

District Councillors Report to Grundisburgh and Culpho Parish Council

For July 2021

Carlford and Fynn Valley Ward.

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

From District Councillor

CLlr Colin Hedgley

Cycling Sessions

The Suffolk Road Safe Team are now delivering sessions for families who want to cycle more regularly, whether to keep fit, to commute to work or school, or to go and visit friends! The team can work with you to support your efforts by making sure that your riding skills are refreshed, and you have strategies for dealing with road situations that might concern you.

The session will be about 3 hours long and free of charge. They will come to you, chat about what you are trying to achieve, and then work on your route or specific challenges that you have.

Based on the National Standards for Cycling, and appropriate content from the Bikeability scheme, our fully qualified National Standard Cyclist Trainers will:

- . show you how to ride with your children so that you can help them gain confidence;
- . teach you a simple system for remembering how to deal with different road scenarios;
- . work with you to improve your safety at any junctions you use;
- . guide you in using your road position to control other road users and enhance your safety.

Priority will initially be given to families who want to cycle with their children, but whatever you require Suffolk Road Safe will endeavour to make it happen!

Please note: To ensure maximum safety during the sessions, the team have had to limit the age at which we can allow youngsters to be on the road. If you have children of 8 years old and above, the team can ride with you and them on the roads. For children 7 and below, the team will ride with parents and tell you how to ride correctly and how to protect the children as they cycle.

To book your free session, please email : CyclistTraining@suffolkhighways.org , and John Showell - Road Safety Officer (Bikeability) - will arrange for a trainer to contact you.

For more information please visit - <https://www.suffolkroadsafe.com/family-cycling-sessions>

New campaign aims to get people recycling right

As part of an ongoing drive to build the right environment for East Suffolk, a new campaign is being launched to help people get their recycling right.

East Suffolk Council is launching a new recycling campaign across its social media channels to get a better understanding of how much residents know about recycling in East Suffolk and what the Council can do to help when it comes to knowing what goes into what bin.

This comes after more than 5000 tonnes (about 24%) of recycling in East Suffolk is rejected annually due to the wrong items being placed in kerbside recycling bins, including glass, black sacks, food waste, cartons and nappies.

Cllr James Mallinder, Cabinet Member for the Environment, said: “The majority of households in East Suffolk are good at recycling, but as we continue to deal with the challenges of climate change there is still a lot more we need to do to ensure we’re recycling the right items and all doing our bit for the environment.

“Confusion can cause contamination, so we are determined to help households reduce the amount of wrong items they put in their recycling bins by making sure they know what can and cannot be recycled. This is important because there is a threshold of how much contaminated waste a truck load can have before it is rejected, so we need to make sure we are recycling right.

“The environment is one of the key principles of our strategic plan and this commitment has been further highlighted by our declaration of a climate emergency in 2019, and we all have a role to play in making better decision for the sake of our environment. By thinking about how we dispose of our waste and making the right decisions, we all contribute to a solution. These small changes in our behaviour will make a big difference over time and help us build environmentally sustainable communities.”

For more information on what can be recycled through your kerbside recycling bin or at your nearest Household Waste Recycling Centre, go to www.suffolkrecycling.org.uk/a-z-of-recycling

Dentists

You will be aware that routine dental services are being restored following closure due to Covid-19. However, these are based on clinical need as set out by national guidance that the sequencing and scheduling of patients for treatment as services resume, should take into account and consider:

- The urgency of need;
- The particular un-met needs of vulnerable groups; and

- Available capacity to undertake activity.

NHS dentists are following the advice of the Chief Dental Officer which is to prioritise urgent cases and those with outstanding treatments. Therefore, very few dental practices have the capacity to see routine examinations at the moment. Due to Covid-19 restrictions and the difficulties Covid-19 presents for dental care, the day-to-day capacity of dental practices is significantly reduced, and this is reflected in their contractual requirements which is determined nationally.

The provision of NHS dental services across the country has been limited since the 8th June and dental practices are currently providing a minimum of 60% of their activity in return for being financially remunerated at their normal pre-Covid value in accordance with national guidelines.

