

Beccles Town Council



BECCLES TOWN PLAN

You may have seen the articles in the Beccles & Bungay Journal and Eastern Daily Press on the Town Council's draft Beccles Town Plan Consultation.

There is still time for you to view this document on the Town Council website, www.beccles.info If you have information or comments regarding your town which you feel the Council should consider for inclusion within the plan, **please send your comments to admin@beccles.info or write to Beccles Town Council, The Walk, Beccles NR34 9AJ by 30th September 2012.**

This document, once compiled and completed, is meant to go a long way in outlining to the local authorities what the people of Beccles wish for their town. To keep it not only a safe and healthy place to live, but to let it develop in a manner befitting the town, both historically, economically and with sustainability.

Previous consultations

raised comments regarding the lack of free parking; need for an indoor swimming pool and fitness/sports facilities; lower rents/rates for businesses; concerns that high street chains and large supermarkets could change the essence of Beccles; more tourist accommodation in Beccles; make parking costs lower or free for a certain time; improve the car parks; Police station open longer; more Police patrols; need the King's Head open again, and much more besides.

The Town Plan has the potential to influence a wide range of organisations and processes that affect the residents, controlled not only by the Town Council, but other bodies such as the District and County Council, Health Authority, Police, utility companies etc. The Town Plan must consider the local problems and opportunities that arise and link these issues to set out a broad vision for

BECCLES TOWN PLAN



the next five or ten years which needs to be actioned by the Town Council, individuals and groups within the community and beyond to provide the necessary services vital to Beccles.

In 2010 the Population of Beccles was 10,059. The number of working people aged 16-64 was in the region of 5,751 with a higher percentage of employment of people in the South Ward.

Beccles is fortunate in that it has a diversity of shops; an outdoor pool; a theatre; a growing street market; the river and the Common.

If you feel, after reading through the document, that you need to contact the Council with your thoughts, then please do so before 30th September 2012.

Special points of interest:

- **Town Plan—comments required**
- **Beccles Museum Exhibition—Flood of 1912**
- **East Anglian Air Ambulance Runway 2012**
- **STOP PRESS—KINGS HEAD**
- **Safer Neighbourhood Team Meeting**
- **Seagulls**
- **Awards and Grants**



Photograph from Beccles Bell Tower showing the devastation of the floods in August 1912

[Safer Neighbourhood Team Suffolk Constabulary](#)

POLICE PUBLIC MEETING Beccles Town Hall

WED 3RD OCTOBER 2.30PM

Hear what Police and partners are dealing with and how they are tackling crime and disorder in your community.

Come along and tell us about the issues that matter to you.

For further info: Tel 101
E mail becclesbungay.snt@suffolk.pnn.police.uk

**EXHIBITION
BECCLES MUSEUM**

Torrential rain accompanied by a severe hurricane left scenes of flooding and desolation in the Beccles area. The strong wind and heavy rain played havoc with trees, orchards and houses on higher ground. In 36 hours, 4 inches of rain fell in Beccles. Weeks of wet days, with only occasional sunshine, culminated in a deluge in the last weekend of August. However, towards the end of Sunday there seemed to be a promise of better things. On the contrary, the next day brought terrific winds and more rain, and on the Tuesday morning the extent of the widespread damage was fully apparent.

Slates and tiles were strewn in the roads, tall trees lay on the ground and fruit trees were stripped of their crops. Chimney stacks were either on the ground or resting on neighbouring properties. Right in the middle of the town there was special evidence of the force of the storm in the battered appearance of the detached Tower of the Parish Church. Large portions of stonework had been forced off by wind and rain.



Rowing across the grassed area

The River Waveney burst its banks, and miles of marshland on both sides of the town resembled a vast inland sea. The Gillingham Marshes were often flooded during the winter months, but this time water also lay to a great depth on those belonging to the Corporation.

Railway communications on the Waveney Valley line between Beccles and Bungay were impossible to negotiate as the track across Gillingham Marshes was washed away for some distance. It was not long before the rising waters on the Corporation level brought ser-

vices along the Yarmouth and Lowestoft lines to a standstill.



Flooding on the line

Swirling expanses of water cut off the town from the west, north and east. Even the South was affected with water from the higher ground towards Weston rushed through Swine's Green and along St Anne's Road, causing flooding at Ingate Street. The Medieval St Anne's River was in existence once again. Its swollen waters contributed to those rapidly rising on the College and Caxton Football grounds at the railway end of The Avenue.

SCENE OF DESOLATION

There was a scene of desolation in The Avenue, as elsewhere many trees had been blown down and the roadway was submerged to a depth of nearly one foot. It was very difficult to get to the Common with both lanes being flooded.

Allotment holders in that part of the town suffered greatly, as the preceding weather had delayed the harvesting of crops. When the water eventually receded, tenants found their plots in a deplorable state through the overflowing sewage! Pumping at the Common Lane sewage station stopped on the Tuesday and could not be re-started for several days. In the meantime there was an awful accumulation in the sewers causing a lot of concern for the Authorities.

