

Report from Cllr. Graham Elliott
Green Party Councillor for Beccles North
Waveney District Council
8 June 2010

Beccles Lido

Progress continues apace and the prospects for opening for a short “summer holiday” season are looking good.

- The “Heads of Terms” agreement between BLL and WDC has been signed.
- Solicitors on both sides are working on the final lease as a matter of urgency.
- Grants for capital works have been secured including fixing the leak, fitting a thermal liner to the pool, fitting a removable pool cover, installing new efficient gas boilers, installing solar PV panels and installing a new chlorine dosing plant. Further grant applications are being processed.
- The disabled access ramp is nearing completion.
- The new secure boundary fences are due to be installed in the coming week or so.
- The drainage in the access road has been sorted out and the road has been patched by WDC.
- The electrics have been upgraded
- Volunteers from Beccles Fire Station have emptied the pool and two years of sludge has been removed from the bottom by volunteers.
- Scum drains have been tested and 50 years of silt have been removed from them!
- Pool staff are being interviewed

The above measures will mean the water and heating costs will be significantly reduced and money will be generated all year from the Solar PV panels. Revenue funding continues to be an issue but with reduced operating costs, increased use of volunteers and higher pool patronage the figures will hopefully stack up. Much of the work is being done by volunteers and offers of help are welcome. Contact Maureen Saunders on 01502 714911.

Beccles Rail Loop

This continues to be a viable project with Network Rail progressing the detailed design and Suffolk County and Network Rail negotiating over costs. I met with Network Rail and representatives from Beccles Town Council on 25 May to discuss access to the island platform from The Avenue. This would deliver a low cost solution to the platform access but it would require use of land owned by Beccles Town Council and would not provide a fully DDA compliant access as the gradients on the existing footbridge are steeper than would be permitted. If this solution is not acceptable then the costs will rise and this may have an impact on the viability of the project. I continue to press for the Beccles Loop (and an hourly train service) as Waveney’s representative on the Suffolk Rail Policy Group.

Bike Week

WDC are taking part in Bike Week this year and Beccles Town Councillors should have a letter of invitation from Stephen Archer, the Strategic Director. A copy is attached to this report in case you haven’t. The event in Beccles is a short VIP Bike Ride led by Beccles Cycle Strategy highlighting the “good and bad” of cycling in the town. If any Councillors would like to come but do not have a bike please contact me.

Cucumber Lane Byway

This byway was partly surfaced earlier this year to create a cycle route from Beccles to the Ellough Industrial Estate. It will be signed in the near future. Now that there is a reasonable surface the byway is being used by motor traffic and the County are proposing a TRO to restrict this to access only. If this is not done the benefits of creating a safe cycle route to the industrial estate will be seriously eroded.

Beccles Quay

I have asked WDC to obtain quotes to fix the drainage on the low ground adjacent to the TIC and Harbourmaster office. I consider it impractical to raise the land to prevent flooding on this land as this would be expensive and would most likely involve the removal of tree from the site. But after it has flooded the flood waters should drain rapidly back into the river and I will press for such measures to be implemented.

Trees in Puddingmoor

Following the removal in March of the dangerous poplar trees at the Waveney Meadow car park I pressed for immediate replacement planting and this was done. Since then I have been watering the four new trees to ensure they survive another dry spring!

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