



District Councillor's Report to Playford Parish Meeting

For May 2024

Carlford and Fynn Valley Ward.

Rushmere Village, Great Bealings, Little Bealings, Playford, Bredfield, Grundisburgh & Culpho, Witnesham and Swilland, Westerfield, Hasketon, Clopton, Charsfield, Dallinghoo, Tuddenham, Boulge, Burgh, Debach, Otley.

From District Councillor

Cllr Colin Hedgley

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Residents asked to help identify commercial fly-tippers

Residents are being asked to provide any information which may help to identify a business which is illegally dumping garden waste in a residential area. Over the past year, large quantities of wood chippings have been dumped on council-owned land. There have been nine incidents to date, with wood chips being illegally fly-tipped. As well as being unsightly, these incidents have also affected local residents, as the waste is often dumped in parking spaces and areas used by dog walkers. Anyone found guilty of commercial fly-tipping faces an unlimited fine or up to 5 years imprisonment.

“Residents have a responsibility to ensure their household and garden waste is disposed of properly and if you arrange for someone else to remove waste from your home on your behalf, you must keep details of this person or business. This includes any tradespeople who carry out work at your property, such as gardening work, and then take the associated waste away on your behalf. If your waste is found fly-tipped and you are unable to provide details about who took it away, then unfortunately you will be held responsible and you may have to pay a considerable fine. It is therefore important to keep a note of the name, business name or vehicle registration of anyone removing waste from your home or garden.” More details can be found at <https://suffolkrecycling.org.uk/recycling-composting/business-and-trade-waste>

Cost of annual parking ticket significantly reduced

Following feedback received from residents, the cost of an annual long stay car parking ticket has been decreased. There are 52 long stay car parks in East Suffolk, and for these, drivers can choose to purchase a daily, monthly or annual ticket. As part of a review of the Council's fees and charges, the cost of an annual ticket has now been reduced from £650 to £350 per year. The new price will come into effect from 1 April 2024. Annual parking tickets



for long stay car parks can be purchased via RingGo, either online at www.myringgo.co.uk, via the RingGo app or by calling 020 3046 0010. The Council sets fees and charges for a wide range of services including car park charges, planning application and building control fees, licence fees, land search fees, beach hut rents and cemetery charges. Some fees are fixed by Government and some are discretionary.

New planning guidance for rural development

A new planning document has been adopted in East Suffolk to help guide a range of different developments in rural areas. East Suffolk Council has adopted a new Rural Development Supplementary Planning Document (SPD). The Supplementary Planning Document supports the implementation of policies relating to rural development in the East Suffolk Council - Suffolk Coastal Local Plan and East Suffolk Council - Waveney Local Plan policies. The SPD provides guidance on a range of topics, including rural worker dwellings, rural annexes, rural residential curtilage expansion, rural buildings and barn conversions, economic development, equestrian development, tourism accommodation, small scale renewable energy generation, and wastewater management in rural areas.

The Supplementary Planning Document was subject to public consultation during its preparation and the comments received have helped to inform the final document. The Consultation Statement, published alongside the SPD, sets out how comments were taken on board. The Rural Development SPD, and supporting documents, including the Consultation Statement and the Adoption Statement, can be viewed on the Council's website at www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/supplementary-planning. Physical copies of the documents have also been made available at East Suffolk Council Customer Service Centres (for locations and opening hours see www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/contact-us/customer-services) and in all libraries in the district.

Nominations open for Quality of Place awards



Nominations are invited for an annual awards programme which celebrates the best building design, conservation and landscape projects in East Suffolk.

Grow for it! Residents encouraged to grow their own

East Suffolk residents are being encouraged to grow their own food this spring with the return of a successful programme offering free growing kits.

Following the success of East Suffolk Council's Field to Fork programme last year when 1,500 growing kits were distributed to primary schools across the district, the scheme is now



returning for 2024. Field to Fork aims to encourage people to try to grow their own food and improve their health and wellbeing in the process.

This year, 1,900 kits will be made available, each one containing compost pellets, seeds and free access to Groundwork East's online GROW Programme.

Those interested in a kit can apply online and kits can then be collected from locations across East Suffolk, including libraries, community hubs and churches over the next four weeks. Priority will be given to those on the existing

Field to Fork distribution list and then the kits will be made available to all from Monday 18 March.

To apply for a kit, please visit <https://eastsuffolk.co/f2f>

Anyone in need of help completing the application form can contact our Customer Services team on 03330 162000. Each growing kit is packed in Melton by Realise Futures. Next month, a small grants scheme will open to support community farms, allotments and gardens to help people get involved with growing their own food. The Field to Fork grant scheme will provide grants of up to £2,000 to help engage local people with 'grow and eat' projects that will feed communities and help people stay active and connected.

East Suffolk Council hosts first-ever 'Model District Council' for schools

More than 50 young delegates from seven East Suffolk schools took over the Council Chamber as youth 'councillors' for the day.

Pupils from schools from across the district were invited to take their seats for a first-ever simulation of East Suffolk Council, and to debate a motion on intergenerational political equality in East Suffolk.

