

Bromeswell Parish Council

SCC Newsletter - June 2022

Court rules crooked company director must pay £50,000

It was announced on June 1st that the director of a Suffolk mobility furniture company which left customers significantly out of pocket has today been ordered to repay proceeds of his crimes.

David Waters, 73, of Manwick Road, Felixstowe, was the sole director of Anchor Mobility, whose products were marketed as life-improving and largely aimed at elderly and disabled people. He was sentenced to 32 months in prison after Ipswich Crown Court found Anchor Mobility guilty of 15 counts of unfair commercial practice at a hearing in December 2019. These offences included fraudulent trading, poor customer service, and misleading consumers by taking large deposits with the promise of delivering goods without ever doing so. One customer paid over £8,000 for two beds, which were never delivered, and no refund was ever received.

Suffolk Trading Standards uncovered the fraud after several victims made complaints about the company, leading them to launch an investigation into Anchor Mobility. This revealed more than 20 victims between 2016 and 2017 alone, who lost over £80,000 of their hard-earned savings. While Anchor Mobility was fined £15,000 for its offences in 2019, additional compensation has been sought by Suffolk Trading Standards for all known victims, with this resulting in a further hearing at Ipswich Crown Court today. The court ruled that Waters must repay £50,000 in proceeds from his crimes, reflecting the assets available to him.

Waters is still banned from being a company director until 2029 and has also been made the subject of a criminal behaviour order, preventing him from selling products in a person's home or having any involvement in a mobility aid company.

Council objects to Norwich to Tilbury pylon proposals

On June 8th, Suffolk County Council confirmed its intention to object to the proposals for National Grid's East Anglia GREEN pylon run.

A new network is needed to deliver electricity between Norwich, Bramford and Tilbury, to cope with the increasing amounts of renewable and low carbon electricity being generated around East Anglia.

This is National Grid's East Anglia GREEN proposal, which would see many pylons installed across the county, affecting the Suffolk countryside and its communities.

But the council does not support this proposal as it stands. It believes that there are better ways to manage the project, for example involving an undersea network which has not been fully investigated.

The council has been campaigning for government ministers and officials to introduce a more co-ordinated off-shore approach to meet the demands of all the energy projects in the region.

Councillor Richard Rout, Suffolk County Council's Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance & Environment, has written to the Minister of State for Business, Energy and Clean Growth:

“The council absolutely supports ambitions for renewable energy and the government's commitment to meet the target of Net Zero by 2050. We recognise the benefits that can come from this project, and we continue to work with the government to develop coordinated off-shore transmission.

“However, the council objects to the proposal for National Grid's East Anglia GREEN as it stands. I am determined that Suffolk will not suffer unnecessarily as a consequence, we will continue to protect our communities, residents and natural environment.

“Suffolk County Council has been lobbying government for 11 years on the issue of better coordination for off-shore transmission. We are demanding that a more collaborative solution is found to manage the different network connection requirements coming into Suffolk and East Anglia, and that all network options are fully explored.

“Alongside other regional councillors and MPs, through our OffSET group (the Off-Shore Electricity Grid Task Force), we regularly speak with government ministers and officials to express our concerns about the impact of these projects on Suffolk, and East Anglia. Last week I wrote directly to the Minister, to continue to represent Suffolk's communities and residents, to re-emphasise the recent points made by OffSET.”

National Grid's public consultation on East Anglia GREEN was open until Thursday 16 June 2022 and was available on the [National Grid website](#).

New fantail installed on historic Suffolk windmill

A historic Suffolk landmark has had a key feature restored in a refit by Suffolk County Council. Buttrum's Mill in Woodbridge has had a new fantail installed which mirrors the long-lost original. The six-bladed fantail automatically turns to ensure the sails always face into the wind, regardless of whether they are turning. This is important, as if the wind gets behind the sails, the mill is at risk of serious damage. Built in 1836, the windmill worked until 1929 and was preserved by the former East Suffolk County Council under a 100-year lease in 1950. Suffolk County Council is now responsible for the Grade II-listed mill's upkeep.

Standing at more than 60 feet it is the tallest surviving mill in Suffolk. It was built by John Whitmore, a millwright of Wickham Market, for the Trott family, and taken over in 1868 by the Buttrum family which ran it until its closure. The original fantail was lost in the 1940s as the mill fell into disrepair following its closure. In restorations in the 1950s a slightly smaller replacement fantail was made, but this did not matter as the sails and windmill cap no longer turned. In the early 1980s, further restoration work enabled the cap and sails to turn once again, retaining the smaller fantail. However, it was damaged beyond repair in gales in March 2021 and it was decided to build a new fantail of similar size and appearance to the original.

