

Felixstowe Forward.

Progress Report July 2020 (*latest activity in italics*)



<p>Engagement with businesses</p>	<p>Ongoing liaison with approx. 160 Felixstowe businesses by email and/or phone:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - COVID19 Small Business £10k & Retail, Hospitality and Leisure £25k - COVID19 Discretionary grant - Guidance and application process available at https://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/business/covid-19-business-grant-funding/ - COVID19 Preparation for re-opening: Circulation of Government, Health and Safety Executive and East Suffolk Council guidance (the resources developed by the Environmental Team at East Suffolk Council have been particularly well received https://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/business/food-safety/covid-19-health-and-safety-guidance-for-businesses/) - COVID19 circulation of useful business resources picked up from Association Town Centre Managers Basecamp alerts and conversations - Responding to numerous queries and anxieties - COVID19 business impact: Feeding back to the wider Economic Development Team local intelligence - <i>BID Business Plan (Recovery focused) early draft received.</i> <p>Re-Opening Felixstowe Safely</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Consultation with businesses on Re-opening Felixstowe Safely, business signage ordered and delivered across Felixstowe, public realm signage ordered, and delivery is expected shortly, Hamilton road closure letters hand delivered to businesses. Road closure confirmed.</i> - <i>One business has enquired about a Pavement Licence. (More may follow).</i> <p>Positive News</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - New businesses opened - Saltwater Fish n Chips, Felixstowe Fine Food Deli, (Classic Angels Care Group about to open) - Business relocations: Wool Baa in the old Post Office Building. - New businesses planned: Seaview Deli and Cafe expected on the corner of Hamilton road/Wolsey gardens in Hamilton Road, <p>Negative news</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>5 retail businesses have confirmed closure. (Two potential closures have re-opened and are managing social distancing)</i>
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- Some retail outlets are changing opening hours to reduce staffing costs. This will have a knock-on impact on local employment. Banks have restricted opening.

Visit Felixstowe Re-Opening Campaign

- 32 informal Mayor zoom interviews with businesses have been completed with more in the pipeline. Current focus are the cafes, restaurants, and attractions
- The aim has been to acknowledge the essential businesses that have stayed open, build momentum as the town and seafront re-opens and importantly, give reassurance to customers that appropriate social -distancing measures have been put in place. Campaign has been working in partnership with Felixstowe Radio and Felixstowe Chamber of Trade and Commerce.
- As an example: Underwood’s video and associated post reached 14,495 and resulted in 2,153 engagements

East Suffolk means Business

For further information: This page is kept up to date with the latest COVID19 information, advice and guidance.

<https://eastsuffolkmeansbusiness.co.uk/>

Capitalise on existing strengths and present a strong and diverse, year-round programme of events

Event booking system currently suspended due to COVID-19. Visit Felixstowe has temporarily hidden the events page.

Stephen Rampley has supported bigger events that were to happen with throwback posts and videos, including a virtual Historic Car Rally using archive footage, and VE day using video clips from the performers and acts.

More recently, Visit Felixstowe has supported the on-line Felixstowe Book Festival.

Future plans include a virtual Heritage Open Weekend in September.

Drive in Cinema

Some Councillors have expressed interest in holding a drive-in- cinema event. We have looked into the costs which would amount to approximately £5.5-£6k. This would cover a one-day event showing three different films throughout the day. The Grove Car Park could accommodate about 60 cars per showing. It has the advantage of having public conveniences nearby. Any event will need to fully risk assess against COVID-19: for example, the use of public conveniences would need to be monitored and additional cleaning scheduled in. Please note: we still have a suspended service for events using East Suffolk Council land. This will be reviewed against new guidance that is expected on July 4th.

Events Up and Coming 2020/2021		
2020 Dates		
25 th July	Felixstowe Carnival	Virtual
13 th Sept	Heritage Weekend	Virtual

	Status of these events remain uncertain:		
13 Sept	Felixstowe Coastal 10 miles	Promenade	
3 Oct	Festival of Fabric	The Orwell Hotel	
1 Nov	Felixstowe Fireworks	Dellwood	
?	Walton – Shine a Light	Walton	
28 November	Christmas Lights switch on	Town Centre	
25 December	Christmas Day Dip	Seafront	
2021 Provisional Dates			
21 June	Women’s Tour		
23-25 July	Felixstowe Carnival – Heroes and Villains	Various location	
5 Sept	Art on the Prom	Seafront	
<p>Build on the momentum of promoting Felixstowe as a destination, and cross-promotion of visitor related activity.</p>	<p>Visit Felixstowe Beach Hut Tourist Information Hut <i>Currently conducting risk assessments and guidance pending a return of the volunteers when it is safe and appropriate to re-open. We expect to re-open on 27 July.</i></p> <p>Noticeboards <i>Noticeboards have been cleared of out of date event notices and replaced with the winning photographs of this year Photographic Competition.</i></p> <p>Visit Felixstowe website: Stephen is uploading all the Mayor interview videos to the Visit Felixstowe You Tube channel and will be creating a page on the main website so that these can be viewed in the future.</p> <p>July 2020 9,565 Followers Facebook July 2020 4,958 Followers Twitter Regular #TownTalk #LoveIndependent campaign.</p> <p>Blue Flag Application successful. Awaiting the re-opening of the Leisure Centre and resumption of Coastwatch before the flag and notices can be raised.</p> <p>Felixstowe Seafront Gardens <i>New pond signage has been completed. There has been increased sightings of the Wall Lizards this year.</i></p>		