House flooding was particularly serious in the vicinity of the river. Many properties suffered at Bridge Street, Fen Lane, Thurlow's Yard and Puddingmoor. There was a loss too at industrial undertakings. The timber yards and sawmills of Darby Bros, just on the Gil-



Children paddling in Fen Lane 1912

ingham side of Beccles Bridge, were completely submerged. On the Beccles bank, the Tannery at Northgate was badly hit. Work was suspended for almost a week through the yards being inundated, the pits flooded and the water level reaching the fire bars of the engine.

CATTLE RESCUED

Being Summertime, there were plenty of cattle on the marshes bordering the Waveney on the Gillingham side of the town. When, on Monday evening water was creeping up, an effort was made by marsh-men to remove a batch of five store beasts to safety. Despite their persistent efforts, the cattle refused to budge, and finally had to be left to their fate. The next morning, a photographer, Mr A Leyneek of Station Road, happened to see the animals floundering about while looking at the flooded marshes from the Churchyard wall. Braving the danger, he borrowed a rowing boat and set out to get them to safety. It took some time, but he got them to swim towards the town side where they were eventually hauled ashore by willing helpers at the Puddingmoor boatyard of Mr Herbert Hiperson.

Wheat and barley standing in sheaves in the fields between Harleston and Bungay was washed away by the rising waters. Bungay itself was almost surrounded. Moving over Earsham Dam like a huge river, the flood washed away the embankment of the railway and the ballast from the track. The same thing happened on the Ditchingham side of Bungay station.

An Exhibition showing many more photographs is currently in the Beccles Museum. Can History repeat itself?

David Broom, Beccles Museum



**STOP PRESS NEWS
KING'S HEAD**

EAST ANGLIAN AIR AMBULANCE—RUNWAY RUN 2012

On Sunday 30th September at Tibenham Airfield, South of Norwich NR15 2EP the East Anglian Air Ambulance team have organised a Runway Run 2012.

You can Run, Jog or Walk 5km or, if you are really fit, (or brave) 10km. In doing so you will be supporting East Anglian Air Ambulance—which you or someone dear to you, might need at some time in your life.

You can be any age, even babies in trolleys can come along and enjoy the day.

This is the biggest in-house charity event of the year, and this is the fourth occasion it has been run. This event has raised considerable amounts of money towards the lifesaving service pro-

vided for the people of East Anglia.

For further information and for an application form call 01603 489406 or on line runway@eaaa.org.uk



Runway racing at last year's event

It seems that there is movement regarding the long-drawn-out saga of Beccles King's Head which Wetherspoons bought over two years ago! Becclesians have been patiently, or in some cases, impatiently, waiting for this once hub of the town to change from the eye-sore it has become to once again a place to meet, greet and eat.

Beccles Town Council, along with other interested members of the public, have worked long and hard to keep Wetherspoons aware of the feelings and upset over the length of time they have taken to complete the refurbishment since the King's Head closed its doors.

Beccles Town Council would like to advise you that Waveney District Council Planners have passed the relevant applications. The Council will be monitoring the situation and will contact Wetherspoons if, in their opinion, work is not progressing as expected.

FENLAND CHARITY GRANTS

Three times a year, the Fenland Charity Trust Grants Committee meet to allocate funding to bona fide organisations undertaking activities benefiting residents in Beccles.

The Committee award discretionary grants and may not be the amount desired by the application. A set of the last years accounts will also be expected if applicable. The Committee do not grant funding to large, national organisations, nor to individuals, but if you have a capi-

tal project and are having difficulty in raising money for it, then please apply for an application form,

You can download a form from www.beccles.info or write to Beccles Fenland Charity Trust Grants Committee, Town Hall, The Walk, Beccles NR34 9AJ.

Meetings are held in November, February and June each year. Normally the Grants Committee will not fund the same project in any three-year period, but this is also at their discretion.

SEAGULLS are becoming a bit of a nuisance to some residents of Beccles. They dive bomb when they feel you are getting too close to their nests and chicks. Natural England (NE) advise that it is probably too late this year for action as the birds are nesting. Leaving food out also encourage them. During December/January or early Spring, on any area of your building which could potentially be a nesting habitat, spikes should be installed. This will stop them nesting next year, but they will move somewhere else nearby, so make sure you are ready!

Call NE's David Brown on 0300 060 1044.

