

Grundisburgh & Culpho Parish Council
Minutes of a meeting of the Council held on the 13th September, 2021 in St.Mary's Church,
Grundisburgh

NOTICES had been posted according with regulations.

Present: - Messrs. S.Barnett, B.Cook, G.Caryer, A.Dunnett, J.Dunnett, D.Higgins, R.Youngman, Mrs.A.Willetts (in the chair) District Councillor A.Fryatt, C.Hedgley, County Councillor E.Bryce and 11 members of the public.

1. Apologies for absence Mrs.J.Bignell, Mr.Rankin.

2. To receive member's declarations of interest Mrs.Willetts and Mr.Cook declared a Local Non-Pecuniary Interest in Village Hall matters

3. Election of Chairman It was unanimously agreed that Mrs.Willetts (Vice Chair) should chair this meeting and that councillors should submit nominations for Chairman to the Clerk by end of October to be considered at the next meeting on the 8th November, 2021.

4. Minutes

The minutes of a Meeting of the Council held on the 19th July, 2021 had been circulated and were therefore taken as read. It was proposed by Mr.Cook seconded by Mr.Dunnett that these minutes be signed by the Chairman as a true record. Approved 5 voting for, 0 against Mr.Higgins abstained. There were no matters arising.

5. Public Open Forum

It was proposed by Mrs.Willetts seconded by Mr.Higgins to unanimous approval, that the formal meeting be suspended, and members of the public invited to address the meeting
The following issues were raised

5.1 Ipswich Road Pavement Mrs.Coomber reported that she had tripped up on uneven pavement on Ipswich Road which resulted in a broken elbow which has necessitated the fitting of a steel plate in Ipswich Hospital. This happened despite numerous complaints to County Council Highways Department and a site visit with our MP and County Councillor at that time who both agreed that the path was dangerous. After every complaint the following standard response was received. *"Our staff have visited the location of your report and assessed the issue you reported. We believe that at this time it does not warrant remedial action. However, we will continue to monitor the location as part of our routine inspections, and if the matter worsens significantly, we will take action."*

Mrs.Coomber is seriously considering legal action against Suffolk County Council..

County Councillor Elaine Bryce said that she has reported the incident to the Cabinet Member responsible for highways and is looking into the matter.

5.2 Meeting Lane Verge Mr.Herries hopes that any renovation would not include the inclusion of a passing place and Mr.Franklin considered that simply restoring the verge without erecting barriers would result in the verge quickly reverting to its previous worn condition.

6. Quiet Lanes Mr.Caryer reported

All the proposals for lanes in Grundisburgh to be designated Quiet Lanes by the Parish Council had been approved. The next step is for the County Council to install signs. Two lanes, which are partially in Grundisburgh are being processed - Newton Hall Lane and Bealings Road.

Mr.Dunnett asked for confirmation that County Council had set aside £100,000 to fund the scheme, Mrs.Bryce will investigate. Mr.Caryer commented that East Suffolk Council has also allocated funds.

7. Chapel Field Development Mrs.Willetts reported.

Applications adjourned by East Suffolk

DC/203284/FUL & DC/20/3362/FUL. Land to the west of Chapel Road Grundisburgh – Chapel Field.

As the Council will be aware, an appeal against non determination was submitted for the duplicate application DC/20/3362/FUL on 3rd August and a public inquiry date has been set for 16th November. Whether that takes place will depend upon the outcome of the current live application. East Suffolk Council have to confirm their position on the appeal by the 21st September through a Statement of Case. The live planning application will go back to East Suffolk Council planning committee at an Extraordinary South Planning Committee for 20th September where both the live application and the Council's stance on the appeal will be determined by the planning committee. Members of the East Suffolk Council planning committee will visit the site on the morning of the 20th. The report for that committee will be published on 13th September.

The consultant instructed to produce the independent access review will produce their report on 14th September, this will then be reviewed by East Suffolk Council and published on 17th September with an update report, which may influence the recommendation to the planning committee. Mrs.Willetts has requested a complete copy of that report to be available to the Parish Council and objectors when it is received by East Suffolk Council but so far Ben Woolnough, officer dealing, has refused access until 17th September.

The Parish Council and objectors will need to make representations to the Planning Inspectorate by 21st September. The Parish Council are pushing East Suffolk Council to ask the Planning Inspectorate to delay the public inquiry and allowing more time for the community to forward their objections. Unfortunately this is the fastest turnaround on a public inquiry appeal that East Suffolk Council has ever seen there is usually more than 3 months between and appeal start letter and a public inquiry. No draft minutes for the East Suffolk Council planning meeting of 29th June 2021 are available as yet.

Mr.Dunnett complained that the "NO" sign at the junction of Wood Farm Lane and Ipswich Road was obstruction the vision splay and should be moved. Mrs.Willetts will investigate.

8. Meeting Lane Verge Mr.Caryer reported

A site meeting was held on the 16th July attended by County Councillor Elaine Bryce, District Councillor Colin Hedgley, Peter Kendall, David Higgins and Highways Officer Paul Gant who will provide four costed options which the Parish Council could consider. Mr. Gant emphasised that unilaterally placing bollards or excavating the site would be an illegal obstruction or a criminal offense.

The following Email was received from County Councillor Elaine Bryce on the 27th August and circulated to members of the Roads and Transport Subcommittee.

EMAIL

You'll recall that I met with Peter Kendall, Cllr Hedgley and SCC Highways to look at the issue of the verges on Meeting Lane. I've now received the following update from the Highways Officer in attendance, as promised.

As discussed on site Suffolk Highways does not have funds to carry out these works and therefore any works will need to be externally funded – I believe from the on-site discussions that the Parish Council are willing to fund the works, before we progress this we need to know what the Parish Council's preferred options are so that estimates can be provided.

The options that I see are as follows (if there are any other ideas, please let me know):-

- 1) Topsoil & grass seed over-run section of verge – potentially this could be done by the PC (with our permission) as no excavation would be required.
- 2) As item 1 but with either reflector posts (black & white) or wooden posts to provide additional deterrent to motorists.
- 3) As item 1 but with a couple of planters on the verge (licence would be required) to deter motorists.
- 4) Kerb length of the verge and soil/seed behind.
- 5) Extend the existing passing place to allow vehicle to pass on a hard surface – subject to levels/utility equipment in verge.

If you can discuss these options with the Parish Council and then let me know what. If any, they wish to have estimates for then I can progress this.

Would you be kind enough to please let me know how best you'd like to proceed and I can then revert to Highways to request the estimates accordingly.

END OF EMAIL

Meeting Lane Verge cont...

Report from the Roads & Transport Committee

Because of the contour of the road drivers cannot see from one end to the other of the top section of the single-track road to the BT junction box, so from time to time it is inevitable that two cars are going to meet head on. Any obstacle stopping them from using the verge as a passing place such as bollards or a high kerb forcing one vehicle to reverse a considerable distance could be highly dangerous, especially so close to the school entrance.

Drivers can see from one end to the other of the lower section, from the BT junction box to the Scout seat. There is plenty of room at each end for vehicles to manoeuvre and give way safely. Consequently the verge is in pristine condition.

A properly constructed passing place could be a better long-term solution but would be prohibitively expensive considering that the Parish Council would have to "foot the bill".

Returning the verge to its original condition may be the only practical and safest solution. We may have to live with the fact that the verge will occasionally be run over by a passing car. Please have a look at Google Earth Street View to see what the verge once looked like.

Bearing all this in mind we suggest that we ask Suffolk Highways to provide costings for Option 1 & Option 5.

