

## June 2017 report for the Thredling Division from Cllr Matthew Hicks

### **Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service join call to be aware when near water**

Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service has joined a call by UK fire chiefs to raise awareness of the dangers of everyday activities near water after statistics show nearly 50% of people who accidentally drown in the UK never intend to enter the water. NFCC Water Safety Lead, Dawn Whittaker, said: "Most people would be shocked to hear that those people drowning just happen to be near water such as runners, walkers and fisherman. Fire and rescue services are giving advice to people on what they should look out for and how to change their behaviour to minimise their risk of becoming one of these statistics. Messages are posted on social media using the hashtag #BeWaterAware and people are encouraged to share the posts to spread the message. Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service have supported the campaign and operational crews will integrate a prevention message into their educational work throughout the summer months. Zena Williams' brother Matt Dunnnett died in June 2015 after he jumped into cold water at Alton Water. She has given her support to the campaign in an to attempt to prevent such incidents happening again in the county.

### **94% of Suffolk children offered first choice of primary school**

94 per cent of parents in Suffolk have been offered their first choice of primary school for their children this year. Suffolk's primary school admission figures show that 94% or 7,161 children have been offered a reception place for September 2017 at their parents' preferred school, with 98.5% offered one of their three preferences. There has been a more than 3% increase in the number of children offered their first preference this year compared with last year. Suffolk County Council received a total of 7,621 applications for a place in the Reception year from parents outlining which school they would prefer their children to be educated at from September 2017. This is 299 less than last year because it is a smaller cohort. 97.7% of pupils moving to a junior school have secured their first preference place with 99.34% being offered one of their three choices. The number of people choosing to submit an application online has increased from 78% to 93%.

### **Suffolk Record Office nominated for Record-Keeping Service of the Year**

Suffolk Record Office has been nominated for Record-Keeping Service of the year at this year's Archives and Records Association (ARA) Excellence Awards. The awards celebrate the achievements of record keeping professionals across the UK and their contribution to society. The Award will recognise achievements by an archive, conservation, or records management service within the last eighteen months. Suffolk Record Office has been nominated for the development of its digital preservation system along with their new website and online payment service. Digitisation of records is now being done in-house on wills, marriage licences, gaol books, photographs, coroners' records and more. This follows the Record Office's success in being a finalist in the Digital Preservation Coalition Awards last year. In addition to this, Suffolk Record Office has recently secured Heritage Lottery Funding of £538,100 for a new heritage centre in Ipswich, in partnership with the University of Suffolk. 'The Hold' will not only completely transform its ability to care for and showcase the county's records and collections, but will also promote them and give access to a broader audience. More information about Suffolk Record Office's projects, including the new heritage centre 'The Hold' and the 'Mapping Suffolk Stories' project can be found on their website:

<https://www.suffolkarchives.co.uk/>

### **OVO Energy Tour of Britain!**

Stage One of the Tour starts in Edinburgh on Sunday 3 September, with Suffolk is gearing up for the arrival of Stage Six on Friday 8 September. The 183km stage travels entirely within Suffolk for the first time, starting from Newmarket and travelling east to finish in Aldeburgh. Sponsored by Adnams, the 183km Suffolk stage promises plenty of challenges for the riders. Suffolk Coastal is to host the Stage Finish on Aldeburgh's High Street in partnership with Suffolk County Council who have brought the Stage to Suffolk. Building on the success of the Women's Tours, Suffolk Coastal hopes the arrival of the national event will inspire greater leisure, activity and health opportunities for east Suffolk, which is reflected in the Council's Business Plan. Now with just over three months to go, communities throughout the county are creating a buzz to show their support for this special event.

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

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