

Bungay News

Local news from Bungay Town Council | Autumn 2021

Tel: 01986 894236. Email: clerk@bungaytowncouncil.gov.uk www.bungaytowncouncil.gov.uk Twitter @BungayTown



The Annis Hill Project

When an opportunity arose to increase green space for the benefit of Bungay residents the Town Council and the Bungay Neighbourhood Development Group grabbed it with both hands.

In January 2020 Suffolk County Council revealed their plans for the former 6th Form site on Hillside Road leaving the 2.4 hectares of playing field at the southern edge of the town redundant. The potential for the community was obvious as it is close to a residential area with excellent accessibility; an open landscape and natural boundaries of mature trees and native hedging, all which provides a superb opportunity to create a unique space. It is also ideally positioned to form a potential network of connected green spaces using existing footpaths and cycle routes.

As part of the process to acquire it an initial survey to gauge interest was carried out, and the response has been overwhelmingly positive. Suggestions included: a wooded area; a community garden; a nonconventional children's space featuring play and nature; space for

working with local community organisations; a space for older or disabled people with access and features such as a sensory garden, or a family picnic area – safe for children to play, or somewhere which offers the opportunity for community projects – such as the local Men's Shed, to become involved; measures to support and encourage wildlife such as a meadow, or use as a resource for local schools to support learning have been suggested. Other ideas include allotments and an amphitheatre.

These proposals and suggestions were submitted to Suffolk County Council in June and we are delighted to report that in a meeting held on 13th August SCC took the decision to pass the land over to Bungay Town Council. This green space has now become another valuable asset owned by the community.

With ideas, funding sources and volunteers



already in place, we are now in a position to move forward to the next stage, which will be to draft plans based on the ideas put forward by Bungay residents and share them with the wider community. Feedback from these drafts will enable BTC to reach a final decision.

Our grateful thanks for the 90 plus responses received. The ideas that people put time and effort into sharing has been invaluable and each one will receive very careful consideration.

The Steering Group team consists of: Karen Lodge member of BNDP, Bob Prior BTC Councillor and member of BNDP, Dorothy Casey Biodiversity Advisor, Mick Lincoln BTC, Councillor, Jesse Timberlake Environment Advisor and member of BNDP, Sue Collins BTC Councillor and VC BNDP.

Bungay Neighbourhood Development Plan

The Neighbourhood Plan will guide future development in the town. Once ratified it is legally binding, so it is extremely important to get it right. The Town Council initiated the process and the Plan has been drafted by local people with public consultations.

We now are in the final stage, the draft Plan is ready and over the next few weeks you are asked to make your comments – to have your say.

The Plan aims to ensure Bungay remains an historic and distinctive market town. We need to create a vibrant town centre whilst maintaining its cultural heritage, and plan for sustainable housing developments. The Plan proposes a mix of new housing, including affordable housing, all built to a high green standard. The sites for future housing developments are identified and it is proposed that all new developments aim to achieve net zero emissions.

The Neighbourhood Plan addresses the need to expand facilities in the community and makes recommendations for a community hub and community use of the Annis Hill site. It also considers the need for development of the Bungay Medical Centre, for providing more facilities for childcare, pre-school education and services to support more vulnerable residents. Opportunities for adult education are proposed. The aim is to promote the health, wellbeing, and leisure facilities for those who live and work in the town.

The Plan looks to increased local employment and leisure facilities. It supports the growth of tourism and a boost to the economy. Other policies aim to managing traffic flow in Bungay, the availability of parking and a range of transport facilities.

A major part of the Plan focuses on green policies, including greener approaches to transport, enhanced access to open spaces and focus on health and wellbeing. It suggests a green corridor through the town and measures to increase biodiversity in the environment. Flooding is an issue which is very important to Bungay residents, and flood prevention measures which demonstrate a biodiversity net gain are supported. Bungay is the only town in Suffolk without a park. The Plan proposes a town park as well as improved and extended play areas for children.

This gives you a flavour of the Plan. Every household will receive a leaflet summarising the main points of the Plan and copies of the full Plan can be seen at the Council Office and in the library. It is also available to view at www.bungaytowncouncil.gov.uk.

Consultation presentations will be held at the Coop and other locations to be confirmed and the Town Council plans an online Zoom session of questions and answers. It is important that local people give their views on what is proposed. Response forms will be held at the Council Office and in the library but if possible, please complete one on line – the survey form is on www.bungaytowncouncil.gov.uk

HAVE YOUR SAY. The consultation period runs from 10th September to 5th November. Please make sure your views are known.

