

SOUTHWOLD AND REYDON SOCIETY MAGAZINE ARTICLE AUGUST 2016

This month we cover a number of issues.

Jubilee Green, Reydon

Reydon's new village green, Jubilee Green, was to have been handed over to the Parish Council by Hopkins Homes once the Sole Bay Health Centre and the house building had been completed. There have been a number of delays preventing this happening, to the frustration of the Parish Council who would like to utilise the space for the benefit of the village. So that the Green can be legally transferred to RPC, the Council's solicitors have written a number of times to the solicitors of HH to enable the legal handover. So far, there has been no response. Enquiries are currently being made to see what is causing the holdup.

Some keen gardeners asked the Parish Council if a Community Garden could be started, using part of the site. The Council agreed and also promised some money to help get the Garden going, so has Michael Ladd's, with his SCC hat on, and the Rotary Club has offered help with the heavy work. The idea is to start on a small scale and hopefully expand if successful; to that end 2-, 5- and 10-year plans are in place. The intention is to build raised beds in which to grow flowers and perhaps vegetables for anyone to pick. There are several people who have volunteered to get involved and this number will hopefully rise once the Garden gets going; others have shown interest in the project. As there is nothing that can be done until the legal transfer is completed, a core of Gardeners meet on the Green the first Saturday of the month to maintain the existing beds and borders. Anyone is welcome to join in!

Southwold Neighbourhood Plan

Residents of Southwold will shortly be receiving a consultation pack on the new proposed Neighbourhood Plan for Southwold. This results from considerable work by the Town Council and aims to create local planning rules that will protect and enhance the character of the town for many years to come. If supported by the consultation, it will then be considered by a Planning Inspector and if it passes that test, it will then be put formally to the electorate of Southwold in a referendum (Yes, another one!). We hope all Southwold residents will respond to the consultation and also that members not living in Southwold will also comment. Look out for more information on the Town Council's website: southwoldtown.com .

Chains Ready to Pounce?

One of the background reports commissioned by Waveney District Council as part of their work on the new Local Plan 2018-36 (which will be the overall planning framework for the district) was an study of the retail sector's interest in developments across the district. We are disappointed to see that the section on Southwold suggests that a range of national chains are keen to gain premises in the town. In our response to the Local Plan consultation, we have argued for planning rules that help retain the kind of retail premises that are more likely to suit independent shops than the multiples. Clearly, this battle is by no means won....

**Pamela Cyprien, Committee
Member**