



THE CHARTER

Beccles Town Council



Issue 34

DECEMBER 2014

THE NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR BECCLES

Councillor David Richardson

The Localism Act 2011 introduced statutory neighbourhood planning. This was one of many changes to the nationwide planning system and aims to give the communities involved more of a say in the development of their area. There are guidelines and restrictions to follow that apply, which will give clear opportunities to make choices, have a say and grant permission for buildings needed and accepted locally.

There are a number of stages involved in drawing up a Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP). The first was to establish the areas to be included and this is nearly completed.

During October 2014, Beccles Town Council combined with the parish councils of Shadingfield, Sotterley, Willingham and Ellough; the joint parish council of Barsham & Shipmeadow, Ringsfield and Weston. Each made the decision to designate an area encompassing the relevant parish boundaries that would become part of an application for the NDP. This first stage must be finished very soon. The process will involve considerable consultation with all those interested groups

and individuals in the NDP area. It will be managed by an Operational Group (OPG) made up of representatives from the Councils involved. It will be separate from the town and parish councils and will be subject to its own terms of reference. The NDP will become an integral part of the statutory planning system in force for the relevant area, and will become an important part of the local planning authority and the planning process.

The OPG will create specialist topic groups for specific areas and for groups with agreed interests or business links. They will form the consultation bedrock although all views must be taken into account.

The NDP must then take account of existing area plans and match up with existing decisions and frameworks in place and start the planning proposals. There follows a checking process by an independent expert, then approved by a referendum organised by the relevant Local Authority (LA) for the whole population involved. If the NDP is accepted by the majority voting then the relevant LA and planning authority must bring the plan into force.

Once in force the plan carries real legal weight. All planning decisions made by

the relevant LA and planning authority will by law, have to take what the NDP says into account when development proposals for the neighbourhood are considered. The OPG will be searching for support.

Administrators will be needed to ensure that all points of view are noted and managed accurately, so if there are volunteers, or even nominations for volunteers for this role, then please call the Council on 01502 712109.

MAYOR'S APPEAL 2013/14

A BIG THANKYOU to everybody who supported this appeal in any way. A massive **£20,000** has been raised through the generosity of the Beccles community and surrounding parishes, and work has now commenced at the 2nd Beccles Scout Headquarters. We are hoping that through the support of volunteers, most of the manual labour will be done without any cost coming from the funds raised. This will then free-up monies to purchase materials.

However, if any local building merchants would like to donate, or match fund any materials then please contact the Town Hall on 01502 712109 and your contribution will be forwarded to the Scout Group. Also, if you would like to give support through volunteering, please contact the Town Hall 01502 712109.

Mayor's Appeal 2014/15

This year the Mayoral Appeal is to raise awareness and funds for the **Waveney Stardust** and a proposal of a Community Stage project by **Beccles Community Arts**. I hope that this appeal will be just as successful as the 2013/14 Appeal.

Waveney Stardust first launched 25 years ago and has proved so successful there are now two boats to take the disabled and elderly on the Broads. Run by volunteers, all funding is spent directly on maintaining the crafts. They have just completed their most successful season over the past five years. **For further information on Waveney Stardust call 07817 920502 or e mail info@waveney.co.uk** **Beccles Community Arts'** project for a Stage for use by the community at Beccles Quay, has been their dream for the past seven years. Can be used by drama groups as outside theatre; carnival events; concerts; and brass bands and schools on their sports days. *The 8th Harvest Moon Free Music Festival will be held on the second Saturday in August.* This lovely area should be used by many and enjoyed by all. **Contact Julia on 01502 717098 for information on the stage, or enquiries on joining the group.**

The Mayor, Caroline Topping

The continuing story of the Crowfoot Family WILLIAM CROWFOOT

William Crowfoot – 1689-1746

William was a grocer like his father, and so to avoid competing with his father's business in Beccles, he opened a shop in Bungay. After his father's death, William moved back to Beccles. Along with his father's property he also inherited St Peter's House in Saltgate and a tannery business from his father-in-law, which he took over. Like his father he was also a Feoffee. With his first wife Sarah Phillips he had two daughters, Sarah and Margaret and when she died he married Susan Mayhew and they had a son, William.

