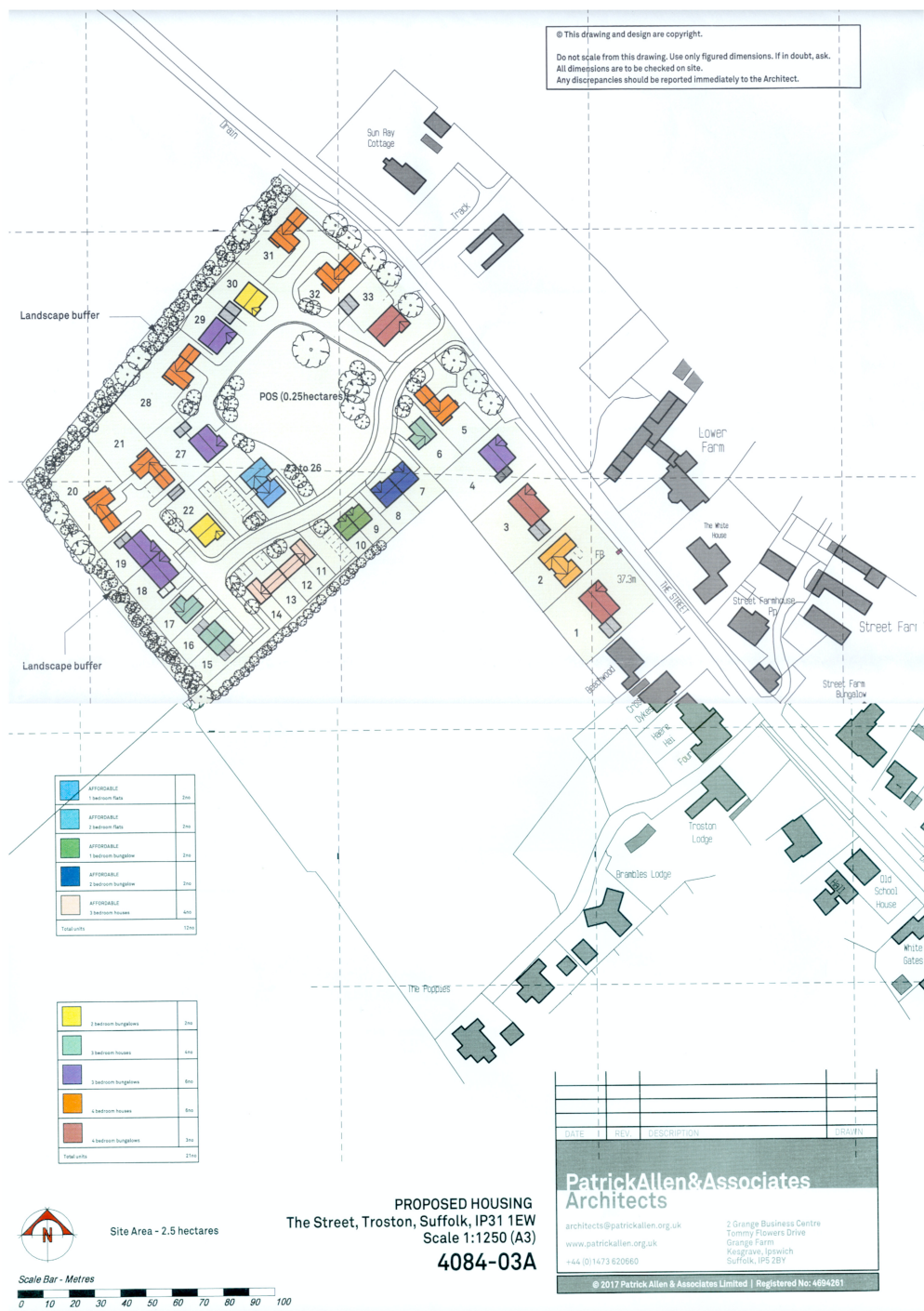




Development of the Piggery?



Troston Farms is considering the future of the old piggery. A possible option is to maintain the meadow but connect the site with the village and build some thirty houses: a mix of affordable and market price homes - including perhaps properties to rent? Perhaps a shop? Plans are still very much at a formative stage and we will keep the village informed.

From Edward Vipond

Housing Development Policy

As Ward Councillor, I have met Officers from the Borough's Planning Department in regard to possible housing development in Troston. In particular we discussed the land behind Smithies Cottage on the edge of the Playing Field and Lower Farm Piggery.

Currently, there are no realistic opportunities for any developments outside of the settlement boundary within the next 3 years whereby the housing is primarily 'market value' even when some are regarded to be of 'affordable value'. This is because West Suffolk Council have a 5 year supply of land in accordance with national guidelines.

However, since the Government changed the National Plan at the end of 2018 to encourage housing development, West Suffolk Council are having to review the strictures of their '*Local Plan*' which will take about three years to complete. During such time the Council has made a 'Call for Sites', and the above two potential development sites have been included for consideration.

