

Southwold and Reydon Society
Magazine Article, September 2016

As this article appears, members will receive their invitation to our Annual Lunch at The Randolph which is on November 17th. Our speaker will be local architect, Alan Greening, who specialises in conservation work and oversaw the recent project to re-roof St Edmund's Church in Southwold.

In September, Southwold Mayor, Melanie Tucker, spoke to our Committee outlining the Town Council's Strategy for Southwold. This is wide-ranging and ambitious and includes tackling some of the big challenges facing the town such as parking. The Town Council has limited powers so implementation will depend on partnership and influence as much as on action by Southwold. We applaud this work to plan a future direction based on looking ahead and building on the town's past in ways that are sustainable. We were assured of transparency in moving forward. From October, each of the working groups responsible for delivery will report publicly on progress to the full Council. We look forward to this and have promised to help where we can.

September also saw change in Reydon, with the transfer of ownership of Barbrook's Store from the Barbrook family to the Turners. We would like to thank the Barbrooks for making the shop a valuable and much loved community asset over many years. The family, of course, contribute in many ways to the village which we are sure will continue. The role of their shop, however, in village life has been special and deserves recognition. We are glad that to hear that the Turners want to continue in the same way and wish them every success.

In April, John Perkins our Chairman identified protecting the surrounding countryside from development as a priority and this remains the case. We have successfully fought off plans for a large warehouse in open fields next to Reydon Business Park. Now, St Felix school is pressing ahead with its plan to use a playing field for a major housing development. It has amended its original application and slightly reduced the number of houses – from 71 down to 69 – but the Society sees that as no reason to drop its opposition to the scheme which it considers a substantial threat to the AONB.

There has been progress on the issue of affordable housing. Planning permission has been granted for 20 rented houses and flats on the site of the former Duncan's Builders Yard in St Edmunds Road, Southwold. In addition, a further 23 affordable houses are to be developed along Green Lane in Reydon.

Finally, you will have noticed new notice boards and maps springing up around Southwold. They have been funded by the Society with the help of some local organisations and charities and Tony Evans' design is based on signs created by well-known local designer / inventor Tim Hunkin. New maps have been drawn by Clive Tickner and the signs will be installed at six locations: Southwold Sailors Reading Room, RNLI Lifeboat Station, Harbour Inn, York Road, Marlborough Road, Southwold Pier and the existing "Tardis" on "Electricity Green" at the top of the High Street.

Philip O'Hear, Secretary.