The following comments were made

Has the Parish Council already approved a policy that passing places should not be installed in Grundisburgh ?.

A passing place would bring cars nearer to pedestrian

Astonishment was expressed that the County Council will charge for producing costings. Surely the council have ready made ball park figures available ?.

The Parish Council could take on the task of reseeding but posts would have to be installed professionally by Suffolk County Council Highways.

Conclusion

It was agreed that Suffolk County Council should be asked to provide a costing for ...

Topsoil & grass seed over-run section of verge with either reflector posts (black & white) or wooden posts to provide additional deterrent to motorists.

9. Old Forge Stores Forecourt

Mrs. Willetts has asked County Councillor Bryce to arrange for a Highways Engineer to visit the site and give a "final answer" to the drainage problems. She suggested that once this information had been received a meeting of all interested parties should be arranged.

10. Queens Platinum Jubilee 2022

Mrs. Willetts said that the Jubilee will be discussed at the Scouts AGM on Saturday 18th September.

She suggested that a representative committee be formed to organise a programme of village celebration events as was so successfully achieved for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 1912.

Mr. Dunnett offered to donate a wild pear tree to be planted on the new village hall site to commemorate the Jubilee.

11 Planning Report Mrs. Willetts reported.

11.1 Applications approved by East Suffolk since last Parish Council meeting

DC/21/2315/FUL. 19 Cranworth Close, Grundisburgh.

Proposed single storey rear extension and first floor extension to side of dwelling.

Comments sent Grundisburgh & Culpho Parish Council object to the flat roof on the proposed first floor extension, it would be obtrusive in the street scene. Plans were changed to a pitched roof.

DC/21/2712/FUL Little Thatch Culpho Proposed Dormer Balcony and External Stairs

DC/21/2799/FUL. Grundisburgh Playing Field Ipswich Road Grundisburgh. To improve the existing playground

Planning Report cont...

11.2 Applications withdrawn

DC/21/3138/FUL Retrospective Planning Application Retention of Ancillary Building, Greenways, Meeting Lane, Grundisburgh. Following Enforcement Case Number: ENF/21/0098/DEV Outbuilding in front of property The occupiers have been given notice to either remove the out building or submit a retrospective planning application. Objections sent.

This application has been withdrawn because the building was partly constructed on highway land.

11.3 Applications awaiting a decision

DC/21/1458/FUL. Hill House Woodbridge Road Grundisburgh Suffolk IP13 6UF
Change of Use of garage and playroom to online shop. Change of Use of part agricultural Land to extended residential curtilage. Comments sent

11.4 Applications received since last Parish Council

DC/21/3247/TCA Hillside Cottage The Street Grundisburgh Suffolk IP13 6TD
Apple Tree – Requested fell due to low fruit produce and quality. Home owner wants to plant some more promising apple trees in its place but fear they will not do well due to the shade of current apple tree

DC/21/3768/FUL 46 Post Mill Gardens IP13 6UP proposed single storey rear extension.

DC/21/3730/TPO. Ackenfield Meeting Lane IP13 6UB. T1 Sycamore remove as tree is leaning towards the house and encroaching onto the roof T2 Oak side reduction away from house up to 2metres

12. District Councillor's Report District Councillor Colin Hedgley's full report is appended to these minutes as Appendix "A"

Chapel Field East Suffolk Council's Planning Committee will conduct a site visit on Monday 20th September followed by a meeting to consider a planning application to build 70 houses on Chapel Field.

Change in Planning Laws Mr.Hedgley maintained that local views are important and should be given greater weight.

Chapel Field Independent Assessment This report will be published on the 17th September.

Granpad East Suffolk Council are continuing to trial to Granpad Loan Scheme which is aimed at talking social isolation. Initially launched in 2020 the scheme is being extended for another 12 months and a total of 175 Granpads' are now available.

13. County Councillor's Report County Councillor Elaine Bryce's full report is appended to these minutes as Appendix "B"

14. East Suffolk Community Partnerships

Community Partnerships are an innovative new way for the Council, partners and communities to work together to 'bring ideas to life' by taking a solution focussed approach to local priorities. Mr.Caryer has attended a recent meeting concerning road safety.

15. Financial Matters The Clerk reported

15.1 2020-2021 Audit

The External Auditor has completed and approved the 2020-2021. To comply with financial regulations completion notices have been placed in the Parish Notice Board and published on the Parish Council's Website.

15.2 Ratification of payments made since the last meeting and approved at the time

A.J.Pryke & Son	£420.00	Snow clearing
Anglia Water Business (Nat) Ltd	£41.51	Water charges – allotments
HM Revenue & Customs	£128.20	Income Tax
Suffolk Coastal Norse Ltd	£57.82	St.Mary's wheeled bin - emptying
Tree Frog	£666.00	Removal of tree behind Village Green Bus Shelter which was damaging the shelter/
Mr.R.Fletcher	£240.00	Village Green Grass Cutting
Mr.J.Dunnett	£42.69	Millennium Meadow expenses
Vertas Group Ltd	£227.56	Playing Field Grass Cutting
Mr.R.Fletcher	£240.00	Village Green Grass Cutting
Suffolk Coastal Norse Ltd	£57.82	St.Mary's wheeled bin - emptying
Mr.J.Ager	£513.05	Clerk's Salary June/July 2021
	£79.80	Clerk's Expenses
	£145.00	Planning Fee – Children's Play Area
Village Hall	£369.12	Balance of £1,000 grant awarded in 2008 for new hall expenses
	£450.00	To purchase items for new hall – Prize money Village of the Year 2015
	£5,181.20	CIL receipts to be spent on PV solar panels for new Village

It was proposed by Mrs.Willetts seconded by Mr.Cook. to unanimous approval, that these payments be ratified.

15.3 Payments received since the last meeting

Allotments Rents

Mr.Haddock	£12.00
Mrs.L.O'Kane	£12.00
Mrs.K.Cole	£12.00
Mr & Mrs.Webber	£12.00
Mrs.C.Wells	£12.00
Mr & Mrs.Leach	£12.00
Mr.I.Henderson	£12.00
Mr.D.Cole	£12.00
Mr & Mrs.Kersey	£24.00
Mr.J.Dunnett	£12.00
Mr & Mrs.Higgins	£12.00
Mr & Mrs.Herbert	£24.00
Mr.R.Herries	£12.00
Mr & Mrs.Morton	£6.00

The Clerk will investigate whether or not the council had agreed to increase allotment rents in the past.

15.4 Emergency payments made prior to the meeting under Section 5.7 of Financial Standing Orders

Mr.G.Caryer	£203.57	Velocity Speed Gun
Mr.R.Fletcher	£160.00	Village Green Grass Cutting – July/War Memorial Yew
Culpho Church	£195.00	Churchyard maintenance grant. Cheque 103054 cancelled
Mr.G.Caryer	£145.00	Grundisburgh Conservation Group Insurance – Millennium Meadow
Suffolk Coastal Norse Ltd	£64.03	Dog waste bags
PFK Littlejohn LLP	£240.00	2020/2021 Audit Fee

Financial Matters cont...

15.5 Other payments requiring approval

Mr.J.Ager	£513.05	Clerk's Salary August/September 2021
	£52.08	Clerk's Expenses
	£80.00	Royal British Legion
HM Revenue & Customs	£256.40	Income Tax
CAS Ltd	£260.68	Insurance 01/10/2021 – 30/09/2021
Mr.R.Fletcher	£240.00	Village Green & Hedge Cutting – August
Lunch Club	£200.00	

It was proposed by Mr.Barnett seconded by Mr.Cook, to unanimous approval, that these payments be made.

