

# Bungay News

Local news from Bungay Town Council | Spring 2020



## Bungay Town Council's Civic Celebration 2019

Back in November, the Fisher Theatre played host to Bungay Town Council's Civic Celebration. This wonderful celebration awards both individuals and groups for the contribution they have made to the community and this year's Award winners evidenced the extraordinary level of goodwill and personal sacrifice that many are prepared to make in supporting their communities.

Stars of the show were, of course, the recipients of the Awards. Brandon Ling won the coveted silver Bezant Cup with Emma Rusted of Bungay High School securing the Trevor Collyer Cup for her sporting excellence. This year's Civic Award was presented to Margaret Sheppard whose selfless dedication to the community has spanned 50 years with voluntary and fundraising activities filling every aspect of her life! Emmanuel Luncheon Club's representatives Dorothy Temple and Valerie Whyte were worthy winners of the Madeleine Parr Award and were highly commended for their work in shopping for, planning and cooking delicious meals for eager Luncheon Club diners for over 25 years and for making this a warm and inviting 'sanctuary' for its members.

Finally, the New Community Group Award was awarded to Sharon and Doug Cheer's Bungay Community Table Tennis Club whose friendly, welcoming and energizing table tennis group has helped to bring pleasure to so many people!

Guests were treated to entertainment by the Fisher Youth Theatre Group and Bungay Community Choir. A buffet of locally sourced food and wine had also been donated by many local suppliers and the raffle was a hit with all due to the generous and unusual donations of many local businesses and individuals! With prizes including a flight in a 1950s aircraft and a night in a tree-tent, there was something for every taste!

The centrepiece of the buffet was a 3D model of the Buttercross. This gluten, dairy and soya free cake had been designed and donated by Hayley Payne of Cakefinity who had kept the design under-wraps until the evening!

All those who had received nominations were recorded in the souvenir programme and Sue Collins, Mayor of Bungay, congratulated all for the essential part they have played in changing the lives of others and for the years of selfless dedication they have given to making Bungay such a great place to live.



# Civil Parking Enforcement

From 6th April Councils across Suffolk will be taking on the responsibility for local parking management and, from that date, East Suffolk Council will therefore be dealing with roadside parking offences in Bungay that are currently a matter for the Police.

Traditionally, roadside parking offences have been a matter for the Police. However, parking has become a lower priority for them, so Suffolk County Council is transferring this responsibility to local district and borough councils under a process known as civil parking enforcement, or CPE.

Suffolk Constabulary is supportive of the move because the transfer of responsibilities will enable them to spend additional time on keeping communities safe and arresting and bringing offenders to justice.

East Suffolk already manages 3 of the public car parks in the town so they will be already familiar with the area and 20 Civil Enforcement Officers will be employed throughout the District to enforce the current traffic regulations. Breaches of traffic regulations will result in the issuing of Penalty Charge Notices.

Whilst it is anticipated that CPE should help with some of the parking issues in the town centre, Bungay Town Council is aware that there have been concerns expressed by residents living in houses alongside roads that currently have parking restrictions and will be working with all parties in helping this transfer to be as smooth as possible.

# State-of-the-art table tennis tables – free to Bungay

Back in September 2019, residents around the Old Grammar School play area, Meadow Road and Garden Close undoubtedly noticed the arrival of 4 state-of-the-art all-weather table-tennis tables!



Following the installation, a Launch Event took place at the Old Grammar School site to celebrate Bungay being Suffolk's PING Town! At the event, the Mayor of Bungay officially declared the tables open and emphasised how pleased she was that Bungay is part of the PING project –

*"Physical activity is important for everyone and this will encourage residents of all ages to become involved in a relaxed and informal way. These wonderful all-weather tables have already been well-utilised and the support we've received today shows how much local people appreciate this new initiative."*

These wonderful tables have been supplied at no cost to Bungay and are thanks to a wider partnership between Table Tennis England and the 'Most Active County Partnership' led by Suffolk County Council.

