

Grundisburgh & Culpho Parish Council
Minutes of a meeting of the Council held on the 14th March, 2022 in St.Mary's Church, Grundisburgh

NOTICES had been posted according with regulations.

Present: - Messrs. S.Barnett, G.Caryer, A.Dunnett, J.Dunnett, D.Higgins, J.Lapsley, R.Youngman, Mrs.Bignell, Dr.E.Hodges, Mrs.A.Willetts (in the chair) District Councillor C.Hedgley and 9 members of the public.

1. **Apologies for absence** Messrs.B.Cook, M.Rankin and County Councillor E.Bryce.
2. **Election of Chairman** As the Clerk had not received any nominations for Chairman Mrs.Willetts continued to chair the meeting.
3. **To receive member's declarations of interest** No interests were declared.
4. **Minutes** - The minutes of a Meeting of the Council held on the 17th January 2022 had been circulated and were therefore taken as read. It was proposed by Mrs.Bignell seconded by Mr.Caryer, to unanimous approval, that these minutes be signed by the Chairman as a true record.

Matters arising

Mr.J.Dunnett read the following statement...

"Before we proceed with the meeting, could I ask that my thanks to the Clerk for his recent threatening letter be minuted. The essence of the letter was that if I did not sit with the council without an acceptable excuse I would be thrown off the council forthwith.

Casting your minds back to the November 2021 meeting you will remember that not only was I recovering from a serious health problem but that I was also the subject of two complaints to the District Council Monitoring Officer. I explained that these were the reasons I attended as a member of the public.

At the January meeting I continued to sit with the public. Thankfully I had made a recovery from my operation and was leaping about like an 84 year old. But the cloud of formal complaints was still hanging over me.

Tonight I can report that the vindictive complaints relating to my reasoned response to the consultation on the Chapel Field proposals have been resolved, not without considerable cost to the District Council in letter writing and the identification and cost for the services of an independent adjudicator.

Please include me as an attendee of the current meeting."

The Clerk, supported by the chairman, refuted Mr.Dunnett's allegation that his letter was "threatening". He merely pointed out in the letter that The Local Government Act 1972 states that when a Council Member fails to attend any meeting for six consecutive months he ceases to be a member of the authority unless the Council accepts a reason. If he didn't attend this meeting he should be automatically removed which would have put his colleagues in a very uncomfortable position.

Mr.Barnett said that a Councillors presence at a meeting whether he participated as a member of the Council or public constituted attendance.

The Clerk reminded councillors that the unanimously agreed minutes of the Council Meetings held on the 8th November 2021 and 17th January 2022 did not list Mr.J.Dunnett in the list of attendees and both had recorded under the list the following statement.

"Mr.J.Dunnett sat with members of the public and did not participate in the meeting as a parish councillor".

5. **Meeting Lane Verge** Mrs.Willetts reported that she had circulated Suffolk County Council's proposals for the reinstatement of the verge to councillors on the 3rd February asking for their approval which a substantial majority gave.

Mrs.Willetts proposed, seconded by Mr.Higgins, that the Parish Council should contribute up to £1,500, which combined with grants from Suffolk County Council (half cost) and East Suffolk Council, will finance the reinstatement of the Meeting Lane Verge. Approved 9 members voting for the resolution. One member abstained.

Meeting Lane Verge cont...

"Mr Higgins emphasised his concern that the Parish Council seemed to be intending to sanction the total expenditure of c £4,500 on repairing and re-instating the verge without having sufficient understanding of the scope and scale of work to be undertaken. It was his opinion that in the absence of such detail the Parish Council could not convincingly, responsibly nor legitimately sanction the works to be undertaken as a sustainable repair that represented good value for residents' money.

Mrs Willetts stated that all works on the verge would have to be done to Suffolk County Council Highways specifications.

Mr.Caryer reported that residents living opposite the verge, who were unaware of the proposed work, expressed the hope *"they put the posts in far enough back to allow us a decent swing out with the car and to allow large delivery vehicles room to turn in!"*.

It was agreed that the final plans of the restoration of the verge should be made available to the public when published.

6. Chapel Field development. Residents had been asked to submit proposals for the names of five new roads which will be created on the development. Dr .Hodges, Mrs.Bignell, Mrs.Willetts and the Clerk volunteered to form a sub-committee to scrutinise the large number of names received, which had been circulated to members prior to the meeting, and make recommendations.

7. Public Open Forum It was proposed by Mrs.Bignell seconded by Dr. Hodges, to unanimous approval, that the formal meeting be suspended, and members of the public invited to address the meeting. The following issues were raised.

- Chapel Field The drainage on the field was previously reported as excellent. Residents, living nearby, disagreed
- Ukraine Disaster Fund A majority of those present agreed that the Parish Council should not make a donation but that donations should be made by individuals.
- Otley Road The residents of Grundisburgh Corner are very concerned about the affect the lengthy closures at Otley Bottom will have on Charity Lane which is likely to be used as an unofficial diversionary rout. There have been 2 accidents recently, that have brought the increasing dangers firmly into focus. County Councillor Elaine Bryce is well aware of the residents concerns.

On return to the formal meeting a proposal from Mr.J.Dunnett that the Parish Council should donate £2,500 to the Ukraine Disaster Fund did not receive any support.

8. Allotments Mrs.Bignell reported that a small group of allotment tenants had been very active and working hard to draw up an action plan to make improvements on the allotments. At the moment is was aa informal group but may be formalised later. They recommended the following works.

- Installation of additional water points at the top and bottom of the site would make a significant improvement.
- The hedge at the top of the field hadn't had any maintenance for 15years and was now 30 feet high. They recommended that it be cut back to a height of 6 feet.
- A large amount of rubbish had accumulated over the years and was sufficiently large to warrant the hiring of a skip for two weeks.

Mrs.Willetts proposed seconded by Mrs.Bignell, to unanimous approval, that £1,255 in an Earmarked Reserve for the eventual purchase of allotments should be used now for work on the allotments and the allotment rent should be increased to £25.00 per plot,

9. Old Forge Stores Forecourt Mrs.Willetts reported that our County Councillor Elaine Bryce is contacting the County Council member for Highways to arrange a sites visit to ascertain the management of water draining from the road on to the site. The condition of the adjoining road has considerably deteriorated.

10. Queens Platinum Jubilee 2 – 5 June 2022 Mrs. Willetts distributed a Poster, Appendix "A", advertising the Jubilee Programme.

11. Annual Parish Meeting This meeting must be held between March 1st and June 1st. It was agreed that the meeting should be held April/May in the Village Hall. Dr. Hodges and Mr.Caryer agreed to organise the event.

12 Planning Report Mrs. Willetts reported .

12.1 Applications refused by East Suffolk Council since the last Parish Council meeting.

DC/21/1458/FUL Hill House Woodbridge Road. Full planning permission was sought for the retention of works undertaken to change the planning use of an existing outbuilding from garage/playroom to online clothing shop at Hill House, Woodbridge Road, Grundisburgh.

The application also sought to retain works undertaken to extend the host dwelling's residential curtilage into the countryside.

Mr. Youngman questioned the reason for the refusal of this application.

Mrs Willetts explained the planning authority considered the retention of the existing clothing shop would represent a retail development and 'Main Town Centre Use' that is disconnected and distant from a Town Centre. The site's countryside location is poorly served by bus links and pedestrian access resulting in visiting members of the public being largely reliant on private motor vehicle to access the site.

The proposed extension of the curtilage would result in a disproportionately large plot relative to the dwelling's size. A lack of boundary treatments would also result in a hard edge between the proposed curtilage extension and countryside, thereby presenting a harmful visual intrusion into the open character of the site's settlement edge location. The advertising signage and the retention of the existing retail development further urbanises and would bring disturbance to the site's peaceful countryside location.

Greenways, Meeting Lane, Grundisburgh. Outbuilding in front of property has been removed.

12.2 Applications approved by East Suffolk Council since last Parish Council meeting

DC/21/5503/FUL 18 Thompson Close. Timber Structure to front of the property.

Other works to trees is recommended within the Arboricultural Report however these are not a requirement of this application. These are not approved as part of this application but will need to be included in a separate TPO tree works application.

