposes.*

We are trying to get Highways to improve that particular Bridleway (especially the section beside Cutlers Wood) as well as developing safe routes for cycling on the Peninsula (particularly up Freston Hill).

Highways news:

I attended an on line meeting run by National Highways about the A12 roadworks and diversions along the A137. These should be completed by 27th September. The mitigation measures of speed indicator devices along the A137 and speed detector vans will continue till then.

The B1456 is to be closed at Woolverstone with diversions on 8th and 9th September and many residents are unhappy about this (and have contacted me) as it will cause problems for commuting traffic especially. I have asked Highways for more details about this and asked why there cannot be traffic lights and partial closure instead, but am still awaiting answers. Hopefully the disruption can be kept to a minimum. The B1456 will also be closed on Sunday 11/9/22 from 8.30 till 13.15 from Wherstead to Freston (junction with B1080) for the Half Marathon.

For news on roadworks in Suffolk you can look at the SCC webpage: [Roadworks in Suffolk | Suffolk County Council](#) and use webchat or email customer.services@suffolk.co.uk

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