William Crowfoot 'Gent' - 1724-1783

Born on 15 December 1724 he spent his days at St Peter's House and took up tannery like his father. He married twice, the first time to Anne Syer and they had

three children, but a daughter Ann died at one day old. After his first wife died he married Elizabeth Le Grys of Beccles and like his father and grandfather before him he was a Feoffee. In addition, William's civic duties included Portreeve (*this unelected office of Portreeve was abolished by the Municipal Corporations Act of 1836 and was replaced by the elected office of Mayor*), and Chief Constable of the Hundred. He was also appointed as organist at St Michael's Church in 1748 at a salary of £20 pa. He compiled a hymn tune—(Ancient and Modern No. 405). Through his second marriage to Elizabeth, William acquired what is now the Waveney Hotel in Puddingmoor which at that time was a brewery, so changed his profession to that of a brewer. After his death on 25 March 1783 aged 58, he left much land and

property in the area. He was known by his family as William Crowfoot 'Gent' and the respect in which he was held is reflected on his memorial which reads: *'In memory of William Crowfoot, Gent; so long as whose name shall convey distant and particular idea to the reader of it here, it will bring to recollection sincerity in religion, many social endearments and, in his sphere of life, an uncommon assiduity in the service of the public'.*

There is a portrait of William in Beccles Museum in Ballygate.

[More about William Crowfoot - '1759-1871 Surgeon' in the March Issue of The Charter.](#)

All 16 council positions will be subject to election in May 2015! If you are interested in learning more, please visit the Town Hall or call 01502 712109.

NEWS FROM BECCLES TWINNING

Beccles Twinning Association (BTA) enjoyed a busy Autumn. In September, a group of 26 young musicians and friends from Petit Couronne



came to Beccles for a weekend of eclectic music. Whilst on 5th October, seven representatives from the BTA journeyed to northern France to participate in Petit Couronne's sixth annual all-day Autumn Festival. Beccles Twinners flew the flag

by selling six varieties of homemade chutney (courtesy of David Brown's 'Help the Heroes' campaign) and held a raffle for a basket of chutney and mustards provided by Mandy's Pickles. Both these events were well reported in the local press on both sides of the Channel.

BTA is now planning a visit to Petit Couronne on 24-27 October 2015 and would like to invite anyone who is interested in learning more about the French language and culture to join us. Interest from sporting, social and cultural groups is particularly welcome. As we need to plan ahead, please contact Michelle

Golding **01502 470734** by the end of January for an informal chat and to find out more about the proposed visit.



Dates for your Diary: **QUIZ & CAKE** at the Royal British Legion, Ravensmere on **Sunday 25 January 2015 from 3.30-6.00pm—£1 pp—Great Prize and eats!**

Lorry watch gathers momentum

The Suffolk County Council (SCC) sponsored Lorry Watch Scheme in Beccles is now firmly up and running.

The scheme has over 20 'observers' and two 'coordinators' trained by SCC Trading Standards, who are regularly submitting reports of overweight (or suspected overweight) vehicles travelling along weight-restricted roads in the town. Each incident is investigated by SCC Trading Standards with enforcement

action taken as appropriate.

For more information, or to volunteer as an observer, please email: lorrywatchbeccles@gmail.com.

You do not need to be a resident of Beccles to join the scheme. We are actively looking to enlarge the scheme's area of interest beyond the town boundary in conjunction with our neighbouring parishes.

CHECK YOUR FLUE

Just a reminder to make sure that those of you with chimneys check your flue to ensure they are safe and clear as part of your preparation for the coming winter. There has been an increase in reported incidents last year with 198 chimney fires in Suffolk! Your chimneys should be swept annually by a qualified chimney sweep certified by NACS (The National Association of Chimney Sweeps), who have been checked by Suffolk County Council Trading Standards. **Use a fire guard; put fire out before retiring; use good fuel; and don't overload the grate or wood-burner. A must is to invest in smoke alarms on each floor.**



WW1 100 YEAR ANNIVERSARY GARDEN

Work continues to design a commemorative space in Beccles to complement the War Memorial and recognise the impact the War had on everyone in the town. A working party is actively engaged in this work and it is planned to present a formal proposal in early 2015.

"CHARTER WEEKEND" 2015

Following the success of this year's Beccles Open Gardens & Spaces, and the water-cycle race the following day, another BOGS will be held next year on Saturday 4th July followed by a Beccles & Area River Cavalcade. Interested in helping with organising or wishing to partake? E mail Cllr Hugh Taylor at 25northgate@gmail.com.