Anyone is welcome to play and more bats and balls can be obtained, free of charge, from the Town Council Offices in Broad Street.

## Town council increases office opening hours

**In an effort to meet the changing needs of its community, Bungay Town Council has extended its opening hours. Members of the public are now welcome to pop into the Town Council Offices in Broad Street between the hours of 9am and 1pm, Monday through to Friday.**

Help and advice can be given by office staff on a number of different issues and appointments can also be made to see any member of the current Town Council. Residents will no longer be restricted to monthly Saturday morning 'Councillor Surgeries', but can request a mutually convenient time to meet with the Councillor of their choice. If you have any questions you wish to ask the Council or have any concerns, or where you feel a Councillor can assist you with making enquiries and help with any issues, please feel free to drop in. "Since the offices have been open in Broad Street, we've seen an increasing number of residents and, therefore, these longer opening hours mean the Town Council will be even more accessible to the public." (Sue Collins, Town Mayor) Please feel free to contact Jeremy Burton, the Town Clerk, on 01986 894236 or by email [clerk@bungaytowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@bungaytowncouncil.gov.uk)



# The Riverside Centre

For those seeking space for their group, club or society, the Riverside Centre at The Staithe might be a space hitherto overlooked!

This large first-floor venue provides a wonderful space for groups looking for a one-off booking or a long-term home. The building is unique in Bungay as a venue, having a wonderful aspect over the picturesque Staithe and the Waveney.

The Staithe is in a quiet area of Bungay and, out of respect for our neighbours here, we hope to keep it that way so those hiring this facility must be mindful of this! Rates are excellent at just £10 per hour (including VAT) with slots currently available most days and evenings.

The facility also includes a lift, free wi-fi, use of a kitchen and the rooms themselves are undoubtedly spacious. Should you wish to make a booking, call the Assistant Clerk on 01986 894236 or email [admin@bungaytowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:admin@bungaytowncouncil.gov.uk).



## Environmental and climate policy

Bungay Town Council has recently adopted a new Environmental and Climate Policy. This policy was put together by a working group within the Council during the latter half of 2019 and was agreed by Full Council during our December meeting.

The Environmental Policy outlines the background and reasoning for the creation of this policy and suggests what we can do and where we can help the community such as in the management of our buildings and facilities as well as in green space areas. Consideration also extends to resources that the Council purchases and uses as part of its daily activities. We also aim to allow access to information and education around this subject.

At the Full Council meeting in October, the Council also declared a 'climate emergency', further emphasising the need to take immediate action.

Our Environmental Policy will be considered on a quarterly basis by our Planning, Environment & Highways Committee and actions will be set and reviewed at this point.

For the first part of 2020, we will be considering a number of different areas including the auditing of energy usage and the sourcing of

a utility provider specialising in sustainable energy. We aim to seek further understanding of recycling opportunities throughout the town with our own monthly litter-pick aiming to recycle the bulk of the litter collected.

We are always looking for like-minded, skilled and knowledgeable individuals and groups who can help us to decide and work towards our goals so please don't hesitate to come forwards if you would like to get involved.

The full policy document can be viewed on the Bungay Town Council website.



## Bungay Neighbourhood Development Plan

In February the NDP Group will be holding a consultation on the option of adding a further piece of land to those sites already designated in the Local Plan by East Suffolk.

It is adjacent to the proposed land for development behind the swimming pool. We'd like to know what you think about the idea, so come along and have your say. A consultation took place on the 8th and there will be a second one on the 15th at the Co-op, from 9.30 until 12.30. We are hoping to be able to go to the pre-submission phase in April this year, when you'll be asked to comment on the whole of the plan that the NDP Group has been working on for the last four years.

# Upcoming Events

There are many events organised in Bungay by a variety of different groups. The following gives just a sample of some of those on offer.