15.6 Account Balances as at 13 September 2021

Business Tracker Account	£62.63
Current Account	£19,660.59
Post Office Investment account	£21,374.50
VAT to claim	£416.78
TOTAL	£41,514.50

15.7 Budget Report Appended to these minutes as Appendix "C".

15.8 Appointment of cheque signatory Mr.G.Caryer agreed to be appointed.

16. Roads & Transport Report The Clerk reported.

16.1 Woodbridge Road, Grundisburgh A message was Emailed to County Council Highways on 23/07/2021 *White lines from the junction with the B1079 and the Village Green are very faded and in some cases almost gone especially the SLOW sign near the entrance to Gurdon Road*

Response received 03/08/2021

Following your recent report, we are pleased to confirm that we have ordered work to be carried out which we hope will resolve the issue you raised with us within approximately 14 calendar weeks.

16.2 Rose Hill, Grundisburgh A message was Emailed to County Council Highways on 24/07/2021.

The pavements are very worn and need re-surfacing. Other pavements in Grundisburgh were re-surfaced some time ago but pavements in this area have been missed.

Reply received 03/08/2021

Our staff have visited the location of your report and assessed the issue you reported. We believe that at this time it does not warrant remedial action. However, we will continue to monitor the location as part of our routine inspections, and if the matter worsens significantly, we will take action.

Resubmitted on 05/08/2021

Ipswich Road, Grundisburgh 00331377

The pavements are very worn and need re-surfacing. Other pavements in Grundisburgh were re-surfaced some time ago but pavements in this area have been missed. This report was submitted on the 24th July 00329831 citing ROSE HILL as the problem area. I have been informed by a resident that this is incorrect and the location should have been given as IPSWICH ROAD.

Reply received 06/08/2021

Our staff have visited the location of your report and assessed the issue you reported. We believe that at this time it does not warrant remedial action. However, we will continue to monitor the location as part of our routine inspections, and if the matter worsens significantly, we will take action.

Copy of an Email sent to Suffolk Highways from Mr.Tom Coomber on the 6th September

Well it finally happened. After reporting the pavement problems for several years and, more recently, your reply to our Parish Clerk dated 6 Aug, when yourselves consider there is nothing wrong with it, due to your incompetence and irresponsible approach my wife has now got a broken elbow which has necessitated the fitting of a steel plate in Ipswich Hospital after she tripped on a pothole, one of several reported along Ipswich Road that you don't consider a problem. We have two Openreach engineers as witnesses to the event. I'd like your comments to put before a legal brief that I intend to employ in a compensation claim. The attached photo is just one of three taken by the attending ambulance crew of my wife's injuries

Roads & Transport Report cont...

Reply from Suffolk Highways received the following day 7th September

Our staff have visited the location of your report and assessed the issue you reported. We believe that at this time it does not warrant remedial action. However, we will continue to monitor the location as part of our routine inspections, and if the matter worsens significantly, we will take action.

While we would like to resolve every problem as soon as it is identified, financial and practical considerations mean that we must prioritise our work, as set out in publicly available criteria, and based on the severity and risk associated with the defect.

Mr.Coomber registered a complaint with County Councillor Elaine Bryce on the 7th September.

17. Footpaths & Conservation Report - Mr.Caryer reported

Allotments

The allotments are looking very unkempt and in need of work. Problems include, unmaintained paths, the need to remove brambles and nettles in common areas, the need to remove a collapsed shed and trim overgrown hedges. In addition at least one overgrown vacant plot will need to be cleared before it can be allocated to a new tenant.

He proposed that the Parish Council consider one or more of the following:

- Seek a councillor, or councillors, to volunteer to take responsibility for the management of the allotments and, if they chose, to establish a management committee from allotment holders to assist them.
- Or, to seek tenders to manage the allotments
- Currently there is no written agreement with allotment holders, an agreement, based on other local allotments should be drafted.
- Increase allotment rent in 2021/2 to cover maintenance of common areas.
- In the short term, the Parish Council are requested to authorize the use of earmarked reserves to pay for the immediate clean up. There is currently of £1,255.63, earmarked to purchase land for allotments.

After discussion Mrs.Willetts proposed to unanimous approval that she and Mr.Caryer would approach three people in the village to..

- Remove the derelict shed
- Restore the overgrown Plot 17
- Trim back the hedge on the north bordering Thistleton and houses in Meeting Lane

The Clerk will distribute copies of a draft tenancy agreement.

18. To receive reports from Council representatives to village organisations

18.1 Village Hall Mr Cook reported

The construction of the New Village Hall continues to progress well, remaining on programme and budget.

The installation of the PV panels is underway, and thanks to generous donations from village residents and from those further afield, the Committee has been able to increase the number of panels originally intended, to almost maximise energy generating capacity, which is fantastic news.

Mr.Cook gave his huge thanks to Julian Brook for his continued work regarding the PV panel installation.

The installation of windows and doors is now complete, and the building is now officially “weather tight”

Internally, the insulation, plaster boarding and multi finishing will start WC 13/09/21 in the main hall area.

During this period operatives will be working at speed and at high level, so Mr.Cook asked that Parish Council members wishing to visit the site during this period, ensure they contact Mr.Cook prior to their visit, so he can ensure convenient and SAFE access. The site foreman will refuse entry to those turning up without prior notice.

Mr.Dunnett said he wished to be recorded the Council’s thanks to Mr.Cook for his tremendous work in building the new hall.

To receive reports from Council representatives to village organisations cont...

18.2 Playing Field Mr.Caryer reported

Play Area/Outdoor Playing Space Fund Report An update was received on activates to update and improve the play area. It was apparent from the report much hard work and progress had been achieved and the committee registered their appreciation. Discussion took place re planned equipment and the planting of trees and shrubs. It was agreed that a site meeting would be beneficial.

Maintenance/Cleaning/Covid

With the lifting of restrictions the pavilion and field are now fully functioning although social distancing and use of sanitizer in the pavilion is strongly advised. The carpet tiles laid earlier in the year enhances the appearance and it was agreed that matting should be laid either inside or outside of the doors leading onto the field to try and prevent mud being brought into the lounge during wet weather

Booking Secretary The post of booking secretary is still vacant.

Conifer hedge round tennis courts A youngster had been seen walking on top of the hedge and losing his balance which could have resulted in an serious injury. The chairman has contacted the tennis club to express the committee's concerns.

Oak Tree The Chairman had received a letter re the condition of the oak tree on the boundary of playing field overhanging the footpath. The tree warden will be asked to recommend what action, if any, is required.

Elm Tree The Chairman had also received a regarding planting a disease resistant elm tree on the edge of the playing field adjacent to the walk way through from Post Mill. Following a brief look at the proposed location, it was agreed that a more suitable location **was** should be found.

Pavilion Roof Advice is being sought on how to deal with the pavilion roof which is showing signs of rusting.

19. Public Open Forum

It was proposed by Mrs.Willetts seconded by Mr.Caryer, to unanimous approval, that the formal meeting be suspended, and members of the public invited to address the meeting

The following issues were raised

- New Village Hall Mr.Cook said, in answer to a question about feed in tariffs, that a decision had been made not to store Solar energy produced because of the sporadic use of the building by its nature, but rather sell it back to the grid which worked out financially better. The containment for vehicle charging points had been installed ready **for** if it is decided to put the actual charges in place.
- Millennium Meadow Mr.Dunnett reported when Greenways volunteers cut the grass they observed that the amphibian population was greater than any other site they had worked on.
- Post Mill Orchard footpath from Playing Field The ownership has never been established.

