



## **Councillor's Monthly Bulletin – December 2022**

**from Maurice Cook and Lydia Freeman**

*(Please circulate electronically and print only when necessary. We should be most grateful for our bulletin to be posted on your websites for the benefit of your residents.)*

As we approach the end of another year, we would like to express our thanks to all of those involved in Framlingham Town and our sixteen Parishes who give so willingly of their time to care for our Communities.

We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

*Maurice and Lydia*

### **Ward News**

#### **Update on Fairfield Road and Framlingham Bridge works.**

The following update has been provided by County Highways:

Regarding the works on Fairfield Road, County have now spoken with their contractors and, as the work is next to water where there are extra safety precautions and qualifications required, they are struggling to find a contractor who is available, they are actively looking and will inform us when they find suitable contractors to carry out the necessary works. In the meantime, County will continue to carry out site checks to ensure it stays safe."

Regarding the work on the bridge, County are waiting permissions from the environmental agency to erect scaffolding in the river. Once this is agreed and they find out exactly what the EA require, they will then be able to source a contractor and get quotes, again, County will continue to monitor the site and ensure it is safe.

We have been promised that once more is known, We will be kept informed.

#### **Victoria Mill Road development.**

We were very disappointed with the decision of the Planning Committee South in permitting the development of 35 homes in Victoria Mill Road.

We will continue to represent the views of residents and support the Town Council in any further measures they might consider.

#### **Katch Bus Update.**

As reported in the local press, the operators of the Katch Bus service have given notice to cease the service on 23<sup>rd</sup> December. Furthermore, Suffolk County Council have advised that this is because of insufficient passenger numbers.



We are very disappointed in this development as we believe there is great potential in such a service and that the increase in passenger journeys since the exit from Covid restrictions were encouraging. Through the Framlingham and Wickham Market Community Partnership, we are determined that such a service will be re-introduced as soon as possible.

East Suffolk Council Leader said “Through East Suffolk Council’s Community Partnership programme, we were delighted to provide funding for the Katch Bus service. Community Partnerships were created to address such issues as rural transport and this remains one of our top priorities.

We hope to unveil a new link between Framlingham, Wickham Market and the station at Campsie Ashe in the New Year to provide a new cost-effective service.”

## District News

### Kate Blakemore appointed to new Strategic Director role



I am delighted to confirm the appointment of Kate Blakemore as the Council’s new Strategic Director.

Kate has been in an equivalent role at Great Yarmouth Borough Council for more than five years.

Her appointment follows a thorough recruitment process and will make an outstanding addition to the Strategic Management Team.

A recent LGA Peer Review indicated that we were making tremendous progress as an authority but lacked sufficient capacity and resilience at a senior level. We are very pleased to have addressed one of the key recommendations by bringing in someone with a track record of success, delivering genuine outcomes for local people.

### £2.75m funding agreed for levelling up in East Suffolk

Following a submission to the Government’s UK Shared Prosperity Fund, East Suffolk Council has been allocated £2.75m, which will be used to support high streets, local businesses, workforce and community skills development, as well as support for those struggling with the cost of living.

In April 2022, the Government launched the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) to support its Levelling Up agenda. The primary goal of the UKSPF is to build pride in place and increase life chances across the UK, focusing on communities and place, supporting local business, people and skills.



East Suffolk Council has been allocated £2.75m to invest across two-and-a-half years (2022/23-2024/25) in initiatives that will address inequality and contribute to levelling up.

Additionally, East Suffolk Council has also been allocated a further £1.129m from the Government under the Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF), which is part of the UKSPF and aims to support small business and community infrastructure in rural areas.

Final approval for this element of funding is expected in the new year, following submission of an investment plan addendum, with funded programmes to commence in April 2023.

The Council's investment plan contains a number of key programmes, based on new and existing schemes to be delivered either locally or collaboratively with other local authorities in Suffolk. These include a three-year programme offering grants to improve high streets and town centres across the district, a business support programme providing free advice and a small grants scheme to support business growth, a local economy and community skills programme, and voluntary skills provision supporting vulnerable young people to transition into education, employment and training.

All programmes are expected to be completed by 31 March 2025.

### **East Suffolk Awards 2023 to celebrate community success stories**

Nominations for the East Suffolk Awards 2023 are now open.

Last staged before the Covid-19 pandemic, in 2019, the awards celebrate the best in local businesses, people and community groups.

Run by East Suffolk Council, the awards recognise contributions, celebrate successes, and give people the 'round of applause' they deserve for improving local lives.



Winners will be announced at an event at Snape Maltings on 28 February 2023.

This year sees our biggest ever range of awards, with a 'Community Next Big Idea' category winner receiving a grant to turn their dream scheme into a reality.

The other categories are...

