

Edition: December 2023

EastSuffolk

Magazine

WHEELS IN MOTION

World class Tour of Britain field showcases best of East Suffolk, page 11

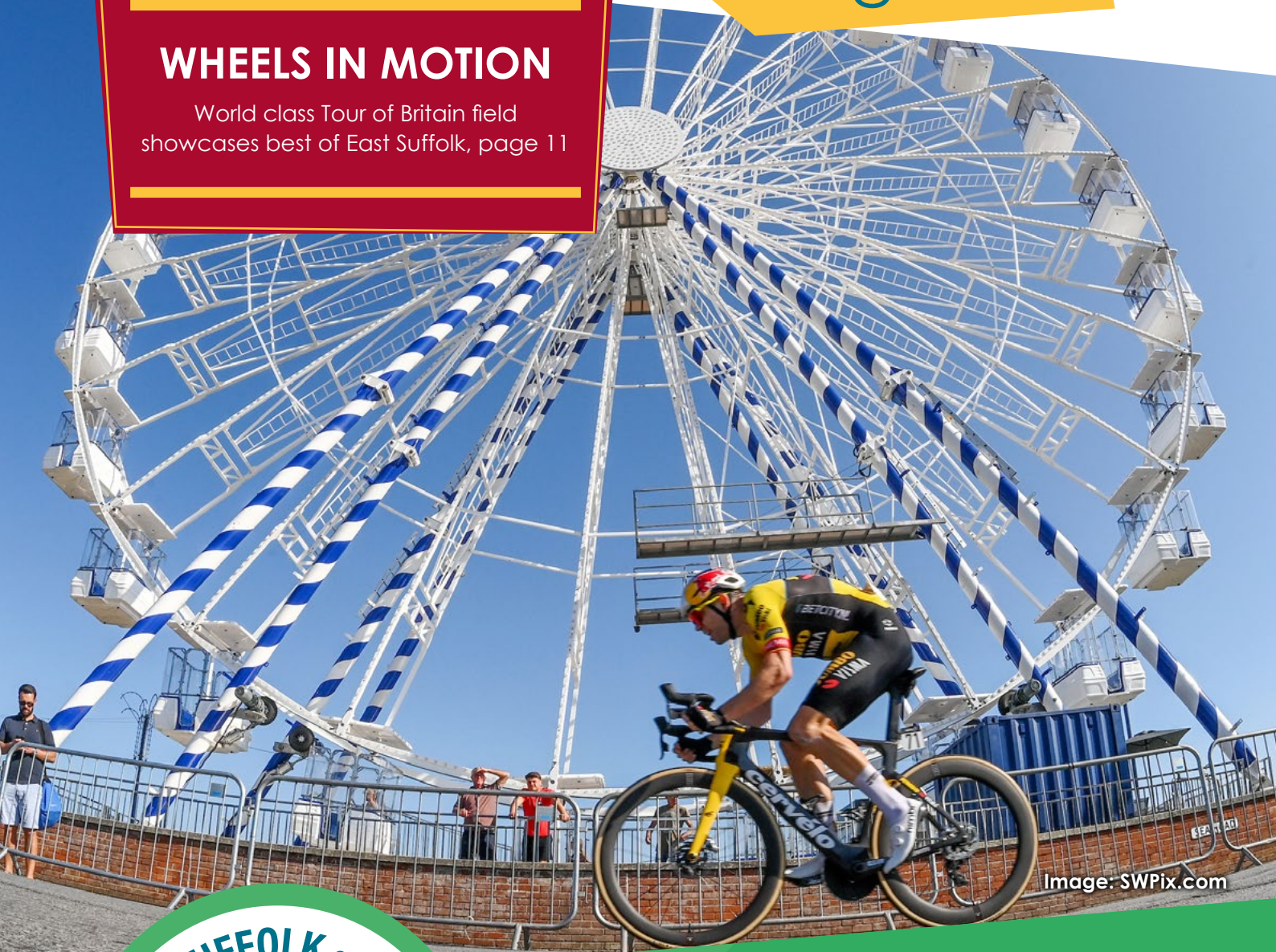


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COMPETITION

– Prizes to be won! Page 4



Welcome from the Leader



Welcome to the latest East Suffolk magazine, bringing you a range of useful news and information about our services, the support we provide for you and our communities, and our plans for the future.

I was honoured and delighted to become Leader of the Council following the local elections in May and I promise that our Green, Liberal Democrat and Independent Administration will do everything within its power to help improve the lives and outcomes of everyone who lives and works here, as well as welcoming those who visit our beautiful district.

