

Bungay News

Local news from Bungay Town Council | Summer 2021

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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 non-conventional children's space; featuring play and nature.

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 Mens 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, a community garden, a wooded area, and an amphitheatre.

These suggestions have been submitted to SCC. A meeting is scheduled to decide whether the land will be passed to BTC. Hopefully with positive results it will become another asset for us all. With ideas, funding sources and volunteers already in place, we now need to be patient and wait for the green light!

The Steering Group 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.

We would also like to express our gratitude for the 80 plus responses already received. The thought that has gone into this has been invaluable and indicates how important it is. Once we have received a formal response we will make it public. Assuming we can then go ahead, a plan will be drafted out and put before the community before making a final decision.

Pride in Bungay

Pride in Bungay has a proud history in helping to keep our town clean and tidy, and despite the best efforts of our grounds person Steve Beckett, and East Suffolk's street cleansing team, there remains much to do and we call upon the community to support us in our efforts to ensure that everyone can regain their 'Pride in 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 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.

Pride in Bungay aims to coordinate and oversee the maintenance and repair of our Green Spaces, verges and 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.



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.



Swift Nesting Boxes

Anyone walking past the Riverside Centre at Bungay Staithe may have been awakened to the sound of Swifts calling.

Indeed several interested parties have been seen to point their cameras towards the boxes in the hope of capturing that illusive image. Alas, rather than the birds themselves calling recordings are being played over an amplifier in order to attract these beautiful birds to nest.

Swifts like to nest high in the eaves of buildings, but these days because fewer houses and buildings fall into disrepair their numbers have dropped dramatically, so we are doing our little bit to help!



Roger Betts has kindly provided the town with a dozen bat boxes, homemade in his workshop in Bungay. These are shortly to be sited at the Staithe and around Falcon Meadow. Our grateful thanks to Roger, and also to Paul Jackson, Katie Utting and Mick Finnmore who have facilitated this process.

Ditchingham Men's Shed

The men's shed movement originated in Australia to support bereaved and retired men. Ditchingham men's shed was formed in October 2016, initially working out of members garages, then from a rented barn on a pig farm whilst looking for a permanent home. They were eventually offered a plot of land in Earsham at the Wetlands Centre, and from fundraising and generous donations collected over the four years they were able to purchase a brand new 60' x 20' wooden shed.

Their secretary Teresa Davies explained "Although it is a men's shed it is not all about woodwork, and we aim to reduce social isolation and support people suffering with their mental health, and everyone is welcome, even if it is just for a cuppa & a chat".

Once the new building is up and running, they will have disabled access and a work bench suitable for a wheelchair user. They will have wi-fi access, offer gardening and even cookery lessons if needed and they participate in events held at the Wetlands Centre such as the recent flower sale.

Member Charlie Taylor can be contacted on: 07526 227986 Email: charlietaylor@me.com



Local Safer Neighbourhood Team

PC Amy Yeldham & PC Chris Pallett now cover the Bungay area. Amy is our engagement officer and our locality inspector is Nick Aitken. Amy is based at Beccles Police Office and covers Bungay, Beccles, Barnby, Barsham, Ellough, Mettingham, Mutford, North Cove, Redisham, Ringsfield, Shadingfield, Shipmeadow, Sotterley, Weston, Willingham St Mary, Worlingham.

Contact details:

Email: ceolowestoft@suffolk.police.uk or beccles.snt@suffolk.pnn.police.uk
In an emergency always call 999, for a non-emergency call 101
Twitter - @LowestoftPolice Facebook - Lowestoft Police www.suffolk.police.uk

The Suffolk Police website provides contact details for the team covering Bungay along with links to other information which may be of interest. At present the Safer Neighbourhood Team officers covering Bungay and Beccles are Pc Amy Yeldham, PC Chris Pallett, PC Emily Leach, PC Laura Deal, PC Steve Fisher, PC Beth Stenson



Bungay Shop Window Displays

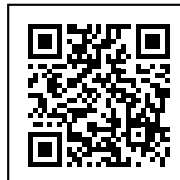
The aim of our Tourism and Heritage group was to breathe new life into unoccupied Bungay Retail units in order to promote their potential, and to brighten up our high street!

A diverse range of local community groups including the Friends of St. Marys, Black Dog Arts, 4AM, Waveney and Blyth Arts and the Falcon Meadow Art Competition have been devoting their time and expertise to help brighten up some of our empty shop windows! The project benefits everyone, has created interest for both visitors and businesses, has attracted press and social media coverage and is helping to make our town an even more enjoyable place to be.