A total of 52 pupils from Benjamin Britten Academy, Bungay High School, Castle EAST School, East Coast College, Pakefield High School, The Ashley School and Thomas Mills High School took part in the Model District Council, which was an all-day educational event.

Pupils were each assigned a ward and political party, and they were offered an experience that mirrored the real Council as closely as possible.

Funding opportunities Funding opportunities have recently been announced by the Suffolk Climate Change Partnership; in addition the local National Landscape Grants are currently open too.

Domestic Loft Insulation Offer Help with loft insulation is now available to help Suffolk residents make their homes warmer and save money on their energy bills. The Suffolk Climate Change Partnership has teamed up with Travis Perkins to offer support for Suffolk residents through a significant reduction on buying loft insulation.

Residents will receive a 50% discount off their purchase (up to £200), with free delivery. The offer is open to anyone living in Suffolk and will close once the allocated funding has been



spent. We have the equivalent of 18.5 football pitches of loft insulation available as part of this deal; once it's gone it's gone!

Simply fill out the order form online [Suffolk Loft Insulation Offer Order Form \(office.com\)](#) and Travis Perkins will be in touch to arrange payment and delivery. To find out more visit [Funding and Support for Homeowners and Renters – Green Suffolk](#)

Climate Community Matchfunder

The SCCP have recently relaunched this popular Matchfunder which was first launched last year.

This fund is designed to assist charities, community interest companies, parish councils, voluntary groups and other not for profit organisations who wish to deliver community-based carbon reduction projects that contribute to Suffolk's Climate Emergency Plan and our vision for Suffolk to become carbon neutral by 2030. The fund will support up to 50% of costs (up to a maximum of £10,000) for applications.

Eligible projects can include those that:

- Promote walking and cycling
- Promote the use of sustainable/recycled materials
- Raise awareness of climate change through events and campaigns
- Energy projects
- Bike to school buses

Find out more at [Suffolk Climate Action Community Match Funder – Green Suffolk](#) If you are developing an idea and need some advice please contact David Walton: david.walton@suffolk.gov.uk.

Funding gap forces Council to halt Flood Barrier scheme

Following the emergence of a budget gap totalling more than £100 million, and with no immediate prospect of additional funding being secured, the decision has been taken to halt work on the project to construct a tidal flood barrier in Lowestoft. This scheme forms part of the wider Lowestoft Flood Protection programme, which has already seen the completion of 1.5km of tidal flood walls in October 2023, to help mitigate the impacts of weather events.

However, during the design phase for the tidal barrier, and as a result of crippling cost increases relating to materials, labour, design changes and inflation, a £124m funding gap emerged. The project team has engaged with both the Government and the Environment Agency (EA) to seek the necessary additional funding needed to complete the project.

£15 million has been spent on the project to date, and this sum is accounted for with funds that have already been pledged. However, the project is scheduled to spend an additional £20 million from January to July 2024 and this amount cannot be covered by pledged funds, creating a £20 million risk for the Council. Although discussions have been ongoing for more than a year, it is clear that a decision by the Government and EA will not be made before this additional spending must be committed to. Therefore, despite making them aware of



the urgency, East Suffolk Council has been left with no alternative but to halt work on the tidal barrier element of the scheme.

Demolition work to begin for new seafront complex

Demolition work will soon get underway to make way for a new development on Lowestoft's seafront. A two-storey restaurant and café complex will be built at Jubilee Parade on the seafront, with five concession units on the ground floor, new toilets, outdoor showers, and a Changing Places facility. A lift and staircase between the Esplanade, restaurant, and Lower Promenade levels will provide improved access to the seafront for everyone. The first stage of the project is now underway and as part of this, Sunrise at Zak's has relocated to a temporary building nearby. Temporary toilets have also been installed.

Since the last Annual report much has happened.

Government funding

£2.7 million pounds was awarded to ESC from the levelling up fund.

£1.12million was awarded from the Rural England Prosperity fund.

£70 k was awarded for Warm Rooms and Eaze the squeeze projects.

The Community Partnership (Kesgrave, Martlesham, Fynn Valley and the villages)

Supported the National Road Safety Week where we involved Schools and Voluntary organisations.

Log Burning The "big Government Nanny" told us what not to burn on our open fires and log burners.

Voter i/d We had to produce for the first time voter i/d in order to voter at the May 23 Election.

Make up of E S Council Of course after the May election we saw the Greens/Li Dems/Independents form a coalition for the next 4 years.

Dog Breeding A man in East Suffolk was sent to prison for illegal dog breeding and fly tipping.

Waste Management The last Council had set up an arms length Local Authority Trading Company or LATCO, to manage the waste contract formally held by NORSE. This is the East Suffolk Services Ltd who are now responsible for emptying our bins.



My Enabling Communities Budget.

I have £7500 to spend each year on community causes. If you have a community organisation or group that requires financial assistance please let me know so that I can see whether I may be able to help.

Nitrous Oxide. This hit the news last as Nitrous Oxide cannisters had been found in various parts of this area. (For those that do not know N.O gas gives feelings of euphoria and relaxation.)

Floods And of course in the autumn we experienced the devastating floods following Storm Babette. Some people are still suffering the effects of those awful times and our thoughts are with them.

Planning Applications

I will give a verbal update on the evening should there be any.