Patients requiring both urgent and routine NHS dental care can access services from any dental practice holding an NHS dental contract. Please note that dental practices are independent providers who hold a contract to provide NHS dental services. Dental providers manage their own practice including capacity and determine whether they are able to accept additional/new patients and therefore their lists can open and close on a frequent basis. In addition, for those patients experiencing pain and/or discomfort who may require urgent dental care, urgent dental centres (UDCs) can be accessed via NHS111.

Attending planning meetings

Due to current restrictions, there is limited public seating space at our planning meetings and therefore members of the public are encouraged to instead [watch the livestream, via YouTube](#). Anyone who believes it necessary to attend is asked to email democraticservices@eastssuffolk.gov.uk no later than 12 noon on the working day before the meeting so that the meeting can be managed in a Covid-secure way. The Democratic Services Team can endeavour to accommodate you and advise of the necessary health and safety precautions. Please note this does not guarantee a place or admittance to the meeting room.

JOIN OUR FREE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING EVENT

Families and residents of all ages are invited to come and meet their local groups, organisations and service providers to find out more about the help and support available in their local community at our covid-secure free event.

**TUESDAY 27 JULY 11AM - 2PM AT
KESGRAVE WAR MEMORIAL COMMUNITY CENTRE
TWELVE ACRE APPROACH, KESGRAVE IP5 1JF**

Free refreshments | Giveaways | Children's activities
Information to take away | Meet local services

For more information, or if you are an organisation wanting to attend to promote your services, please email stuart.halsey@eastsoffolk.gov.uk or call 07768 114421.



Protecting East Suffolk's historic environment

A new planning document has been adopted in East Suffolk to help conserve and enhance the District's historic environment.

East Suffolk Council has adopted a new Historic Environment Supplementary Planning Document (SPD), which will seek to facilitate change in a way that protects and enhances the historic environment, to support existing policies used when determining planning applications.

East Suffolk has an historic environment which is widely recognised as being of very high quality and importance, with approximate 4,000 listed buildings and 52 conservation areas. Its local character and distinctiveness are derived from the diversity of architecture, landscape and coastal settings, which have given rise to an architectural typology of farmhouses, picturesque cottages and churches as well as resort tourism, military research and defence, fishing and agri-industry, park and garden structures, energy and landed estates.

Buildings and structures that typify the East Suffolk area range from 16th century moot halls, a wide representation of 16th and 17th century farmhouses, the grandest Georgian country house in Suffolk, designed 18th and 19th century landscapes and 19th and 20th century military airfields, towers and pagodas.

The Historic Environment SPD provides comprehensive guidance on a range of topics including conservation areas, listed buildings and non-designated heritage assets and sustainable construction and renewable energy. Guidance is included about making changes and alterations to historic buildings, including extensions and alterations to a historic building, development within the setting of a historic building and replacing windows and porches.

The SPD also addresses how maintenance and repair can be undertaken in a way that protects the historic significance of a building, including repairs to different materials, such as brick, timber, thatch, wattle and daub and tiles. It also includes guidance and information about shopfronts and historic gardens, which form part of the varied heritage of East Suffolk.

Cllr David Ritchie, cabinet member for Planning and Coastal Management, said: "In East Suffolk we are fortunate to have a rich historic environment which includes a wide range of different buildings, structures and landscapes. The new Historic Environment Supplementary Planning Document will help us protect and enhance this environment by providing guidance on a range of topics to assist those undertaking repairs, alterations or extensions of historic buildings or developments that could affect such buildings."

Two rounds of consultation have informed the preparation of the SPD. The first was an initial consultation in September/October 2019 which helped to inform the scope and content of the SPD, and this was followed by public consultation on the draft SPD between December 2020 and February 2021.

View the Historic Environment Supplementary Planning Document and supporting document at www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/supplementary-planning.

Specialist accommodation created to support former rough sleepers

As part of its commitment to supporting people facing homelessness, East Suffolk Council has transformed a property in Lowestoft into specialist accommodation especially for former rough sleepers. Following a successful bid to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, East Suffolk Council received £93,312 in September 2020 through the Government's Next Steps Accommodation Programme (NSAP), to provide accommodation and support to rough sleepers during the pandemic.

An additional £389,482 was then secured from the NSAP earlier this year to provide support to rough sleepers in East Suffolk through the delivery of longer-term 'move on' accommodation. This has enabled the Council to purchase a large property in St Peter's Street and over the past few months, the Housing Maintenance Team have worked tirelessly to transform the building into a seven-bed unit of specialist, supported accommodation specifically for former rough sleepers and single homeless people.