In this edition, we lay out our ambitions for the next four years in the form of 'Our Direction 2028'. You can read all about it here and why we think these particular priorities are going to be so important.

Finally, may I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

Cllr Caroline Topping



Save time and self-serve

East Suffolk Council provides a range of helpful services, advice, and support online. Signing up for these can save you time by avoiding the need to call or visit us!

Sign up for a My East Suffolk account to renew your garden waste subscription, report a missed bin, review your Council Tax or Business Rates accounts, access a **MyHome** account, report a wide range of issues, and apply for different support and services.

Please note that we provide different online services for parking permits and for planning applications. Signing up is quick and easy – scan the QR code with your phone or visit my.eastsuffolk.gov.uk



New opening times for our services in Lowestoft

Based on customer feedback, and to make our services as accessible as possible, our Customer Services reception at the Marina Centre will now open every Wednesday between 9am and 1pm. This is in addition to our regular hours of 10am to 4pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

You can book a visit or just walk in to access a range of services including help with digital skills, advice and support with Council Tax, benefits, housing, planning, and other services, or to make payments.

Our digital skills support is there to help you get more comfortable with using technology. As well as council services and your My East Suffolk account, our digital champions can support you with online banking, keeping in touch with friends and family through video calling, booking a GP appointment, online grocery shopping, and much more besides.

Our Marina Centre is next to the Marina Theatre in the centre of Lowestoft, NR32 1HH. If you'd like to pre-book an appointment, please call 0333 016 2000.

We also provide face-to-face services at various libraries each week: Tuesdays at Halesworth library between 10am & 4pm; Wednesdays at Aldeburgh, Saxmundham, and Woodbridge libraries between 10am & 4pm; Fridays at Felixstowe library between 10am & 4pm; and Fridays at Leiston library between 10am & 1pm and 2pm & 4pm.

Your Council 2023

There are 55 councillors in East Suffolk representing a total of 27 different wards. Elections are held every four years, with the most recent taking place in May earlier this year. A councillor's primary role is to represent their ward and serve the people who live in it. You can find more information about our councillors and what they do at www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/yourcouncil

East Suffolk councillors and their wards

Aldeburgh and Leiston
Tom Daly 07825 720877
Katie Graham 07968 077446
Sarah Whitelock 07824 452388

Beccles and Worlingham
Sarah Plummer 07741 750480
Sheryl Rumble 07824 320304
Caroline Topping 07825 421117

Bungay and Wainford
Toby Hammond 07717 314171
Anthony Specca 07825 457879

Carlford and Fynn Valley
Dan Clery 07823 327998
Colin Hedgley 07786 225835

Carlton and Whifton
Jenny Ceresa 07824 864583
Jamie Starling 07823 372482

Carlton Colville
Craig Rivett 07931 341440
Myles Scrancher 07823 372478

Deben
James Mallinder 07810 815879

Eastern Felixstowe
Seamus Bennett 07823 795300
Jan Candy 07823 587492
Mark Jepson 07825 720601

Framlingham
Owen Grey 07823 795294
Vince Langdon-Morris 07823 795299

Gunton and St Margarets
George King 07824 803209
Graham Parker 07818 563005

Halesworth and Blything
Beth Keys-Holloway 07823 518792
Geoffrey Wakeling 07823 814580

Harbour and Normanston
Janet Craig 07825 421091
Tess Gandy 07786 981655
Keith Patience 07711 933972

Kelsale and Yoxford
Julia Ewart 07823 327997



Kesgrave
Stuart Lawson 07584 887036
Geoff Lynch 07825 720591
Debbie McCallum 01473 622045

Kessingland
Alan Green 07818 563003

Kirkley and Pakefield
Peter Byatt 07833 415510
Louise Gooch 07824 865555
Malcolm Pitchers 07824 541488

Lothingland
Paul Ashdown 07824 821545

Marlesham and Purdis Farm
Mark Packard 07823 588645
Edward Thompson 07975 516592

Melton
Rachel Smith-Lyte 07825 421137

Orwell and Villages
Mike Ninnmey 07823 37250
Lee Reeves 07823 372501

Oulton Broad
Edward Back 07824 865678
Andrée Gee 07825 272985
Keith Robinson 07917 452820

Rendlesham and Orford
Tim Wilson 07823 587947

Rushmere St Andrew
Deborah Dean 07823 327999

Saxmundham
John Fisher 01728 603144

Southwold
David Beavan 01502 724904

Western Felixstowe
Mike Deacon 01394 211146
Amanda Folley 07824 452387
Rosie Smithson 07824 452381

Wickham Market
Sally Noble 07823 814633

Woodbridge
Stephen Molyneux 07823 587524
Kay Yule 07825 716370

Wrentham, Wangford and Westleton
Paul Ashton 07824 838316



Photo competition - Prizes to be won!

