

June 2022 report for the Thredling Division from Cllr Matthew Hicks

Council on course to plant 200,000 trees

On May 11th it was announced that Suffolk County Council had planted 198,547 trees across Suffolk in just the last two years (at an average of 272 per day). Much of this was possible thanks to £400,000 of the council's own Suffolk 2020 Fund, to protect and encourage biodiversity in the county. In one year, 198,547 average adult trees could absorb the equivalent CO2 emitted by:
8,845,898 miles travelled in a typical petrol car
903 typical household gas boilers running for a year
199 Suffolk residents each year.

The planting includes 12 miles of new mixed native species hedgerows across 15 county farm holdings, delivering new wildlife habitat, ecological corridors and enhanced landscapes. The council worked with many partners to make the tree planting a success, including The Woodland Trust, Suffolk Tree Warden Network, county farm tenants, landowners, local authorities and communities, and contractor Giles Landscapes. This amazing achievement would not have been possible without all the partners we work with, to whom I'm grateful for getting these trees in the ground. From the support of our exceptional Suffolk Tree Warden Network volunteers, through to the children at local schools, we really have put Suffolk on the UK map for tree planting. New trees will help protect and enhance biodiversity in our environment, which is crucial. They will provide habitats and havens for wildlife, supporting the delicate and special ecosystems we have in Suffolk. We will continue to explore ways of planting even more. Of course more trees will absorb more CO2 from the atmosphere, and contribute to slowing the increasing rate of climate change. But that is not enough on its own in our ambition for a Net Zero Suffolk by 2030, and as a council we are committed to using less energy and cutting our own carbon emissions. All the trees have been registered as part of the Queen's Green Canopy to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and contribute to the continuing Suffolk-wide ambition of Creating the Greenest County.

Business owners urged to #ThinkSprinkler to protect lives and property

Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service supported National Sprinkler Week, helping to raise awareness of how sprinkler systems can protect people and property. Calls are being made by the National Fire Chiefs Council for government to remedy building regulations in relation to sprinklers, which currently differ across the UK. The NFCC are particularly concerned about new build schools, care homes and warehousing. At present, sprinklers are a requirement in new build care homes and schools in Scotland and Wales, but this legislation doesn't extend to England and Wales, with the NFCC fearing that this could lead to a fire risk for vulnerable people. Fire sprinklers are widely recognised as the single most effective method for fighting the spread of fires in their early stages. Research carried out by the NFCC and the National Fire Sprinkler Network (NFSN) found that, when in use, sprinklers help to extinguish or contain fires 99% of the time. They also reduce fire related injuries by at least 80% and property damage by 90%.

Jon Lacey, Chief Fire Officer for Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service, shared why they're proudly supporting Sprinkler Week once again: "We have seen first-hand how sprinklers can help to control a fire within seconds of it breaking out, protecting not just people and property but also our firefighters. For this reason, we would encourage new build non-domestic properties to consider installing a sprinkler system, as these are relatively inexpensive but really do make a difference in keeping communities safe. We are always on hand to provide guidance on sprinklers and other fire safety measures as part of our ongoing protection work, and anyone wishing to benefit from our advice can visit the Suffolk Fire and Rescue website to find out more."

Suffolk Archives invites people to donate Platinum Jubilee souvenirs for ‘memory box’

As the county celebrated the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee, Suffolk Archives is inviting the public to contribute souvenirs from their celebrations. From Monday 6 June, people can donate items such as photographs, postcards, programmes, invitations and leaflets from local events. After past royal events, the public has donated a variety of physical and digital items. With the Platinum Jubilee being a rare event in British history, this is an opportunity for local people to help build on the Archives’ existing 900-year records, providing valuable research content for future generations. We are encouraging people of all ages to help us capture Suffolk’s celebrations this summer, be it a family gathering, a performance, a school or village festival or a street party. Part of the Archives’ job is to gather a ‘living history’ and any mementos of the celebrations could help us to create a lasting record of how our county marked the Platinum Jubilee – a major historic occasion. Digital content can be submitted online via the website, and hard copy posters, postcard and similar materials can be brought into local branches in Bury St Edmunds, Ipswich and Lowestoft. All donations will be subject to assessment, as archivists can only keep the best quality materials and need to prevent duplication of items. Items cannot be returned. For more information and to submit digital content visit the Suffolk archives website Email any questions suffolk.remembers@suffolk.gov.uk or call **01473 296666**.

Suffolk residents encouraged to use their Quiet Lanes

People in Suffolk are being encouraged to explore more of the beautiful countryside on their doorstep through the growing Quiet Lanes initiative. Quiet Lanes is a nationally recognised designation for narrow, rural roads which can be shared with walkers, horse riders, cyclists and other road users. The scheme aims to encourage everyone using the lanes to travel with caution, so everyone can enjoy the rural lanes with greater safety. Launched in 2020 it is a county-wide project overseen by a volunteer steering group supported by SCC’s 2020 Fund. Since its launch nearly 200 parish councils have engaged and there are now more than 350 lanes designated in Suffolk, covering approximately 248 miles of country road. All Quiet Lanes are marked with green Residents can use the interactive map on the Quiet Lanes Suffolk website to find out where the nearest lanes are to them. This is a wonderful sustainable initiative aimed at opening up more of our countryside for leisure and recreation activities and active travel. The lockdowns over the past two years have shown the value of these areas that signs at either end, which clearly show the hierarchy of right of way for people using the road. exist on many of our doorsteps, both for our physical and mental health. Now they have been officially designated we hope it will encourage more residents to make use of the countryside around them and explore other ways of travelling other than in the car. Quiet Lanes has been the perfect example of people working together to achieve something significant. Without the hard work of the volunteers and the willingness of Parish Councils to work together to link up the lane network and hold public consultation, we wouldn’t have been able to achieve anywhere near the amount of Quiet Lanes that have now been designated across Suffolk. This is a fantastic initiative which helps to preserve the character of our country lanes, reduce traffic and speed, and encourage drivers to be more mindful of non-motorist road users, making it safer for those who want to enjoy our beautiful rural lanes by foot or bike. Not only does this support an active and healthy way of travelling, but it also helps the environment and provides a better quality of life for the local area. In 2019, SCC declared a Climate Emergency. The council set up a Policy Development Panel to investigate how to cut SCC’s carbon and harmful emissions on a spend to save basis, with the aim to make Suffolk carbon neutral by 2030. Now in its second phase, work is being done to explore six focus areas, including Transport and Air Quality to which the Quiet Lanes initiative contributes through improvement to natural environmental quality. Visit Quiet Lanes Suffolk website to access over 350 Suffolk country roads designated as Quiet Lanes for recreation.

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