Meet the mayor

My wife and I moved to Bungay in 1980 having both known the town since the 1960's. We were married in Trinity Church and there is a plaque in the bell chamber of St Mary's

commemorating the birth of our daughter. We have two daughters, the younger one living in York and the elder daughter living in the middle of Bungay. Most residents of

Bungay will know our elder daughter and her little white dog with whom she visits many of the care homes in the town.

I worked in the food industry and advised companies in both human and pet food before finally retiring last year. I was fortunate to be able to travel to many parts of the world but, as for so many travelling is currently on hold.

I became involved with the Bungay Neighbourhood Development Group which is a government initiative to enable residents to have a greater say in the planning and development in the area in which they live. It was suggested I should stand to become a councillor and joined the town council in 2016.

During the past two years the council has faced unexpected challenges, not least of all the impact of covid, and the flooding in the area last Christmas. I am hoping this next 12 months will allow the council to consolidate recent initiatives. It is expected East Suffolk Council will complete the transfer of the public toilets and various areas of land to the council, with the toilets being refurbished later this month. Both the Town Hall and the Riverside Centre are in need of updating in order to make them more available for users with disabilities.

We are in discussion with East Suffolk Council for a grant to aid with the employment of a Town Development Manager who will work with local organisations to help improve the economy of the town. East Suffolk Council in conjunction with Bungay Neighbourhood Development Group will be presenting their plans for the future development of the town at the beginning of next year. Meanwhile plans to upgrade the skate park progress as does the initiative to increase green spaces within the town.

Cllr. John Adams was appointed Mayor of Bungay in May 2021.



Bungay Community Support

Bungay Community Support is the new name for BECS (Bungay Emergency Community Support) which was formed at the end of March 2020 to support residents during the Covid-19 pandemic.



With help from the Halesworth Volunteer Centre, Martha Coleman coordinates and provides support to their many volunteers drivers, call handlers, coordinators and over 20 befrienders who regularly call and chat with lonely and isolated residents.

They have had a busy year, and to date their amazing volunteers have performed over 2500 tasks including shopping, delivering prescriptions, posting parcels, doing odd jobs, offering advice and befriending. In December the service, along with other volunteers and Councillors, assisted residents who had been affected by the flooding along the Waveney. Martha, supported by her volunteers dealt with numerous requests for, and offers of help which included white goods and furniture, loans of de-humidifiers, food parcels either cooked by or donated to residents in Bungay, Earsham and Ditchingham. They were greatly received by everyone who appreciated this wonderful support during their time of need.

Bungay Community Support continues to work alongside other charity and voluntary organisations in Bungay, and is in the process of applying for CIO (Charitable Incorporated Organisation) status from the Charity Commission. At the end of 2020, BECS received an award "In Recognition of Outstanding Service to the Community in Suffolk during the Covid-19

Pandemic" from Clare Countess of Euston, HM Lord Lieutenant of Suffolk and signed by Bridget McIntyre MBE, High Sheriff of Suffolk. Cllr. Sue Collins also received an award from the Lord Lieutenant for her work in setting up BECS, and Martha Coleman accepted The High Sheriff's Award, live on BBC Radio Suffolk. The award money is being used to set up a new project called 'Creative Communities' which will provide monthly deliveries of arts and crafts projects and fortnightly recipe cards to residents.

We are looking for a few volunteer drivers who can spare a couple of hours once a week, and if you are someone who likes talking and listening to people and would be prepared to befriend somebody who is lonely and isolated, please call us.

The trustees and working group members would wish to thank all of their wonderful volunteers, past and present, Halesworth Volunteer Centre, Suffolk Community Foundation, Bungay United Charity, the Bungay Medical Practice Charity and East Suffolk Council for grants. The team are all proud to have been a part of this amazing response and hope that Bungay Community Support will be a lasting legacy for the town. Bungay Community Support. Tel: 0300 365 2995.

Bungay Christmas Lights

Last year the Christmas lights, with their iconic colours of gold and silver, went up around Bungay despite everything!

After fundraising efforts throughout 2019, Bungay Christmas Lights were finally able to renew the whole display and even expand a little, and this wouldn't have been possible without the support of residents and businesses. People have been so generous, supporting the lights by putting their change in the collection boxes in businesses around town.