The new fantail is two feet bigger in diameter than the one it replaces, and the blades are painted dark green as they were in the 1930s. The work cost £14,300 and was carried out by Bill Griffiths of MillBill millwrights in Ipswich, who remembers the mill from living in Woodbridge as a child.

The mill is in the grounds of a house built for the miller's family and now owned and lived in by Nancy Waters, partner Henry Palmer, and their two children.

Communities awarded £6.4m to 'Reclaim the Rain' and tackle flooding

Norfolk and Suffolk County Council's joint Reclaim the Rain project, which aims to implement innovative and sustainable water management projects, progressed on June 14th.

The Norfolk and Suffolk County Council's joint Reclaim the Rain project, which aims to implement innovative and sustainable water management projects progresses as six communities are selected across both counties.

The project team received 37 formal applications from communities keen to be involved in Reclaim the Rain. These applications were carefully considered and whittled down to three communities in Suffolk and three in Norfolk.

The three chosen communities in Suffolk are:

- Boxford – this community displayed a strong interest in sustainable water management and ways in which the community could be more involved with water management.
- Friston – who are exploring innovative ways of resolving long-standing hard-to-resolve flood issues.
- Little Blakenham – they identified some excellent opportunities to work with upstream landowners, allowing them to have a more proactive approach in managing flood water running off their land.

The selection process was based on various factors, including each community's vulnerability to surface water flooding, water resource needs, rurality and the likelihood of attracting funding outside of our project.

In the coming months, Reclaim the Rain will be working closely with these communities to develop projects which maximise the opportunities to manage risks from both flooding and droughts. The overall project objective is to identify new ways of working that can be learnt from and evidenced to inform and influence future policy, approaches to, and investments in how flood risk is managed nationally in the coming years.

Norfolk and Suffolk both face considerable surface water flood risk, while also being the driest region in the UK. The project will aim to store flood water and make it available for use by agriculture, industry, communities, and the environment.

The project will involve both partner organisations and the community in the development of suitable flood water reuse schemes. The schemes will address the

community's needs in terms of flood risk and water resource requirements, and could result in provision of:

- Habitat creation and restoration;
- Irrigation reservoir recharge
- Rainwater Capture and Reuse for community, agriculture or business use;
- Retrofitted SuDS;
- Smart Leaky Water Butts;
- Rain Gardens and more.

Extra funding agreed by Cabinet to fund new SEND places

Funding for second phase of £45 million five-year project agreed by Cabinet.

Suffolk County Council's Cabinet has today agreed an additional £15.9million to complete the funding for the creation of at least 879 specialist places for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities.

This money marks the second phase of a £45million five-year project to deliver specialist provision for SEND students in Suffolk. These places include units attached to mainstream schools and three new special schools.

So far, 500 new places have opened across the county, with another 325 due to open between September 2022 and September 2024 under phase 1. The additional money will enable the completion of phase 2 of the project, and the creation of between 54 to 72 new places, depending on design and planning.

The new SEND places support the growing number of children and young people in Suffolk who need specialist help at school. Between September 2021 and May 2022 there have been 1,333 referrals for specialist placements for children currently in mainstream schools.

Lowestoft convenience store owner prosecuted for selling illegal tobacco

On June 27th, a Suffolk shop proprietor was prosecuted for selling illicit tobacco following Trading Standards' continued crackdown on this serious crime.

Mr Ahmed Shokoulty, 36, owner of Town Mini Market, a convenience store on Bevan Street East, Lowestoft, appeared at Ipswich Magistrates Court on the 24th June having been charged with breaching tobacco packaging regulations.

Suffolk Trading Standards received intelligence that Shokoulty was selling illicit tobacco at his store, and subsequently carried out a test purchase, during which illegal tobacco was sold to an undercover operative posing as a customer.

Following the sting, a raid was conducted by Suffolk Trading Standards in September 2021 as part of Operation CeCe, a National Trading Standards initiative in partnership with HMRC to tackle illegal tobacco.

This resulted in the seizure of approximately 2,000 cigarettes and more than 7kg of hand rolling tobacco. The tobacco seized did not comply with tobacco packaging regulations

and contained health warnings which were not written in English, as well as the packaging itself being of an incorrect colour.

In sentencing, Mr Shokouly was issued a fine of £5000, £190 surcharge and £3302.50 in costs (£8492.50 total).

Those wishing to protect themselves from inadvertently buying illegal tobacco can look out for the following:

- A lack of health warnings on the packet
- Unknown brands
- Prices that look too good to be true
- Packaging that isn't plain olive green or contains text that is not in English.

Andrew Reid

County Councillor – Wilford Division

Tel: - 07545 423799

Email: - andrew.reid@suffolk.gov.uk