The accommodation will be managed by Orwell Housing, who will also provide care and support for residents, many of whom need a higher level of support before they are able to live independently and sustain a tenancy of their own. The tenants will be able to stay for up to two years, ensuring they have a roof over their heads and can access the support they need to ensure they do not need to return to the streets. Cllr Richard Kerry, East Suffolk's cabinet member for Housing said: "East Suffolk Council is committed to ending homelessness and rough sleeping and this new 'move on' accommodation will assist some of the most vulnerable members of our community, enabling them to stay safe, access support and develop the skills needed to live independently.

"This project has been delivered in an incredibly short space of time, from securing funding, to sourcing a suitable property and then carrying out extensive refurbishments and we are grateful for everyone's hard work. We will continue to work closely with our partners to create appropriate and affordable solutions for those in housing need." Orwell's Chief Executive, Wendy Evans-Hendrick said: "We're really proud to be part of this fantastic project working with East Suffolk Council. The accommodation will not only provide a secure home, but also support for people to get back on their feet and make positive steps towards independent living.

"With our support, some of the most vulnerable people in the area can set foot on the path to a safer and more secure future. The benefits to those we will be supporting and the local community are great, and the speed at which this has all come together is testament to the excellent partnership working and commitment of all those involved."

Following a successful 'change of use' application to convert the property in St Peter's Street from a residential dwelling to a house of multiple occupation (HMO), substantial refurbishment works have been carried out. These include a new central heating system, rewiring of the electrics, installation of a fire protection and secure entry system, internal insulation upgrades, creation and installation of 7 ensuite shower rooms, a new kitchen, plastering, flooring and redecoration throughout. There is also an office for staff, a communal kitchen and living area and an outdoor amenity space. An official opening event was held on Monday 28 June and was attended by representatives from East Suffolk Council and Orwell Housing.

Free parking scheme extended to support vaccination staff

To support the Covid-19 vaccination programme, East Suffolk Council will continue to offer free parking for healthcare staff working in vaccination centres across East Suffolk until the full easing of current restrictions, currently expected to be 19 July.

The extension to the parking pass only applies to those working at vaccination sites and does not extend to wider health and social care staff. Health and social care workers who need to park in resident parking zones can register for permits, known as 'carer vouchers' at www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/parking

New virtual hub for Lowestoft creatives

To enable the growing creative sector in Lowestoft to reach its full potential and attract further investment, a new Virtual Creative Hub has been launched.



Developed in response to feedback to the Council's Cultural Strategy, 'Celebrating Culture on the Edge', the Virtual Creative Hub will provide creatives with a way to network, feel more connected and access information, training and funding opportunities. These were all key requirements raised by local creatives during a consultation last year.

Funded through Arts Council England, the Virtual Hub is open to creatives who are based in Lowestoft or deliver work in the town.

Working in partnership with Suffolk County Council, a small grant scheme, part of Creative Unlimited, funded by Suffolk Inclusive Growth Investment Fund, will be available for people who engage with the Hub. Awards of up to £1,000 are available to fund materials, exhibition equipment through to digital development, marketing and promotion.

Find out more! www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/lowestoft-virtual-creative-hub/

New policy for commemorative benches in East Suffolk

We have introduced a new policy for 'commemorative' benches, the service which allows people to sponsor seating at locations in the district to remember a friend, relative or colleague who has passed.

People can sponsor a new bench with a commemorative plaque for a period of ten years in numerous locations on council land, mainly replacing existing benches that are coming to an end of practical use. The benches are located in places where everyone can sit, rest and reflect.

Members of the public who choose to commemorate someone in this way will also be encouraged to not attach any additional items to the benches. Unfortunately, these items, which can often include flowers, wreaths and balloons, can either prevent people from sitting, or make them feel uncomfortable about doing so.

Items can sometimes be left for a long period of time and can also cause environmental issues, particularly if they are not degradable.

With this in mind, we are now also kindly asking people to collect and take care of any items they may have placed on benches on council land, which they would like to keep.

New recycling campaign aims to get people recycling right

We'll be launching a new recycling campaign across the Council's social media channels soon to help our residents dispose of their waste correctly.