Grants are provided by Bungay Town Council, Bungay Town Trust, BEBA and our District and County Councillors David Ritchie and Judy Cloke provided funding which enabled the committee to refrain from asking local businesses for a direct donation in 2020.

This year the 'Switch On' event will once again be taking place on the 19th November and promises to be great fun for all of the family. There will be a market in Cross Street with a wide variety of stalls, entertainment and lots of attractions including the chance to win a Christmas Pudding!

Chair of the committee, Lucy Walker said, "We are looking forward to having the lights up again and there are some changes being made which, although a secret, are very exciting". For the first time businesses and individuals are being offered the chance to 'Sponsor a Star' for just £25, many of the stars having been updated with new light-strings. The committee is always keen for new members to join, and they especially needed someone who would be able to help with ideas, the sorting of the lights and dealing with members of the public!

Lucy wished to thank the community for their ongoing support, and to say a special 'Thank you' to their secretary Tony Cosgrove, who had been brilliant, hardworking and instrumental to the success of Bungay's Christmas Lights for over 15 years'. If you would like to donate or sponsor, please email: bungaychristmaslights@gmail.com.

Proud of Bungay

Proud of Bungay has a proud history in helping to keep it's town clean and tidy, and despite the best efforts of the towns grounds assistant Steve Beckett, and East Suffolk's street cleansing team, there is always much that can be done.

Every four weeks we call upon the community to support us in our efforts to ensure that everyone can be 'Proud of Bungay'.

Bungay Town Council are about to take ownership of the Public Toilets in both Priory Lane and Cross Street, the result of a land transfer deal with East Suffolk Council who have agreed to transfer ownership of these buildings to the town. Once fully refurbished the aim will be to maintain these to the highest standard and for the long-term benefit of our community, traders and visitors alike.

Proud of Bungay aims to coordinate and oversee the maintenance and repair of our Green Spaces including verges, weed spraying, litter picking, the town's security and CCTV, and liaison with police and the reporting of the condition of street furniture including benches, waste bins, planters, bus shelters, etc.

Please contact Bungay Town Council for further information.

Church news

Dom Charles Fitzgerald-Lombard, priest of St Edmund's Roman Catholic church in Bungay since 2006, retired from parish ministry on 16 August, and will return to his monastic community at Downside near Bath.

Father Charles's departure marks the end of more than 350 years association with the English Benedictine Congregation as the parish is handed over to the Diocese of East Anglia. The Waveney Valley is one of the oldest post-Reformation Catholic missions in England, as the first Benedictine priest, William Walgrave, arrived at nearby Flixton Hall in 1657. The line of service unbroken since, with a Catholic church first being built in Bungay in 1823.

The parish got together for a party in August to send Father Charles off with thanks. Father



Mike Brookes will take over in mid-September to administer the parish's transition to diocesan oversight; ordained in 2019, is currently assistant priest in Bury St Edmunds.

Live Simply Award

The Roman Catholic parish of Bungay was awarded with the prestigious Live Simply award for their work towards living more simply, sustainably and in solidarity with the poor.

The award was instigated by CAFOD (Catholic Agency for Overseas Development) to inspire people to care for the planet, our common home.

Since Bungay is the 100th community to receive the award, BBC Radio Suffolk and the CAFOD media team from London were there to record the event.

Shirley Kalinauckas, chair of the Parish Pastoral Council, said, "Our focus is now on involving more people, especially young people and the school, in our efforts to help try and save the planet. Time is running out."

Hello from Emmanuel Church

I am very pleased to have accepted the call of the Waveney Valley Ecumenical Partnership, and these months so far, have been very intense and busy due to the difficult circumstances caused by the pandemic.

My name is Bruno, I am Italian from Rome but with German and Spanish heritage. I have lived in the UK for the past 27 years so I feel really part of this country too. One day I came on holiday in the UK and someone offered me a job as an

accountant (I qualified in Italy in the Order) so I ended up working and living here. One day, God called me to follow Him so here I am now as a priest of the Lord. I am a keen biker. I toured around Europe many times. I also love sports and always looking for someone to play tennis with. *Rev. Bruno Boldrini*



Tourism & Heritage Questionnaire

Bungay Town Council are considering ways to develop a plan to promote the history and heritage of Bungay through tourism.

