

## April 2016 report for the Thredling Division from Cllr Matthew Hicks

### **Government green light for third crossing at Lake Lothing in Lowestoft and the Wet Dock crossing in Ipswich**

As part of the Chancellor's budget, Suffolk featured strongly with the green light being given for both Lowestoft's third crossing over Lake Lothing and the new Wet Dock crossing in Ipswich. The Prime Minister committed to the crossing prior to the last General Election, committing the Government to deliver a new crossing by 2020. With this further pledge of £70 million the county council finally has the funding in place to press ahead with the detailed planning required to bring about a third crossing over Lake Lothing. This is a massive piece of work estimated to cost in the region of £80-100 million. The third crossing will provide critical regional infrastructure for Suffolk and the wider eastern counties, as people and businesses move through Lowestoft to access the growing enterprise zone with its array of business and development opportunities. The benefits of the scheme are reduced journey times for commuters and businesses and the alleviation of congestion. The project supports the continued development of future business growth in Lowestoft and the town's regeneration. To view the Outline Business Case please see below. The go-ahead has also been given for a new wet dock crossing in Ipswich, which will span the waterfront area of the town to connect communities with a new road infrastructure that will also serve a business and innovation centre based on an island in the dock itself. SCC has now been given permission to proceed with developing the proposal and moving forward towards a timeframe for construction. This is another significant piece of work and is estimated to cost up to £100million. The business case sets out the ambition to transform and develop the island site within Ipswich waterfront to bring in new business opportunities, job opportunities and development for residential and leisure use. This scheme will be a catalyst for economic growth worth £8 billion plus to the local economy. Work has shown that, in addition to its likely effect on economic development, the new crossing will result in a significant reduction in congestion in the Star Lane area and on the A14 Orwell Bridge by providing an alternative route for local traffic. Please visit <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/public-transport-and-planning/consultations-and-studies> and click on the third tab 'Transport Studies' for more information.

### **Suffolk to invest in the Screen Industries**

Suffolk Public Sector Leaders have agreed to invest up to £230k of the Business Rates Pool, into establishing a Suffolk Film office initiative. The UK film and television industry is a success story with a strong reputation for creativity, skilled people and businesses. This is one of the fastest growing sectors in the UK economy and Suffolk is positioning itself to be a pillar of excellence in this growing market, beginning with a long term commitment to growing this sector in the county. The initiative has been developed by a collaboration of those working in the screen industries, and Suffolk's local authorities. This programme will: build on the existing community of Screen Industry professionals based in the county, fostering a cohesive and collaborative culture; promote Suffolk as a diverse, culturally rich and talented place with a beautiful landscape that can meet the needs of local, national and international Screen Industries; attract the Screen Industries to the region, and all associated disciplines, to further generate economic growth and inward investment; create a film friendly licensing and permissions process across Suffolk that is efficient, effective and ensures residents and businesses are able to support productions in Suffolk. The county's beautiful natural landscape, wealth of history and ease of access from London make it an ideal location for screen productions. SCC will put a contract to tender out for this initiative in April.

### **Suffolk's Trading Standards team continue the fight against underage alcohol sales with two key prosecutions**

SCC Trading Standards team is continuing its fight against underage alcohol sales with further prosecutions against those selling alcohol to youngsters under the legal age limit. In Ipswich the Premises Licence Holder of Dobbs Lane Stores pleaded guilty to selling alcohol to underage children under Section 146 of the Licensing Act 2003. He was fined a total of £670 – a £335 fine plus £300 in prosecution costs and a £35 victim surcharge. In addition to this, representatives of Martin McColl Ltd's Wickham Market and Great Cornard stores appeared at Ipswich Magistrates Court as the shops had continued to sell alcohol to young people despite earlier warnings. The company pleaded guilty to selling alcohol to underage persons. The Wickham Market branch was fined £6000 for two incidents whilst the Great Cornard branch was fined £4000. McColl Ltd was also ordered to pay £1618.63 in costs and a £200 victim surcharge. The Magistrates took into consideration the guilty pleas, and the fact that McColl Ltd had cooperated with the investigation. The company have also reviewed and updated their procedures since the sales took place. Both Suffolk's Trading Standards team and the Police work collaboratively, sharing intelligence to crack down on the offenders. Anyone with information about illegal sales of alcohol, tobacco, knives, butane gas or other age-restricted products can inform Trading Standards by contacting the *Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline* on 03454 040506.

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

**Tel : 01728 628176 Mob : 07824474741 E-mail : [matthew.hicks@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:matthew.hicks@suffolk.gov.uk)**