DC/21/5365/VOC Grundisburgh Village Hall Ipswich Road Grundisburgh. Variation of Conditions 7 & 11 of DC/19/4773/OUT - Demolition of existing village hall and erection of residential development - revised layout. |DC/21/5367/ARM | Approval of Reserved Matters.

DC/19/4773/OUT - Demolition of existing village hall and erection of residential development - revised layout.

DC/21/5367/ARM Approval of Reserved Matters of DC/19/4773/OUT - Demolition of existing village hall and erection of residential development Grundisburgh Village Hall Ipswich Road Grundisburgh Detailed plans for 2 dwellings with car ports elevations, landscaping, layout and access.

DC/22/0226/TCA Little Rosehill Rose Hill Grundisburgh T1 - Cherry - Section dismantle to near ground level using modern Arboricultural rigging techniques to lower the sections of the tree to the ground in a controlled manner.

T2 - Honey locust - Crown reduction, reducing height and spread of the tree by 1.5-2m and balance.

T3 - Willow leaved pear - Prune back to previous points and shape.

12.3 Applications received by East Suffolk since last Parish Council meeting.

DC/22/0371/FUL Hill Cottage Meeting Lane Grundisburgh Rear Extension and garage roof.

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

14. County Councillor's Report Appendix "C"

15. East Suffolk Community Partnerships Mr.Caryer reported

East Suffolk Council are giving Parish Councils the opportunity to influence the future priorities of our local Community Partnership. The April meeting will include discussion about current priorities and whether they are to remain or be amended.

The partnership's current priorities are:

1. Reducing social isolation and loneliness
2. Environmental Care
3. Helping people to age well
4. Road and Traffic Safety

It was agreed that children's welfare should be added.

So far £60,000 has been allocated to projects that have a practical impact on the priorities.

16. Financial Matters

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

Suffolk Coastal Norse Ltd	£57.82	Emptying St.Mary's wheeled bin
Westcotec Limited	£69.00	SID Bracket
Anglian Water Business (National) Ltd	£30.69	Allotment water charges
M.P.Stephenson & Sons	£160.00	Christmas Tree
Suffolk Coastal Norse Ltd	£28.91	Emptying St.Mary's wheeled bin
Mr.J.Ager	£513.05	Clerk's Salary December 2021// January 2022
	£52.78	Clerk's Expenses
	£98.00	Society of Local Council Clerk's 2022 Membership
	£40.00	Data Protection Fee
Vertas Group Ltd	£227.56	Playing Field Grass Cutting 01/01/2022-31/03/2022
St.Mary's PCC	£40.00	Use of St.Mary's Church for Council Meetings held in 2021 19 July, 13 September, 8 th November and 17 January 2022
Suffolk Coastal Norse Ltd	£115.63	Emptying St.Mary's wheeled bin

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

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

Mrs.J.Bignell	£36.00	Christmas Tree gratuities
Anglian Water Business National	£7.27	Water charges – allotments
Suffolk Coastal Norse Ltd	£63.98	Dog waste bags

Other payments requiring approval

Mr.J.Ager	£513.05	Clerk's Salary February/March 2022
	£73.86	Clerk's Expenses
SALC	£27.00	Payroll Service
HM Revenue & Customs	£256.40	Income Tax
Suffolk Coastal Norse Ltd	£57.82	Emptying St Mary's wheeled bin
Mr.R.Fletcher	£190.00	Village Green grass mowing & stream dredging
Mr.P.Franklin	£325.11	Chainsaw – for use on the Millennium Meadow

The need for training in chainsaw use and insurance will be considered by the Footpaths & Environment Sub-Committee.

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

16.3 Account Balances as at 14th March, 2022

Business Tracker Account	£62.63
Current Account	£20,948.75
Post Office Investment account	£21,376.64
VAT to claim	£676.54
TOTAL	£43,064.56

Financial Matters cont...

16.4 Budget Report Appendix "D"

16.5 St.Mary's Churchyard Wheeled Bin Suffolk Coastal Norse have increased their charges for Trade Waste Bins due to increased disposal costs. The annual cost to the Council will now be in the region of £800 and Mr.Caryer recommended, and it was agreed, that the 2022/2023 budget, currently £400, should be increased to £800.

17. Roads & Transport Report Mr.Caryer reported

17.1 Lower Road Weight Limit At the moment County Council Highways are currently going through a Lorry Route Review so are not going to progress any new applications for weight restrictions until that has been completed.

The proposed restriction will require a new traffic regulation order and as part of any design the alternative routes such vehicles will take will need to be investigated to ensure they are not diverted along an equally unsuitable road.

The approximate cost of introducing the traffic regulation order is likely to be approximately between £10,000 and £15,000. Highways have stated that they do not have any central budgets for this work so this would have to be locally funded.

A letter requesting comments on the proposal to introduce a weight limit on Lower Road has been distributed to all properties in Lower Road and other nearby residents and circulated on Grundisburgh News Group.

17.2 Charity Lane/Otley Road Problems continue with numerous vehicles, including HGVs, using the lane as an unofficial diversion route especially when B.1078 and B.1079 closures take place.

17.3 Speedwatch/SID Speedwatch activities continue. The shared SID has now moved on to Tuddenham. A new rota will be established when the second SAVID SID has been delivered.

Suitable locations are being sought for a SID post on the Ipswich Road, to replace the one removed by contractors, without notice, as part of the EA2 clean-up.

Update awaited from the County Council on ANPR SID trial.

17.4 Quiet Lanes

Wave 1 & 2

Due to a technical issue the County Council's Legal department had to re-issue the Wave 1 designation notice and did so in conjunction with Wave 2. Those notices appeared in the EADT on 22nd Feb 2022, copies are now available at selected public libraries and Endeavour House (Reception).

Wave 1 & Wave 2

Quiet Lane Designation took effect from the 9th March 2022. Signage that isn't already in place can then be put up as the final step in the designation process, bringing the lanes into operation.

Contractors are installing remaining posts. Once installed Parish Councils will be fixing signs to posts.

County Council Legal have asked that Parish Councils enter a formal arrangement with Suffolk County Council regarding the self-installation of signs. SCC, SHA & QLS have devised a simple 5-page document that sets out the legal liability and Health and Safety aspects of that arrangement. A copy of the document will be sent to parishes with instructions on what to do with it. It will need to be signed by the parish volunteer first and then Suffolk Highways (on behalf of the County Council) before they can give the Parish Council signs to install.

Mrs.Willetts proposed seconded by Mr.Lapsley, to unanimous approval, that the Parish Council should sign the agreement,

17.5 Road/Traffic Signs Damage to Meeting Lane/Chapel Road sign and to the S bend warning sign on the Woodbridge Road (B.1079) have been reported to the District and County Councils respectively.

17.6 Kesgrave, Martlesham, Rushmere St Andrew and villages Road Safety Forum

A meeting was held on February 2022. Mr.Caryer was not able to participate.

Issues raised included problems on the B1079. The representative from Hasketon stated that they had not seen any movement regardless of assurances made in the past. Frustration was noted with Highways lack of action following assurances.

Roads & Transport Report cont...

The Great Bealings representative reported the extension of the 30mph limit in Boot Street had reduced the amount of speeding on that street and thanked the Community Partnership for its £500 contribution. Other issues discussed included Speedwatch, SID and ANPR SIDs.

17.7 Suffolk Highways Community Self Help Scheme Due to “limitations on local authority budgets”, Suffolk County Council are offering communities the opportunity to get involved. The range of works that town and parish councils will be able to undertake via Suffolk’s Community Self-Help Scheme include:

- Grass cutting
- Tree pruning
- Weed clearance
- Siding out of footpaths
- Cleaning around gullies
- Sign cleaning
- Painting street furniture

Four options are highlighted:

1. Buying in services from a private contractor
2. Using your own trained employees
3. Using community volunteers
4. Buying in additional services from Suffolk Highways

Suffolk County Council will not directly contribute to the cost of Community Self-Help projects; however they do offer things like free training and PPE. They are also happy (in most instances) to reimburse the cost of equipment, such as tools or materials, assuming they’d be useful when carrying out a supported activity onsite. Additionally, in special cases, highways may be able to assist with traffic management, if there’s a particular job that is slightly beyond your volunteer’s capability.