As part of this, we're currently carrying out a short recycling survey which all residents in East Suffolk are invited to participate in. It should only take a couple of minutes to complete and as a thank you, those taking part can opt in to enter a fantastic prize draw for a chance to win a goodie bag full of eco-friendly homewares, including metal straws, food covers and wax food wrappers, worth £42.

The survey is open until 5 July at <https://eu.surveymonkey.com/r/RecyclinginEastSuffolk>

This comes after more than 5000 tonnes (about 24%) of recycling in East Suffolk is rejected annually due to the wrong items being placed in kerbside recycling bins, including glass, black sacks, food waste, cartons and nappies.

New grant scheme puts nature first

As part of our ongoing drive to build the right environment for East Suffolk, the Greenprint Forum has launched a funding scheme for voluntary and community groups who are planning projects that help promote biodiversity.



Eligible projects could include work to restore existing habitats or create to new ones, provision of nesting/roosting places for birds, pollinators and other animals, or activities to help local people of any age learn more about and enjoy their local biodiversity.

The scheme will run over four phases during 2021/22, offering grants of up to £1,000.

The first application period is now open until 28 July 2021 and full details, including eligibility and how to apply, can be found at www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/environment/east-suffolk-greenprint-forum/supporting-community-environmental-action/nature-first-small-grants-scheme/

Free community Health and Wellbeing drop-in events

Families and residents of all ages are invited to free Health & Wellbeing events to meet their local groups, organisations and service providers to find out more about the help and service available in their local communities.

The events will be taking place across the south of the district, with the first one in Framlingham on Monday 26 July, followed by events in Kesgrave, Felixstowe, Saxmundham and Melton.

For more information, including dates and venues, go to www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/news/free-community-health-and-well-being-drop-in-events/

Surveys and consultations

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

- **Supporting older people's housing needs**

This survey will help develop a new Older People's Housing Strategy to support older people's housing needs in East Suffolk so they can continue to live fulfilling lives in

the right type of housing. The survey is open until 5pm on Friday 9 July at https://eu.surveymonkey.com/r/ESC_Survey_OPHS_May2021

- **Vote for your favourite name for proposed beach village**

We have submitted a planning application for a new beach village in Felixstowe, aimed at improving the beach hut experiencing by creating accessible facilities that enables families and groups to enjoy everything the beach and town has to offer. As part of this, we're looking for a new name for the site and are asking local people to vote for their favourite out of 5 suggestions in a survey which closes at 5pm on Friday 30 July at <https://eu.surveymonkey.com/r/BeachVillage>

- **Improving recycling in East Suffolk**

As part of a wider social media campaign, we're currently running a recycling survey to get a better understanding of how much people in East Suffolk know about recycling and what we can do to help when it comes to knowing what items go into what bin. The survey is open until 5 July at <https://eu.surveymonkey.com/r/RecyclinginEastSuffolk>

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

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

Cllr Colin Hedgley

Cllr Tony Fryatt

Suffolk



June 2021 Town and Parish Newsletter Cllr Elaine Bryce Carlford Division

For more information on all stories visit:

[Suffolk County Council | Conservative Group \(suffolkconservatives.org.uk\)](https://www.suffolkconservatives.org.uk)

Introduction from Cllr Elaine Bryce

As I continue to settle in my new role as Suffolk County Councillor for Carlford Division, I have been really humbled by the great many messages of support received from Parish Councils and residents alike and I am very much looking forward to working alongside you to support our communities in Carlford Division.

This month, I have now taken up my position on Suffolk County Council's new Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Board, alongside my role on the county council's Corporate Parenting Board. These are two incredibly important forums from my perspective and I am looking forward to getting more involved in this important area of the council's work and making a positive difference for our children and young people across Suffolk and particularly, across Carlford Division.

Highways related issues continue to dominate my caseload at the moment, but I am pleased to be able to report a number of successes across the Division. That said, if there are any particular issues or queries remaining in your Parish, please do not hesitate to contact me and I shall do my very best to expedite them on your behalf. My door is always open and I shall do my best to try and help.

As we look ahead to the ending of Covid restrictions a little later this month, I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible out and about across Carlford, but if there are any events taking place in your Parish – Fetes, garden shows and the like, do please let me know and I'll do my very best to come along and support you.

