

## June 2015 report for the Thredling Division from Cllr Matthew Hicks

### **Norfolk/Suffolk waste deal extended**

The inter-county deal, which sees some of Norfolk's waste dealt with at SCC's new energy from waste (EFW) plant has been extended for a further four years, to 2020. The extension has been agreed as part of Norfolk County Council's work to secure four years' worth of waste services, using facilities that are already up and running inside or outside Norfolk, to replace its current arrangements which end in 2016 that deal with the 210,000 tonnes of rubbish left after recycling (residual waste) that Norfolk generates each year. Commenting on the deal, Matthew Hicks, SCC's cabinet member for Environment and Public Protection, said: "This is an extension of current arrangements which benefit both local authorities, saving each county in the region of £1million between 2014 and 2016. The extension of this agreement will not increase the volume of waste moved into Suffolk and the number of trucks transporting waste from Norfolk will not change. There are currently eight movements each day, moving around 40,000 tonnes of residual waste from Norfolk. This is a good deal for taxpayers in both counties." Our EFW plant has been a hugely successful achievement, bringing great benefits to the people of Suffolk. This contract with Norfolk only adds to this, and demonstrates how working closely with fellow councils can help us save money without cutting services.

### **Shared Woodbridge Community Fire and Police Station opens**

Last month saw the official opening of the new shared Woodbridge Community Fire and Police Station. As part of Suffolk's on-going blue-light collaboration, the two services, together with the East of England Ambulance Service, have been working together and now share response bases in several locations across Suffolk. The Woodbridge fire station has been adapted specifically to accommodate fire and police teams and improve the facilities provided. Sharing property reduces costs and saves money for the taxpayer. The £740,000 shared base includes new office accommodation for the police, much improved facilities for staff, better community facilities for local residents wanting a space to hold meetings, improved access and welfare facilities for staff and the public and a new vehicle bay for the Fire and Rescue Service. The base is designed to accommodate a team of on-call firefighters and their two emergency vehicles and the Police Local Safer Neighbourhood Team. This is the fifth shared community fire and police facility in Suffolk with stations already operating in Ixworth, Elmswell, Debenham and Framlingham. In addition, Ambulance teams are also based at fire stations in Lowestoft and Brandon. Once again, Suffolk is at the forefront of partnership working.

### **Suffolk's Fostering Fortnight runs until 14<sup>th</sup> June**

SCC's fostering team is inviting members of the community to make a connection to fostering, raise awareness and have a conversation about the opportunities for foster care. During this year's Fostering Fortnight, which runs until 14<sup>th</sup> June, the county council's fostering team will be touring the county, making connections and searching for people who could help care for a Suffolk child. To help kick start these conversations, the team are visiting areas of Ipswich, Bury, Lowestoft, Halesworth and Felixstowe to deliver a series of events for current and potential carers. Over 700 children are in care in Suffolk, with 400 over the age of 10. They need someone who can understand what they have been through, look at the world through their eyes and provide warmth, consistency and emotional support. If you are looking for a new challenge and have patience and compassion, you could provide a child with the secure home life they need to thrive and achieve. Potential foster carers are asked to start the process today by calling or emailing the team. Please call: 01473 264800 or E-mail: [fosteranddadopt@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:fosteranddadopt@suffolk.gov.uk)

### **Young drivers face the Honest Truth**

A hard hitting campaign is being launched in Suffolk to keep younger drivers safe on our roads. The Honest Truth campaign is being launched by the Suffolk Roadsafe Partnership and aims to encourage young drivers to think about the consequences of potentially careless behaviour behind the wheel. In the last five years 14 young people aged between 17-19 were killed on Suffolk's roads and 175 suffered serious injuries. The campaign will be delivered directly to young drivers by Approved Driving Instructors. The Suffolk Roadsafe Partnership is encouraging instructors to sign up to the campaign by running information events and providing them with materials to share with their students to educate them on the potential dangers of careless and irresponsible driving. For more information on the Honest Truth campaign please visit: <http://www.suffolkroadsafe.net/drivers/the-honest-truth/>  
We are committed to keeping Suffolk safe. This campaign is a great example of how we can support our young people and help them to stay safe on the roads.

**Matthew Hicks - County Councillor for the Thredling Division**

**Tel : 01728 628176 Mob : 07824474741 E-mail : [matthew.hicks@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:matthew.hicks@suffolk.gov.uk)**