For further details contact Eddie Rosier Tel: 01986 894236 admin@bungaytowncouncil.gov.uk



Bungay Town Council Tourism & Heritage Questionnaire



Bungay Town Council are considering ways to develop a plan to promote the history and the heritage of Bungay through tourism, and to do this and we would like to engage with as many residents, groups and businesses within the town and its neighbouring communities.

The survey will take about 5 minutes to complete and is a mixture of open and closed questions. There is opportunity for comments during the survey and at the end.

The collated 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.

By taking part in this survey you:

1. confirm that you have read and understood the introduction to the survey and are happy to participate.
2. understand the purpose of the survey, what you will be asked to do, and any risks/benefits involved.
3. understand that your participation is

voluntary and that you are free to withdraw at any time, and that you may skip any questions in the survey you do not feel comfortable answering or that may lead to personal identification.

4. understand that no identifiable personal information will be collected and stored in this survey, and all data will be stored securely according to relevant Data Protection and GDPR legislation and will only be used for purposes of research as outlined above.

5. understand that the results of this survey will be published, but these publications will not contain any personal identifiable information.

By proceeding, you agree to take part in this study. Thank you for your help in this work.
<https://forms.office.com/r/yvUzTWC5qp>



VOLUNTEERS WANTED

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN HISTORY AND ARCHAEOLOGY? WOULD YOU LIKE TO VOLUNTEER IN YOUR LOCAL MUSEUM?

We have opportunities for volunteers to join the new Friends of Bungay Museum, to support us on the next stage of our heritage journey!

We need volunteers who would like to help us reopen the museum, to help with reorganising our collection and to help with managing our events & social media. No experience necessary, training given.

If this sounds like you, please email bungaymuseum@gmail.com for more information and an informal chat with our curator

Wild Wellbeing
for over 65's

Funded by
Connected Communities
Buckinghamshire

Forest School leader Lou, invites you to a weekly gathering to reconnect with nature, share wild crafting skills, chat & drink tea by the fire

Fridays, starting 11/06/2021
Bungay Falcon Meadow 10:00-12:30
Beccles Community Orchard 2:30-5:00

To find out more contact Lou: 07708619252
lou4learninginnature@gmail.com

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 2200 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.

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.

Cllr. Tony Dawes



Sam Kenward, Communities Officer at East Suffolk Council for Beccles, Bungay, Halesworth and surrounding villages has arranged a programme of Summer Activities for Children in Bungay

Over the summer holidays, there will be 5 days of free activities happening for young people in Bungay! The activities are for 10 to 18 year olds and young people will be able to sample different activities in the great outdoors!

Please keep your eyes peeled for more information in the coming weeks!"

For more details visit our website: www.bungaytowncouncil.gov.uk

Access Community Trust are delighted to be able to open a new drop-in support service for the young people aged 8-18 of Bungay starting every Wednesday from 23rd June 2021. After capturing the voices and views of many local young people last summer, our charity has finally received the green light thanks to the relaxation of Covid restrictions. Our fully trained team look forward to welcoming you at Riverside Centre, The Staithe from 5pm. For more information call/message 07554 454946 or email you@accessct.org

The Big Bungay Garden Competition

Are you proud of the work you did in your garden during lockdown? Well, why not show it off and enter the Big Bungay Garden Competition? Bungay in Bloom, the Bungay Society and Bungay Town Council have teamed up to create the competition and it is they who will judge the gardens.

There are three categories: **Front Garden, Small / Courtyard Garden and Overall Garden.** The winner in each category will receive a prize of a **£50 voucher for the Three Willows Garden Centre** on Flixton Road, and the winner in the **'Overall Garden'** category will be presented with the much-coveted **Seamon's Cup** to be held for the coming year.

Chris & Terry Reeve have kindly donated a prize for the best garden for wildlife, and this will be judged on how you have integrated provision for wildlife in your garden – perhaps a pond, a bug hotel, bird boxes, areas left wild or plants for pollinators.

The judges will be looking primarily for

gardens that are well cared for, loved, and well used. You don't need rare plants or exotics, or to have spent a fortune - in fact if you've raised your own plants from cuttings or seed this will count in your favour. Well cared for plants, a good use of the space, a good variety of planting, sustainability and a garden that can be enjoyed all year round by you, your family and wildlife. A shortlist will be drawn up from the entries submitted and arrangements made to visit gardens before the winner of each category will be finally decided,

Entry forms are available at Bungay Library, The Three Willows Garden Centre, Bungay Town Hall and in various shops around town, or you can simply 'google' Bungay Garden Competition for a downloadable version.

Deadline for entries has been extended to 5th July, and completed forms with up to 8 images (Jpegs) can be handed in at Giddens & Thompson, Tops hairdressers or by email to didyward@outlook.com.