With best wishes,

Elaine

Cllr Elaine Bryce

Carlford Division

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Independent review of aspects of Suffolk's SEND services to be carried out by experts from Lincolnshire

It has been announced that a multi-agency team from Lincolnshire will carry out an independent review into SEND provision.

This review will be carried out by a senior professional with no links to, or direct involvement with, Suffolk's provision and will focus on the processes, communication protocols and family-facing elements of SEND services within Suffolk County Council.

The SEND (special educational needs and disability) review will focus on the processes, communication protocols and family-facing elements of SEND services within Suffolk County Council. It will not look at specific cases or the provision given to specific children.

The review will start next week and will be completed within six weeks. The report, with any recommendations, will be published on Suffolk County Council's website, shared with those who contributed to it and also scrutinised, in public, by the council's Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Committee.

The review team from Lincolnshire will consist of two senior officers from Lincolnshire County Council, performance analysts and the chair of the county's parent carer network.

Councillor Rachel Hood, Suffolk County Council's cabinet member for education, SEND and skills, said:

"Lincolnshire has excellent SEND provision and the team has kindly agreed to review certain elements of our service and will make recommendations based on their findings which will be of great value to us.

"Families with experience of Suffolk's SEND may share their feedback of the communication process for the review, but we ask that this is relevant to the scope of the review. We have set up an email account for families to feed in their comments. It is important that a range of stakeholders are heard so we can fully understand our strengths and weaknesses and identify next steps. Ofsted have

confirmed that we have made significant improvement in this area, and the findings of this review will enable this improvement to continue.”

SEND services in Suffolk are delivered in partnership by Suffolk County Council, Suffolk’s NHS Clinical Commissioning Groups and education settings.

The review will look at:

- The effective flow of cases
- Communication with young people and families
- Processes for dealing with incoming enquiries from young people and families in a timely manner
- A focus on the family-facing elements of the service
- The allocation of provision and, where appropriate, placement in a timely way for children

In recent weeks, there have been calls from some parents and carers of children with SEND - known as the Campaign for Change (SEND Suffolk) - for a lawyer-led audit of the council’s compliance with the legal requirements set out for the service. Suffolk County Council has considered this request, but has decided not to move forward with it because:

1. It is the role of Ofsted to inspect all aspects of SEND provision, including those that would be included in such an audit. Ofsted and CQC has already made two monitoring visits to Suffolk and have identified areas of progress as well as areas of improvement
2. A new national SEND inspection framework is being launched, meaning further detailed inspections will take place
3. The county council already has an internal and external auditing process for Education, Health and Care Plans
4. There is an established complaints procedure for parents and carers who feel that the service they are receiving is not appropriate or sufficient

Suffolk County Council is eager to work collaboratively and productively with the Campaign for Change group, and parents and carers not involved or represented by the group, to make improvements in SEND services.

Councillor Hood added:

“We know that every parent and carer wants the best for their children, especially when it comes to education and care. Suffolk County Council wants the same and must strive to provide the very best services we can.

“This review will be immediate, in depth and independent and we will act on the recommendations made as swiftly and thoroughly as we can.

“We want to reassure parents and carers that this is a priority and we will make improvements where they are needed as quickly as possible.”

In Suffolk nearly 18,000 young people are supported in some way through local SEND services, including 5,900 with Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) or those receiving support in education settings. Demand has grown very significantly. Prior to the 2014 national SEND reforms, Suffolk held approximately 3,000 statements of SEND.

If you would like to participate in this review then please share your experiences of the processes, communication protocols and family-facing elements of SEND services within Suffolk County Council at SendReview@suffolk.gov.uk.

Suffolk County Council launches the new Cassius service

On June 1st, Suffolk County Council launched the new Cassius service.

We're partnering with Alcove, Rethink Partners and Provide CIC to deliver their innovative care technology service to people in Suffolk over the next 3 years.

From July, the Cassius service will give our social work practitioners, occupational therapists and other front line professionals, new ways to support people to live better and independent lives.

Initially the service will launch with a high impact, targeted range of technology that will continue to grow into the full Cassius collection. This means that the technology can be customised to meet people's needs and to address individual challenges which will help them live independently at home for longer.

Cllr Beccy Hopfensberger, cabinet member for Adult Social Care at Suffolk County Council said:

"We're really excited to launch this new service with our partners. It will offer a simple, accessible, seamless and flexible approach which will help people to embrace the benefits of care technology and provide better outcomes.

