



District Councillors Report to Grundisburgh Parish Council

For July 2026

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

(Colin.Hedgley@east Suffolk.gov.uk)

Hosepipe Ban.

The ban comes into effect from 1am on Saturday 11 July.

The full press release can be found at <https://www.anglianwater.co.uk/news/hosepipe-ban-announcement>

Information for residents, which we will share, here: <https://www.anglianwater.co.uk/help-and-advice/save-water/hosepipe-restrictions>

The New Bin Collection System.

I have urged the Leader of the Council to make a Public Statement about the ongoing bin problems.

I have received dozens of complaints regarding the new bin collection system., this has been ongoing for a well over a month now. I always forward complaints to those at the top running the show plus the Chief Exec. It's all been a bit of a disaster. Bins missed, sometimes 2 or 3 times and the Bin Missed reporting system not working effectively.

However, some good news.

At long last the shortcomings have been recognised.

I think and hope that the consistent e mailing of the top people at ESC has brought results.

An e mail from the Head of the Waste collection system amounts to a *mia culpa* in all but name. They now admit that vast swathes of caddy collection was missed continually. So, when they said everything was fine, it was not, but we knew that.

They now admit they are short staffed. They now admit that staff are going sick because it is all too much for them.

I cannot at present show you the whole e mail from those in charge, but the important thing is they recognise the "shambles" as one constituent called it, and have now come up with a plan



including week end working. (My bin was missed on Friday 26th June. It was collected at 0925 on Saturday 27th June.)

Part of the plan is as follows. Discussion at a daily meeting of all parties will discuss:-

- All data from the previous week (ie bins missed and where).
- A look ahead at operational issues that might impact the service.
- Staffing resilience.
- Vehicle and fleet issues (and there are some!).
- Traffic & Routes – in particular, where issues may present themselves in the week ahead, and what the plan is to mitigate this
- New rounds and new processes – including identifying where the reality of routes is departing from the detailed modelling they did when preparing for Better Recycling
- Communications – what they we saying to residents and members about collections.

Also, when bins are reported missed the bin men will return asap to collect and not wait until the next month.

It's a start and recognises all that's gone wrong.

As I say, I have not produced the whole e mail here, suffice to say the constant lobbying and complaining to the people at the top has produced results so pats on the back all round, (Just a for instance, when we were told that the caddy collection was doing fine, in fact figures showed that it was only a 59% success!)

It's not perfect, but it is a change of heart from "nothing's wrong--- to-- -this is what we are going to do to put it right."

So please pass on the better news but if they backslide or your bin gets missed---then more e mails to the Chief Exec . Chris.Bally@eastssuffolk.gov.uk

Road Works Postponed

Please be advised that **the below works have now been postponed** at the request of National Highways due to ongoing roadworks on the suggested diversion route.

A further update will be provided once new dates have been confirmed for the works.

A12 Bredfield, for the full extent.

A12 Melton from the junction with A1152 to the junction with

Road C309 from A12, Bredfield

Monday 3 August to Friday 7 August from 8pm to 5am



Deben Leisure Centre pool set to reopen following completion of roof works

As part of a major decarbonisation programme at leisure centres across East Suffolk, works at Deben Leisure Centre have been successfully completed, with the swimming pool set to reopen, as scheduled, on Monday 13 July.

East Suffolk Council is undertaking a major decarbonisation project at Deben, Leiston and Waterlane Leisure Centres, supporting the Council's commitment to improving energy efficiency and achieving net zero emissions.

At Deben Leisure Centre, significant upgrades have been carried out to the roof above the pool, alongside the installation of modern, low-carbon heating and energy systems. These improvements will help reduce emissions, lower energy consumption and secure the long-term future of the facility.

During the closure, additional maintenance works were also undertaken within the pool and changing areas. This included full renovation of the showers, painting and a comprehensive deep clean of the pool and changing facilities.

While the pool and health suite will reopen on the planned date, additional works at the site are still ongoing. Further upgrades within the plant room, along with the installation of a solar panel carport in the main car park, will continue over the coming months. Planning permission for the solar carports has now been approved, and installation will begin shortly. To minimise disruption, only small sections of the car park will be closed at any one time, with works phased over approximately three weeks.

The project is funded through the Government's Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme alongside East Suffolk Council investment. It will deliver a range of environmental benefits, including electrically powered plant equipment, solar energy generation and more efficient heating systems using low-impact refrigerants.

Deben Leisure Centre is operated and managed by Places Leisure on behalf of East Suffolk Council. Customers are encouraged to check the Places Leisure website (www.placesleisure.org/centres/deben-leisure-centre) for updates on reopening arrangements and session availability.

Throughout the closure period, the wider leisure centre has remained open, and customers have been able to access alternative swimming facilities at Leiston and Felixstowe Leisure Centres.

Due to nearby nesting swifts, work to a small section of roof has not been completed however this work will take place as soon as possible after nesting season.