Highways state *“Please rest assured that we do not expect local councils to ‘take over’ from our day-to-day responsibilities, however we realise that they may wish to go over and above the level of service we can currently offer. For instance, a town/parish may wish to cut grass verges more often than we do, or clear weeds more frequently”*

It was agreed that the Parish Council should adopt the following approach.

- As a general principle, to only consider undertaking work via Suffolk’s Community Self-Help Scheme, in specific instances, when sufficient community volunteers and equipment are available.
- If the Parish Council require work beyond the capability of available volunteers, we will probably need to raise the precept to fund the work.

18. Footpaths & Conservation Report Mr.Caryer reported. No meetings of the Footpaths and Conservation Subcommittee had been held since the previous meeting.

18.1. Path on Green The section of path from the crossroads to the footbridge was found to be in need of repair and as a result a quote of £1,345.26 plus vat has been received for the repair and resurfacing of this path. As requested at the last meeting, additional quotations have been requested from Booths Tarmacadam and EFM Surfacing Contractors. Neither company has responded. Dr.Hodges proposed seconded by Mrs.Bignell, to unanimous approval, that the Parish Council accepts the quotation of £1,345.26 plus VAT to repair the footpath.

18.2 Footpath Finger Posts A number of damaged finger posts have been reported.

18.3 Discovering Suffolk Project Plaques have been received for mounting on Footpath Finger Posts. These are being distributed to volunteers for fixing.

Footpaths & Conservation Report cont...

18.4 Grit Bin It is proposed to move the Grit bin, on the verge outside the new village hall, a few feet to the right. The new location would be directly in front of the pedestrian gate where the footpath dog legs to one side to meet up with the pavement. The aim is to make it less likely that children running through the gate could run straight out into the road. Mr.A.Dunnett offered to help to move the bin.

18.5 Village Green Stream Wall An examination of the state of the brickwork identified the major area needing work as the weir at the boundary with The Coach House. The weir is leaking, brickwork is missing on one side and damaged by tree growth on the other. The sluice gate also requires maintenance or replacement. It was agreed that quotations should be obtained for the repair of the weir.

18.6 Millennium Meadow Working parties continue every month. New volunteers are always welcome.

18.7 Sunday Walks Sunday walks were held in February and March.

18.8 Keep Britain Tidy Great British Spring Clean takes place 25 March – 10 April. Volunteers are being sought to litter pick streets/lanes and footpaths in Grundisburgh. Mr.Caryer can supply bags and have a few litter pickers that people can borrow.

A rubbish walk (litter pick) will be organised. Volunteers will be requested to agree to litter pick specific areas of the village.

18.9 Water Testing River Deben - invitation to participate During the past two months, Woodbridge Town Council has become concerned about the news relating to the quality of the water in the Deben. As a result it formed a partnership with the University of Suffolk in Ipswich, with a view to setting up its own testing facility.

In December, the Council carried out an initial study, testing the water in thirteen locations along the river, from Debenham down as far as Woodbridge. E.Coli, the level of Nitrates in the water was tested and what was found was very concerning.

Extremely (and illegally) high E.Coli levels were found at three locations: Debenham, Easton and Wickham Market. Lower, but still illegally high levels were found at several other locations.

In every one of the thirteen locations, illegally high Nitrate levels. were found.

Clearly, more work needs to be done. Because there is no 'designated bathing spot' on the Deben, the Environment Agency does not routinely test the water. The Council feels that in Woodbridge that this is not acceptable.

Consequently, steps have been taken to begin regular monitoring of E.Coli and Nitrate levels. The source of Nitrates is most likely run-off from agricultural land.

1. A incubator and associated testing equipment has been purchased. A Citizen Science group to collect, process and document testing will be established. The resulting data will be made public, once verified by the University.

2. The Council have proposed setting up the Deben Climate Focus Area. This will be comprised of town and Parish Councils which lie on the Deben. Melton and Martlesham Parishes have already signed up.

Woodbridge Town Council invites this Parish Council to consider joining The Deben Climate Focus Area. It believes that a group such as this may well be able to effect some change in the way in which Anglian Water and the EA approach this problem.

If the Parish Council wishes to know more a short presentation, can be delivered in person, or via a Zoom call and as for getting you up and running, an on-site sampling session, can be arranged. .

19. To receive reports from Council representatives to village organisations

Playing Field Mr.Caryer reported

Children's Play Area

Komplan are busy with the new play area, fencing and gates along with the new equipment are now all in place. Painting of the old structures together with the installation of the safety mats is underway. To repair the roundabout, the worn bearings had to be cut out and new bearings installed.

The Horticultural Society have agreed to a planting programme which is due to commence on March 6th, with other sessions on March 12th and April 16th. The committee will provide refreshments for the volunteers on those days.

It is currently planned to have the area officially opened on April 19th at 1.00pm.

Pavilion Roof

The Playing field Management Committee Chairman is awaiting further feedback from Mr Cook who had volunteered to speak to a reputed builder as to the possible solutions to treating the roof. The chairman said that he would contact Mr Cook.

Queen's Platinum Celebrations

The draft programme of events regarding the Queen's Platinum Celebrations includes a games afternoon with a picnic on the playing field at 2.00pm on Friday June 3rd. (note now rearranged to 11:00am on Friday June 3rd)

Other Maintenance

In addition to the roundabout, the chairman has repaired two broken benches and will coat the woodwork with additional preservative. The football club have replaced the two floodlight stanchions that had been declared unsafe on the field

AGM

The AGM will be held on 25th April 2022 at 7.00pm

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

- Old Forge Stores Forecourt A County Council Highways Officer had visited the site and recommended that a kerb demarcating the boundary of the road and forecourt and a drainage channel should be installed.
- Council Meetings A straw poll revealed that an overwhelming majority of those present preferred that winter meetings of the Council should be held in the Village Hall.

21. Items for next meeting No items were suggested.

22 Any other business

2022 Council Meetings May 9, July 11, September 12, November 14

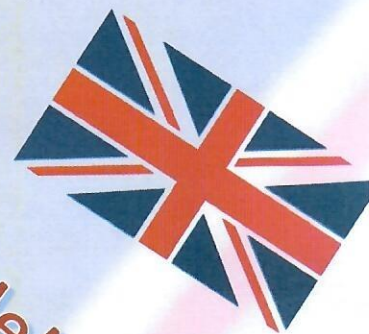
23. Co-option of new member for Grundisburgh – closed session

After discussion it was agreed to co-opt Mr. Mike Harris as member for Grundisburgh.

Action Summary

- 6. Dr .Hodges, Mrs.Bignell, Mrs.Willetts, Clerk
- 8. Mrs.Bignell
- 11 Dr. Hodges, Mr.Caryer
- 18.1 Mr.Caryer
- 18.4 Mr.A.Dunnett
- 18.5 Mr.Caryer
- 20 Clerk

Appendix 'A'



Grundisburgh Village Jubilee Celebration

Jubile've It!

2nd, 3rd & 5th June

BBQ

GAMES

THURSDAY 2nd

10:00	Coffee Morning, Flower Festival (ALL WEEKEND!) Church
12:30	Music from the Queen's Reign Village Green
13:00	Town Crier, Proclamation Village Green
14:00	Over 70's Tea & Entertainment Village Hall
19:00	Scout: Campfire, Songs, Entertainment Village Green
21:15	Lighting the Beacon, National Anthem Village Green

RAFFLE

FRIDAY 3rd

	Flower Festival Church
11:00	Family Games Playing Fields
TIME TBC	Family Festival Village Hall & Lawns
	(Fairground games, raffle, food stalls and more)
TBC	Grundisburgh's Got Talent and Live Music Village Hall

BONFIRE

LIVE MUSIC

SUNDAY 5th

	Flower Festival Church
17:30	Songs of Praise Church
19:00	BBQ for everyone Village Green
TBC	Music and Fireworks Village Green/Church

FIREWORKS

SAVE THE DATES! Get your talent act sorted (U12s, U18 & Adults)

VOLUNTEER TO HELP!

