



## **Beccles Society Update**

I am pleased to let you know that Beccles Society now has a new website up and running.

Go to [www.becclessociety.org.uk](http://www.becclessociety.org.uk) ,  
Or simply [Google it at Beccles Society](#).

We would welcome opinions and feedback on its content (contacts on the website). This also fulfils a promise to members of our Society who are unable to access a computer, that we will keep them informed of the issues we have been tackling in the last 6 months.

### **Lowestoft Records Office.**

We have had a representative providing our views at various meetings on this topic. The latest draft proposals are:-

- \* A communities and learning officer is proposed and would be based in Lowestoft.
- \* An Archive centre possibly based in the Lowestoft library is one option being considered and could be staffed for at least 30 hours per week.
- \* The idea is that anything that can be kept on open shelving could be housed in the Archive centre. This would entail all books, transcripts, microfiche, microfilm, directories and electoral rolls remaining in Lowestoft. However all other records relating to Beccles which require archive quality storage will be removed to Ipswich, and this represents the majority of the material.

### **McDonald's Car Parking**

We had previously contacted McDonald's in February 2016 expressing our concerns over the situation of uncontrolled staff parking on the verges of the A143/ A146. We were informed that alterations to the restaurant were planned which would include on site staff parking in early 2017. As this has not happened, we have written to McDonald's Customer Services Officer seeking to establish whether they do intend to provide staff parking or not.

### **Local Plan**

I attended the Examination in Public to present a case for improvement of road junctions outside the site of the proposed 'Garden Village' scheme. ie London Road etc.

Suffolk County Council's Highways Department stated that according to their model there would not be any significant highway problems on the network

outside the site following the completion of this Garden Village Development. It was also confirmed that the proposed first phase of the Hopkins Development for 227 houses off London Road would also not pose any significant highway issues outside their site along London Road.

We are most concerned about these statements and have had further correspondence with the Inspector on this issue.

Larkfleet, who are one of the prospective developers of the Garden Village development, requested that the number of proposed houses be increased from 1250 to 1475. This was strongly opposed by us and other parties at this Hearing. They also requested an additional access directly off Ellough Road. It is up to the Inspector to decide on the merits of these changes, but he did assure me that as they represented a significant change to the Plan if he accepted them, then a further Consultation process on the Plan would be necessary.

The option of a satellite Health Centre within the Garden Village was also discussed, but it became apparent that the CCG were still opposed to this concept.

In which case their current proposals for extending the existing Health Centre appears to be the only option. We were told that if we wished to pursue the the satellite scheme, or discuss the lack of car parking at the present site then we would have to discuss this directly with the CCG even though the issue is a direct result of the Local Plan proposals.

### **Neighbourhood Plan**

We have had several representatives of Beccles Society attending meetings. The group is currently drafting out 'Policy Statements' for the Plan, and we have been contributing to these.

### **Southern Relief Road/ Weight Restrictions.**

Following the opening of this new road, we are continuing to press for the introduction of Weight Restrictions on the roads into and around Beccles.

Paul Fletcher  
Chairman