



# District Councillors Report to Grundisburgh and Culpho Parish Council

**For July 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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## **New Director appointed**

East Suffolk Council confirms the appointment of Michelle Burdett in the role of Strategic Director, with primary responsibility for Economic Development, Regeneration and Housing.

Michelle takes up the position vacated by Andy Jarvis who retires this summer.

## **East Suffolk Council backs ambitions to regenerate Deben River**

East Suffolk Council is supporting the efforts of The Deben Climate Centre to deliver “a radical and ambitious plan to regenerate the Deben River for people and nature”.

The Centre is an expanding coalition of residents, academics, local community groups, charities and organisations which plans to regenerate the River Deben Catchment through widespread community action.

Cllr Sally Noble, East Suffolk Council’s Cabinet Member for the Environment believes that the Centre’s aims are critically important and says that East Suffolk Council will do whatever it can to help them achieve their ambitions.

The Centre’s programs to date have focused on testing water quality on the Deben, and several lecture series highlighting the local effects of Climate Change, the global food security crisis, and the startling loss of species and habitats.



## East Suffolk resident sentenced for Council Tax fraud

A 24-year-old woman from Felixstowe has been handed a suspended prison sentence and ordered to pay £1,200 in costs for fraudulently claiming a reduction on her council tax. Sophie Senski, formerly of Coastguard Walk, Felixstowe appeared for sentencing at Ipswich Crown Court on 6 June, having previously pleaded guilty at a hearing in April.

Senski admitted failing to declare another adult was living in her household, which enabled her to continue to receive a 25% single person discount on her council tax account, failing to declare another adult in the household when claiming for council tax support and council tax reduction, and failing to declare she held capital above the £16,000 limit when claiming for council tax reduction. In total, Senski was overpaid £3,643.20 in council tax support and £2,080.45 in single person discount. She was handed a 36-week prison sentence, suspended for 2 years, along with 25 days' rehabilitation activity requirement, 100 hours unpaid work and ordered to pay £1,200 towards prosecution costs, as well as a £154 statutory victim surcharge.

An East Suffolk Council spokesperson said: "Single person households are eligible for a 25% discount on their council tax and those on low incomes may also be eligible to pay a reduced rate of council tax. It is essential that any changes to a household, such as a partner moving in or leaving, is reported to the council tax team as soon as possible, so that the amount you pay fairly reflects your circumstances. We are pleased with the outcome of this case, where the person was purposefully dishonest in failing to report her change of circumstances so that she could continue to benefit from lower payments."

The prosecution was jointly brought by Anglia Revenues Partnership and East Suffolk Council.

[Report a change to your circumstances which may affect your council tax.](#)

**The Be Well Bus is coming.** See programme below with details of where the bus will be located and which services will be represented. We are happy to announce that we now have a mobile health station on board. The SiSU machine provides a full and highly accurate health check in 5 minutes. The health check measures: Blood Pressure, Heart Rate, Body Composition, and a range of additional tests coming soon e.g. Atrial Fibrillation, HRV, Diabetes Risk, SPO2

Come and meet the wonderful services on the bus, which provides wi-fi, heating and hot/cold drinks.

For more information on the bus and how to book a slot for your organisation please follow the link:

[Be Well Bus timetable for Ipswich and east Suffolk - NHS Suffolk and North East Essex ICB](#)



## New Deputy Leader of East Suffolk Council

Cllr Paul Ashton has been appointed the new Deputy Leader of East Suffolk Council. A statement from the Leader of the Council, Cllr Caroline Topping:

“I am very pleased to confirm the appointment of Cllr Paul Ashton as the new Deputy Leader of East Suffolk Council.

“Following the departure of Cllr David Beavan from the national Liberal Democrat party, Cllr Ashton has been confirmed as the local party’s new lead. Therefore - in line with our formal agreement, which followed the creation of the new Green, Liberal Democrat and Independent (GLI) Administration - Cllr Ashton is now appointed to the Deputy Leader role.

## Operation Camouflage is back!

A popular summer activities programme for young people returns to East Suffolk next month.

Operation Camouflage begins at Sutton Heath, near Woodbridge on Tuesday 23 July. Organised by the Army Welfare Service and East Suffolk Council, the activity programme is open to children and young people aged between 8 and 16 years old who live in or go to school in East Suffolk.

Designed to bring young people together and help them develop new skills, Operation Camouflage runs every Tuesday to Thursday from 23 July until 15 August. There will be a mix of physical, creative, educational and adventurous activities on offer including football freestyling, dance, bushcraft, first aid, ‘It’s a knockout’ and much more. Snacks and lunch will also be provided.

Nicole Rickard, Head of Communities and Leisure at East Suffolk Council said: “Holiday activity programmes such as Operation Camouflage provide essential opportunities for young people to take part in safe, fun activities during their school holidays. As well as helping their physical and mental health, Operation Camouflage is a great way for young people to meet new friends and try something different this summer.”

Funding has been secured from the East Suffolk Holiday Activity Fund to offer free places to those that are eligible for free school meals in East Suffolk. For those not eligible for free school meals, there are limited spaces available at a cost of £22.50 per day.

East Suffolk Council and the Army Welfare Service have been delivering Operation Camouflage since 2008 with the programme designed to give young people from military families and those living in East Suffolk an opportunity to be active over the summer holidays and provide safe and positive activities.

Bookings are now open for those that are eligible for free school meals and bookings will then open to all on Monday 24 June. Bookings will close on Thursday 18 July.

[Book now!](#)



## New planning guidance for healthy environments

A new planning document has been adopted in East Suffolk to help guide the delivery of healthier built environments.

The [Healthy Environments Supplementary Planning Document](#) (SPD) provides guidance on delivering more inclusive and higher quality living environments in East Suffolk, to improve the health and wellbeing of people of all ages, abilities, and incomes.

The SPD provides guidance on a range of topics including the provision of green open space, play provision, trees and landscaping, active travel infrastructure, healthy key buildings such as homes, schools and workplaces, dementia-friendly design, community facilities and more.

Ben Woolnough, Head of Planning and Coastal Management at East Suffolk said: “This document provides planning and design guidance to support the delivery of places which improve health and wellbeing outcomes for people living in East Suffolk. This includes supporting the provision of active travel infrastructure, food growing areas, more accessible and community spaces, as well as open and play spaces and much more. The document will now be a material consideration when determining planning applications in future.”

The SPD was subject to public consultation during its preparation and the comments received helped to inform the scope and content of the final document. The Consultation Statement, which has been published alongside the SPD, sets out the Council’s response to the comments received and the changes that were made to the SPD in response to comments.