



**BURY ST EDMUNDS  
TOWN COUNCIL**



**St Edmundsbury  
BOROUGH COUNCIL**

## **Councillor Paul Hopfensperger**

### **Report to Howard Estate Association of Residents and Tenants (H.E.A.R.T.) Monday October 15, 2018**

#### **1. Tollgate Primary School Visit to Oakes Road Woodland Project**

	<p><b>Tollgate Primary School</b></p> <p>Year 4 pupils from the school made a trip to the St Olaves woodland area.</p> <p>The pupils led by community company Greener Growth, helped fill up all of the bug and insect hotels.</p> <p>The hotels were commissioned by Cllr Paul Hopfensperger using his locality budget.</p> <p>Fiona Till, from Greener Growth, said: "The children absolutely loved it. They asked lots of questions, asked lots about bugs and biodiversity."</p>	
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On October 1<sup>st</sup>, Tollgate Primary School were the first school to visit the new nature trail which I had built with my town and borough council locality budgets as requested by H.E.A.R.T. The £4,500 project has been constructed by Jo Metcalfe, Sam Hardy and the team from Greener Growth, and they are doing a fabulous job up there. The children loved it and they populated one of the insect hotels. It will be a valuable part of their education. Howard Primary will be involved also, as soon as we have a Head and/or Deputy Head teacher in place.

#### **2. Vandalised Benches**

I can confirm that the vandalised benches in Oakes Road and St Olaves Road behind the community centre, which were reported to me last month have now been repaired, following me reporting them to St Edmundsbury Borough Council Parks Department.

#### **3. Children's Halloween & Christmas Parties**

Following a Facebook post by Jade Woolnough on Friday September 21<sup>st</sup> requesting something for the kids on Halloween and/or Christmas, I spoke to Barbara Bannister and we quickly assembled the Newbury Community Centre Association Committee and some invited guests, the day after on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> September at 12pm. In attendance were Barbara Bannister, Val Cownley, Jade Woolnough, Mandy Cornish, Darren Mitchell, Jo Mitchell, Justin hook, Katrina Cremen and myself.

At the meeting we organised a Halloween Party for children under 12 on Friday October 26<sup>th</sup> from 6pm to 8pm. Following massive Facebook activity from all involved, this event sold out within a week! Well done everyone involved.

We have also provisionally organised a Christmas party for the same age groups on Saturday December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2018 from 3pm to 6pm. More on this event at the next meeting.

To raise funds for these events, there will be a "Coffee and Cake Sale" next Saturday morning, October 20<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am, organised by Ollie Thurlow, Mandy Cornish, and Jade to raise funds for these parties. I

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would also like to thank H.E.A.R.T. for agreeing to donate £100 from the Bingo towards the costs involved in running these events also. It is very much appreciated.

### **4. St Olaves Precinct – Proposed new Café and Post Office.**

As you all know, the planning application for a new Pizza takeaway went through the St Edmundsbury Development Control committee, so there is point discussing this further as it is now in the past.

What I am delighted to discuss, is the exciting plan by Allison Knight who currently runs a vegan food stall on the Bury St Edmunds market on a Wednesday. She contacted me on October 4<sup>th</sup> and we have been in touch and met once since, as she is keen to turn the other empty unit in St Olaves Precinct into a café/post office. I therefore invited her here to this meeting tonight to discuss her ideas with you as I felt it was the best place to get some feedback on what you thought of her idea.

As it progresses, I will be working with Allison and you, the local community to try to ensure that this becomes a success for not only Allison, but the entire community.

### **5. Western Way Public Service Village - £100 Million+ Upgrade**



As the St Edmundsbury Borough Council representative on the Suffolk County Council Health Scrutiny Committee, I attended the committee meeting last Wednesday, October 10<sup>th</sup>.

I can report that the NHS partners have joined a health working group with St Edmundsbury Borough Council/West Suffolk and Suffolk County Council to explore the scope to create a significant shared health facility as part of the wider Western Way Public Service Village project. This has included joint funding a specialist health planner to inform the business case and early design work.

As a former Suffolk County Councillor for Tower Division from 2005 to 2009, I was on the project board that helped deliver the current West Suffolk House building in Western Way, and it was always envisaged that an entire range of public services would be re-located there. We are now at that stage, and there are plans to increase this presence in the building shortly, with more co-location of NHS and Suffolk County Council care staff.