- Team of the Year Award sponsored by Everyone Active
- Health and Wellbeing Award sponsored by Active Suffolk
- New Business of the Year Award sponsored by Spider Recruitment
- Business Growth Award sponsored by ABP Associated British Ports



- Great Idea Award sponsored by Cory Brothers Ltd
- Green Impact Award
- Encouraging Tourism Award
- Apprentice of the Year Award sponsored by EDF Energy
- High Street of the Year sponsored by East Suffolk Means Business
- Community champion of the year (individual) sponsored by Places Leisure
- Community of the year sponsored by East Suffolk Community Partnerships

Find out more by visiting the [awards website](#).

### Network of Warm Rooms launched to support residents



A network of Warm Rooms has opened across East Suffolk to provide a safe, welcoming space for anyone struggling with heating costs during the colder winter months.

Locations include everything from community halls and churches to leisure centres and pubs, each providing a warm space, hot drinks and an opportunity to connect with other members of the local community.

The network of 30 Warm Rooms has been part-funded by the Government (through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund), with more than £70,000 set aside from East Suffolk Council's wider Ease the Squeeze programme of advice and support around the rising cost of living.

A number of additional rooms are also being funded from Community Partnership budgets, with grants provided to cover heating, lighting and basic refreshments for a minimum of three warm rooms in each CP area.

Several venues are planning free, independently funded activities, ranging from books and games to film showings, allowing people to not only stay warm but also connect with others in the community, reducing isolation and loneliness.

Help and advice will be available on subjects such as reducing energy costs and managing finances, while East Suffolk Council will also be working with the Rural Coffee Caravan to identify and support Warm Spaces in more rural communities.

### Grant funding scheme to help people grow their own produce

A new grant funding scheme has been launched to help people to get involved with growing their own food.



To tackle rising food and energy prices, East Suffolk Council has launched the 'Field to Fork' grant scheme. The scheme will provide grants of up to £2,000 to community farms, allotments and gardens to expand their capacity and engage local people with 'grow and eat' projects that will feed communities and help people stay active and connected.

Field to Fork is one of a number of programmes supported by a £2.75m allocation from the Government's UK Shared Prosperity Fund and is part of a three-year programme to develop an East Suffolk Community Food Network which will bring together food producers, suppliers and community food projects to address the cost-of-living crisis as well as reduce food waste.

Applications can be made via [communities@eastsoffolk.gov.uk](mailto:communities@eastsoffolk.gov.uk) before midnight on Sunday 18 December.

### **Cycling and Walking Strategy will ensure access to quality infrastructure**



A new planning document has been officially adopted to enhance the district's cycling and walking network.

After gaining Cabinet approval in October, and following the prescribed 'call-in' period, the new East Suffolk Council Cycling and Walking Strategy will now be implemented to ensure that communities have access to high quality infrastructure across the district.

The strategy sets out to create safe, coherent, direct, comfortable and attractive cycling, walking and wheeling environments that lead to improvements in health and wellbeing, facilitate greater social interaction and play, encourage more environmentally sustainable lifestyles, reduce road congestion and support economic growth.

In order to create these environments, the strategy identifies cycling and walking infrastructure recommendations across East Suffolk, including in the Broads Authority Area.

Two rounds of consultation informed preparation of the strategy. An initial consultation in October/December 2020 was followed by public consultation on the draft strategy between November 2021 and January 2022.

The strategy can be viewed [here](#) in a webpage-based, interactive form. Alternatively, a PDF version can be viewed [here](#).

## Free festive parking for Christmas shoppers and visitors to festive events

Christmas shoppers and visitors to festive events across East Suffolk are enjoying free parking in council-owned car parks on selected dates.

To coincide with Christmas lights switch-ons and other festive events across the district over the coming weeks, East Suffolk Council has so far offered free parking in council-owned car parks from 4pm in Bungay, Halesworth, Beccles and Southwold, with the following locations still to come...

- Framlingham – Friday 2 December
- Saxmundham – Friday 2 December
- Lowestoft – Saturday 3 December
- Aldeburgh – Saturday 3 December
- Wickham Market – Saturday 3 December
- Felixstowe – Saturday 3 December
- Woodbridge – Sunday 4 December
- Leiston – Saturday 10 December
- Oulton Broad – Friday 16 December

Free parking will also be available from noon to 6pm on Saturday 17 December across the district.

Residents are encouraged to consider walking, cycling or public transport as an alternative to using the car.

## Further funding on offer to help ease cost of living pressure



A new grant funding scheme has been launched in East Suffolk for voluntary organisations and community groups to help people struggling to meet the cost of living.

The East Suffolk Cost of Living Community Grant Fund has been set up with funding via the Suffolk Collaborative Communities Board, from the Suffolk Contain Outbreak Management Fund (COMF).

Funding is available to enable community, voluntary and social enterprise organisations, or town and parish councils, to support individuals and families who are struggling due to the current cost of living crisis.