CONTACT US, BOOK YOUR ACT!

events@gnvh.co.uk

TALENT SHOW

FLOWER FESTIVAL

LIGHTING OF THE BEACON

Appendix “B”

District Councillors Report to Grundisburgh and Culpho Parish Council For March 2022

Carlford and Fynn Valley Ward.

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

From District Councillor

Cllr Colin Hedgley

Millions of pounds of investments approved for projects across East Suffolk

Investment worth over £339 million has been approved for projects across the district.

As part of our budget setting process, a programme of capital expenditure, including a General Fund Capital Programme and Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Capital Programme, has been agreed.



Within the programme, over £118m has been allocated for planning and coastal management projects over the next four years, with a further £36.86m for economic development and regeneration schemes.

Some of the major projects to receive investment within this period include:

- £96m for permanent flood defences to protect homes and businesses in Lowestoft
- £50m for the Felixstowe North Garden Neighbourhood Regeneration Project, including a total of £44m to provide a new leisure centre and associated infrastructure
- £14.2m for the enhancement of Southwold Harbour and Caravan Park (subject to external funding)
- £6.4m on creating start up units for local businesses in Lowestoft
- £5.75m for the development of the South Seafront area and Martello Café, in Felixstowe
- £3.3m for Thorpeness flood defences (subject to external funding)
- £0.69m for Thorpeness emergency flood defence works

Projects already allocated funding from this year's budget include the replacement of beach huts in Lowestoft (£1m), the purchase of land to extend cemetery provision across the district (£395,000) and the development of sports hubs in Felixstowe (£197,000).

Levelling Up White Paper announcement

The first nine areas to be invited to agree new county deals have been announced as part of the Government's Levelling Up White Paper.

The areas invited to begin negotiations will be Cornwall, Derbyshire and Derby, Devon, Plymouth and Torbay, Durham, Hull and East Yorkshire, Leicestershire, Norfolk, Nottinghamshire and Nottingham, and Suffolk.

It is really pleasing that Suffolk is one of the nine areas to be chosen for a county deal. It offers significant possibilities in terms of addressing regional inequalities, maximising resources and ensuring greater accountability, here in Suffolk, for powers previously held in Westminster.

Naturally, we are committed to ensuring that any deal benefits East Suffolk and its residents, and we're now looking forward to further discussions with our partners and the Government to consider how a county deal can work for our communities. It's important that any deal contains a policy and funding mix which can make a real difference, and we eagerly await the full details of the White Paper.

Closure of second homes tax loophole

We welcomed the announcement that a loophole which allowed some second home owners to avoid paying either council tax or business rates is to be closed.

The announcement comes as a result of a two-year campaign following an article in The Times which exposed the loophole of second home owners being able to register for business rates, then claiming relief by stating that their properties were available for let for 140 days each year but without actually having to let them.

Under tough new measures, effective from April 2023, those second home owners will have to prove that their holiday lets are being rented out for a minimum of 70 days each year in order to access small business rates relief, where they meet the criteria.

Holiday let owners will have to provide evidence such as the website or brochure used to advertise the property, letting details and receipts.

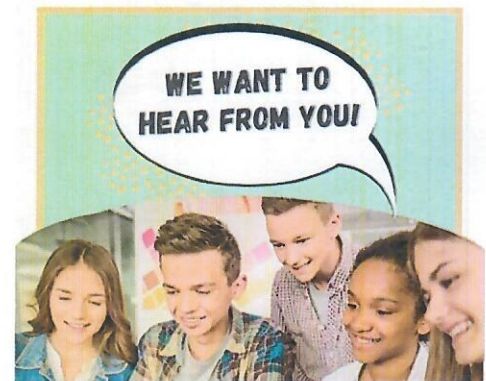
Properties will also have to be available to be rented out for 140 days per year to qualify for the relief.

Youth Voice is back!

A scheme dedicated to involving young people in local issues which affect them is back and we want as many youngsters as possible to get involved and help make a real difference.

Youth Voice was designed to make it easier than ever for young people to share their thoughts and to see how these opinions can help shape their communities.

A new website has been created with a simple form



for young people to have their say and it will also be widely promoted in schools and via social media – including a dedicated Instagram account. This will be alongside Youth Voice ‘collection boxes’ which have previously been placed in a variety of locations and used successfully to develop new ideas.

Any information which is provided is then shared with organisations and key decision makers who can help address the issues raised and help make a real difference, such as local councillors, East Suffolk Community Partnerships, Suffolk Police and other key partners.

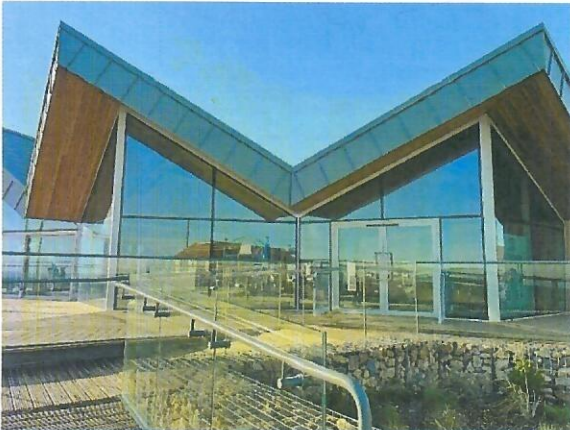
Anyone aged between 11 and 24, can share their thoughts online quickly and easily by filling out a short form at https://my.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/service/Youth_voice

Youth Voice is also on Instagram now so young people can see how their feedback is helping to make real changes in local communities by following ‘[eastsuffolkyouthvoice](#)’.

The Communities Team is currently contacting sites, such as schools and youth clubs, which had ‘Youth Voice collection boxes’ installed prior to the pandemic to encourage them to reinstall these as the service relaunches.

Landmark building completed on Felixstowe's South Seafront

As part of ongoing investment in Felixstowe's South Seafront, the development of a new iconic building has now been completed, bringing a new exciting resort experience one step closer.



The building will house a new café named 'The Kitchen @ Felixstowe', run by our operational partners, The Kitchen @ Group, who are currently carrying out the internal fit out which will include a bakery counter, contemporary brasserie type menu and unrivalled sea views.

Once completed, the café will play a key role in helping the town as it continues recovering from the impact of Covid-19,

attracting local people and visitors alike by offering indoor and outdoor dining with unspoilt views of the seafront. This will not only support tourism, but it will also help the economy by offering local employment opportunities, making the South Seafront an exciting place to visit, live, work and invest.

Interactive tool allows public to monitor progress on delivering Local Plans

An interactive online feature has been launched for the public to track progress on the implementation of the Suffolk Coastal and Waveney Local Plans.

It includes a range of monitoring data covering housing, economy, retails, natural environments and many more topics and can be accessed at <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/dfbbb431cf6c44c88bc58975e59ce191>

Work begins on demountable flood gate

Construction has begun on a demountable flood gate on the South Pier in Lowestoft as part of wider flood defence work, which will see the construction of glass floodwalls around the Royal Norfolk and Suffolk Yacht Club and the South Pier.

Having started on Monday 17 January 2022, construction will continue until March. Following a summer break to prevent disruption during the busy tourist season, work will then recommence in October 2022. The walls are due to be completed in spring 2023.

Post Office conservation repairs has begun

Conservation repairs to the façade of the Grade II listed former Post Office on London Road North in Lowestoft, carried out as part of the Lowestoft Heritage Action Zones project, started on Monday 17 January 2022.

It was built as a central post office for the town and served to combine several of the more provincial post offices which existed across the town prior to the 1880s.



Planning and listed building consent has been approved for works to fix the roof, repair the windows, carry out conservation of stonework on the façade and reconfigure the ground floor windows to restore the entrance to the central bay of the building, as per the original design. This will incorporate repositioning the existing ramp which would greatly improve the appearance of the building.

These repairs will be funded through the London Road, Lowestoft High Street Heritage Action Zone, financed by [Historic England](#) and East Suffolk Council, delivered in partnership with [Lowestoft Town Council](#) and East Suffolk Building Preservation Trust.

Three fined for breaching planning enforcement notice

Three people have been sentenced after pleading guilty to breaching an enforcement notice issued by the Council.