East Suffolk Council has published our draft East Suffolk Tree and Hedgerow Strategy for consultation, which sets out our plan for enabling 250,000 new native trees to be established across the district.

The consultation period will run from 08 July 2026 to 05 August 2026, and we would very much welcome any feedback you may have on the draft Strategy.



Details of the consultation can be found at [East Suffolk Tree and Hedgerow Strategy | East Suffolk Council](#)

The overall aim of the Strategy is to ensure the right trees are established in the right places, for the right reasons – delivering lasting benefits for our wildlife and communities, and increasing environmental quality, equity of access, and our resilience to climate change.

The Strategy focuses on how we can best enable our communities to establish new trees on their land – from gardens to new woodlands. We propose to do this by providing advice, free trees for smaller projects, and scheme/grant application support services for eligible projects. In addition, we intend to increase tree establishment on the council's land and encourage more and better planting on developments in the district.

Please complete the online questionnaire or email us any comments you may have by 5pm 05 August 2026.

Please feel welcome to contact the project team if you have any questions about this consultation.

National recognition for East Suffolk beaches

East Suffolk Council is celebrating seeing four of its beaches named among the best in the country as environmental charity Keep Britain Tidy announces winners of the Blue Flag and Seaside Awards for 2026.

Four beaches have been recognised for being clean and safe, meeting the highest environmental standards with both Felixstowe (Felixstowe South and Pier) and Southwold (Southwold Pier) once again receiving combined Seaside Awards and Blue Flags, and Lowestoft South of Claremont Pier (bathing / resort) and Kessingland (non-bathing) receiving Seaside Awards for 2026.

Keep Britain Tidy's Chief Executive, Allison Ogden-Newton OBE, said: "England is fortunate to boast some of the world's finest beaches, and it's encouraging to see this reflected in the



awards to four of East Suffolk's beaches, signalling its high standards to all who visit or live nearby.

"Everybody involved in these achievements should feel proud of their ongoing work to care for and enhance these important local blue spaces."

The Blue Flag and Seaside Awards are designed to raise standards across England's coastline and inland waters, while shining a spotlight on the country's top beaches. These awards are the only way for the public to be assured that beaches are delivering a safe, clean and well-managed space for them to enjoy.

Blue Flag is an environmental education programme managed by Keep Britain Tidy on behalf of the Foundation for Environmental Education.

Among the criteria beaches are assessed against are:

- Safety and services such as first aid, and lifeguards where necessary
- Environmental information, including displaying details about local ecosystems
- Environmental management, including litter and waste
- Water quality – Blue Flag beaches must meet the 'excellent' water quality standard as set out in the EU bathing water directive and Seaside Award (designated bathing waters) winners must meet, as a minimum, the 'sufficient' standard.

Core funding scheme launched to help secure future for arts organisations

A new grant funding scheme has been launched by East Suffolk Council as part of efforts to increase cultural engagement and boost growth in the creative sector.

The Arts Core Fund will provide vital core funding to established, registered charities and registered not-for-profit cultural organisations for 2026-2027.

Unlike traditional project-based grants, the new fund targets foundational operational costs – providing crucial security for organisations to continue making a positive economic and social impact in East Suffolk.

With more than 400 creative businesses in the district, the cultural sector forms a significant part of the visitor economy. In 2024 alone, 2.61million visits to East Suffolk were attributable to culture.

More than 2,000 related jobs are supported by the industry, which brings in £43m to the local economy every year.

However, many established organisations face a constant challenge of meeting core costs – impeding the potential for expansion and wider socio-economic benefits.

The new targeted investment fund aims to broaden the impact of key cultural hubs, directly benefiting the wider creative network and tackling local inequalities, in alignment with the Council's Our Direction 2028 strategic vision and East Suffolk's Cultural Strategy.

Voluntary sector, not-for-profit registered arts organisations can apply for grants ranging from £10,000 to a maximum of £30,000.



Registered charities and not-for-profit arts organisations whose primary mission is to deliver creative activities, such as visual arts, music, dance or theatre for the East Suffolk public are invited to apply.

Full eligibility criteria and application details are available on the East Suffolk Council website. The deadline for expressions of interest is Monday 13 July.

[Arts Core Fund](#)

Be Fire Aware

Wildlife Wise, a partnership project dedicated to protecting the Suffolk Coast's wildlife habitats, is spearheading a new fire awareness campaign supported by Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS).

Launched in May to coincide with Wildfire Awareness Month, the Wildfire Free Suffolk campaign aims to protect wildlife in coastal, heathland and woodland habitats by raising awareness of how fires in the open start and how they can be prevented.

Across Suffolk last year, from January to mid-November, Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service attended 310 fires in the open at varying levels of severity - an increase of 105 incidents compared to the previous year.

In response, the campaign will install impactful signage in high fire-risk areas along key tourist routes. Displaying the Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service crest, these signs will be placed on roads, in car parks and along footpaths at wildlife sites across the county.

