

October 2022 report for the Thredling Division from Cllr Matthew Hicks

Households urged to get Food Savvy to save money and avoid waste

As the cost of living continues to bite a new campaign has been launched in Suffolk to help families reduce food waste and save money. Back To Savvy is a Suffolk Waste Partnership initiative which advises people on how to reduce food waste through planning out meals and storing them effectively. The campaign will advise on planning meals and batch cooking, storing prepared meals so they are ready for work/school, and repurposing leftovers into new meals.

The three main top tips are:

Cook today, eat tomorrow - cook multiple meals together using batch recipes and store in a fridge or freezer for later

Love your leftovers - turn dinner leftovers into tasty lunches or even remix them into fun new recipes.

Plan ahead - organise your lunches by planning and buying in advance. Even a minute planning your meals will save you a tonne of time and money.

Back to Savvy launches on Monday September 5 and is part of the wider Suffolk and Norfolk Food Savvy campaign, which offers a range of advice and information on how to save food and money. Households across the UK waste 6.6 million tonnes of food annually, of which it is calculated 4.5 million tonnes are good to eat. In Norfolk and Suffolk, this equates to 118,000 tonnes of wasted food across the two counties annually. The average family with children could save more than £730 per year if they were to reduce their avoidable food waste. Food waste also contributes to climate change as the greenhouse gases associated with food waste in the UK are the equivalent of those produced by ten million cars. With a little forethought and planning it is possible to make what we buy go further, last longer and help protect our environment. For more details [go to the Food Savvy website](#).

Sale of substandard safety equipment stopped in Suffolk

Over 350 items of motorcycle protective clothing were removed from sale at Copdock Bike Show after Trading Standards deemed the products potentially dangerous. Officers visited stallholders at the show held on Sunday, 4 September, at Trinity Park to carry out on-the-spot inspections, which led to the discovery of six retailers selling motorcycle Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) that did not comply with safety legislation. These sellers were subsequently issued with withdrawal notices, meaning they cannot legally sell their products until PPE regulations are met. A total of 323 pairs of jeans with knee protectors, 15 full leather body suits and ten pairs of gloves with knuckle protectors were stopped from being sold because of failure to supply instruction booklets or correct labelling. In addition, six jackets were withdrawn from sale for not including vital impact protectors to help safeguard riders. Out of the 15 stalls visited, no issues were found with motorcycle clothing on sale from nine traders. Protecting motorcyclists in Suffolk remains a priority for our council and I am immensely grateful to Trading Standards for reducing the risk of harm to riders by preventing them from buying dangerous protective equipment that did not contain the necessary labelling or proof that it met required standards. All new motorcycle clothing placed on the market in the UK after 2018 should display a rating indicating how protective it could be in the event of a crash and a label showing it has been certified to EN17092. The EN17092 certification is divided into four classifications to help riders decide which equipment is most suitable for their needs:

AAA – The highest level of protection specified by the standard

AA – More suited for touring gear

A – Used for urban riding and includes impact protectors

B – Also deemed suitable for urban riding but comes without impact protectors

Consumers concerned about the safety of their motorcycle PPE should stop using it immediately and report the retailer to Trading Standards via the Citizens Advice Consumer Service on 0808 223 113.

Digital care is relieving the strain on social and the NHS

It's been a little over a year since Suffolk County Council launched Cassius – now the most advanced digital care technology service in the country – and in that time we've changed the lives of 1,600 Suffolk residents with the installation of over 2,600 pieces of digital technology. The types of technology installed include movement sensors, smart watches, wearables and falls prevention devices – all of which are supporting people in Suffolk to remain independent for longer and to live safely and well at home. For example, movement sensors can show when you leave home and return, or if there hasn't been movement for some time, letting your carer or loved ones know you're safe. Smart watches allow you to easily call for help from home or while you're out. Falls pendants will automatically raise an alarm and call for help if it detects that you've had a fall. The technology on offer can all be customised to support people with a range of health and care needs and address specific requirements. And after one year in action, we now have some fascinating new data which highlights the benefits of a digital care technology service such as Cassius, and the huge results it creates for social care and the NHS. Because digital technology can delay someone's need to access additional care or move to supported accommodation before they're ready, the data shows that Cassius has created estimated cost avoidance savings to social care of £4.2 million, as well as cashable savings of £420,000. These savings can then be put back into the system and used to improve social care services elsewhere. Not only that, but we are pleased to see the added value to the wider healthcare system too. Since last July, Cassius has helped to avoid 118 ambulance callouts at a time when pressure on the NHS is at an all-time high, and prevented hospital admissions saving 170 days, freeing up beds for those most in need. These are such encouraging outcomes for a service developed from scratch. Cassius has exceeded all our expectations and Suffolk's social care practitioners are quickly becoming the most digitally advanced in the country. These figures are a testament to how you can transform services and continue to provide positive experiences and benefits to all. But most important is the benefit the technology is having on people's lives, which has been wonderful to see. We are so proud of what Cassius has achieved in its first year – but there is so much potential still to explore.

Ipswich Register Officer moves to Endeavour House

The Ipswich Register Office will be moving to new state of the art facilities at Endeavour House, from October. To complete the move, the Ipswich Register office at St Peter House will close on Friday 30 September and will re-open fully at Endeavour House, Russell Road, on Tuesday 4 October. From Tuesday 4 October, registrations of births and deaths, together with Notices of Marriage/Civil partnerships and Early Bird ceremonies will take place at Endeavour House which will also offer a walk-in reception service and more modern facilities. It will also be fully accessible, in its new ground floor location, giving improved access for all customers, as well as there being more parking options available. The new accommodation at Endeavour House will provide bright, modern facilities and improved accessibility for all our customers. It is also a more central location in Ipswich, which has excellent transport links, with the railway station, a number of bus routes serving the area and parking close by. It was also confirmed earlier this year that couples who opt for a register office ceremony in Ipswich will be tying the knot in a new location in the future. In the new year marriage and civil partnership ceremonies will take place in the Pickwick Room at the historic Ipswich Town Hall on the Cornhill. The Pickwick Room at the Town Hall will be refurbished to create a new ceremonial space for marriages and civil partnerships and will be decorated in keeping with the era of the Town Hall.

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