The enforcement notice related to the change of use of land, without planning permission, at Bridge Farm, Top Street, Martlesham, from a mixed use for agriculture and storage of cars and containers, to the storage of vehicles, containers, caravans, trailers, boats, digger buckets, lorry backs, bricks, building materials, pallets, wall insulation, scrap metal, metal drums, lorry trailers, rubbish, tyres, and other miscellaneous items not associated with agriculture.

Two of the defendants were each fined £2,000 and ordered to pay £1,500 in costs and a court surcharge of £190, while the third was fined £1,000 and ordered to pay £855 costs and a £100 court surcharge.

Read the full release with all the details at www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/news/three-fined-for-breaching-planning-enforcement-notice/

Funding

Some very worthwhile projects have received funding from your local councillors Colin Hedgley and Tony Fryatt this financial year:

- Singing Ducklings £475. (CH & TF)
- Womens Refuge £2000. (CH & TF)
- Grundisburgh Playing Field £2000 (CH & TF)
- Grundisburgh New village Hall Solar Panels £1000 (CH)
- Angela Cobbold Hall Little Bealings £400 (CH)
- Rushmere Village Hall £2000 (CH)
- Bealings village hall £900 (CH)
- Grundisburgh School Verge Safety £1000 (CH)
- Riding for the Disabled £1000 (TF)
- Swilland & Winesham Play equipment £1000 (TF)

Re Cycling- Some questions and answers

How is your recycling dealt with?

(Press Cntrl then left click, in order to follow the link)

- <https://www.suffolkrecycling.org.uk/learning-zone/where-recycling-goes>

What Happens to the Content of my Recycling Bin?

- When we recycle our household waste in East Suffolk this is only start of the process .
- Many people ask – what happens to my recyclable materials? Upon collection, waste from our blue bin is taken to the Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) at Great Blakenham, operated by Biffa, where it is sorted and packed.
- For metals, 3,278 tonnes were recycled in the UK and 313 in Germany.
- For cardboard the result is more varied: only 389 tonnes were recycled in the UK, while 5,729 tonnes were sent to (in descending order) Turkey, Taiwan, India, China, Vietnam and Thailand. For paper, similarly, 5,770 tonnes were recycled in the UK while 16,427 tonnes went to India, China, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand and Vietnam.
- For plastics, 6,059 tonnes were recycled in the UK while Turkey and Romania took most of the remaining 2,000 tonnes.
- Figures are for last year (2020/21).
- This of course begs the question, why are we exporting so much and not recycling our own materials here? Is it because we do not have the industries in the uk that use these materials . And this leads us to the bigger issue of how all our decisions are interlinked to the world and yes decision we make locally can have an impact in some far away county . These are global markets . Just think for a moment where most of our consumer goods are produced , in fact just look at where food is produced .
- Another question often asked is, how much of the material collected is used? Contaminants such as general rubbish, food, glass, cartons, textiles and even used nappies need either to be removed by hand, an unpleasant and potentially dangerous job, or sometimes the whole load has to be rejected. In

2020/21 13,000 tonnes of wrong material were put in Suffolk's household recycling bins, resulting in a contamination rate of 25%. This is bad for the environment and costly for taxpayers.

- Residents ask why glass isn't allowed in the blue recycling bin. Glass is the best item to recycle. Often when we talk about recycling items are just downgraded into their component parts. However glass is recycled into glass. – and this cycle can be never ending . However to achieve this we need a completely separate stream of collection , hence the bottle banks . So when we take glass to these banks we really are doing something important to help the environment .
- Questions on what can and can be placed in the blue bin or how to dispose of different items – big or small can be found at : <https://www.suffolkrecycling.org.uk/a-z-of-recycling>
- The environment bill was passed last year by Westminster and this year long awaited secondary legislation will be passed allowing substantial changes in how waste will be collected . Residents may be asked to have different bins and manage waste in new ways, and I will explain more about this when we know more.
- But for now we should think about reduce , reuse and recycle .
- And just pause and think about what we are putting into the blue bin .

Chance to run the runway as charity event returns to MOD Woodbridge

A charity fun run is set to return to a military base near Woodbridge next month in support of the armed forces community, past and present. The third Honour Run, organised by East Suffolk Council and the Suffolk branch of the Royal British Legion (RBL), will set off from Rock Barracks on Sunday, March 13. New for 2022 will be a half marathon distance, along with the established 5km and 10km runs, which people can choose to walk, jog, or run to raise funding for the Poppy Appeal. This is a unique opportunity to run within MOD Woodbridge, and with some of the route on the historic runway, it's one not to miss.

In previous years, Honour Run participants helped to support former and current service personnel by raising more than £3,500 for the appeal. With East Suffolk Council committed to promoting physical and mental well-being, the Honour Run provides a great opportunity for people to take part in an organised sporting event for a good cause.

Rock Barracks is home to soldiers whose regiment provides engineer support to two Royal Engineers Regiment and was granted the Freedom of Woodbridge in 2006.

Anyone who would like to help out, without taking part, can volunteer to assist with the running of the event by emailing activecommunities.scdc@eastsoffolk.gov.uk or calling 01394 444652. For more information and to sign up, visit the [running page](#) of the East Suffolk Council website.

Your District Councillors are:-

Colin Hedgley (Colin.Hedgley@eastsoffolk.gov.uk)

Tony Fryatt (Tony.Fryatt@eastsoffolk.gov.uk)

Appendix “C”

**Cllr Elaine Bryce
Carlford Division
March 2022 Parish Council Report**

Introduction

I’m pleased to report that at its Full Council meeting on 17th February, Suffolk County Council approved its financial budget for 2022-23, along with its first-ever full Net Zero carbon budget. In particular, I’m pleased that the budget will deliver more money to support children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), extra resources for adults in need of care and additional funds to help prevent flooding and fix footpaths. In particular, I’m pleased to see an additional £21 million investment into our highways - £10 million for improvements to drainage, £10 million for footpaths and pavements and a further £1 million of additional capital expenditure for our highways.

I’m also especially pleased to see the commitment from Suffolk County Council to commit to further enhance Suffolk’s precious natural environment by enhancing the biodiversity of at least 30% of its land and assets by 2030. This commitment will see the council progress its work around managing highway trees, planting more hedgerows, delivering nature-based flood management solutions, roadside nature reserves and much more.

I hope this report is a helpful update but as ever, please don’t feel you must wait until your next Parish Council meeting before raising any issues or concerns with me. My door is always open, so to speak, so please drop me an email and I will always do my best to try and help.

With best wishes,

Elaine

**Cllr Elaine Bryce
Carlford Division
Suffolk County Council, Endeavour House, 8 Russell Road, Ipswich, Suffolk IP1 2BX
Tel: 07955 434440
Email: elaine.bryce@suffolk.gov.uk**

Council focuses on children’s services, adult care and the environment, as budget confirmed

Suffolk County Council has approved its financial budget for 2022-23, alongside its first-ever full Net Zero carbon budget. Both items were passed at the Full Council meeting on Thursday 17 February 2022, **providing a focus on children’s services, adult care and the environment.**

The council’s budget will rise by 4.5% (from £598.2m to £625.4m), with the additional money generated by a 1.99% increase in council tax, a further 1.00% from the Adult Care Precept, and an increase in grants received from the Government.

The Net Zero carbon budget will allow the council to measure its carbon emissions, and monitor and evaluate the impact of decisions it makes. This will mean it can report each year on its progress, tracking its ambitions towards Net Zero.

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

“Today was the first time the council chamber has witnessed a financial budget and a carbon budget being approved. It is important to give our Net Zero Carbon Budget equal weighting to our financial budget – it highlights our commitment to responding to our climate emergency declaration.

“Our financial budget means we will not see any reductions in our services, and we’re further investing where it is most needed. Our aim is always to provide the best possible services for everyone in Suffolk and provide value for money.”

The overall increase of 2.99% to council tax, will see a Band D property’s bill rise by 80 pence per week. The council’s Cabinet had the option to increase the adult care element of council tax by a further 1%, but decided against this.

Councillor Rout explained:

“By paying this extra each week, we are all helping the council to provide its key services, and helping support those who need it most.

“We recognise Suffolk residents are seeing increases in the cost of living, whether at the supermarket, on the high street, and of course with energy bills. We did not feel it right to ask everyone for even more from their council tax bill - there is a balance to be had.