This does mean that for three years there is unlikely to be any possible developments outside of the Settlement Boundary as each case is regarded on its own merits. Favourable consideration will be given to plans that recognise transport issues, provide walking and cycling paths and offer community services like shops and recreational facilities like tennis courts.

Indeed, the review of the "*Local Plan*" provides an opportunity to rethink the Settlement Boundary itself - and whether that needs extending? I understand, however, there is no intention for Troston to change from being regarded as an 'Infill Village' where small plots can be developed, but again, the opportunity for it to be an 'In the Countryside' village might be opened up for discussion?

From Simon Brown

Coffee Morning

Please come along to the Village Hall and enjoy a coffee and a chance to chat - plus sausage rolls and cake!

Dates are as follows: January 28th, February 11th and 25th, March 10th and 24th.

From Brenda Burrridge

Village Hall

Get fit, make new friends or start a new hobby: your Village Hall can make these New Year Resolutions come true!

Come along to Carpet Bowls, Yoga, Pilates, Tuesday lunch, Coffee mornings, Cafe Church, or start up a group yourself. It could be for toddlers, dancing, clothes swap, table top sale, car boot clearance, zumba, card or board games - any activity whether occasional or regular. Please contact me 269467 - booking details are also on our website.

From Sue Bishop

Defibrillator Training

The Community Heartbeat Trust will run a training session on using our Defibrillator on Wednesday 7pm 26th February in Troston Village Hall.

The session will explain how the equipment works and its benefits to the community in saving precious minutes in the treatment of Sudden Cardiac Arrest. The more people that know how to use the portable defibrillator installed on the wall of the Village Hall the more chance there is of saving a life. Everybody is welcome to attend either session, and no special skills are required - just your willingness to play an important role in the event of a medical emergency.

Dance

Dancing is great fun and keeps you fit. Come along and get some exercise, enjoy our friendly atmosphere, meet new people.

Sequence Dance Classes at Honington & Sapiston Village Hall every Monday. Beginners from 6.30 – 7.30. (welcome to stay on if you like), more advanced from 7.30pm - 9.30pm £3.50

Ballroom & Latin steps into a Sequence. Beginner's welcome. Please don't hesitate to call us for more information: 01359 268733 or 07799858968

From Peter and Jackie Fairweather

Troston Walking Group

Walking is a great way to improve or maintain your overall health. Unlike some other forms of exercise, walking is free and doesn't require any special equipment or training.

Please join us - the walks being planned for this year are around:

15th January	<i>Sapiston</i>	29th July	<i>Ousden</i>
12th February	<i>West Stow</i>	26th August	<i>Stow-cum-Quy Fen</i>
11th March	<i>Walsham Le Willows</i>	23rd September	<i>Barrow</i>
8th April	<i>Nowton Park</i>	21st October	<i>Hawstead</i>
6th May	<i>Brandon Country Park</i>	18th November	<i>Depden</i>
10th June	<i>Lackford Lakes</i>	16th December	<i>Troston Heath Woods</i>
1st July	<i>Mildenhall - River Lark</i>		

Of course, sturdy footwear is recommended. Meet at the bus shelter Capel Close at 10 am.

From Martyn and Pat Smith

Best Place in the World

Bury St Edmunds has been named as one of the 20 best places to travel to in the world.

Ladies What Travel, an all-female team of travel bloggers, has placed the town alongside destinations such as Dubai, Costa Rica, Matera in Italy, Salzburg in Austria and Turkey's Turquoise Coast.

The list highlights the new decade's '*hottest destinations*' and takes into consideration special cultural and historical events and hotel openings to create a guide to the places that should be top of your travel bucket list.

In 2020 the town celebrates the founding of the Abbey of St Edmund by King Canute 1,000 years ago with a programme of events leading up to the weekend of St Edmund's Day on 20 November.

From Paul Derrick

Church News

Times of services are:

- Friday 24th January 9am Morning Prayer in the Church
- Sunday 9th February 11am Cafe Church in the Village Hall.

From Jane Harland

Farming News

A promise to do more to protect the soil will form part of a vision for the UK farm industry being unveiled by the government this month.

Ministers have accepted that farmers need incentives to farm in a way that leaves a healthy soil for future generations. Soil protection has become a core issue of the new Agriculture Bill. Until recently soil has been a Cinderella subject, even though human life depends on the thin few inches above the rock.

It is part of a radical shift in the grant system to move subsidies over a seven year period away from EU Common Agricultural Policy which basically pays farmers for owning land. Instead in post-Brexit Britain they will be rewarded for providing services for society like clean air, clean and plentiful water, soil and hedgerow enhancement, flood protection and thriving wildlife.

Minette Batters of the NFU said: "This bill is one of the most significant pieces of legislation for farmers in England for over 70 years".