NEWLY COMPLETED CAR PARK AT BECCLES SPORTS CENTRE, COMMON LANE,

A £70,000 project to resurface a car park in Beccles and install lighting has now been completed. The car park, which is used by people visiting the scout hut, football and rugby club, indoor bowls club and the May Centre, was previously a sparse, muddy area, with potholes and no lighting. Concerns had been raised over the years of safety issues and that the area was not used to its capacity. Now, after six weeks from start to finish, the car park has been levelled, re-surfaced and 89 spaces marked out for vehicles. Councillor Graham Catchpole led the project, with assistance of the town clerk Claire Boyne. He said "I'm relieved it is finally done. We now have a car park fit for purpose instead of a dirty, muddy field". Councillor Catchpole started the project during his time as mayor and the project



was supported by Beccles Town Council through a grant of £29,000, as well as grants from Waveney District Council, Suffolk County councillors, Beccles Indoor Bowls Club, Beccles Town Football Club, Beccles Regeneration Co, Beccles Townland's Charity, Beccles Rugby Club, Worlingham Parish Council and Section 106 contributions from developers. Councillor Catchpole stated that "It has been achieved through community effort. Beccles has done it for itself. I want to say a huge **THANK YOU** to everyone who helped, along with residents living in Common Lane for their patience. The car park will remain free to use."

WATCH OUT FOR Bogus 'Police Officer' scams

Police are urging people to be vigilant after a pensioner was conned out of thousands of pounds, while another had a lucky escape after being duped by men posing as police officers. **HOW:** It begins with a phone call from someone claiming to be a police officer advising you of unauthorised activity to your account and that you should withdraw cash so that it could be checked. The bogus caller makes several calls to you and instructs you not to tell anyone as he is working undercover. He offers to book a taxi for you. **REMEMBER:** Your real bank staff will never ask for your

bank details over the phone. If this occurs—hang up immediately. Wait at least 5 minutes before reporting the call as the bogus caller sometimes stays on the line. **NEVER give personal information over the phone to people you do not know.** **NEVER** take out cash from your bank if requested to by someone you don't know claiming to be someone they are not. **REMEMBER—** neither the bank or the police would ever ask you to do this. **If you, or someone you know, has experienced this then please call the police on 101 or 999 if it is an emergency.**

THINK!

A new campaign has been launched by the Department of Transport to encourage drivers to take care on country roads. **60%** of drivers are killed on rural roads and countless more are putting themselves, and others, at risk. **THINK— Read the road ahead for potential hazards; Drive at a speed that allows you to stop in the distance you can see is clear; Stay in control and give yourself time to react by braking before a bend; Give cyclists and horse riders (and walkers), plenty of space when overtaking.** More info: www.suffolkroadsafe.net

HELP US SUPPORT OLDER PEOPLE IN BECCLES AND WAVENEY Age UK Suffolk RC 1085900

Are you lonely? The free Age UK Befriender Service is for anyone in receipt of state pension who would like to share a friendly chat or enjoy regular company. Befrienders can either telephone or visit you once a week in your own home. Befrienders come from all backgrounds and have been enhanced DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) checked for your safety and peace of mind. **For further information call the Waveney Coordinator, Sharon Garcia on 01502 306755.**

Try Volunteering Make new friends; have fun; gain new skills to build up your confidence if you are trying to get into paid work. Volunteering is flexible, and with our support you will find something that works for you, such as Befriending; working in our Shops; Day Centres; Information Support; Dementia Days Out; and Administration. The scope is almost limitless and will use your existing skills as well as develop new ones. **As a AgeUK Suffolk Volunteer you will**

help to keep today's generation of older people independent, enabling them to live and enjoy the rest of their lives that they so deserve. **You CAN make a difference so contact 01473 298684 or email volunteer@ageuksuffolk.org**

COUNCILLOR SURGERIES If you have anything you wish to discuss with Councillors visit **Beccles Library on the 2nd THURSDAY** of every month from **January 2015** from 12 noon—2.00pm

BECCLES TOWN COUNCIL

Town Hall
The Walk
BECCLES
NR34 9AJ

01502 712019
admin@beccles.info
Mrs Claire Boyne, Town Clerk
Mrs Julia Janney, Deputy Town Clerk

The Beccles Society**Promoting a better Beccles for all**

Beccles Society are actively looking for new members. The Society meets monthly on the second Wednesday at the Royal British Legion Club, Ravensmere at 7pm where matters of interest and/or concern are discussed. All members, and prospective members, are most welcome to join these meetings. Please go to www.becclessociety.co.uk (check the changes to date of December meeting) for more information, or contact the **Secretary at hugh.becsoc@gmail.com or call 07825 871938**. There are copies of the Society's Autumn Newsletter available on request from the Secretary.

www.beccles.info

Healthwatch Suffolk

Healthwatch Suffolk is a way for local voices to influence and shape local health and social care services. It uses this information to shape and improve these services because the best way to serve are built around the needs and experiences of the very people who use them. It also helps to provide information to make it easier to navigate the health and care system, especially when things go wrong. Tell Healthwatch Suffolk of your experiences of health and social care services to make a difference for others through honest sharing of views. You do not have to be a member to comment.