20. Items for next meeting

- Queens Platinum Jubilee 2022 celebrations

Mr.Dunnett requested that the following items be included in the agenda of the next meeting.

- St.Mary's Churchyard Has the Church any liability for accidents involving trees in the churchyard ?.
- Old School boundary wall The wall and the area around it is not being properly maintained. Mr.Dunnett asked that the Housing Association managing the site be informed,
- Village Green Stream There is no flow of water over the dam. Mr.Dunnett suggested that the earmarked reserve for the repair of the stream wall could be used.

21. Any other business

2021 Council Meetings November 8th.

22. Co-option of new members for Culpho and Grundisburgh – closed session

It was agreed to defer this item to the next Council meeting.

APPENDIX “A”

District Councillor’s Report to Grundisburgh and Culpho Parish Council For September 2021

Carlford and Fynn Valley Ward.

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

From District Councillor

Cllr Colin Hedgley

Bid to become City of Culture 2025

East Suffolk Council have joined forces with Great Yarmouth Borough Council for a bid to become UK City of Culture 2025.

The bid aims to showcase the region’s rich and multi-layered culture, its diversity, its people and their creativity, experiences, buildings and landscapes, opening them up to be enjoyed and engaged with by everyone and creating a cultural legacy for future generations.



It will play a key role in the efforts of both communities to overcome their challenges, helping local people to recover from the effects of the pandemic and forge new opportunities ahead, especially for young people. This is the first time a collection of linked or neighbouring towns have been eligible to apply together, and the joint bid has won the support of the New Anglia LEP, Norfolk County Council, Suffolk County Council, Norfolk Community Foundation, Norfolk Chambers of Commerce, Suffolk Chambers of Commerce, the area’s three local MPs and many other major regional public sector stakeholders, arts and community organisations. The decision on whether our bid has made it onto the long list will be announced in early September 2021, with the UK City of Culture 2025 winner being announced in May next year.

Former council offices back on the market

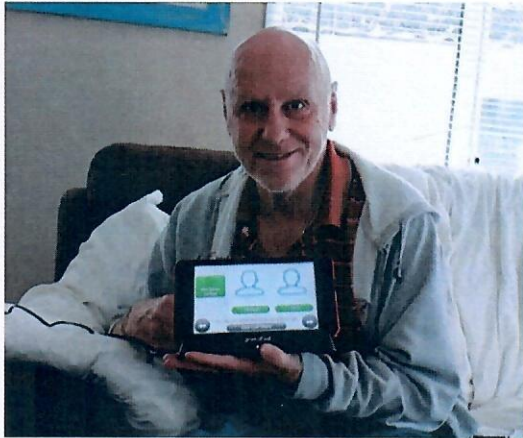
The former council offices on Melton Hill in Woodbridge have been empty for five years and following the end of contract with the site’s original developer, we are once again marketing the 3.23-acre site for sale to provide much-needed housing in this popular area.

To ensure that local people’s views are being heard and taken into consideration, we would like to see any potential developer coming forward to forging a close working relationship with the local community and Woodbridge Town Council.

Furthermore, ESC are committed to addressing the need for more affordable homes in the area and, as with any planning application of this size, the Planning Authority would expect any development to include provision for at least 33% affordable housing.

The site is being marketed by Beckland Property Consultancy and Brown & Co and interested developers should contact them directly for more information. Contact details can be found at www.brown-co.com

Reconnecting older people in East Suffolk



ESC is continuing to trial the Grandpad Loan Scheme, which is aimed at tackling social isolation amongst older residents or those struggling to use technology, particularly those who have little or no contact with loved ones or the outside world due to a lack of Wi-Fi, equipment and/or skills.

Initially launched in July 2020, the scheme has now been extended for another 12 months and a total of 175 Grandpads are now available to be

lent (free of charge) to older residents across the district who have been identified as being socially isolated. The devices, specifically designed around the need of older adults, include unlimited 4G internet, 24/7 personalised care and unlimited minutes, so users can easily make phone calls at no extra costs.

To nominate an eligible person for a Grandpad or for more information, people should email communities@eastsoffolk.gov.uk or call 01502 523119.

Older residents invited to free cooking workshops

Older people living in East Suffolk are invited to attend free cooking workshops to learn new cooking skills and recipes in a relaxed social setting.

The cooking workshops have been funded through the Interreg's European Regional Development Fund and is being delivered in a partnership between East Suffolk Council, Suffolk County Council and Food Savvy. Hosted by Chef Emma Crowhurst, the aim of the workshops is to help older people get more 'food savvy', so they can cook easy, nutritious and affordable meals at home, whilst in a relaxed social setting, where they can meet new people and make new connections.

Participants will also have the opportunity to meet link-workers from Connected Communities, which is a project designed to help older people who are feeling socially isolated and lonely to access health and well-being facilities and linking them to existing social and community groups.

There are 2 workshops to choose from, all start at 10am and finishing at approx 2.30.

- 9 September at Hollesley Village Hall
- 10 September at The Burness Parish Rooms, Melton

If you, or someone who you know could benefit from attending one of these sessions, please call 07385 415180 or email louise.carter@eastsoffolk.gov.uk

Residents urged to check waste carrier details

Householders in East Suffolk are being reminded of their legal responsibility when disposing of their household waste, after a Suffolk resident was fined over £1,200.

At a hearing at Ipswich Magistrates' Court on Wednesday 18 August, Kelly Holmes from Ipswich was charged with failing to fulfil her 'duty of care' towards household waste contrary to Section 34(2A) and (6) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990.

On 17 March 2020, the Council's Customer Services Team received a report of three black bags of waste which had been left on the verge in Monument Farm Lane, Foxhall. During a site visit the next day, officers from East Suffolk Norse found that the bags contained household waste, including paperwork addressed to Miss Holmes. When contacted, Miss Holmes stated that the waste was removed from her home address by a third party, along with some scrap items. Miss Holmes was given six weeks to provide details of this person however she did not respond and on 15 May 2020, she was issued with an £200 Fixed Penalty Notice, reduced to £120 if paid within 10 days. Miss Holmes failed to pay this notice, despite reminders being sent.

Miss Holmes did not attend her court hearing, having written to the court asking for the case to be heard in her

absence. The court found Miss Holmes guilty of breaching Section 34(2A) and (6) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 and fined her £200 for the offence, plus £1,000 for costs and £34 for the victim surcharge, totalling £1,234.

Cllr James Mallinder, East Suffolk's cabinet member for the Environment said: "There is no excuse for littering or fly-tipping. All residents have a responsibility to ensure their household 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. If your waste is found fly-tipped and you are unable to provide details about who took it away, then you will be held responsible and, as can be seen in this case, may have to pay a considerable fine.

"The high costs incurred here could have easily been avoided by paying the Fixed Penalty Notice when it was issued, or better still, ensuring the waste was properly disposed of in the first place. Residents should always use a licensed waste carrier, obtain a receipt and note down the registration number of the vehicle used to take their rubbish away.

"Disposing of waste correctly and reducing fly-tipping is an important aspect of dealing with the climate emergency. Information on how to dispose of all types of household waste can be found at www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk and at www.suffolkrecycling.org.uk."

Other News from the East Suffolk Area.



The new "Bug Hotel"
outside the Melton East
Suffolk Council offices.

FelixFest – The ultimate weekend of family fun

To celebrate the Women's Tour, one of the UK's biggest sporting events, finishing in Felixstowe this October, we're hosting FelixFest in partnership with Felixstowe Town Council – an ultimate weekend of fun for local people and visitors alike.