I questioned the witnesses at the meeting, who included Julia Hiley, the Sustainable Transformation Partnership (STP) Estates Programme Manager and Amanda Lyes, Chief Corporate Services Officer for the Ipswich and West Suffolk Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG). They confirmed to me, that as part of the £100-120 Million project, a current central Bury St Edmunds based GP Surgery will be re-locating into the new development, bringing much needed doctors surgery/medical facilities to the western side of town for the first time ever.

I am sure you will agree, this is fantastic news not only for the Howard Estate, but for the entire west side of Bury St Edmunds which has suffered from major under-investment over the years.

I was invited by the BBC reporter Vikki Irwin who was at the Health Scrutiny meeting, to discuss it on the BBC Radio Suffolk Stephen Foster show last Thursday afternoon, and was on the show at around 4:15pm. You may have heard it. Further information will be available to all St Edmundsbury Borough Councillors on October 22<sup>nd</sup>, and it will be fully discussed, debated on and voted on at the St Edmundsbury Borough Council Full Council meeting on October 30<sup>th</sup> and I will report back at next month's meeting with any further progress.

**6. New Litter Bin in Hunter Road**



As requested by Jo Mitchell in the summer, I have paid £390.47 from my Bury St Edmunds Town Council Locality Budget for a new combined litter and dogs mess bin at the bus stop in Hunter Road. This has now been installed.

**7. The Teazers E.P. - Fundraising for St Nicholas' Hospice**



**Mod vinyl released 36 years on to help hospice**

A councillor has released an EP from a band he was in 36 years ago to raise money for charity. Cllr Paul Hopfensperger, from Bury St Edmunds, who was part of band The Teazers, recorded the four songs in a studio in London in 1982. He has now decided to release the tracks as an EP, where 15 per cent of the proceeds will go towards St Nicholas Hospice Care. He said: "I'm big into setting and achieving goals. An EP was the third. It's very exciting."

"St Nicholas Hospice Care needs over £11,000 per day just to break even, so every penny helps." At the time of recording, Cllr Hopfensperger was 19, and his two bandmates were Andrew Leong-Son, 17 and Pete Hawtin, who was 16. Pre-signed copies of the single will be available from Vinyl Hunter in St John's Street and personalised signed copies are available from Paul at Body and Mind Studio, or online via The Teazers shop at [www.TheTeazers.com](http://www.TheTeazers.com)

As you may have seen recently in the Bury Free Press, I have released a 12" Vinyl E.P. using songs I recorded 36 years ago with my band **The Teazers**. Copies are available either online at [www.TheTeazers.com](http://www.TheTeazers.com), in person at my business Body and Mind Studio or from Vinyl Hunter in St John's Street. 15% of all sales will go to St Nicholas' Hospice in Bury St Edmunds who as you know, I have raised funds for over the years with several events, including my 3 English Channel swims.

**8. Police Safer Neighbourhood Team Visit to St Olaves Precinct today**

This morning, I attended the Police Safer Neighbourhood Team's visit to St Olaves Precinct. There was a Police Officer there (Paul Fox) and a PCSO.

There was a good residents turn out and I think they gave both officers their thoughts on many of the issues going on locally. Two actions which I am following up as a result of the meeting are as follows:-

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- I have asked our new Localities Officer, Ellie McCarthy, to get some costings for an additional CCTV camera at the rear of the shops. I know it will be very expensive, but will try to get one of these installed due to the unsavoury incidents being reported in this area.
- I have also asked Ellie to have the tree cut which is partially covering the existing CCTV camera at the front of the shops.
- I will also be trying to arrange a visit for those residents that asked, to the control room where they monitor the CCTV cameras.

### 9. St Olaves Precinct Rubbish



I have written to London and Cambridge Properties Limited complaining about the appalling situation at St Olaves Precinct with them not emptying their litter bins. When St Edmundsbury Borough had the contract, they were emptied every day. Now, they are only emptied occasionally. This is private land, and privately owned bins so St Edmundsbury have no legal right to empty them. I will update the meeting next month with any progress.

*Paul J. Hopfensperger*

**15/10/2018**

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**Cllr. Paul Hopfensperger**

Independent Councillor for St Olaves Ward  
St Edmundsbury Borough Council and Bury St Edmunds Town Council