If you want to be involved with this independent consumer champion, which has the strength of the law behind it, then become a member. Its free to join and you will receive their newsletter. Call 01449 703949, follow Healthwatch Suffolk on Twitter (@hwsuffolk) or visit www.healthwatchesuffolk.co.uk.

You may post your views also to Freepost RTEC-ZGLG-GYLE, Healthwatch Suffolk, 12 & 13 Norfolk House, Williamsport Way, Needham Market, IP6 8RW.

COUNCILLOR'S CONTACT DETAILS

COUNCILLOR	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE
<u>CENTRE</u>		
HARRIS, J D	26 Hungate, Beccles NR34 9TT	01502 717237
SCOTT, C J	3 Firfield Close, Beccles NR34 9YE	01502 714831
WOODRUFF, B	13 Meadow Gardens, Beccles NR34 9PA	01502 713053
<u>COMMON</u>		
BUBB, Mrs S	The Round House, Ballygate, Beccles NR34 9NA	01502 713314
FOULGER, S P R	'Rosy Dawn', 4 Ellough Road, Beccles NR34 7AE	01502 710370
WAREHAM, E K	Cottage Farmhouse, Beccles Road, Raveningham Norwich NR14 6NW	01508 548733
ELLIOTT, Mrs N	2 Old Hall, Barsham, Beccles NR348HB	01502 714661
<u>RIGBOURNE</u>		
CATCHPOLE, G	32 Coney Hill, Beccles NR34 7AZ	01502 712103
PECK, D W	8 Waveney Road, Beccles NR34 9NW	01502 712627
TAYLOR, H	25 Northgate, Beccles NR34 9AS	Deputy Mayor 01502 471532
TOPPING, MRS C	7 Rigbourne Hill, Beccles NR34 9JG	MAYOR 01502 717276
<u>DARBY</u>		
BEE, B	46 Clerk's Piece, Beccles NR34 7BG	01502 712812
HAYNES, MRS M	63a Kemp's Lane, Beccles NR34 9XB	01502 714093
RICHARDSON, D	11 Old College Close, Ballygate, Beccles NR34 9LY	01502 716616
TAYLOR, B	2 Fairfax Court, Beccles NR34 9XG	01502 713307

EAAA LOTTERY

The East Anglian Air Ambulance Lottery is looking for **WINNERS** of one of the 18 cash prizes in their weekly draw from £50 to £1,000! Plus there is an automatic entry into the accumulator prize increasing each week by £500 until a winner is found, up to a whopping £25,000. For taking part in the EAAA Lottery you will keep us flying and saving lives in your region as contributions amount to around 45% of our income, essential to continue our lifesaving work. EAAA Lottery Manager, Mike Burt, who has been working at the Charity since February said 'It never ceases to amaze me how generous the people of East Anglia are when it comes to supporting EAAA.' The Lottery is a great way of showing support and having fun at the same time, with a chance of winning a useful cash prize! Buy membership on line or download a form from our website www.eaaa.org.uk or call 01603 489400 (16 years and over). Don't forget, you never know when you may need the services of East Anglian Air Ambulance.

We need you today, you may need us tomorrow.....

WHAT'S GOING ON IN BECCLES LIBRARY

Plenty of action at your local Library who have been hosting exciting guest speakers such as Nigel Planer, Alison Weir, Reverend Richard Coles and Kevin Kennedy during this year. Plans are afoot to welcome further guest speakers in the New Year.

Also running for your enjoyment, informative and crafty *sessions during the daytime; the Top Time group meets every Thursday from 2-3pm with a rota of activities including a Reading Group, Guest Speakers, Craft Activities and Family History workshops.

The Grandparents and Grandchildren's group is held on Wednesday mornings with Family Playtime on Thursdays and, ever popular, Baby Bounce singing group on Fridays.

New members are more than welcome to come along to these *sessions . No need for advance booking—just turn up at Beccles Library for your chosen session— it's FREE and you are guaranteed to make new friends and enjoy new skills while you are there.

Call Beccles Library for more information on 01502 714073