The celebrations will be taking place on the weekend of 8 - 10 October, kicking off on the Friday night with an outdoor cinema. The movie is yet to be decided, and all suggestions are welcome by email on leisure@eastsuffolk.gov.uk

The Saturday will see some of the

world's best cyclists racing to be crowned the 2021 Women's Tour champion in the Final Stage on Sea Road. Activities will be taking place on Saturday 9 October at the finishing line, prior to the Women's Tour final stage, including a 10km bike ride, children's races and lots of demonstration activities.

There will also be a Tour Village with stalls providing information, activities and representations from some of the sponsors of the Tour, a Pump Track for people to have a go on and entertainment and information talks on the podium over the weekend.

Felixstowe's first ever open water Triathlon will be taking place on the Sunday, with a standard (1500m swim, 40km bike and 10km run), sprint (750m swim, 20km bike and 5km run) and supersprint (300m swim, 20km bike and 3km run) on offer. The sprint and supersprint is open to all teams and businesses and you can enter now via www.felixstowetriathlon.uk

More information about the weekend, including road closures and parking suspensions, can be found at www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/leisure/womens-tour-and-felixfest/

Repairs to Southwold Harbour fender

Essential work to repair a fender at the entrance to Southwold Harbour begun on 19 July and is expected to be completed by the end of August, subject to safe working conditions.

Originally built in 1992, the fender prevents vessels from colliding with rock armour around the North Pier when entering or leaving the harbour. The repair involves removing and replacing steel piles, timber parts and the navigation light mast and gantry.

For safety reasons, there's no public access to the North Pier, dunes and beach to the east of the harbour car park for the duration of the works; the works compound is also occupying part of the car park so normal car parking capacity is reduced.

Full information can be found at www.coasteast.org.uk/latest-news-repairs-maintenance

Felixstowe becomes a Suffolk PING! Town

Felixstowe has officially become Suffolk's second PING! Town with 8 outdoor tables sited throughout the town.

The tables – located at six key play areas in the town along with two in the heart of the town centre at Great Eastern Square – have been made possible thanks to a wider partnership between Table Tennis,



Suffolk County Council led Most Active County Partnership, East Suffolk Council and Felixstowe Town Council. The aim of the partnership is to provide additional accessible opportunities for Suffolk residents of all ages to be active in their local community.

Over the summer holidays, coaches from Xtra Time are giving free 15-minute coaching sessions at different locations every Wednesday, where individuals, families or friends can sign up to learn more about holding the bat correctly, how to serve, how to score and how to play.

For more information about the project, including the location of the tables and how to book a spot at one of the free training sessions, go to www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/leisure/parks-and-open-spaces/outdoor-table-tennis/

Work starts at former high school site

Work has now begun on the former Deben High School site to demolish a large part of the former school buildings to accommodate a new leisure and housing development.

The original Lower School Assembly Hall will be retained as a community asset, marking and celebrating the site's former heritage. A local contractor, Clarkes Demolition Company, based in Kesgrave are undertaking the demolition and over 90% of the materials will be recycled. Once completed, the next step will see work start on the Housing Phase by the end of 2021 and the whole development is expected to be completed by 2023 (subject to work schedule info).

Find more information about the development and view the plans at www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/leisure/sport-and-leisure-development/plans-for-former-deben-high-school-site-felixstowe/

APPENDIX “B”

Cllr Elaine Bryce

Carlford Division

August 2021 Parish Council Report

Introduction

August is traditionally the time when many of us take the opportunity to take a break and recharge our batteries and I hope that many of you have taken the opportunity to have a well earned break. With uncertainty still remaining around travel, it's been heartening to see so many people enjoying what we have on our own doorsteps here in Suffolk and further afield in the UK, providing a much needed boost to our domestic tourism sector.

In the lead up to COP26, this reports focusses on a number of climate and environmental issues, which I hope you will find to be interesting reading.

Highways related issues continue to dominate my caseload at the moment, including verge cutting and footpaths, but I am pleased to be able to continue 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.

With best wishes,

Elaine

Cllr Elaine Bryce

Carlford Division

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Email: elaine.bryce@suffolk.gov.uk

Statement on behalf of all Suffolk councils regarding Afghan refugees

Statement on behalf of all Suffolk councils.

“On Wednesday 18 August, the Government announced its new resettlement scheme for Afghan refugees. Whilst the full details are yet to be confirmed, it is crystal clear that the Government needs local authorities everywhere to step up and support this national effort.

“All councils in Suffolk are committed to this cause. We have already helped a small number of Afghan interpreters and their families to resettle in Suffolk, in addition to ongoing work to support unaccompanied asylum seeking children and other refugees entering the UK. In the coming days and weeks, the district, borough and county councils will continue working with the Government to do what we can to provide assistance to vulnerable refugees.

“Times like this call for acts of humanity. Suffolk will play its part.”

Make one simple change today in a bid to tackle climate change

COP26 will bring into focus the need for us all to reduce our carbon emissions in order to slow climate change

A column by Councillor Richard Rout, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Environment at Suffolk County Council.

In early November, the eyes of the world will be on the UK. Glasgow, to be exact.

This is when the COP26 conference takes places.

COP26 is the UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties. It will be a momentous event and I expect some significant decisions and agreements to be made, as the world continues to combat climate change and reduce its carbon emissions.

But how will an international event affect each of us in Suffolk? Although COP26 will be an event attended by Presidents and Prime Ministers, it will impact us all.

COP26 will bring into focus the need for us all to reduce our carbon emissions in order to slow climate change. This has been the message for a long time of course, but we must all be changing our behaviours and choosing to use less energy.

And I do mean all of us.

Global industry, national corporations and governments must lead the way to enable us all to make greener choices. But slowing climate change is everyone's responsibility, we each have a duty to tackle this situation and play our part.

I'd suggest that there is at least one simple change or choice we can make immediately, which will help. My challenge to you is to make that one change today.

This could be to replace one meat-based meal each week with a plant-based one. Or start to swap over your traditional lightbulbs for LED ones. Or switching your gas or electricity tariff to one which uses 100% renewable energy. Or plan your food shopping so that you throw away less food. Or make purchases from businesses that are committed to reducing their carbon emissions. Or just boil the water you need for that morning coffee or cup of tea.

For me, making some of these changes has been a learning experience. I've discovered that it's easy to live with a plug-in vehicle without a home charger - I just need to plan my trips and use the chargers at the workplaces I visit. It was a change I made with trepidation but charging infrastructure is continually improving.

My partner is vegetarian and while I'm not, I enjoy some meat-free meals each week. Equally important for me is shopping local and making locally-sourced food choices. When I do eat meat or dairy, I choose local grass-fed options.

I now have LED lightbulbs at home and have installed smart sensors. The biggest change we've made is turning our back on fast fashion and spending a little more on clothes produced in this country and to a higher standard. It's too easy to order multiple cheap items online, only to return most of them! Shopping local isn't just good for the local economy but it's better for environment too.

I am not claiming that by doing these simple things, we are going to reverse climate change overnight. The point is to challenge the status quo in our lives and start to change our behaviours.

And yes, organisations like Suffolk County Council must lead by example. We continue to lobby Government to make the bigger changes necessary which enable each of us to make greener choices.

Suffolk County Council has been addressing climate change challenge for many years, but we know that the organisation must be doing more and doing it more quickly. This is agreed across all Suffolk's authorities which is why, together, we have recently approved the Suffolk Climate Emergency Plan - a document to keep us accountable in our ambition to make Suffolk a carbon neutral county by 2030.