The scheme is designed to help keep people warm, well-fed, safe and connected, with a particular focus on reducing incidents of respiratory conditions this winter.



The fund will provide grants of between £500 and £5,000 for projects which support local residents struggling due to the rising cost of living.

Full guidance for applicants can be found [online](#), along with a dedicated [application page](#).

In addition to the East Suffolk Cost of Living Community Grant Fund, the Council's overall [Ease the Squeeze programme](#) is worth more than half a million pounds.

More than £70,000 of the programme will be invested in a network of 'Warm Rooms' across the district in a range of locations, including community and church halls, leisure centres and pubs.

Part-funded by the UK Government (through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund) and East Suffolk Council, with a number also funded from Community Partnership budgets, the sites will provide a warm space and tea and coffee, with free activities, ranging from books and games to film showings, also being planned and funded independently by venues.

### **Hundreds of new trees to be planted in Felixstowe to boost biodiversity**

Hundreds of trees are set to be planted in Felixstowe as part of a biodiversity boosting initiative.

A total of 30 standard trees and 300 whips will take root beside the public car park in Golf Road in an effort to enhance the landscape and encourage natural regrowth for generations to come.



A Suffolk-wide programme will see 7,526 trees planted across the county this winter, following a successful joint bid to the Government's Local Authority Treescapes Fund (LATF) from Suffolk County Council, Babergh District Council, East Suffolk Council, Ipswich Borough Council and West Suffolk Council.

Beginning in the second week of January, grounds and countryside maintenance partners from East Suffolk Norse will focus planting within spaces between the mature maple trees to the front of the carpark – expanding the woodland to the northeast, with a temporary chestnut panel fence installed to protect the new whips.

The new trees will be a variety of species, mainly bearing fruits and berries edible to wildlife, and will be regularly watered and surveyed to monitor improvements in biodiversity.



The project will also serve as a pilot for the development of a wider Tree Strategy for East Suffolk Council.

### **Communities and businesses invited to help co-create future of coast**

Communities and businesses in Southwold and neighbouring villages are the first pilot areas of the Resilient Coasts project to take part in the launch of a six-year project to help create coastal communities that are resilient to a changing climate.

This project is funded by Defra as part of the £200million Flood and Coastal Innovation programmes managed by the Environment Agency. The programmes will drive innovation in flood and coastal resilience and adaptation to a changing climate.

The first events, on 2 and 3 December, at the Southwold and Reydon Constitutional Club, will share the project's aims and invite community members to work with the project team to co-create a masterplan which brings together visions for the coast and how this links to the Harbour and estuary.

In addition to the drop in events, a Virtual Visitor Centre, which uses gaming technology developed during the pandemic, will be available, ensuring people can access the project information and take part, even if unable to attend the event.

The [Southwold Virtual Visitor Centre](#) will be live from Friday 2 December and will remain open and updated regularly throughout the project.

### **East Suffolk Community Partnerships**

**Kesgrave, Rushmere St Andrew, Martlesham, Carlford and Fynn Valley**

Road Safety continues to be a priority...and National Road Safety Week was a chance to collaborate and take practical action on a larger scale than in 2021, utilising £1,500 of CP funding.

It not only acted as a means to spread the message of safer driving in the local area, but also strengthened school connections, created new ones, and broadened the discussion for the CP going forward.

- Five primary schools engaged, using their junior road safety officers to educate peers in assemblies and other lessons. Three of the schools relaunched their hi-vis jacket provision (a CP project from January 2022), while Broke Hall and Grundisburgh Primary joined the scheme. With two new schools on board, this will mean another 850 jackets provided, taking the total to almost 3,000 – a 40% increase.



- Bikeability support was launched to primary schools in the area to fill a learning gap caused by the pandemic. Within four days of launching, requests for another 140 spaces were received.
- Officers from Suffolk Constabulary attended Community Speed Watch sessions and visited schools, while our own Communities officers also visited Suffolk Rural (formerly Otley College) to speak with students about using roads safely, with their corresponding views to be presented to the Community Partnership meeting in January and to help inform future decision making.
- Roadside banners were installed at nine sites across the CP area, targeting busier roads, including those in the rural area and one on site at Suffolk Rural, with the message 'Safe Roads for All'. More than 170,000 vehicles are estimated to have passed at least one of the banners during the week, not yet including data relating to Rushmere St Andrew.

### **Carlton Colville, Kessingland, Southwold and villages**

Southwold skate park has just hit a fundraising target, so it's full steam ahead for planning and building. The local community group deserve credit for raising the money, £14,500 of which came from the CP.

### **Beccles, Bungay, Halesworth and villages**

Communities officers have been working alongside Beccles Community Hub and the local Morrisons Community Champion to look at how to make Beccles a friendlier place for people on the autism spectrum, and their families.