“We have been facing huge challenges, particularly the increase in demand on children service’s and adult care. But we are confident that our budget addresses these challenges without the need to ask even more from our residents.”

Some of the key detail of the budget, includes:

- £1.1m increase for the family services budget, specifically to address recommendations made by the recent independent SEND review
- £1m additional funding for Suffolk Highways over the next four years, for example to fund road signs and responsible verge cutting
- £10m to specifically deliver an increasing number of drainage schemes (over the next three years)
- £10m to improve footpath quality and access (over the next three years)
- £12.8m to decarbonise the buildings that SCC owns (by 2030)
- Investments this year to set up future borrowing for bigger schemes, such as SEND and carbon reduction

75p of every £1 Suffolk County Council spends goes towards supporting those who need it most through Adult Care, Children’s Services, and Public Health.

The remaining 25p in every £1 is then used to cover the cost of other vital services, including Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service, road maintenance, footpaths, waste services, libraries and addressing the challenges surrounding climate change, to name just a few.

Good news for Suffolk Government gives the green light to negotiate a County Deal

As part of the Government’s Levelling Up Paper, Suffolk has been successfully chosen as one of nine areas across the country to have been given the opportunity of negotiating a new County Deal. This is fantastic news for Suffolk, but we don’t have a Deal just yet and we have many more months of negotiations and discussions with Government ahead of us before we can look to finalise an actual deal.

Some of the areas included in Suffolk’s initial discussions centred around the development and roll out of Oyster style travel cards to increase the attractiveness and effectiveness of public transport and longer term funding for major transport infrastructure upgrades, not just one-off funding.

We also discussed with Government the opportunity of keeping all the apprenticeship levy funding raised in Suffolk in Suffolk, benefiting more people here. This could create the opportunity to work with the University, colleges, business and others to explore how this money could be better used.

Negotiating the devolution of the powers necessary to develop more innovative projects to help deliver further action on Climate Change and make good on our promises around net zero by 2030 are also possible.

Suffolk County Council has been ranked as the **third-best county council nationally for our response to the climate crisis**, and our ambitions in this area could be taken further still via a County Deal.

One of the areas which attracts attention is the potential for a directly elected Mayor of Suffolk, like the Metropolitan Mayors across the country in areas like the West Midlands. **This is not something which Suffolk has asked for and importantly not something we need to secure a deal with Government.**

So the opportunity of a County Deal is the result of an ongoing dialogue to promote Suffolk to central Government strongly supported by our MPs and the partnership working with district and borough councils. Going forward this partnership working will continue alongside health partners, emergency services, the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chamber of Commerce.

A Deal would help to unlock more potential in Suffolk and help us level up across the county; especially as we start to slowly escape the clutches of COVID. We will negotiate hard for a deal that will give us the tools we need to build back better, build back stronger and build back greener.

Council's commitment to further enhancing Suffolk's natural environment

Suffolk County Council will be doing even more for the county's natural environment, as it **confirms plans to enhance the biodiversity of at least 30% of its land and assets, by 2030.**

This means it will be progressing its work around managing highway trees, planting more hedgerow, nature-based flood management solutions, roadside nature reserves, and much more.

The council already planted 100,000 trees last year, and is on course to plant another 100,000 this year. It has also put in around 20 kilometres of mixed species hedgerow.

Biodiversity is in decline nationally, and across the globe. These plans are not just about stopping its decline here in Suffolk, but reversing it. By 2030 SCC wants to see much more biodiversity on its estate than there is now. The council can have great influence on the natural environment, as it is a significant landowner, it is also the highway authority and it builds new housing.

SCC has made a lot of progress in recent years, not least with its tree planting, having committed to £400,000 from its Suffolk 2020 Fund. Just a few months ago SCC secured more funding from the Forestry Commission, on behalf of the borough and district councils, to plant trees in neglected and disused community spaces, bringing them back to life.

SCC will ensure it manages its highway verges for biodiversity wherever possible; it will support its county farm tenants to enhance biodiversity across SCC's farm estate; and it will deliver twice the biodiversity net gain required through its housing programme.

By working with partners and local communities, SCC can help wildlife to thrive, increase habitats and species across the county, and reverse the decline we've seen.

Ben McFarland, Head of Conservation, Suffolk Wildlife Trust, said:

"To tackle the twin crises of the climate and biodiversity emergencies it's essential that nature is embedded into our collective decision-making. This bold, ambitious plan from Suffolk County Council does just that.

"We need at least 30% of our land and sea in recovery for nature by 2030. Showing leadership, working collaboratively, and acting on carbon and nature together will underpin a healthy and thriving Suffolk for everyone. This is a hugely positive step forward for our county."

The plans will also help work towards the council's ambitions of being a Net Zero organisation by 2030, with Suffolk's nature being an integral part of the carbon cycle.

The policy's ambitions stretch across the whole organisation, from looking at the impact of street lighting, to how it procures goods and services.

One example of the positive changes that the council will make, is to stop using Glyphosate in all highway maintenance operations. This will happen as soon as it is able to deploy a suitable alternative, and at the latest by 2023 for routine weed treatment programmes. The council will work with other local authorities, both locally and through the Local Government Association, in reaching this goal as soon as possible.

The proposals were agreed at Suffolk County Council's Cabinet meeting on 1 February 2022, following the work undertaken by the Policy Development Panel which was set up in July 2021.

£6.4 million project to 'Reclaim the Rain' and tackle flooding

Norfolk and Suffolk County Councils have been successful in winning £6.4 million to implement innovative sustainable water management projects. Both councils placed a joint bid into DEFRA's 6-year Flood and Coastal Resilience Innovation Programme and were 1 of 25 successful projects chosen to take part.

The joint project, named '**Reclaim the Rain**' sets out to improve flood and drought resilience in at least six small rural communities across Norfolk and Suffolk.

Norfolk and Suffolk both face considerable surface water flood risk, while also being the driest region in the UK. The project will deliver beneficial flood water reuse by agriculture, industry, communities, and the environment combined with nature-based flood management solutions. The project will involve both partner organisations and the community in the development of suitable flood water reuse schemes. The schemes will address the community's needs in terms of flood risk and water resource requirements, and could result in provision of:

- Habitat creation and restoration;
- Rain Gardens;
- Rainwater Capture and Reuse for community, agriculture or business use;
- Retrofitted sustainable drainage systems (SuDS);
- Smart Leaky Water Butts and more...

To find out more about Reclaim the Rain and how you can get involved, visit: www.reclaimtherain.org.

Otley Bottom bank repairs to start next month

Important maintenance works to stabilise and repair the damaged bank on the B1079 at Otley Bottom are to start next month. This is something which I have been pressing hard to deliver and have had regular meetings with Suffolk County Council's Cabinet Member for Highways, Cllr Paul West, and senior highways officers.

I use this stretch of road very regularly and fully understand, and share, the frustrations caused to local residents and road users. I have been working alongside Otley Parish Council and pressing Suffolk County Council hard to try and reach a prompt and satisfactory solution.

The works, which are finally due to begin on Monday 28 March 2022 and last approximately six weeks, have been planned in to repair a highway bank collapse due to erosion from the river. Currently temporary traffic signals are in place to keep vehicles off the area - avoiding further subsidence, and to ensure the safety of the travelling public.

There have been a number of complexities associated with the location; such as its proximity to the river and the potential for further erosion, the need for consent from the Environment Agency to work adjacent to the watercourse and the need to reposition an undermined telecoms pole. These complexities alongside resource issues related to COVID has resulted in a delay of repairs.

A solution has now been agreed, which once complete will mean the road can fully reopen to traffic. The new bank will be made up of rock-filled gabion baskets laid to heights of two metres from the bottom of the watercourse, for approximately ten metres. There will also be an installation of erosion control matting to the watercourse and bank for approximately twenty metres, new drainage added to the road, reinforced kerb line, a new post and rail fence, and road repairs.

Suffolk County Council's Cabinet Member for Highways, Councillor Paul West has thanked Otley Parish Council and the local community for their patience and has apologised that the works have taken longer than usual to complete.

Whilst I appreciate the further disruption that will be caused during the road closure, this is a very complex repair and I'm just really pleased that plans are now finally in place to bring the matter to a conclusion.