The signage warns of the dangers of lighting disposable barbecues and campfires outside designated areas, reinforcing key fire safety messages developed in partnership with the Fire Service. Additional messaging urges visitors to take all litter home, including cigarettes and e-cigarettes, which can contribute to wildfires during hot, dry weather.

During hot weather, the public is urged to:

- Avoid lighting barbecues and campfires near vegetation such as grass, heathland or woodland - only use them in designated safe areas
- Leave no trace - take all litter home or dispose of it in bins provided
- Ensure cigarettes and smoking materials are fully extinguished and disposed of responsibly - vapes should be taken to dedicated recycling points
- Douse disposable barbecues with water, allow them to cool completely, then dispose of them in household (black) bins - never in public bins

Sam Kench, Wildlife Wise Delivery Manager, said: "As the weather gets warmer – with a heatwave, we want people to enjoy spending time outdoors, but we are asking visitors not to



bring sources of fire to our wildlife sites. Dry grass and vegetation can ignite very quickly, and fires in the open can spread rapid, killing wildlife and destroying important habitats.”

He added: “While many people are aware that cigarettes are a common cause of outdoor fires, fewer realise they also contribute to plastic pollution, posing a dual risk to wildlife. Similarly, disposable vapes - which are becoming increasingly common - can ignite if exposed to extreme temperatures. That’s why they should only ever be disposed of at dedicated recycling points. We have already lost many hectares of habitat across Suffolk to fires in the open in recent years, and the risk continues to rise as temperatures increase. This is why we’ve launched this campaign.”

Alex Smith, Tactical Wildfire Advisor at Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service, said: “Campfires and disposable barbecues should only be used in designated areas, which are carefully selected to be well away from anything that could catch fire, such as dry grass, shrubs, trees or wooden structures.

“It only takes a small spark to start an outdoor fire, which can spread rapidly - especially during prolonged dry conditions.

“By preventing fires before they start, we can protect our communities, preserve natural habitats and wildlife, and reduce pressure on the Service, supporting our wider prevention work across the county.”

If you see a fire outdoors:

- Get to a safe place
- Note the exact location - use what3words if possible (<https://what3words.com>)
- Call 999 and ask for the Fire and Rescue Service
- Provide as much information as possible
- If requested, meet fire crews at the nearest access point.

Council launches Community Energy Programme

East Suffolk Council is delighted to announce the launch of a new community energy programme.

East Suffolk's Community Energy Programme will support delivery of community-owned and led renewable energy projects – empowering communities to take control of their energy future and contribute to a more sustainable energy system, alongside offering local benefits.

Following a competitive bidding process, a consortium led by the [Centre for Sustainable Energy](#) has been chosen to deliver the project alongside [Community Energy England](#) and [Ashden](#) climate change charity.

As well as bringing experience in the community energy space, the three organisations include locally-based partners with a number of connections to existing groups across the district.



The Centre for Sustainable Energy consortium will support existing community groups in East Suffolk, as well as identifying and encouraging new groups through its 'Future Energy Landscapes' and 'Community Energy Go' pathways. These will help progress projects through the technical feasibility stage to submitting grant bids and ultimately installing community-owned energy assets.

East Suffolk Council will be working with the Centre for Sustainable Energy, Community Energy England and Ashden on the next steps for the programme, starting with engaging the existing groups. These will be triaged and provided with tailored support to allow the community energy projects to move forward.

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East Suffolk Council is looking forward to working with the consortium to deliver community energy projects across the district and is encouraging any community organisations in East Suffolk which may be interested in locally-owned and managed energy installations to get in touch via climate.sustainability@eastsuffolk.gov.uk.

Neil Best, Senior Planner at the Centre for Sustainable Energy, said: "Future Energy Landscapes works because it gives communities genuine agency; the time and space to decide what renewable energy should look like in their area, rather than reacting to plans made for them.

Westerfield Quarry (SCC/0093/25SC)

We are still awaiting a decision.

However, ESC are going to respond to the latest changes put forward by the applicant. Further to their previous objection to the Westerfield Quarry application to Suffolk County Council, East Suffolk Council have been reconsulted in light of additional information received. ESC have therefore drafted a further response, which maintains its objection, but solely comments on the additional information received – ESC's previous comments remain applicable to the determination of the application, as highlighted within the response. ESC have advised SCC that they will send this through by the end of next Wednesday.

Please distribute this Housing Costs poster as widely as possible.



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Help with Housing Costs, from your local Council

If you're getting Universal Credit with the Housing Element, or Housing Benefit, and struggle to pay your rent, you could be eligible for a **Crisis and Resilience Fund (CRF) Housing Payment**

- We can help top up your benefit to cover your rent, or;
- help if you need to move to more suitable accommodation, and can't afford the rent in advance, deposit or removal costs

**Check now to see if you
are eligible and apply
online:**

**Scan the QR code or visit
angliarevenues.gov.uk**



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