"This bill represents a radical rethink of farming practice and, most importantly, finally starts to recognise the need to regenerate soil - the fundamental building block of our entire agricultural system."

From Roger Harrabin

Rambling Rose

New Coffee House and Bistro coming soon to Ixworth! It's almost a year since the Coffee House closed and we're thrilled to finally be able to unveil our new, family-run venture!

Opening soon in 17 High Street will be a resurrected coffee shop in the quintessential village setting that has been sorely missed, we'll be serving a wide range of hot and cold drinks as well as lunches and afternoon tea where our menu will consist of locally sourced food, beverage and ingredients to refine our culinary delights!

Also featuring will be our evening bistro with an added local twist to be shortly revealed!

We're recruiting staff so we'll be delighted to hear from anyone who might be looking to fill one of the various positions we have!

From Ben Lord

Saving the Planet

The recycling centre at Rougham Hill, near the Sainsbury's roundabout, closes on Tuesday 14th January. The new recycling centre on the Fornham Road opens on Thursday the 16th - *post code IP31 1SJ*. It will be the first open air site in Suffolk where all containers can be accessed from ground level, removing the need for steps.

A charity shop, which will take materials suitable for reuse from recycling centres, will also be opening.

It will be a much safer site with lorries emptying containers in a totally separate area.

From Paul West

The Fox Inn

We would like to start by wishing all our customers a Happy New Year and to thank everyone who came the New Year's Eve Disco. It was great to see you all and we look forward to your continued support throughout 2020.

Free Pool – Don't forget the pool table is free on a Monday evening from 7.30pm.

Happy Hour- Happy hour is Monday - Thursday from 5 - 6 pm with £1 off all pints

Bed & Breakfast - We offer bed and breakfast at very competitive prices so if you have family visiting or are travelling for business, ring on 01359 269633 to check availability and room rates.

From Billy & Janet

School News

Life continues to be busy here at Honington School and we have record number of children on roll.

We have started an After School Club which has proved very successful, so along with our Breakfast Club provision we are able to offer care from 8.00 am – 5.30 pm every day.

We had a wonderful end to the Autumn term with the younger children performing Prickly Hay Nativity and the older children performing the Magical Christmas Jigsaw.

The Spring term started with an Epiphany service held at Honington Church. We all made crowns to wear and walked to the church following a star.

Our Year 5 have started swimming lessons this term and our Year 4's are going swimming too and learning to play the clarinet with the County Music Service. Year 6 continue to study Pilgrim's Progress with members of staff from St Edmundsbury Cathedral and are also taking part in Forest Schools this term.

Exciting lessons are taking place right across the school and we are getting out and about as much as possible to enhance our learning experiences.

From Jane Diver

Play Group

Fun for children walking to 5 years old. Starting Thursday 23rd Little City new monthly play group *Role Play* in Honington Village Hall.

Sessions last 1 hour and 15 minutes - for more information and booking visit bookwhen.com/littlecitywestsuffolk or visit website www.littlecityuk.com

Vacancy at the Top?

Prince Harry is Honorary Air Commandant of RAF Honington. But a question mark now hangs over his position following his and wife Meghan Markle's decision to step back from their senior roles within the Royal family and spend more time in North America.

Talks are now under way between the Queen, the Prince of Wales and the Duke of Cambridge, who have ordered "their people" to find a workable solution over the future role of the Duke and Duchess of Sussex.

Attempted Cable Theft

Thanks to the vigilance of a passing dog-walker, the police were called to Stanton Industrial Estate on Sunday, January 12. Two men were arrested for attempted cable theft.

Arturas Buciskas, 29, and Jurijs Vrublevskis, 33, who live in Peterborough, were taken into custody and charged with burglary.

Be alert to suspicious activity and please don't hesitate to call the police to investigate.

Speeding through the Village

Analysis of the data collected by our speed watch camera over the last three months shows that the majority (85%) of vehicles travel through the village at about 30 to 35mph. Alas, there are some that register 60mph plus!

In particular remember, the oak tree on the corner of Paddock Way obscures the sighting of vehicles coming from Great Livermere - so slow down: even entering the village at 30 mph is too fast for drivers leaving Paddock Way to see you in good time.

If you are fed up with speeding vehicles and would like to see Police speed enforcement in the village contact: SafetyCameraTeam@suffolk.pnn.police.uk

Become a Parish Councillor

The village needs two more Councillors to keep our "*General Power of Competence*" which gives us the legal basis to offer a wider range of support for community initiatives.

If you want to know more about the challenges facing the village, and would like to help tackle them, please consider joining the Parish Council. At least come along to the next meeting and contribute to the discussion.

The next Parish Council Meeting will be at 19.30 Monday 2nd March in the Village Hall. Let me have issues you would like put on the agenda - contact 01379 898 733 or email trostonparishcouncil@btinternet.com

From Vicki Gay, Clerk to the Council