A full road closure will be required from Monday 28 March 2022 to allow for the works to be carried out safely and a diversion route will be in place. The official diversion is via B1078, B1077, A1214, A12, B1079 and vice versa. This route has to take into account every size of vehicle, however it is recognised there are shorter routes for smaller vehicles.

More information regarding the closure and improvement works can be found on [the temporary road closures page](#).

Suffolk cements commitment to keeping its communities safe

A new strategy has been launched outlining how Suffolk will address Violence Against Women and Girls. The strategy has been prepared collaboratively by the Safer Stronger Communities Board (SSCB) – consisting of representatives from Suffolk County Council, district and borough councils, the police, Suffolk's Police & Crime Commissioner, community safety partnerships, health and probation services, the Norfolk & Suffolk Criminal Justice Board and Suffolk Safeguarding Partnership.

All board members hold a shared ambition to tackle the incredibly important issue of Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) which includes, but is not limited to, domestic abuse, sexual violence, stalking, coercive and controlling behaviour, and revenge porn – all of which have a devastating impact on victim-survivors, families, and communities.

Much work has been done on preventing VAWG since the launch of the county's first strategy in 2018, which led to the establishment of Suffolk's 24/7 domestic abuse helpline, additional accommodation for survivors and the creation of a Domestic Abuse Perpetrators Unit to help offenders address and alter their behaviour. However, with recent figures showing an increase in sexual offences and domestic violence nationally, the board recognises the need to continue to drive forward positive change through effective partnership working.

Suffolk's new VAWG Strategy outlines how this will be achieved in the county, with four key objectives – prevention, supporting victims, pursuing perpetrators, and strengthening the system – forming the basis for its approach.

In addition, the strategy will be accompanied by an action plan for 2022 – 2025 to help ensure meaningful activity. This has been informed by members of the board, local charities, and domestic abuse survivors – who praised the system for enabling them to co-create proposals and have their say.

To support the board in implementing both the strategy and action plan, Suffolk County Council has contributed £350,000 towards this.

Councillor Andrew Reid, Chair of the Safer Stronger Communities Board and Suffolk County Council's Cabinet Member for Public Health, Public Protection and Communities, commented:

“Although Suffolk remains a safe place to live and work for many, crimes against women and girls are still happening daily, with these often underpinned by outdated attitudes and prejudice.

“Whilst much work has already been done to tackle this horrific behaviour, we will not stop until every woman and girl in Suffolk feels safe in their community or at home.

“I welcome the new Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy to help achieve this aim and would like to thank all those who have been involved in its creation, especially the survivors who have been instrumental in helping us to shape proposals to stop others from being victims of this devastating abuse in future.

“It's great news that the strategy will also be supported by significant funding from our council – cementing our continued commitment to protecting our communities.”

Whilst the strategy is focused primarily on preventing VAWG, due to these crimes often disproportionately affecting this gender, work will still be undertaken to support men and boys, as well as those that are transgender, non-binary or gender non-conforming.

The strategy is available to view here: www.suffolk.gov.uk/assets/community/communities-and-safety/Suffolk-violence-against-women-and-girls-strategy-2022-25.pdf

‘Women don’t do such things!’ – new women’s history free exhibition to open at The Hold

A new exhibition - “Women Don’t Do Such Things” has opened at The Hold, featuring Suffolk women past and present who have broken down barriers in their lives throughout history. From activists to doctors, archaeologists to pilots, visitors to the exhibition will be able to experience these and many more moving and poignant stories of women who have challenged expectations and led change.

Councillor Andrew Reid, Cabinet Member for Heritage at Suffolk County Council, said:

“The ‘Women Don’t Do Such Things!’ exhibition offers a fascinating insight into the lives and experiences of some inspiring women from Suffolk.

“Suffolk Archives have put together a full programme of events to support the exhibition including curator tours and craft workshops, as well as talks from our archivists and local historians. This is a great chance to find out more about local history, and to come and visit The Hold, and bring that history to life.”

The exhibition includes ‘Women Like You’: a photo mosaic portrait of the leader of the suffragette movement, Emmeline Pankhurst, produced by Suffolk artist Charlotte Newson. On loan from Manchester Town Hall the portrait work is made up of photos representing what women of today want in comparison to the suffragette movement over 100 years ago.

Displays exploring the Women’s Land Army in Suffolk during World War Two have been compiled by local historian Nicky Reynolds, and will include original Women’s Land Army uniform, documents, and photographs.

A special event will also be held at The Hold to launch a new film by documentary maker Holly Brega about the Women’s Land Army in Suffolk about The Land Girls and Horses of Suffolk.

The exhibition includes contemporary artworks and displays telling women’s stories. A selection of works produced by members of the More than Mum group run by the Future Female Society, reflects the women in the group and their own personal journeys supported by the society.

It will also showcase female leaders in Suffolk’s community today. Franstine Jones was awarded a BEM in the New Year’s Honours list for her work as a volunteer and trustee at the National Black Police Association and for her services to Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities in Suffolk.

Residents urged to support Suffolk spectacular

Her Majesty the Queen will become the first ever British Monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee, on Sunday 6 February, after 70 years of service and Suffolk is set to stage a host of exciting Jubilee celebrations during 2022 – bringing the county’s communities together to mark this momentous milestone.

The unprecedented anniversary will be celebrated throughout the year, with a four-day UK bank holiday taking place from Thursday 2 to Sunday 5 June to enable people to commemorate the occasion.

Plans are already in place for a Festival of Suffolk – the county’s biggest ever community event. This year-long spectacular will incorporate much-loved existing events, such as the Suffolk Show, alongside dedicated Jubilee celebrations, including a race day and torch relay. Details on the latest line-up can be found at: www.festivalofsuffolk.org/.

A highlight of the festival is the **Big Jubilee Lunch**, set to take place on Sunday 5 June. The initiative encourages people to come together and celebrate, either by hosting their own street party or simply enjoying a cup of tea with a neighbour.

To help facilitate this, Suffolk County Council has set up a dedicated webpage: www.suffolk.gov.uk/PlatinumJubileeEvent and will waive its fees for any road closures for events on this day, as well as providing free assistance with traffic management for all applications received before 11pm on Sunday 27 March.

The council is also supporting the Queen’s Green Canopy in Suffolk, which aims to plant over 775,000 new trees in 2022 – one for each resident in the county.

Almost a quarter of a million trees have been planted to date, with everyone urged to visit suffolk-

lieutenancy.org.uk/queens-green-canopy/ and find out how they can 'Plant a Tree for the Jubilee' either directly or via one of the many organisations taking part in the scheme.

In addition to using the Jubilee as an opportunity to create a greener county, a focus on health and wellbeing will also form an important part of the celebrations, with plans for themed park runs across Suffolk and a County Community Games tournament currently in development.

While primary school children across the county can participate in a Time Capsule Competition – enabling them to showcase how their school, students, teachers, and community have changed over the Queen's reign.

Schools have until 11 February to express their interest in the competition:

www.suffolkarchives.co.uk/education/time-capsule/ and must submit their entry by 25 March, ahead of the winner being announced on 1 April. The winning school will get the opportunity to visit The Hold – home to 900 years' worth of Suffolk's history – which will also house their time capsule entry to preserve it for future generations to enjoy.

Businesses can also benefit from the occasion by attending the **Suffolk Business Expo, scheduled for Monday 20 June to Friday 1 July**. The event – organised by Suffolk County Council, the Suffolk Chamber, and other partners – aims to showcase Suffolk businesses, whilst helping them to capitalise on the expected increase in tourists to the county and bounce back from Covid-19.

Halfway mark reached as over 20,000 Suffolk streetlights replaced

Suffolk County Council's programme to replace 43,400 streetlights with new energy-efficient LEDs has reached the halfway mark. To date, the teams have replaced 21,215 new streetlights with the new lanterns and are well on the way to successfully delivering the project on budget and to programme timescales.

These LED lanterns use less energy and produce a more natural and focused light than the traditional orange glow of streetlights. They are extremely long-lasting products and have an expected lifetime of up to 100,000 hours. This is approximately two times longer than a typical conventional street lighting lamp. As a result, Suffolk County Council is expecting to reduce its annual electricity costs on the streetlights by around 76%, saving more than £1.7 million a year. This is 16% more than what was originally anticipated.

