

# E-Bulletin 1 March 2019

This bulletin is intended for members and staff - clerks are requested to circulate accordingly

## Advice and Information



### SALC E-Newsletter - TLC

SALC has published the latest E-Newsletter containing the latest news and updates. [Click here](#) to read.

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## **Have your say on the future of the Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service**

Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service is asking you, and Suffolk's parish and town councils, for views on how it manages the risks it faces across the county. For example, does your business premises have an automatic fire alarm? One of the areas under consideration is how the service responds to these.

The Fire Service regularly assesses all foreseeable risks that could affect its operations. This includes considering one-off types of event such as countywide flooding and terrorist attacks, in addition to the more usual responses to fires, animal rescues and road traffic collisions.

This eight-week consultation is part of a statutory process, with information feeding into the fire service's Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) for the next three years (2019 to 2022); essentially a plan for how it provides its services.

There is the opportunity to meet officers from the service at local events being held in March:

- 14 March Haverhill: Sainsburys, Haycocks Road (10am to midday)
- 21 March Newmarket: Tesco, Fordham Road (10am to midday)

The consultation, a video from Chief Fire Officer Mark Hardingham and further information about the service is available [here](#)

The consultation will be open until 5pm on 7 April 2019.

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## **Important Information: Suffolk School Travel Changes from September 2019**

Suffolk County Council have asked for SALC to circulate the following information. They have advised that some Parish and Town Councils asked them to keep them informed about the changes to the school travel policy because it was being brought up by members of the public in their patches.

This was a very big topic in the media last year and Suffolk County Council believes it is better to provide people with the information, even if they have received it elsewhere.

As you will be aware Suffolk County Council (SCC) is implementing changes to its School Travel Policy from September 2019. We have previously written to all schools and Town and Parish councils with information about the policy changes and how they may affect families in your area.

The opt-in process for those pupils who are eligible for SCC funded school travel for the 2019/2020 school year opens on 1 March 2019 with a deadline of 31 May 2019. SCC will be using various communications channels to cascade the opt-in message to parents/families.

- Social media – Facebook and Twitter
- Media – news stories
- Councillors – briefings at local meetings
- Primary School and Secondary School national offer days – emails and letters
- Education Officers who visit schools
- Websites – [www.suffolk.gov.uk](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk) and [www.suffolkonboard.com/optin](http://www.suffolkonboard.com/optin)
- Newsletters – Suffolk Headlines, Governors, Post-16 providers
- Poster

Below is a message which you can use on your website and / or in your newsletter / magazine etc which will help explain the policy changes to families in your area and where they need to go to find out more information. A poster can also be downloaded at [www.suffolkonboard.com/optin](http://www.suffolkonboard.com/optin) to display on your noticeboards about the importance of opting-in.

**Is your child eligible for Suffolk County Council funded school travel?**

Suffolk's School Travel Policy has been amended, so it is important that you understand how this might affect your child's eligibility for funded school travel from September 2019. To find out more visit [www.suffolkonboard.com/schooltravel](http://www.suffolkonboard.com/schooltravel)

If your child is eligible for funded school travel you now need to opt-in (apply) each year so they can receive it. The opt-in window for this year is open from 1 March 2019 to 31 May 2019. To find out more visit [www.suffolkonboard.com/optin](http://www.suffolkonboard.com/optin)

Again, for your reference please see below details about the policy changes.

**Statutory School Age School Travel Policy**

Children living in Suffolk who will be starting at a new school in September 2019 will be eligible for SCC funded school travel when they are over 2 miles (under 8 years old) or 3 miles (aged 8 or over) walking distance from their nearest suitable school that would have had a place available for them. This would be whether or not an application was made for a place at that school. Full details about SCC funded school travel, including additional arrangements for low income families and those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), can be found at [www.suffolkonboard.com/schooltravel](http://www.suffolkonboard.com/schooltravel)

**New pupils**

In the first year of change the new school travel policy will only impact on those starting or moving school with effect from September 2019.

- For those starting at secondary/upper schools parents will be informed if their child is eligible by 30 April 2019.
- For those starting at primary/middle schools in September 2019, parents will be informed if their child is eligible for SCC funded travel by 14 May 2019.
- If parents do not hear from us by the date shown above and believe their child is eligible for SCC funded school travel, they should contact the Customer Service Team on 0345 606 6173 or email them

at [customer.services@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:customer.services@suffolk.gov.uk). Information about those who are eligible to SCC funded travel will be provided to the child's current and receiving school.

### **Returning pupils**

The new policy is being phased in. This means that children who receive SCC funded school travel in the 2018/2019 school year will continue to receive this whilst they continue to attend the same school, unless they turn 8 years of age and live between 2 and 3 miles from their current school, or move house at which time eligibility would be reassessed.

### **To opt-in (apply) for SCC funded school travel**

For transport in September 2019 and all future years, families whose child/ren are eligible for SCC funded school travel will need to opt-in to receive their transport. This is a change from previous years.

This important change means that parents whose children are eligible will have to opt-in **by 31 May** each year for school travel to be provided in the following school year as this will no longer be provided automatically.

This includes:

1. Those currently eligible and who have SCC funded school travel under the old policy arrangements because they will be in Year 1 to Year 6, or Year 8 to Year 11 in September 2019 (and have not moved address) or
2. are eligible under the new travel policy.

Recent research has shown that some families, although eligible to SCC funded school travel, do not use their seat(s). Suffolk County Council consequently is funding seats which are unused and therefore, we are asking families to opt-in.

