

**EAST ANGLIAN**  
DAILY TIMES  
Serving the community since 1874

## Cutting levels of obesity in Suffolk is vital

Only a few days ago we reported the shocking number of obesity related admissions to hospitals in Suffolk – 10,000 in just one year.

The answer to this problem is clearly preventative, educating people about healthy eating habits and encouraging exercise.

That's particularly important in children, and is why the EADT joined forces with a number of other Suffolk organisations last week to launch the East Anglian Go Kids campaign.

One of the things in Suffolk which is having a huge benefit is parkrun. The free, weekly 5k runs are hugely popular, and have fostered a brilliant community spirit. There are more than 2,000 people taking part each Saturday, and the number will now grow further thanks to a new parkrun event at Felixstowe.

At its inaugural event at the weekend, nearly 450 people turned out to run along the prom.

Well done to everyone involved, and we hope to see more of these events develop in Suffolk and Essex in the future.

There are also junior parkruns on Sunday, and we'd encourage families to get involved.

## Don't neglect tourist trade

Tourism is a hugely important sector for Suffolk's economy, and one which should grow in the years ahead.

So it's sad to hear that the tourist information centres in Lavenham and at the Museum of East Anglian Life in Stowmarket will close after September.

The decision appears to be a cost-saving measure.

Babergh and Mid Suffolk councils must spell out a detailed plan of how they'll fill the void.

We accept the rationale behind challenging how things are done and changing if necessary.

But visitors must still be able to get all the information they need, when they need it.

## Is it over yet?

This season is limping to a particularly unsatisfactory close for Ipswich Town.

Are there any fans out there who aren't already looking ahead to a fresh start next season? It can't come soon enough...

## Thought for the day

**REVELATION 1 V 18:** Jesus said: "Though I am the First and Last, the Living One who died, who is now alive for evermore, who has the keys of hell and death - don't be afraid!"

# letters

## System can't cope with more houses

Sir, – The sewers are overflowing in Fressingfield and the system cannot cope. Residents are left wondering how the hundreds more houses proposed for the village can possibly be added to sewers already at full capacity. Over 50 new houses and two communal buildings have already been approved but not built. There are three planning applications at a very advanced stage for over 300 more homes. Despite the many concerns and queries put to Anglian Water and to Mid Suffolk and Suffolk councils about sewage and flooding there still seems to be no solution. Horrible stinking sewage is regularly bubbling into Low Road with heavy rains. On Easter Bank Holiday Monday three sewer covers lifted spewing the contents of toilets and sinks into the road which was flooded for 100 yards. This is the latest in a series of sewage overflows going back many years which have been reported to the authorities. Residents are fearful that any more households coming onto the system would create even worse problems such as sewage backing up into their homes. It appears that with deregulation of planning and lack of resources there are gaps in coordination and responsibility for sewage and flooding problems. In some cases private landowners or the developers are responsible for certain aspects. Yet who oversees and enforces them? Mid Suffolk is the accountable authority, yet under tremendous pressure from government to approve major housing applications. Local people are therefore concerned that the impact on residents is not given due consideration.

Many residents are convinced the foul water or sewer system is at capacity and can take no more houses. Anglian have put conditions on the Post Mill Lane planning application for at least two dozen houses due to concerns about capacity and flooding. They have also placed conditions on the Stradbroke Road application for many scores of houses. But it is unclear when, if and how the conditions would take effect. Recently an informative presentation and discussion was held in the village hall with an Anglian Water representative. Under current regulations developers don't have to pay for any extra sewer

## This is a national health crisis



Hospital admissions for obesity are continuing to rise.

Picture: DOMINIC LIPINSKI/PA

Sir, – The publication of NHS Digital's obesity statistics highlights the enormous scale of the problem we face with an increase of 18% in obesity related hospital admissions in the last year.

In the East of England, Suffolk had the highest level of obesity related hospital admissions per population with 10,009 admissions between 2016/17. This highlights the need for a more comprehensive approach to

tackling obesity and promoting healthy diets in the area.

The recent introduction of the soft drinks levy is a long-overdue step in reducing the prevalence of obesity. With over a quarter of adults and one in five Year 6 students being obese, we must however go further with similar restrictions on the marketing and promotion of unhealthy food and drinks to reduce the prevalence of obesity.

As is often the case, prevention, is the best solution but efforts to tackle obesity are being undermined by cuts to public health services, which have included cuts to children's and adult's obesity services. This is a national health crisis and one that will not go away until the necessary further steps are taken.

DR IAN HUME,  
RMA East of England regional council chair

capacity needed when they build. Anglian invest in added capacity or upgrades when it is commercially viable. There could be a delay between more demand and the necessary upgrades with such an enormous number of major housing applications to keep track of across the region. Mid Suffolk is the planning authority and Anglian are not a statutory consultee. Apparently Anglian are only allowed to comment on individual applications and not on the cumulative effect on the sewers of multiple applications involving scores or hundreds of houses.

Moreover, the local authority are not obliged to enforce planning conditions such as ones requested by Anglian, so a developer might ignore a sewer condition.

The regular sewage overflows in Low Road pose a public health hazard and cannot be acceptable in 21st Century England. The pumps are working but cannot manage the

volume in heavy rains when The Beck also overflows and there is nowhere else for flood water to go. Unless and until a solution is found to this problem it makes no sense to even consider adding any more houses to a foul water system which is at full capacity or at times overloaded.

SHARON LYTTON,  
Fressingfield.

## Thanks to those who helped me

Sir, – Last Thursday, in Roy's of Sudbury's car park, I felt unwell and in fact fell to the ground. I would just like to thank the many people who stopped what they were doing and came to my assistance and summoned help. First aiders from Roy's itself, who provided a wheel chair, took me into a private room in

the store and stayed with me until an ambulance arrived, the ambulance paramedics (who also put a note on my car explaining why it was still there) and the hospital staff. Many people looking out for a complete stranger. Thank you all.

MIKE FOWLE,  
Felixstowe.

## Confusion reigns at Endeavour House

Sir, – The recent announcement of the postponement of the 'merger' work by Babergh and Mid Suffolk rather understates the apparent confusion and lack of co-operation that reigns in Endeavour House. When Babergh and Mid Suffolk moved