The programme is on schedule to be completed by the end of May 2022, with all heritage-style lanterns being upgraded towards the end of the programme. Prior to commencing in towns or parishes, Suffolk Highways is contacting those councils in case they wish to upgrade their parish-council owned street-lighting at the end of the project.

Keep a look out for signs in your area to see where the teams are working next and follow [@Suff_highways](https://twitter.com/Suff_highways) on Twitter for regular updates.

Suffolk Fostering and Adoption Service swoops into The Big Hoot

Suffolk Fostering and Adoption Service has been announced as a proud sponsor for Suffolk's biggest ever mass participation public art event – 'The Big Hoot'.

The Big Hoot Ipswich 2022 is the third art trail brought to Ipswich by St Elizabeth Hospice in partnership with creative producers Wild in Art, following the success of Pigs Gone Wild 2016 and Elmer's Big Parade Suffolk 2019.

As part of the Big Hoot 2022, 50 ornately decorated owl sculptures, featuring designs celebrating all things Suffolk, will be scattered throughout Ipswich showcasing the wealth of artistic talent of the county and beyond, as part of the biggest free art event in Suffolk which attracts hundreds of thousands of visitors to the town.

Suffolk Fostering and Adoption's owl, named 'Big Hoot-Little Hoot' will represent the care that foster carers and adopters provide to children in the local community. The owl which features a baby owl nestling safely under the wings of its parent, will be painted by artist, Sandra Reynolds and perfectly depicts the loving and nurturing nature of foster carers and adoptive parents caring for Suffolk children.

In addition to The Big Hoot, Suffolk Fostering and Adoption Service will take part in the Little Hoot. The Little Hoot is predominantly aimed at schools who design their owl and fundraise for St Elizabeth's hospice.

However, as a focus on Suffolk's children in care and adopted children, Suffolk Fostering and Adoption Service has been gifted an Owl by local business Highway Assurance. Children in care will be able to take part in a

drawing competition to design the owl and the winning design will be chosen by The High Sheriff of Suffolk, Edward Creasy, and Highway Assurance Managing Director, Robert Watton. The owl will then be painted by a local artist to reflect the winning design before being proudly displayed at the Suffolk show along with 59 other Little Hoots, ahead of joining the trail in Ipswich over the summer, launching on 19 June.

Suffolk's children and young people's service currently have over 850 children in care and with more children coming into care in Suffolk every year, the need for foster carers and adoptive parents to come forward has never been greater.

These children need someone who can understand what they have been through, look at the world through their eyes and provide warmth, consistency and emotional support.

To find out more about fostering or adopting in Suffolk, visit: www.suffolk.gov.uk/fosteringandadoption or call 01473 264800.

Thank you to responders who kept us safe and Suffolk moving during the storms

In late February, Suffolk faced an unprecedented deluge of strong winds and torrential rain in a very short time, but our collective response once again stood-up quickly, worked together and kept people safe and the county moving. It was an enormous endeavour and Suffolk's councils, including Suffolk Highways, health bodies, utility companies and emergency services were incredibly busy responding to the storms.

Just to give an extent of the collective response, at 5pm on Friday 18th February, Suffolk police had dealt with 339 calls to 999 and 431 to 101 and Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service attended 51 incidents; Suffolk Highways had reported one of their busiest periods with 342 reports of fallen trees and road obstructions. Teams worked overnight to clear the debris and keep the roads clear. Nearly 15,000 homes lost power at some point on Friday 18th or over the weekend and UK Power Networks worked around the clock to restore power. A key for Suffolk partners was to make sure that vulnerable residents without power, were safe and secure. SCC worked with UK Power Networks to map where those vulnerable homes were and the welfare vehicle was dispatched to dispense information, hot drinks and enable mobile phones to be charged.

The fact that Suffolk partners have been working so closely together throughout the pandemic, meant that the structures, lines of communications and governance were already in place to step-up our storm response quickly and effectively. Suffolk has, historically, worked well with partners. We recognise the power and benefit of a collective approach and work hard to get it right. We know it delivers enormous positives to Suffolk residents.

As a reminder, in the event of bad weather, members of the public are encouraged to:

- Report fallen trees and obstructions on roads and paths to Suffolk Highways on **0345 606 6171**
- Avoid coastal areas due to an increased risk of erosion posing danger to life
- Plan their journey well in advance and check for travel disruption before leaving. Visit <https://one.network/> and using the 'Weather' layer to find out about road closures
- Following [@SuffolkCC](https://twitter.com/SuffolkCC) on Twitter or Suffolk County Council on Facebook
- Monitoring the weather forecast at www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/forecast/uk
- Get the latest information on Orwell Bridge closures at www.twitter.com/highwayseast
- Get advice on flooding and flood alerts at www.gov.uk/flood or on Floodline: **0345 988 1188**. More information on Twitter at [@envagencyanglia](https://twitter.com/envagencyanglia)

Budget 2021/2022

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

09/03/2022

Category Description	01/04/2021 Actual	- Budget	31/03/2022 Difference
INCOME			
Allotment Rent	198.00	192.00	6.00
Bank Interest	2.14	100.00	-97.86
Precept	20,146.00	20,100.00	46.00
TOTAL INCOME	20,346.14	20,392.00	-45.86
EXPENSES			
Administration			
Audit Fee	200.00	200.00	0.00
Clerk			
Expenses	396.48	500.00	103.52
Income Tax	769.40	0.00	-769.40
Office	0.00	577.00	577.00
Payroll Service	45.00	90.00	45.00
Salary	3,078.10	3,854.00	775.90
Soc.Clks	98.00	95.00	-3.00
Training	0.00	50.00	50.00
TOTAL Clerk	4,386.98	5,166.00	779.02
Clrs. Exp.Train	0.00	300.00	300.00
Data Protection	40.00	40.00	0.00
Hire of Rooms	0.00	250.00	250.00
Insurance	260.68	300.00	39.32
Laser Printer	59.95	200.00	140.05
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	5,617.38	7,751.00	2,133.62
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
Parish Plan			
Room Hire	40.00	0.00	-40.00
TOTAL Parish Plan	40.00	0.00	-40.00
Run Costs			
Bus Shelters			
Cleaning	0.00	300.00	300.00
Repairs	86.55	200.00	113.45
TOTAL Bus Shelters	86.55	500.00	413.45
Defibrillator	0.00	250.00	250.00
Highways			
SAVID	0.00	100.00	100.00
Snow Clearing	350.00	0.00	-350.00
Speedwatch	261.07	300.00	38.93
TOTAL Highways	611.07	400.00	-211.07
Local Fighting Fund	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Pks Open Spa			
Allotments	72.86	200.00	127.14
Dog Fido Bins	106.68	0.00	-106.68
Footpaths & Environment	50.00	150.00	100.00
Grundisburgh Baptist Church	195.00	195.00	0.00
Litter Bins	0.00	100.00	100.00

Budget 2021/2022

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

09/03/2022

Page 2

Category Description	01/04/2021 Actual	- Budget	31/03/2022 Difference
Millennium Meadow	958.61	1,100.00	141.39
Playing Field Play Area Reserve	0.00	250.00	250.00
Playingfield	939.12	900.00	-39.12
Playingfield Play Area	4,000.00	2,500.00	-1,500.00
St.Bots	195.00	195.00	0.00
St.Mary	640.00	640.00	0.00
Village Greens			
Mowing	1,477.00	2,000.00	523.00
Posts & Rails	67.68	300.00	232.32
Stream	80.00	500.00	420.00
Trees	555.00	0.00	-555.00
Xmas Tree	196.00	180.00	-16.00
TOTAL Village Greens	2,375.68	2,980.00	604.32
War Memorial	100.95	100.00	-0.95
Wheeled Bin	529.90	100.00	-429.90
TOTAL Pks Open Spa	10,163.80	9,410.00	-753.80
TOTAL Run Costs	10,861.42	11,560.00	698.58
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	23,349.12	25,358.00	2,008.88
OVERALL TOTAL	-3,002.98	-4,966.00	1,963.02