I'm proud of the work Suffolk County Council has been doing for a number of years now. We are planting trees and hedgerows. We are supporting businesses with advice and funding to reduce their carbon emissions. We are running schemes to reduce the cost of solar panels on homes. We are providing the infrastructure to encourage walking and cycling. We are providing greener ways to travel. We are installing electric vehicle charging points in rural areas. There is much, much more besides, but we are working hard to develop this work.

Don't worry if you're still not sure what it means to you, your business or your community. With COP26 just three months away, organisations and authorities across Suffolk are planning events across the county to talk net zero and being carbon neutral. Whether at the start of your net zero journey, or you're looking to make the next step, these events will guide and inspire you.

The www.greensuffolk.org website will be updated soon with these Suffolk events. I'd recommend it as a great place to start finding out more.

Suffolk plans climate change events ahead of COP26

It was announced on August 11th that in the build-up to COP26, events around Suffolk will showcase local businesses and people who are tackling climate change, to inspire others to follow. The events aim to encourage businesses and residents to do more personally and professionally to reduce carbon emissions and therefore slow the increase of climate change.

One of the events confirmed to be taking place in Suffolk is the visit of the national Zero Carbon Tour, organised by Planet Mark. The Tour sees a fully electric 'Carbon Battle Bus' making visits around the country before arriving at the COP26 conference.

Councillor Richard Rout, member of the Suffolk Climate Change, Environment and Energy Portfolio Holders' Group, and deputy leader and cabinet member for Finance and Environment at Suffolk County Council, said:

"I'm delighted that Suffolk has been chosen to be part of the national Zero Carbon Tour, as I'm proud of all the climate change work that is going on here. I want more people to hear about it. Although many local authorities declared climate emergencies in the last couple of years, I want people to know that Suffolk has been addressing climate change for many years before that.

"But we must all be doing more to reduce our carbon emissions. Which is why colleagues from across the county have recently worked hard to produce and approve the Suffolk Climate Emergency Plan. This gives Suffolk's public sector organisations a framework and commitment to each pursue our own net zero strategies, whilst working together for the benefit of Suffolk. Together, we are supporting and guiding our residents, communities and businesses to make the changes required to best set Suffolk on the path for carbon neutrality by 2030.

"I think the COP26 conference will be an influential moment in our ambitions for Suffolk to achieve net zero by 2030. Coupled with the recent IPCC global warming report, it should focus everyone's minds that each resident and business must be doing more and doing it more quickly."

The purpose of the Zero Carbon Tour is to discuss the concept of net zero carbon and why it is critical for businesses. Suffolk's businesses, organisations and community groups will share their stories about how they have started their journeys to net zero. This will inspire and give confidence to those considering how to reduce their carbon emissions.

Steve Malkin, Founder and CEO, Planet Mark, said:

“There is no doubt, we are living in a seminal and historic moment in time. 2020 – 2030 has been coined the Decade of Action, a period in which we need to tackle the climate crisis and halt biodiversity loss. The global pursuit of net zero carbon emissions is a huge undertaking, and only possible with help from businesses and communities alike.

“We are excited to bring the net zero message to Ipswich, and share the ‘carbon stories’ of organisations, community groups and individuals playing their part in creating a sustainable future for Suffolk, the United Kingdom and beyond.”

It will be visiting the University of Suffolk in Ipswich on 1 September 2021 and [you can register your place here](#).

This event and others are taking place across Suffolk in the lead up to COP26, as part of Suffolk’s collective campaign of Creating The Greenest County, and be net zero by 2030. As part of the Suffolk Climate Emergency Plan, these events look to encourage collaborative action by educating and engaging with residents and businesses to develop net zero journey.

Other events which are being planned in Suffolk in the lead up to COP26 include:

- August/September – Webinars for Suffolk’s voluntary sector (Suffolk County Council)
- 1 September – Zero Carbon Tour visits Ipswich
- 12 October – Ten Steps to Net Zero (Suffolk Chamber of Commerce)
- 21-22 October – Local Energy Showcase (Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Council)
- TBC October - A Greener NHS day
- 12 November – Greenest County Awards (Suffolk County Council)
- 23-25 November – Low Carbon Homes

All events are subject to change, visit www.greensuffolk.org for the latest details and information about starting your journey to net zero.

Suffolk homeowners can cut carbon emissions as successful solar panel buying scheme returns

On August 25th it was announced that Suffolk residents will come together to invest in renewables through a group-buying scheme for solar panels and battery storage.

Solar Together Suffolk, in conjunction with Suffolk County Council, helps homeowners feel confident that they are paying the right price for a high-quality installation from pre-approved installers.

This innovative scheme builds on three years of the highly successful Solar Together programme run in Suffolk. Since 2018, the scheme has installed solar panel systems in 1,028 households across the county. On average, homeowners have saved 33% on installation costs, £263 on energy bills in year one, and stopped harmful carbon emissions entering the atmosphere.

Suffolk residents have until 27 September 2021 to register their interest, for free and with no obligation, to join the group-buying scheme to have solar panels installed at their home. Not only does Solar Together Suffolk offer solar panels, but also optional battery storage and retrofit battery storage for residents who have already invested in solar panels.

Suffolk County Councillor Richard Rout, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Environment, said:

"I'm delighted that we're able to run Solar Together Suffolk for another year, as we have seen a real appetite amongst residents to play their part and invest in ways to reduce their carbon emissions. This is one of the many schemes we are offering, as Suffolk County Council aims to make the county net zero by 2030.

"The council itself has had solar panel installations for many years, which are located on around 100 of our properties. We have also been trialling battery storage too. This means that we rely less on the grid for our energy, by harnessing energy from the sun. Suffolk's councils have worked together for many years to reduce carbon emissions and slow climate change. We now do this through the Suffolk Climate Emergency Plan, and with COP26 on the horizon we will all need to focus on how we can all lower our carbon footprint and help make Suffolk a carbon neutral county."

How does it work?

- Until 27 September: Householders can register to become part of the group, for free and without obligation, at www.solartogether.co.uk/suffolk
- 28 September: Pre-vetted UK solar PV installers participate in an auction. They are able to offer competitive pricing as the volume and geographic concentration makes it possible for them to realise greater efficiencies, which they pass on with lower prices for installations.
- After the auction, registered households will receive a personal recommendation which is specific to the details they submitted in their registration.
- If they choose to accept their recommendation, the specifics of their installation will be confirmed with a technical survey after which a date can be set for the installation of their solar PV system.
- Telephone and email helpdesks are on-hand throughout the whole process which, together with information sessions, will allow households to make an informed decision in a safe and hassle-free environment.

Suffolk County Council brings [Solar Together Suffolk](#) to residents as part of the Suffolk Climate Change Partnership, on behalf of all of Suffolk's local authorities. This is in partnership with independent experts iChoosr to make the transition to clean energy as cost effective and hassle-free as possible. Across the UK, iChoosr has delivered almost 5,000 installations to date and over 80,000 tonnes of avoided lifetime carbon emissions.

What other Suffolk residents have said:

"All very painless and straightforward. Being part of a large group gives you the confidence that problems will be resolved should they arise, but none did!" Peter, Bury St Edmunds; 16 panels installed.

"Excellent! Solar Together Suffolk took all the hassle of finding a provider, and the group-buying secured me a better discount than trying to do this on my own. It was a no-brainer. Richard, Bures St Mary; 24 panels installed.

Suffolk's new Chief Fire Officer appointed

On August 12th, Jon Lacey was appointed to the post of Suffolk's Chief Fire Officer and Executive Director for Fire and Public Safety.