"Our teams have worked hard over the last couple of years to create a vision of how we would like our digital care model to be – setting us aside from other local authorities. As we move away from the traditional analogue approach, we are embracing this opportunity to provide a pioneering and intelligent service that will evolve and adapt alongside societal needs."

Cassius will focus on technology that promotes independence and provides monitoring and assessment in the first instance, but that is data driven to provide impactful insights into people's needs – this will help inform more targeted care and support where it is needed, and give people, loved ones and care providers peace of mind, real-time information and back-up support if it is needed.

In the coming months, this will develop into a wider, more integrated package of technology that will support additional needs and opportunities.

Just one jab is half a job – keep testing and get second vaccination

Suffolk residents are being encouraged to jab, test, protect the rest as lockdown easing is delayed by four weeks.

Health bosses in Suffolk are urging people waiting for their second COVID-19 vaccination to take regular tests to help curb the spread of the virus.

People are being asked to test twice a week and to take their vaccine as soon as it is offered to them.

Of the Suffolk population of 761,350, a total of 629,889 are eligible to receive the vaccine.

NHS vaccination figures show that of those eligible, 62% (393,477) have had two doses, but 38% (236,412) have only had one dose - or no vaccine at all. That figure does not even include children who are not eligible for a vaccine but can - and do - get infected.

This means that almost four in ten people in Suffolk have had either one or no jabs at all and therefore risk catching the virus or passing it on to other people.

The Delta variant of the virus is now the most prevalent in the UK and the concern for health bosses is that although the vaccine is highly effective - more than 80% after two doses – one dose is only around 33% effective. (2)

The figures do not record how many eligible people have refused a vaccine, but Stuart Keeble, Director of Public Health for Suffolk, said they showed the importance of getting both vaccinations when offered and testing regularly to break its spread.

“If you have both vaccinations you reduce considerably the chances of it harming you but if you only have one and think you are safe then my advice would be ‘please think again’. A single vaccine on its own is not enough.

“The Delta variant is now widespread in the UK and the data shows you are more likely to need hospital if you develop it, so please make sure you get both vaccinations.

“Everyone can also do their bit in curbing the spread by testing regularly. The more cases of infection that can be identified and isolated the harder we make it for the virus to spread throughout Suffolk.”

Councillor Matthew Hicks, leader of Suffolk County Council and chair of the Local Outbreak Engagement Board, said the decision of the government to delay the easing of restrictions was the right one.

“We must be realistic. However much we were looking forward to the easing of the rules, the fact remains that the country was not ready and the Government has been clear that to have gone ahead as planned would have been the wrong path,” he said.

“The delay gives us more time to vaccinate as many people as possible with both doses, thus ensuring more of us who are potentially at risk are protected.”

Suffolk County Council launches Ipswich's first Park & Cycle initiative

On June 15th it was announced that commuters are now welcome to park at Martlesham Park & Ride site for FREE and cycle into Ipswich Town Centre.

Working in partnership with First Eastern Counties, the Park & Ride site has put in place a [cycle map](#) which details three dedicated routes into the centre of Ipswich, and there is a route suitable for every ability:

- Green route – direct route into the town centre. 29 mins – 8.5km / 5.3 miles
- Yellow route – direct /low traffic route into the town centre - 32 mins – 9.3km / 5.8 miles
- Blue route – low traffic route into the town centre - 39 mins – 11km / 6.8 miles

As part of the scheme, there is also available for use Sheffield bike stands, and 24hr security patrols complemented by CCTV coverage for bikes left over night.

Councillor Richard Smith, Suffolk County Council's Cabinet Member responsible for Transport Strategy, Economic Development and Waste, said:

“Park & Cycle is another way Suffolk County Council is supporting more sustainable travel in to Ipswich as we ease out of lockdown.

“The dedicated cycle routes will reduce some of the barriers members of the public have said stops them choosing to cycle into the town centre.

“By embedding cycling as a regular option for travelling into Ipswich's town centre many will reap the associated health, air quality and congestion benefits of sustainable travel.”

To find out more details visit www.suffolkonboard.com/parkandcycle and follow @suffolkonboard on Twitter.