	<p><i>The Felixstowe Seafront Garden volunteers now have completed COVID19 risk assessments and will be re-joining Norse and Lead Hands shortly and assisting in keeping the gardens neat and tidy.</i></p> <p><i>Sadly, the Wicker Family will not survive another season and will be removed in September. They have been much loved and have lasted longer than anticipated. They were originally funded through the Heritage Lottery Fund for the Seafront Gardens project. The artist, Tracy Barritt-Brown, has quoted £2,500 to replace (including maintenance).</i></p>
<p>Work with partners to exploit the full potential of Felixstowe through collaborations and projects as they arise.</p>	<p>Ongoing officer involvement with:</p> <p>North Felixstowe Development <i>Work has started on a Felixstowe Vision document pulling together various strands of work planned in the town.</i></p> <p>South Seafront Development: The Kitchen @ Martello Park and The Sweetworks @ Martello Park <i>Barnes Construction are due to commence works on site in late Summer.</i> <i>Dedham Boathouse Group has been selected as the operator following a competitive process and will take on the running of the new eatery once it is ready to open.</i></p> <p>Early discussions with The Hold in Ipswich for an outreach community archives project.</p>
<p>Oversee Landguard Partnership governance review</p>	<p>Governance review delayed due to COVID19 but getting back on track.</p> <p>Peninsula is getting busier and the car park is full on most days if the sun is shining. Problems arising as all public conveniences in the area are closed.</p> <p><i>Leonie Washington appointed as Landguard Ranger. Leonie is from Felixstowe and brings a wealth of knowledge and experience as a freelance ecologist and work in the conservation team at the Suffolk Wildlife Trust.</i></p> <p><i>Landguard Fort expected to re-open 1st August.</i></p>
<p>Community Engagement and Update from Chloe Lee, Communities Officer</p>	<p><i>‘Community Conversations’ informal interviews with the Deputy Mayor have started with two about to be completed. We are working closely with Chloe Lee to facilitate these interviews.</i></p> <p>Update from Chloe Lee, Communities Officer The ‘Home But Not Alone’ county service was launched at the beginning of the Covid-19 lockdown period, to help connect people who want to volunteer in their communities with neighbours who are most in need. The picture across East Suffolk District Council as of 23rd June 2020;</p>



Chloe Lee (Communities Officer for this area) has been working closely with different charities and organisations throughout this time. In particular Basic Life Charity, and FACTS to deliver essential food supplies, prescriptions etc to residents who are self-isolating or shielding and who have been referred to the Communities team for help. In addition,

The entire district has seen a fantastic community response to the pandemic with groups and action being established quickly to help those most in need. In Felixstowe, Helping Hand’s volunteers, led by Town Councillor Darren Aitchison, are a key example of local people going above and beyond to help a neighbour.

The Salvation Army has also provided essential support during this crisis by providing food parcels and hot meals to the most vulnerable. They have also created entertainment packs, delivered toys and outdoor games to families, and run a weekly zoom group for children full of songs, activities and competitions.

Chloe Lee is looking forward to linking back with community groups and organisations, as they prepare for post covid and the ‘new normal’.

Hidden Needs Grant programme re-launched.

2018 saw the launch of the former East Suffolk Partnership Hidden Needs Grant programme focussing on older people and families with limited access to resource. A total of £110,000 was available to support projects tackling social isolation, identified by the ground-breaking hidden needs mapping. To date the grant has enabled a range of innovative community projects to tackle social isolation and loneliness in hidden need ‘hot spots’. Given the wide reach of the Covid-19 pandemic across the population, the Hidden Needs Grant programme has been re-launched on 08.06.2020. The criteria for applying has now been revised to reflect any/all age groups in East Suffolk experiencing loneliness or isolation (pre covid-19) as we know that these individuals, families and communities are likely to be impacted by Covid-19 to a greater extent than the wider population.

The grant has been topped back up to £100,000, and has been split into two rounds; round one – **17th July 2020 and round two - 30th September 2020.**

We want to support innovative projects that enable voluntary sector organisations and community groups to tackle social isolation and loneliness and their impacts on our local communities during the recovery from Covid-19. A set of geographical target communities are identified in two new maps, which are available on the East Suffolk Council website on the Hidden Needs Grants pages.