Starting in November, Jon will lead Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service and its staff, as well as having responsibility for Suffolk County Council's Trading Standards and emergency planning services and being a member of the corporate leadership team.

Jon will bring a wealth of experience to Suffolk, gained from a 24 year career with fire and rescue services. He began in 1993 as an on-call firefighter with West Sussex Fire and Rescue Service, before becoming a wholetime firefighter.

He is currently Assistant Chief Fire Officer at West Sussex Fire and Rescue Service and has responsibility for Prevention, Protection and Response, as well as the county council's Resilience and Emergency Team, a service like Suffolk's Joint Emergency Planning Unit.

Councillor Andrew Reid, Cabinet Member for Public Health, Public Protection and Communities at Suffolk County council, said:

"I welcome Jon's appointment, he will bring great experience and knowledge to Suffolk. The role is a very important one to keeping Suffolk safe - of course he will lead our Fire and Rescue Service, but also has responsibilities across the council, including Trading Standards and emergency planning. It is an exciting time for him to be joining us, following the Service's 'Good' rating by Her Majesty's Inspectorate and the investment we are putting into operational equipment and new fire stations."

Nicola Beach, Suffolk County Council Chief Executive, said:

"I am delighted that Jon has accepted the offer to join us in Suffolk. We put all candidates through an extremely thorough process over a number of weeks, in front of wide-ranging and diverse panels. Jon presented himself very well during interviews and presentations and we all felt that he is someone who brings strong experience to the team and someone we would enjoy working alongside."

Dan Fearn, Suffolk's Deputy Chief Fire Officer will continue in the role of Chief Fire Officer and Executive Director on an interim basis until Jon starts his role in November.

Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service adds four new enhanced appliances to its fleet, fitted with solar panels

On August 27th Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service unveiled its state-of-the-art rescue vehicles and equipment to equip firefighters with the latest technology for rescues.

Four new "enhanced rescue tenders" will be based at Bury St Edmunds, Lowestoft, Newmarket and Princes Street (Ipswich), giving cover across the county and strengthening the emergency response across Suffolk's communities.

The new equipment and vehicles are also the latest innovations in green technology, supporting Suffolk County Council's climate emergency declaration and ambitions to be net zero by 2030. The fire appliances are the first in Suffolk to be fitted with solar panels, have more fuel-efficient engines and also carry battery powered hydraulic rescue equipment.

Dan Fearn, Temporary Chief Fire Officer, said:

"This is a significant investment in the Service's capability to deal with many types of rescues, including those on Suffolk's roads. To make sure we get the best equipment possible, we've carried out extensive operational testing and spent time getting feedback from staff.

"The equipment carried on-board is dedicated specialist equipment for carrying out rescues, ranging from car crashes to building collapses and making the scene of an incident safe.

"My team is made up of exceptional operational and non-operational staff. I want to give them the best possible equipment so that they can carry out their work to the best of their ability."

Councillor Andrew Reid, Suffolk County Council Cabinet Member for Public Health, Public Protection, & Communities, said:

“The vehicles are strategically placed across the county to deliver the fastest response to the community of Suffolk. I’m delighted that we’ve been able to add this next-generation equipment to our growing fleet. We have also recently introduced three new command support vehicles and we have further investment in the pipeline.

“Suffolk County Council aims to be a net zero authority by 2030, and I applaud the Service for setting an excellent example by embedding this ambition in its procurement.”

Easing of restrictions when visiting Suffolk’s Recycling Centres

Suffolk is set to continue on its path of working towards full capacity at recycling centres as Monday 19 July brought an end to lockdown.

Much like many other recycling centres across the country, Suffolk’s Recycling Centres have been operating a socially distanced system during the pandemic.

From 19 July, there have been some changes to the rules when visiting the county’s recycling centres, but residents will still need to book, pending a full review of arrangements.

The changes will take place in two phases to enable a managed increase in the number of bookings and to ensure that sites are operating safely and effectively.

Phase one from Monday 19 July

- The one visit per week rule will remain in place, but an extra 3,760 slots will become available per week
- Cars with small trailers will now be able to book a 15 min car slot (750kg max gross weight, single axle and unbraked) and will also be allowed at Haverhill Recycling Centre
- Cars with large trailers will now book a 30 min large trailer/van slot (over 750kg max gross weight, double axle or braked), apart from at Haverhill Recycling Centre due to its size
- Vans without trailers will be able to book at all Recycling Centres (including Haverhill). Vans must book a 30 min van slot
- Vans with trailers are still prohibited from using any of the recycling centres
- Social distancing will be removed from all sites. Cars can park next to each other (as directed by site staff) and restrictions on number of people on walkway/gantry removed
- Staff will be able to assist visitors if requested. (All staff will wear FFP3 standard face coverings when assisting and follow good practice on Covid hygiene)
- More than one adult will now be allowed to unload per vehicle
- Guidance will remain for the public to continue wearing face coverings if possible. Face coverings for staff remain optional except when assisting the public

Phase two from Monday 16 August (In addition to changes in phase 1)

- An additional 4,500 slots will be made available per week, taking Suffolk’s Recycling Centres to full capacity (weekly total to 27,422)
- Removal of one visit per week rule for household waste
- Trade waste will remain restricted to one visit per week (to ensure fair usage of the system which is mainly designed for residents’ household waste)

A customer survey from March 2021 revealed 91% of booking system users were satisfied or very satisfied (with a further 4% being neutral) and 92% of customers had a problem-free experience when using the booking system.

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

“I am really pleased that from 19 July we are able to start increasing capacity at our recycling centres by reducing some of the restrictions we had in place so we can soon be back to full capacity. We are doing this in two phases to ensure that our sites are operating safely and smoothly.

“In response to overwhelming customer satisfaction, the booking system will remain in place for the moment at all of Suffolk’s Recycling Centres. We have received many compliments about the staff on our sites and I would like to thank them for their hard work and dedication for what has been a difficult year.”

Suffolk County Council begins procurement process for next Highways Service contract focusing on developing local skills and talent

Suffolk County Council has begun the process of finding its next long term Highways Services partner. The council is looking for a partner to deliver key operational projects after the current contract ends on 30 September 2023.

As part of preparations up to this point, the council has worked with leading industry analysts to understand the different types of arrangements that other local authorities have in place, to look at which specialist providers are in the marketplace and to find out what aspects of contract agreement may work best for Suffolk based on the range of outcomes the council wants to achieve from any new contract process.

The council is looking to develop a contract that utilises a blended ‘hybrid’ approach, enabling the council to enter into one contract that covers the majority of Highways Service functions and two contracts with specialist providers for streetlighting and traffic signals (ITS). The council will be looking for the new contract to focus on delivering greater social value, utilising local skills and talent, giving young people the opportunity to work in the sector as well as building on the council’s commitment to carbon reduction and protecting the environment.

The whole contract development process will take just over two years to complete. Once the appropriate tender documents have been prepared outlining the council’s requirements, initial advertisements will go out in December 2021. Discussions will begin with any interested prospective contractors in early 2022. Following such a rigorous tendering process, the council hopes to be able to award its chosen contract in early 2023 with the new service provider beginning in October 2023.

The procurement process needs to begin now to provide enough time to go to the market to seek relevant specialist companies which may be interested in tendering for the contract which is worth in the region of £800m - £1 billion over a projected 20 year period.