### **Post-16 Travel Policy Statement for September 2019:**

The Post-16 Policy has not changed other than agreed increases to the cost of a seat until

the charge equals the average cost. For September 2019/2020 school year the charge will be £750 per annum.

The financial contribution for students with SEND for 2019/2020 school year will be £690.

**Suffolk Brokerage Service:**

If any school or local community would like to access capacity building support to assist them in running travel arrangements themselves, please contact [customer.services@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:customer.services@suffolk.gov.uk). For more information on how town and parish councils can get involved look at the Sustainable Modes of Travel Strategy at [www.suffolkonboard.com/smot](http://www.suffolkonboard.com/smot)

Thank you for your support in ensuring we provide clear information about the changes to Suffolk's School Travel Policy to parents whose children are eligible for SCC funded school travel.

Yours sincerely,

**Gordon Jones**

**Cabinet member for Children's Services, Education & Skills**

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**PERSIMMON BUILDING FUTURES WITH TEAM GB**

Leading UK housebuilder Persimmon Homes has become an official partner of Team GB and will support the organisation for the next three years through to Tokyo 2020 and beyond.

At the heart of the new partnership is Persimmon's new £1million-a-year nationwide funding scheme, Building Futures, which the housebuilder has officially launched.

Team GB will support the Building Futures programme, which aims to assist community sports, education and arts and health initiatives for under 18s.

The scheme is being delivered through the Persimmon Charitable Foundation, which last year donated £620,000 to support children's sport.

Building Futures is even more ambitious than last year's scheme and is aimed solely at community projects for under 18s and targeted at grassroots sports groups, community groups dealing with physical and mental health issues and awareness as well as arts and education projects.

Locally, a total of 128 grants of £1,000 will be awarded each year across Persimmon's 31 regional businesses and its head office to improve facilities and the delivery of vital grassroots community projects.

Three initiatives will go on to win £100,000 each through a national award scheme voted on by the public.

In each sector – Sport, Health and Education – as well as the £100,000 first prize, there will be a £50,000 second prize and a £20,000 third prize, while a further 87 shortlisted projects will each receive £5,000. For further details [click here](#)

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### **For sale: Disabled toilet**

Bawdsey Parish Council has a brand new disabled loo/basin and hand rails, a high end product still in its box for sale. Please [click here](#) for further details.

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### **SportsCourts UK Ltd**

SportsCourts UK Ltd is an affiliated member of The Sports And Play Construction Association(SAPCA) who work alongside the Lawn Tennis Association(LTA), Sport England and other funding bodies on numerous projects. We offer competitive rates and pride ourselves on our exceptional customer service.

Our expertise includes -

Tennis/Netball courts and MUGAS(Multi use games areas)

- Construction
- Resurfacing
- Washing
- Re-lining
- General maintenance
- Fencing

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss any requirements a council may have and possibly save money on the current maintenance . If council's would like to arrange a free site visit and survey- without obligation- please do contact me on 01727 730707 or [visit the website](#)

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[Latest vacancies here](#)

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**Reminder: Recruitment – locum clerk service**

From time to time, for a variety of reasons, local councils require the services of a temporary clerk. The Association, working closely with Opus People Solutions, have developed a new locum clerking service. Clerks wishing to find out how to apply [click here](#)

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## **Forthcoming Training**



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## **2019**

LEADERSHIP SKILLS COURSE: 12 & 19 March

CLERK WORKSHOP: BOOK KEEPING, AUDIT, ANNUAL RETURN AND PRECEPT: 14  
March

PLANNING: 27 March

CLERK INFORMATION & NETWORKING: 29 March

To view the 2019-20 annual training programme [click here](#)

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## **Events**



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## Suffolk Walking Festival

Now in its 12<sup>th</sup> year, the Suffolk Walking festival (11<sup>th</sup> May to 2<sup>nd</sup> June) has established itself as one of Britain's premier walking festivals with over 120 walks and events across our county.

The 2019 festival is going to be the most creative, imaginative and ambitious one to date. From a dawn chorus to hidden orchids, Arthur Ransome to John Constable, and from Anglo-Saxons to naval heritage, there's even murder, myths and a little bit of magic.

The festival has something for everyone: short strolls, gentle rambles, long hikes; family walks, history walks, nature walks; story-telling, art lessons, photography courses; walks with boat trips, walks with breakfasts, walks with train rides. Some of the highlights include:

A walk with Kite, whose day job is being the Orford Ness sheepdog. Kite will be joined by her shepherd owner who will explain how they manage the reserve for wildlife.

- Night Safari will enter an ancient woodland just after sundown to experience the wood's nocturnal life and talk to owls!

- A walk to Eye Airfield will reveal its war time history with a ride back in vintage military vehicles!
- And a walk discovering the fascinating history of Ipswich's Waterfront, followed by a Thames Barge cruise down the River Orwell.

All walks are ticketed, and all tickets must be purchased in advance.

Brochures will be available from early March in various outlets including: Libraries, Leisure Centres, Tourist Information Centres, Visitor Information Points and Cotswold Outdoors. To find out more and buy tickets click on this [link](#)

## Latest Local Authority News

[Click here](#) to access the news from East Suffolk

[Click here](#) to access the news from West Suffolk

[Click here](#) to access the news from Babergh and Mid Suffolk

[Click here](#) to access the news and updates from SCC

## Latest News from NALC

[Click here](#) to access the news from The National Association CEO, Jonathan Owen

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Our mailing address is:

SALC

Unit 11a Hill View Business Park  
Old Ipswich Road, Claydon

Ipswich, Suffolk

IP60AJ

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