As part of wider engagement work, a **Coffee and Chat event** was held at Beccles Library on Saturday 19 November for local people to put forward their views about what improvements they would like to see.

Meanwhile, residents from the Beccles area were also invited to a free event to find out more about the broad range of activities, support and services available to them locally.

Residents of all ages were invited to a free community **'infomarket'** event to meet local organisations and groups to find out more about the help and services available to them in their local community. Organisations present included Connected Communities, Suffolk Police, Mind and One Life Suffolk.

### **Felixstowe Peninsula**

East Suffolk Council, in conjunction with the Felixstowe Integrated Neighbourhood Team, has commissioned Communities Together East Anglia (CTEA) to co-ordinate 'Felixstowe CAN – Community Action Network'.



This service is designed to be a 'one stop shop' for residents and professionals, co-ordinating local practical support. The role also includes providing support to current 'good neighbour' community groups.

The contract with ESC commenced on 3 October, and while the co-ordinator recruitment process is underway, work has already begun on the network logo, website and telephone number. Most recently, on 28 November, CTEA hosted the first CAN Cuppa, at Nutshells by the Sea, bringing community groups and potential network partners together to discuss priorities and what's next.

### **Youth Takeover Day**

Youth Take Over Day 2022 took place on 25 November, with 30 young people from seven East Suffolk schools participating.

Students created presentations about what they want to do in their communities around climate change and the environment.

Benjamin Britten High School, SET Beccles School and Felixstowe School all won. Students heard from the Greenprint Forum and University of East Anglia, as well as a special letter from Sir David Attenborough.

The Communities Team will now work with the groups of students to make some of their big ideas happen.

### **More news in brief...**

It was great to see that Leiston Community Land Trust had been awarded for the redevelopment of Church Square.

As part of ongoing regeneration in Leiston, the area was transformed into a community garden with accessible seating and a bandstand...

...and has since been recognised by the Plunkett Foundation for an award in the Denbury Homes Community Contribution category.



Find out more, [here](#).

### **Surveys and consultations**

As always, we want to encourage participation in surveys and consultations, as feedback from people in East Suffolk is invaluable and helps us ensure we're making the right decisions for our communities.



- **Wickham Market Neighbourhood Plan**

Wickham Market Parish Council has submitted their Neighbourhood Plan to East Suffolk Council ahead of it being submitted for independent examination. East Suffolk Council is publicising the plan and inviting representations until 5pm on 21 December 2022.

[Wickham Market neighbourhood Plan](#)

- **Renewal of Public Space Protection Orders**

Public consultation on the proposed renewal of 13 Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) due to expire next year. Consultation closes at 5pm on 8 January 2023.

[Public Space Protection Order consultation](#)

- **Lowestoft Flood Risk Management Tidal Barrier**

A public consultation will run to Thursday 12 January 2023. Information includes how construction is being planned, the impact on navigation and environmental studies.

[Lowestoft Flood Risk Management Tidal Barrier Engagement](#)

## Social media

We keep our communities up to date in a variety of ways and social media has an important role to play. Please follow us and share our posts with your audiences!

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/eastsuffolkcouncil](https://www.facebook.com/eastsuffolkcouncil)

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/EastSuffolk>

## Diary dates

- 5<sup>th</sup> December at 10.30am – Strategic Planning Committee (Deben Conference Room, East Suffolk House)
- 6<sup>th</sup> December at 11am – Anglia Revenues and Benefits Partnership Joint Committee (Level 5 Meeting Room, Breckland House)
- 6<sup>th</sup> December at 6.30pm – Cabinet (Conference Room, Riverside)
- 7<sup>th</sup> December – Aldeburgh, Leiston, Saxmundham and villages Community Partnership (Snape Village Hall)
- 8<sup>th</sup> December at 10am – Community Partnership Board (Snape Maltings)
- 12<sup>th</sup> December at 6.30pm – Audit and Governance Committee (Conference Room, Riverside)
- 13<sup>th</sup> December at 2pm – Planning Committee North (Conference Room, Riverside)
- 13<sup>th</sup> December at 6pm – Melton, Woodbridge and Deben Peninsula Community Partnership (Deben Conference Room, East Suffolk House)
- 14<sup>th</sup> December at 10.30am – Licensing Sub-Committee (Deben Conference Room, East Suffolk House)



- 15<sup>th</sup> December at 6.30pm – Scrutiny Committee (Deben Conference Room, East Suffolk House)
- 19<sup>th</sup> December at 6pm – Beccles, Bungay, Halesworth and villages Community Partnership (Holton and Blyford Village Hall, Lodge Rd, Holton, Halesworth)
- 20<sup>th</sup> December at 2pm – Planning Committee South (Deben Conference Room, East Suffolk House)
- 20<sup>th</sup> December at 4pm – Lowestoft and northern parishes Community Partnership (Corton Village Hall)