

## **April 2017 report for the Thredling Division from Cllr Matthew Hicks**

### **Suffolk Fostering and Adoption Service to launch a new approach to support foster families**

Suffolk Fostering and Adoption Service is launching the Mockingbird Family Model of foster care in Suffolk, in partnership with The Fostering Network. The Fostering Network has already introduced the pioneering Mockingbird Family Model to the UK, and it has been piloted with 7 organisations across the country since April 2015. They have now been successful in securing an additional £3.76m in funding through the Department for Education's Children's Social Care Innovation Programme to extend the model to a further 5 organisations in the UK, including Suffolk Fostering and Adoption Service. The model is based on the idea of an extended family. It uses a 'constellation' where 6 to 8 fostering 'satellite' households living near each other are offered support from a dedicated 'hub home' fostering household of specially recruited and trained carers. The hub home carer offers regular planned respite care and emergency respite care to the satellite carers. They will also assist with peer support, regular joint planning and social activities. Relationships are central to the model, with hub carers and foster carers providing frontline care and with social workers able to concentrate on successful relationship building. The hub also builds links with other families integral to the children's care plans and to resources in the wider community which can provide them with enhanced opportunities to learn, develop and succeed. Suffolk plans to launch its first constellation of foster carers by October 2017. More information on becoming a foster carer please visit: [www.fosterandadopt.suffolk.gov.uk](http://www.fosterandadopt.suffolk.gov.uk)

### **Community Fire Volunteers are being sought by Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service**

Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service are currently on the lookout for enthusiastic and caring people who want to make a difference to their community. Community Fire Volunteers are fully trained volunteers who share fire safety advice in their area, visiting elderly and vulnerable people in their homes to undertake a Safer Home Visit for them, fitting smoke alarms if required and offering fire safety advice. Those who become Community Fire Volunteers will also be able to get involved in other ways, such as attending community events and fairs or giving talks to community groups about fire safety. Applicants must be over 18 years old and be available for at least 12 hours every month. Volunteers will receive ongoing training and uniform for when they undertake their duties. Support will also be given to allow volunteers to extend their skills and expenses will be paid to cover any costs incurred while on duty. To download an application form and information pack go to <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/suffolk-fire-and-rescue-service/working-and-volunteering-for-fire-and-rescue/apply-to-be-a-community-fire-volunteer/> or call 01473 260588. The vacancy is also available on the Volunteer Suffolk website at <http://volunteersuffolk.org.uk/>

### **Foster & Partners selected as Architectural Team to join the Upper Orwell Crossings Project, Ipswich**

Following a competition run in partnership with the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA), Suffolk County Council is very pleased to announce that Foster + Partners has been selected as the architectural team to join the Upper Orwell Crossings project in Ipswich. The crossings will be the second project Foster + Partners has undertaken in the town, following the construction of the architecturally significant Willis Building in Ipswich town centre. The Panel, chaired by Sir Michael Hopkins CBE, selected Foster + Partners from a strong shortlist of five internationally renowned teams. Foster + Partners impressed the panel by the quality of their overall approach and thinking, including the initial design concepts. The approaches were considered to have the potential to enhance Ipswich's thriving waterfront, as well as acting as a catalyst for regeneration of the wider harbour area. The county council and key partners, including Ipswich Borough Council and Ipswich Vision, keenly anticipate seeing the initial design ideas developed further with the wider project team and in consultation with local businesses, communities and residents. Competition concept design images can be downloaded from here <https://www.flickr.com/photos/suffolkcountycouncil/> A video is available at [www.youtube.com/user/SuffolkCC](http://www.youtube.com/user/SuffolkCC)

### **Travel in time – online!**

Suffolk Record Office now offers online resources to help you search for a particular person or piece of information. The new website allows users to access catalogues for the records from the comfort of their own home and means many more people will be able to use the service. More records are being digitised and added to the collection on an on-going basis. To find out more about the services available online, visit [www.suffolkarchives.co.uk](http://www.suffolkarchives.co.uk) In January, Pringle Richards Sharratt were announced as the design team behind the planned heritage centre, 'The Hold', which will house 900 years of Suffolk's historical archives and is expected to open in 2019. As well as providing a teaching and research space, it will also form a unique visitor attraction and important cultural resource for the community.

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