

**MAGAZINE ARTICLE
MAY 2016**

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Some 70 members and guests attended this year's Annual General Meeting on 20th April at St Edmund's Hall.

The evening began with a presentation by two of Waveney's Planning Team of the first stage of the consultation to create a new Local Plan for Waveney which will become the overall planning framework for the district from 2018-36. All options under consideration involve a significant increase in housing, with a range proposed for new houses in Southwold and Reydon of between 231 and 572, representing an 8-20% increase in housing locally. Almost all of this would be in Reydon, using greenfield sites that lie outside the current built-up area. After the presentation, many important questions were asked. These included how any new affordable housing could be retained for local people, whether there are ways of making new housing principal residences rather than second homes and how far the need to protect the countryside would influence the eventual decisions on where any new housing will be allowed. The Society will now consider its response to the current round of consultation which runs until June.

The evening ended with our formal Annual General Meeting. John Stewart stood down both as President and Committee member. Newly elected President, Michael Rowan-Robinson thanked John for his major contribution in regenerating the Society so that it has some real influence on local issues and a healthy membership of over 400. Ridley Burnett was elected Treasurer, following eight year's service in the role by Brian Harrild. John Perkins was re-elected Chairman, as were Tony Evans as Vice-Chairman, Philip O'Hear as Secretary, Jon Hadgraft as Membership Secretary.

But the centre of the evening was the presentation of the Society's Annual Excellence Awards which are given to an individual, a group or a business for inspired and excellent contributions to the Southwold and Reydon environment or experience. This year's awards were presented by Southwold's Deputy Mayor, Councillor Ann Betts and went to:

Stephen Wolfenden whose three books on "The Town" are a unique photographic historical record of local businesses and characters which have contributed significantly to the Town's reputation for being slightly different and special. He is also photographer to the Southwold Summer Theatre providing images for the programmes and for display in the theatre itself.



Mike Mayhew who for many years has been President and Chairman of the Southwold Allotments Association and a large part of his life has been devoted to helping run the allotments and turn them into the thriving venture they are today. He also serves on both the Reydon and Southwold Trusts. His award recognised his long service and commitment to local associations and charitable trusts.



Reverend "Rich" Henderson who recently completed a busy and full six years as vicar in Reydon, working both with the church and many aspects of village life. His ability to reach out to all in the community without fear or favour made him a greatly respected figure and anyone who needed help of any kind would readily find that help from him. His award recognised his dedicated service and support to the local community.



The Southwold Lifeboat Crew and Fundraisers who provide and support a 24/7 emergency service for those at peril on the sea entirely through their voluntary efforts. The crew undertake regular and rigorous training not only in all the work needed to manage their high-tech Atlantic class lifeboat but other skills such as first aid. The fundraisers undertake work all year round, including now running the lifeboat shop in Queen Street. Their award recognised this long and dedicated service.



Nomination forms for next year's awards can be found on our website www.southwoldandreydonsociety.org.uk

Philip O'Hear, Secretary