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

“This is the beginning of the process today towards finding the right partners to deliver aspects of Suffolk’s Highways Services beyond the end of the current contract in 2023. We want to get the best value for money for Suffolk taxpayers and ensure that the contractors we choose through the hybrid contract approach are the best fit for what we want to achieve and deliver.

“We have learnt a great deal from our existing contract arrangements and going forward I want to ensure this new contract enables more young people across Suffolk to access apprenticeships and relevant work experience opportunities through the Kick Start scheme. We want to find the right partner who shares our ambition and ideas to innovate in improving delivery of services, communicating with customers and sharing our commitment to reducing carbon use as part of the Climate Emergency.

“In preparing for this contract we have rightly spent time considering how other local authorities manage their Highways contracts and which process would be best for Suffolk as we look towards finding the right long term service delivery partner.”

Suffolk targets devolution talks with Government

It was announced on August 17th that public sector leaders in Suffolk say they welcome early discussions with Ministers about a possible devolution deal for Suffolk.

In a joint letter sent to Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP, the leaders of all of Suffolk's six councils and Police and Crime Commissioner Tim Passmore, said:

"Suffolk has already demonstrated its credibility as a place where Government will find strong and ambitious delivery partners.

"The Suffolk Public Sector Leaders (SPSL) group...has a track record of effective partnership working. These robust relationships enable more innovative ways of working, including exploring opportunities for devolution as part of a County Deal.

"Suffolk...is an ideal place to help Government demonstrate how levelling up can work in diverse geographies. Suffolk has a strong offer to make to Government and we would welcome early discussions with MHCLG Ministers to explore proposals for a County Deal ahead of the White Paper being published."

The Government wrote to councils in July 2021, setting out its ambition to make available to county areas the kind of devolved decision-making powers and public funding currently enjoyed by larger cities and urban areas. It's part of the Government's Levelling Up agenda and will see a White Paper published in the coming months.

Councillor Suzie Morley, Leader of Mid Suffolk District Council and chair of the SPSL, said:

"Suffolk is known for working well together. Whether it's partners joining forces during the COVID-19 pandemic, pooling public funding for the greater good or developing shared strategic priorities, collaboration is what we're good at.

"From inclusive economic growth and community safety to climate change and strong communities, we're focused on collaborative actions that deliver the biggest and best additional benefits for our communities.

"We believe this makes Suffolk a strong contender to work with the Government as part of its Levelling Up agenda."

It is understood that Suffolk's approach involving all councils is rare among other expressions of interest being submitted to Government, a point that has been welcomed by the county's seven MPs.

In an accompanying letter to Robert Jenrick MP, they said:

"We are...writing to wholeheartedly support the vision set out, collectively, by Suffolk County Council and all of Suffolk's District and Borough Councils. We believe this unity of purpose behind taking the next step in devolution through a County Deal can not just help persuade you that we should be in the vanguard of the next stage of devolution, but also that Suffolk can use such a deal to deliver better services locally.

"This is not a recent or short-lived view. For many years local leaders in Suffolk at all levels have worked more closely together, and have put forward constructive propositions for further improvements. We hope to work with you on your forthcoming White Paper to show that strong local leadership and strengthened local governance can deliver better."

Read a copy of [the letter sent to Robert Jenrick MP](#) (PDF, 207KB), as well the [supportive letter from Suffolk's seven MPs](#) (PDF, 205KB).

APPENDIX "C"

Budget 2021/2022

01/04/2021 Through 31/03/2022 Using Budget 2 (in Pound)

08/09/2021

Page 1

Category Description	01/04/2021 Actual	- Budget	31/03/2022 Difference
INCOME			
Allotment Rent	186.00	192.00	-6.00
Bank Interest	0.00	100.00	-100.00
Precept	10,096.00	20,100.00	-10,004.00
TOTAL INCOME	10,282.00	20,392.00	-10,110.00
EXPENSES			
Administration			
Audit Fee	200.00	200.00	0.00
Clerk			
Expenses	187.72	500.00	312.28
Income Tax	641.00	0.00	-641.00
Office	0.00	577.00	577.00
Payroll Service	0.00	90.00	90.00
Salary	1,539.15	3,854.00	2,314.85
Soc.Clks	0.00	95.00	95.00
Training	0.00	50.00	50.00
TOTAL Clerk	2,367.87	5,166.00	2,798.13
Clrs. Exp.Train	0.00	300.00	300.00
Data Protection	0.00	40.00	40.00
Hire of Rooms	0.00	250.00	250.00
Insurance	260.68	300.00	39.32
Laser Printer	0.00	200.00	200.00
Parish Meeting	0.00	435.00	435.00
Photocopying	0.00	110.00	110.00
SALC	559.77	550.00	-9.77
Stationery	0.00	100.00	100.00
Website	110.00	100.00	-10.00
TOTAL Administration	3,498.32	7,751.00	4,252.68
New Village Hall			
Grant	819.12	0.00	-819.12
Grant CIL	5,181.20	5,181.00	-0.20
TOTAL New Village Hall	6,000.32	5,181.00	-819.32
Run Costs			
Bus Shelters			
Cleaning	0.00	300.00	300.00
Repairs	0.00	200.00	200.00
TOTAL Bus Shelters	0.00	500.00	500.00
Defibrillator	0.00	250.00	250.00
Highways			
SAVID	0.00	100.00	100.00
Snow Clearing	350.00	0.00	-350.00
Speedwatch	203.57	300.00	96.43
TOTAL Highways	553.57	400.00	-153.57
Local Fighting Fund	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Pks Open Spa			
Allotments	41.51	200.00	158.49
Dog Fido Bins	53.36	0.00	-53.36
Footpaths & Environment	0.00	150.00	150.00
Grundisburgh Baptist Church	195.00	195.00	0.00
Litter Bins	0.00	100.00	100.00
Millennium Meadow	187.69	1,100.00	912.31
Playing Field Play Area Reserve	0.00	250.00	250.00
Playingfield	559.86	900.00	340.14

Budget 2021/2022

01/04/2021 Through 31/03/2022 Using Budget 2 (in Pound)

08/09/2021

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Category Description	01/04/2021 Actual	- Budget	31/03/2022 Difference
Playingfield Play Area	145.00	2,500.00	2,355.00
St.Bots	195.00	195.00	0.00
St.Mary	640.00	640.00	0.00
Village Greens			
Mowing	1,096.00	2,000.00	904.00
Posts & Rails	67.68	300.00	232.32
Stream	0.00	500.00	500.00
Trees	555.00	0.00	-555.00
Xmas Tree	0.00	180.00	180.00
TOTAL Village Greens	1,718.68	2,980.00	1,261.32
War Memorial	0.00	100.00	100.00
Wheeled Bin	216.73	100.00	-116.73
TOTAL Pks Open Spa	3,952.83	9,410.00	5,457.17
TOTAL Run Costs	4,506.40	11,560.00	7,053.60
Section 137			
British Legion	80.00	80.00	0.00
Citizens Advice	50.00	50.00	0.00
CPRE (Suffolk Preservation Soc)	0.00	36.00	36.00
Disability Advice Service	50.00	50.00	0.00
East Anglian Air Ambulance	100.00	100.00	0.00
Lighthouse	25.00	25.00	0.00
Lunch Club	200.00	200.00	0.00
Sflk Accid Resc	100.00	100.00	0.00
St.Botolphs Benefice Magazine	100.00	100.00	0.00
Suffolk Family Carers	50.00	50.00	0.00
SWLT	75.00	75.00	0.00
TOTAL Section 137	830.00	866.00	36.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	14,835.04	25,358.00	10,522.96
OVERALL TOTAL	-4,553.04	-4,966.00	412.96