## Litter picks

The Town Council organises regular Litter Picks around the Town. The next Litter Pick is Sunday 22nd March starting at 10.00 am at the Town Council Offices in Broad Street. All family and friends are welcome to come and join in. Rubbish bags, litter picks, gloves, Hi-Viz jackets are all provided.

## 75th anniversary of the end of the Second World War

2020 marks the 75th Anniversaries of the end of the Second World War in Europe and the Far East. Victory in Europe Day (VE Day) on 8th May 1945 and Victory over Japan Day (VJ Day) on 15th August 1945. We are delighted that the Deputy Lieutenant, Joanna Spicer, will be representing the Queen at our celebrations.

**As part of the National Events the following activities are being planned for the town:**

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**Proclamation will be read by the Town Mayor** in the town centre – Friday 8th May at 3.00pm

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**Activities at the Castle** – Friday 8th May from 3.30pm

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**Tea Dance with jazz band** at the Honeypot Community Centre – Saturday 9th May at 2.30pm

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**Parade through the town and church service** at St Mary's Church – Sunday 10th May at 2.00pm

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**Commemoration of VJ Day (TBC)** – Saturday 15th August

## Other events

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**Fish & Chip Supper & Quiz (Falcon Meadow Community Trust)** – Emmanuel Church Rooms, Saturday 28th March

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**Garden Street Market** – Sunday 17th May

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**Bungay Arts Festival** – June/July – TBC

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**Antiques Street Market** – Sunday 26th July

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**Christmas Street Market** – Sunday 6th December

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## Town success

Bungay Town Council achieved success as the 2019 Runner-up in the 'Town of the Year' category at the Suffolk Community Awards.



Special mention was made of the collaboration between the Council and local residents on a number of new initiatives, the increased opening hours to facilitate resident support, 'spring clean' and litter pick events and much improved communication.

# Bungay Town Council Precept 2020/21

Leading up to the Town Council Meeting held on Thursday 16th January, the Budget Working Party scrutinised current expenditure alongside Council targets and forward planning initiatives to determine the budget for the financial year 2020/21.

During 2019/20, actual expenditure fell below that forecasted in the budget, but additional costs were incurred as the Council improved services: providing a professionally staffed Town Centre Office open 5 days a week to residents; expansion of the groundsman's duties to include caretaking; the installation of Town Centre CCTV and the monitoring and utilisation of Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs), whilst also maintaining legal compliance and best practice. This led to expenditure being greater than the Precept received, so reserves were used to meet the shortfall and maintain the raised standard of services. Obviously, using reserves in this way cannot continue as they will be quickly exhausted so it was decided to consider raising the Precept.

A presentation was made by Jeremy Burton, the Town Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer, at the Town Council Meeting on 16th January to all Town Councillors and members of the public who attended the meeting, showing the current financial position, anticipated expenditure, the Precept request and the financial implications for each 'Household Band' in the town.

After consideration, it was unanimously agreed by the Town Councillors that the Precept request for the 2020/2021 financial year will be £124,997. This rise compares favourably with other similar sized towns across East Suffolk. As an example, Band D households will have a charge of £76.61 on their 2020/21 Council bills for the Parish element, which is an increase of £5.33 per calendar month.

The Town Council appreciates that this increase in percentage terms does appear significant and therefore seeks to reassure residents of its commitment to provide value for money, ensuring that all services benefit the whole of the community it serves.

## Police contacts

Community Policing in Bungay is carried out by the Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) which is split up into three teams. This means that there is an SNT on duty every day covering the town.

Each of the three SNT teams has an officer allocated to pay extra attention towards Bungay:

**Team 1 is PC Emily Leach**

**Team 2 is PC Richard Bemment**

**Team 3 is PC Steve Fisher.**

Should you wish to email the SNT or one of the above officers, then contact [beccles.snt@suffolk.pnn.police.uk](mailto:beccles.snt@suffolk.pnn.police.uk)

Should you need to report a crime then dial 999 in the event of an emergency or otherwise dial 101. You can also report incidents online by visiting <https://www.suffolk.police.uk/contact-us/report-something>