

## District councillor's report, Sept 2011

### 1. Brome waste recycling site

The Brome site will re-open on Monday 5 September. It will be open from 9am to 5pm on Mondays to Saturdays and from 10am to 4pm on Sundays and bank holidays. Visitors will only have to pay for waste that is unsorted or non-recyclable – otherwise they can dispose of their waste absolutely free of charge. Non-chargeable items include bikes, books, bric-a-brac, gas bottles, furniture, soil & hardcore, toner cartridges, clothes & textiles, electrical goods, CDs & videos, batteries and garden waste.

Non-recyclable waste is expensive to dispose of, so the charge is designed to cover the costs. Bolton Brothers Recycling & Waste Management of Great Blakenham will be taking over both the Brome and Great Blakenham sites.

### 2. Village SOS Active campaign

Suffolk ACRE is part of a national partnership supporting the Village SOS Active campaign, launched by the Big Lottery Fund with a £5m funding pot, in awards of £10,000-£30,000 for the brightest ideas for new community enterprises that will make a lasting difference in rural communities with a population of less than 3,000. The campaign aims to help reverse rural decline by encouraging villagers to set up their own community enterprises. It is being delivered by the Plunkett Foundation in partnership with Co-operatives UK and other groups. The initiative was launched to coincide with the start of the six-part BBC1 series Village SOS at 8pm on Wednesday (10 August). The campaign will see dedicated expert advisers provide guidance to people inspired by the programme to set up and run their own community enterprises.

Enterprises set up by groups of rural residents could include village shops, pubs, broadband services, transport schemes, library services or healthcare services.

As well as the advice line, the campaign includes a website at [www.villagesos.org.uk](http://www.villagesos.org.uk) with a series of downloadable start-up guides. As a partner in the campaign, Suffolk ACRE has considerable experience in providing advice and grant finding with recent success stories coming from the Sproughton Community Shop and the Punch Bowl Public House at Battsford.

Communities in Suffolk which are thinking of establishing enterprises or who have an interest in the Village SOS competition should contact Suffolk ACRE by email on [communityenterprisenow@suffolkacre.org.uk](mailto:communityenterprisenow@suffolkacre.org.uk)

The competition to win lottery funding opened at the end of August and will close in early October. It aims to encourage business ideas that will bring rural people together to support activities and enterprises that will tackle the challenges they face.

Village SOS, the TV series follows the story of the villages as they each start a new business to breathe life back into the community. Launched in 2009, the series has been two years in the making. The idea attracted hundreds of applicants, all keen to win a life-changing lottery grant to start them on the road to revitalisation.

The first episode, featuring local residents who try to renovate a derelict mill in Talgarth, Brecon, was shown on BBC1 at 8pm on Wednesday 10 August.

The series is accompanied by a major BBC Learning and Big Lottery Fund campaign to promote rural enterprise across the UK.

The campaign will support people who want to set up their own community business as well as those who want to engage more with their community.

BBC Learning will offer 10 short online films featuring all six villages in the TV series as well as four other projects that also received lottery grants.

The four-minute films give an insight into the issues faced by each of the villages and how they set about tackling them.

Advice and information covers everything from identifying need and making a social enterprise sustainable to finding volunteers and community support.

There will also be a film featuring top 10 tips for getting a social enterprise off the ground.

BBC Learning is also offering a number of downloads, featuring ideas and advice for those who want to get more involved in their community, which can be found at [bbc.co.uk/villagesos](http://bbc.co.uk/villagesos).

### 3. Reminder: Tour of Britain in Suffolk on Saturday, Sept 17

It is estimated that it will pass through Thorndon at around 12.20.

### 4. New Rural Arts Suffolk website launched

You can take a look here: [www.ruralartssuffolk.org.uk](http://www.ruralartssuffolk.org.uk)

The new Rural Arts Suffolk website is now live and we hope this will be the place to go for the latest news on arts activity taking place across Suffolk.

The website covers arts activity in Mid Suffolk, Babergh and Suffolk Coastal, and includes a searchable arts directory listing arts groups and artists in our local area, a what's on events guide, project information, e-newsletters and ways you can get involved.

Any feedback on the site is welcomed, and should be made to Zoey Furzer at MSDC on 01449 724638, as she would really value your input as this will make the site live and relevant for villages and market towns up and down the county. If you know of groups who are not already in the Directory, and who are organising arts activity in rural Suffolk, please ask them to fill out the online form to register as an artist, organisation, venue or event.

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