Refurbishment of Bailey Bridge set to begin

On June 17th it was announced that the bailey bridge crossing the River Blyth and connecting Southwold with Walberswick is set to close on Friday 2 July 2021 to enable vital refurbishment works.

Since Suffolk County Council and its local elected members committed funds to undertake this major refurbishment, concerted efforts have been made to engage with key stakeholders and identify ways of mitigating the impact this closure will have locally. It has been fully recognised that the closure of this bridge at a time where lockdown is easing will present a challenge to local residents, businesses and visitors to the town. However the safety of those using the bridge has to be the priority.

In light of the impact that this closure could have on local businesses and those using the bridge for commuting purposes, a number of mitigation measures have been explored to take place during the closure. These include:

- A support package of £5k per month, for the programmed duration of the works, for local residents directly impacted by the closure of the bridge – to be administered by the local councils
- Longer working hours and a longer working week so the work can be completed as quickly as possible – shortening the programme of work from 16 weeks to 12 weeks
- Temporary traffic measures in Walberswick for the duration of the work to better support those travelling into the area.

Councillor Paul West, Suffolk County Council’s Cabinet Member responsible for Operational Highways and Flooding, said:

“The Bailey Bridge connecting Walberswick with Southwold is an incredibly important structure in the east of our county. Refurbishment of this bridge is vital for the thousands who use it, whether they’re visitors when exploring our coastal walks; or locals who shop and work between the two communities.

“We are pleased that the bailey bridge has continued to serve our communities over the past couple of years since the temporary repairs were carried out, however now it is time for a full refurbishment. Refurbishment of this bridge is one of Suffolk Highways’ top priorities, and we will continue to work closely with officers to ensure this can happen in a way that minimises impact where possible and bring lasting benefits.

Have your say on the potential permanent closure of Upper Brook Street to motorised traffic

Suffolk County Council launched its consultation to gather local views on maintaining a permanent closure of Upper Brook St in Ipswich to motorised traffic on June 22nd.

The short cut-through from Tacket Street to Buttermarket was closed to motorised traffic on a trial bases last summer as part of measures introduced to encourage cycling and walking in and around Ipswich town centre in response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Following feedback from this trial, the council is now proposing that the closure remains in place to provide more space for walking and cycling between Tacket Street and Carr Street.

You can take part in the consultation now by visiting www.suffolk.gov.uk/walkingandcycling or by scanning the QR code on the signage at the road closure. The consultation is running until Friday 30 July 2021.

Councillor Paul West, Suffolk County Council’s Cabinet Member for Ipswich and Operational Highways, said:

“Following a range of feedback we have received during this trial road closure, we are offering local residents and businesses a formal opportunity to tell us if they want to see this change on Upper Brook Street made permanent.

"Implementing a permanent closure to motor traffic at this point, stops vehicles ‘rat running’ through what is a popular public throughfare that leads past the town’s central library, and it would allow people to safely walk and cycle around the area as an alternative to driving through this central route in town. I am very pleased that this option has the support in principle of both our partners at the borough council and Ipswich Central as we all want to create a flourishing town centre in Ipswich.”

Suffolk Fire Ride 2021

On June 22nd it was announced that Felixstowe Fire Station and Suffolk Fire & Rescue Service are inviting cyclists of all abilities to join them in taking part in their annual cycle sportive.

Starting at Felixstowe Fire Station, this year's routes will be set amongst the lovely rural lanes and beautiful rolling countryside found in east Suffolk and will raise money for the Fire Fighters Charity.

The event is being organised with safety in mind and COVID secure arrangement will be shared with all participants prior to the event.

Hosted by **Felixstowe Fire Station**, the ride took place on **Sunday 4 July 2021**, and offered a choice of two signed distances – 50Km and 100Km, plus a local family route.

The Suffolk Fire Ride is a friendly cycle sportive suitable for all levels of riders and promises to be an event for all the family to enjoy with Felixstowe being a seaside town, with attractions for all the family, local shops, pier and amusements. All participants received a limited edition 2021 Suffolk Fire Ride medal.

Dan Fearn, Interim Chief Fire Officer for Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service, said:

“The Suffolk Fire Ride is a much loved and eagerly anticipated annual event, and we are always grateful for the support of those taking part and their family and friends.

“The ride is open to cyclists of all abilities and the money raised from the event will go towards supporting fire fighters across the country through the Fire Fighters Charity.”