



District Councillors Report to Grundisburgh Parish Council

For January 2026

Carlford and Fynn Valley Ward.

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

From District Councillor

Cllr Colin Hedgley

(Colin.Hedgley@eastsoffolk.gov.uk)

A Happy new year to you all.

Westerfield Quarry (SCC/0093/25SC)

We are still awaiting a decision. A number of clarification requests have been sent to the applicants. A public meeting will be held soon in order to give a sitrep, the details of which will be promulgated in due course.

Devolution

The cut off date for sending in individual comments to the Minister for Local Government was January 11th 2026.

If anyone has not yet commented I urge you to do so. As I have stated before, if we do have to change our system and the Government policy is that we should, I would prefer the One Suffolk system as opposed to the 3 Suffolk proposal put forward by East Suffolk Council. I do not wish to see Great Bealings become part of Ipswich. We are a rural Parish and not part of Ipswich Borough Council in all but name. A number of other Parish Councils have also objected including Little Bealings, Playford and Tuddenham. Hasketon were still deliberating as of last Thursday but intended to enter a position.

Planning.

Regretfully the Cranworth Close application was referred back to the Planning Officer which means that the application will be successful.

Waste and Recycling

Just a reminder that 2026 will see the introduction of a new bin collection system. The details can be viewed on the East Suffolk Website. Just enter **Better Recycling**.



Other News around East Suffolk.

CCTV upgrade proposal announced for Felixstowe

Following consultation and discussions with Suffolk Constabulary and the local Town Council, East Suffolk Council is delighted to announce proposals for increased and improved CCTV provision in Felixstowe.

If formally approved by both councils, work will get underway in the New Year to upgrade 15 existing cameras in the town and install units in eight additional locations.

At a quarterly meeting in September, East Suffolk Council (ESC) confirmed that they would present proposals to Felixstowe Town Council (FTC) at the next FTC/ESC Liaison meeting, which subsequently took place on Monday 8 December following the circulation of papers in advance.

If approved by both councils, the works will cost approximately £97,500 with FTC assuming a share in the region of £42,000. In addition, ESC would fund 24/7 monitoring at an annual revenue cost of approximately £40,500. ESC will take responsibility for the operational delivery of the scheme.

Extended free Wi-Fi network.

Extended free Wi-Fi network helping more people stay connected.

Extensions to East Suffolk Council's free Wi-Fi network in four of the district's market towns have proven popular with residents and visitors, with data showing a large increase in sign-ups to the service. The existing free to use Wi-Fi networks in Aldeburgh, Halesworth, Leiston and Saxmundham were all extended earlier this year for the benefit of residents, visitors and businesses. Data collected shows a significant increase in registrations to the service since the extensions were launched, with an 86% increase in Saxmundham and a 73% in Aldeburgh.

Council joins call to end gambling advertising

East Suffolk Council has joined a coalition of organisations calling for a nationwide end to gambling advertising.

As part of its commitment to promoting wellbeing and protecting vulnerable people, the Council has joined nine other local authorities from across the country to become part of the Coalition to End Gambling Ads (CEGA).

East Suffolk Council also joins leading public health bodies, including the Royal Society for Public Health, the Association of Directors of Public Health, and the Faculty of Public Health, as members of the CEGA.

The campaign aims to reduce exposure to the potentially harmful consequences of gambling by calling on the Government to restrict advertising, promotions and sponsorship.



Council secures First Light Festival for future

The future of Lowestoft's First Light Festival has been secured, following East Suffolk Council agreeing to funding for the next three years.

The festival, which was first staged in 2019 is a flagship cultural event, welcoming tens of thousands of people to Lowestoft, providing a huge boost to the local economy. In total, more than 200,000 people have attended First Light in total.

The 2025 festival which took place on 21 and 22 June continued to deliver highly impressive outputs with almost 600 artists or creatives taking part, alongside 91 local businesses who traded at the event, plus engagement with all 22 local schools.