AWARDS GIVEN BY BECCLES TOWN COUNCIL

Over the years, there have been certain Councillors who have made a lasting impression on both their colleagues and the people of Beccles. In recognition of their hard work and achievements during their time as Councillors, Beccles Town Council voted to give an award in their name to other worthy souls in Beccles. There are three such awards ; **The (Bob) Robert Ellwood Memorial Plate for Outstanding Service to the Community ; The Eileen Crisp Award for Youth and The Leslie Freeman Award for Long Service.**

These awards are made during the year starting with **Robert Ellwood in July, Leslie Freeman in September and Eileen Crisp in November.**

A letter requesting nominations are reported in the Beccles and Bungay Journal and nominations should be sent to the Deputy Town Clerk, Beccles Town Council, The Walk, Beccles NR34 9AJ The nominee should also submit brief outline of their chosen person showing why he/she should be awarded. The Committee will choose the recipient.

The Award Ceremony is held at the Christmas Meeting of the Council and are presented by the Mayor of Beccles. Refreshments follow for all attendees and their guests.



Nancy Barclay and Douglas Peck receiving their awards in 2009 from the Mayor, Councillor Jack Walmsley



**BECCLES TOWN
COUNCIL NEWSLETTER**

Beccles Town Council
Town Hall
The Walk
BECCLES
NR34 9AJ

Phone: 01502 712109
Fax: 01502 716166
E Mail: admin@beccles.info

Mrs Claire Boyne
Town Clerk

Mrs Jula Janney
Deputy Town Clerk



Flooding at Thurlow's Yard in 1912. The boys and a dog enjoying a paddle

Seagulls—
help from RSPB
Wildlife Enquiries:
Ben Andrew 01767 693119

COUNCILLOR CONTACT DETAILS

WARD	NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE
CENTRE	HARRIS J D United Beccles	26 Hungate BECCLES NR34 9TT	01502 717237
	SCOTT, C J United Beccles	3 Firfield Close BECCLES NR34 9YE	01502 714831
	THWAITES, A P Labour	20 South Road BECCLES NR34 9NY	01502 714161
	WOODRUFF, B United Beccles	13 Meadow Gardens BECCLES NR34 9PA	01502 713053
COMMON	BERGIN, Mrs S United Beccles	Pinetrees, Park Drive BECCLES NR34 7DQ	01502 470796
	BUBB, Mrs S United Beccles	'Greenacres', Clarke's Lane, Barsham BECCLES NR34 8HN	01502 713314
	FOULGER, S P R United Beccles	'Rosy Dawn' 4 Ellough Road BECCLES NR34 7AE	01502 710370
RIGBOURNE	WAREHAM, E K United Beccles	42 Puddingmoor BECCLES NR34 9PL	01502 719712
	CATCHPOLE, G (MAYOR) United Beccles	32 Coney Hill BECCLES NR34 7AZ	01502 715819
	PECK, D W United Beccles	8 Waveney Road BECCLES NR34 9NW	01502 712627
	TOPPING, MRS C (DEPUTY MAYOR) United Beccles	7 Rigbourne Hill BECCLES NR34 9JG	01502 717276
DARBY	WALMSLEY, J B United Beccles	37 Kemp's Lane BECCLES NR34 9XB	01502 717853
	BEE, B United Beccles	46 Clerk's Piece BECCLES NR34 9BG	01502 712812
	HAYNES, MRS M D United Beccles	63a Kemp's Lane BECCLES NR34 9XB	01502714093
	SIGSWORTH, J United Beccles	14 Janet Hadenham Close Worlingham BECCLES NR34 7SL	01502 711473
	TAYLOR, B United Beccles	2 Fairfax Court BECCLES NR34 9XG	01502 713307

HELP GIVE A BOOST TO THE WAVE-NEY MARKET TOWNS!

Do you shop in the Waveney area? If so, a research study aiming to regenerate the town centre's of the Waveney market towns of Beccles, Bungay, Halesworth and Lowestoft, needs your input. Waveney Business Forum has commissioned a research project into the 'retail performance' of Waveney market towns and what may improve their economic performance. This is in the context of concerns about the future prospects of our high streets and town centres, who are faced with a number of factors which have stimulated unprecedented change. A number of key changes have occurred because shopping habits have altered

over time. These are often in response to wider factors such as the growth of super-markets and Internet shopping. However, some towns may be seeing changes because of issues within the towns themselves. Dr Rebecca Ellis of Digital Era Research is leading the project.

This shopper survey would like the views of consumers in Waveney to try and understand what is happening and why. Ultimately, the project aims to give the Waveney market towns a boost by understanding the shopper experience and any changes which need to be made to improve that experience. So please be a part of supporting market towns and help us to help ourselves in Beccles.

Complete the Survey—give your views

If you shop in the Waveney area and would like to give your views, you can go to the online shopper survey at

<http://tinyurl.com/waveney-shopper-survey>

Copies of the survey are also available in Beccles Library and can be dropped off there once completed. You may have been approached in Beccles during July regarding this survey, and thank you if you assisted in this.

Any questions should be put to Dr Rebecca Ellis, Principle Research Consultant : rellis@digitaleraresearch.co.uk or for enquiries contact 01953 246123