To do this they wish to engage with as many residents, groups and businesses in the area. The survey takes 5 minutes and is a mixture of open and closed questions, with an opportunity to comment. The responses are fully anonymous, and no identifiable data will be collected or shared. The results of this survey will be analysed and summarised in a report which will be made available via the Town Council website where you will also find full terms and conditions.

<https://forms.office.com/r/yvUzTWC5qp>



The Revd Josh Bailey was installed as Priest-in-charge of the Bungay benefice

A service was held on Monday 28th June with many representatives from the wider area present. Josh is married, has four young children and is new to Suffolk. He served in Rothley, Leicestershire and in Chesham in



Buckinghamshire before coming to Bungay. Previously he worked in a media agency in London. At the installation service Bishop Mike Harrison spoke about Jesus offering us a new story to be part of, free of the burdens or grumbles we often lay on ourselves. At the end of the service Josh assured the congregation that all he had to offer was Jesus - and that Jesus is always better than we think he possibly could be. Josh is keen to extend Jesus' welcome to everyone, through the churches in Bungay, Barsham and Mettingham.

This post is the beginning of Holy Trinity Bungay acting as a Lightwave Rural Hub. Lightwave (light-wave.org) is a Suffolk-wide initiative seeking to shine the light of Jesus through acts of practical service as well as worship and witness. Josh is a keen skateboarder, so one Lightwave event could involve Bungay skatepark in the future! Please get in touch with Josh at priestincharge@bungaybenefice.org if you'd like to meet up or learn more.

On Patrol

Throughout the Summer I have been lucky enough to meet many lovely residents of Bungay whilst on Patrol, when we have been conducting general anti-social behaviour patrols in the parks and open spaces. I popped in on some of the free Summer activities going on at Falcon Meadow, which was organised by East Suffolk Communities team - it was fantastic to see so many children enjoying the Bush Craft School.



Street Meets have been popular at the Co-op and Old Grammar School Lane Park. We were lucky enough to be joined by the Mayor and Town Councillors as well as East Suffolk Community Officer Sam Kenward. We will be holding a street meet at The Staithe on the 18th September 10am – 12 midday and this is where you can meet your local officers and raise any concerns you have as well as getting crime prevention advice, and we always do FREE bike marking at all Street Meets.

Why not sign up to our very popular FREE police messaging service where you will receive messages about policing and crime prevention in your area. To sign up you can go directly to the Suffolk Police website and search Police Connect and fill in the form or follow this link > Police Connect Sign Up | Suffolk Constabulary Until Next Time – Pc Amy Yeldham – Community Engagement Officer

Email: ceolowestoft@suffolk.police.uk or beccles.snt@suffolk.pnn.police.uk

In an emergency always call 999, for a non-emergency call 101 Or report online via our website. Twitter - @LowestoftPolice Facebook – Lowestoft Police www.suffolk.police.uk

Summer activities

The Bungay summer holiday activities took place over five weeks during the school holidays and were well received.

Despite occasional poor weather, young people enthusiastically turned out each week to participate in nature and sport activities. Young people between 8 and 16 visited Skinner's Meadow and Falcon Meadow and among other activities played cricket, tried archery, made bee hotels and pond dipped. Sam Kenward, Communities Officer for East Suffolk Council thanked Bungay Town Council, the local Community Partnership, District councillors, Tim Bassey Fisher, Falcon Meadow Trustees and the Riverside Centre for their generous support. Keep an eye out for October half term activities!



Wednesday's from 6pm
YOUNG PERSON HANG OUT
for ages 8-18
@ Riverside Centre, The Staithe, Bungay, NR35 1BF

gaming • free wifi • sports • trips out
pool • cooking • digital support
signposting • c-card & more

drop in or to find out more contact Keith on
07554 454946

Are you looking for a warm, dry, safe and friendly place to meet up with friends this Autumn?
Fun free activities every week!
Volunteering opportunities also available
Come down and take a look - meet the team

access
Your Community Your Trust

hearts & MINDS bungay

Because mental health matters...

Do you live, work or run a business in the town?

Are you interested in helping to improve the wellbeing of our residents?

Join our free new training course that supports Bungay to become a mental health friendly community

Free service provided by
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Your Community Your Trust

SCAN ME
or view online video at <https://bit.ly/3zp8tT7>

For more info & to join contact beth.stephens@accessct.org or call 07817 313593
* 6 weekly 2hr sessions begin on 14/09/21 (in person or via Zoom)*