Say cheese! Grab your camera and capture the essence of East Suffolk for a chance to win some amazing prizes in our photo competition.

Whether it's the people or wildlife, the beautiful nature, daily life or vibrant towns, we want to see what makes East Suffolk special to you.

Your shot could win you high street vouchers worth up to £100 or even land you the front cover of East Suffolk Magazine which gets delivered to thousands of households in the district. You're only a shutter click away.

Entries close on Sunday 28 January at 11:59pm. So, what are you waiting for? Get snapping... for the love of East Suffolk.

For full details, including entry requirements and full terms and conditions, head to



www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/photo-comp

Beccles Play Boost

A children's play area at Beccles Common has been officially reopened following the completion of refurbishment work.

Designed by eibe play Ltd, and aimed at toddlers and juniors, the play area features a basket swing, cradle swing for toddlers, a me-to-you swing, a cargo climbing net, a toddler climbing unit with slide, and a junior climbing unit, with a climbing wall and slide.

The refurbishment has been made possible thanks to a partnership between East Suffolk Council and Beccles Town Council and an official opening took place in August, attended by representatives from both councils and eibe play Ltd.



Cllr Katie Graham, East Suffolk's assistant cabinet member for Communities, Leisure and Tourism said: "This is a wonderful new facility providing modern, fun and engaging equipment for local families and visitors to enjoy. I'm delighted to see the final transformation and am sure this will continue to be a popular play area for years to come."

Cllr Christine Wheeler, Mayor of Beccles said: "I'm delighted that this example of the two councils working together has resulted in such a lovely facility for Beccles families."



OUR DIRECTION 2028



East Suffolk Council is ready for an exciting and ambitious new phase, and 'Our Direction 2028' is our plan, presenting the Council's key ambitions and priorities for the next four years.

It reflects the political ambitions of the new Administration but most importantly, it's the path we are embarking on together, collaboratively, over the next four years. It is an ambitious approach which has sought the views of local people to create this plan.

The Council wants to work with and empower communities and individuals to conserve what we love about our district, improve services where we need to and adapt to our changing environment - ensuring the district is in the best place possible in 2028.

In delivering this plan we recognise the importance of the solid foundations that are critically important to any successful local authority. We will continue to provide excellent quality services for our residents and will always listen - engaging with you whenever possible.

Our Direction 2028 sets out the themes and priorities for East Suffolk Council across the next four years. However, it is important that we are then seen to deliver against these priorities, ensuring real, tangible outcomes for all our communities.

Therefore, we will develop an action plan to measure exactly what we are doing and what we have achieved. It will be clear and transparent, reflecting our determination to make a genuine difference.

To follow our journey, please head to:

www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/ourdirection2028



Flood walls finalised

On 20 October, Peter Aldous, MP for Waveney, and Cllr Caroline Topping, Leader of East Suffolk Council, were joined by community representatives, businesses, invited guests and local students to mark the completion of the first phase of the Lowestoft Flood Protection scheme – the tidal walls.

1.5km of flood walls, demountable defences and flood gates have been built along Hamilton Road, Waveney Road and Station Square, which were all impacted by the 2013 tidal surge. Glass-topped flood walls have been built around the Royal Norfolk and Suffolk Yacht Club and the South Pier to maintain views across the marina.

During the design phase in 2018, over 1,000 local students took part in Watertight Words, a literacy project in which young people described their feelings about the sea. A selection of these words have been permanently engraved onto the glass sections of the floodwalls with artwork supplied by Jeff Fisher, who created the cover for the best-selling book Captain Corelli's Mandolin.

Once complete, the Lowestoft Flood Protection scheme will better protect over 1,500 homes and 800 businesses from the risk of tidal flooding.




To find out more, head to lowestoffloodprotection.co.uk



Take care at the coast

The winter weather means high tides, intense rainfall and strong winds are likely to impact the East Suffolk coast during the next few months. This can result in large waves, debris and potential cliff collapse so those visiting the coast are advised to take extra care.

Coastal Partnership East, on behalf of East Suffolk Council, is reminding people to stay safe on the coast by adhering to the following:

-  **do not climb on eroding cliffs or sea defences.**
- keep well back from the cliff edge.**
- take notice of signage**
- avoid walking close to the base of cliffs.**
- keep pets on leads.**
- When standing at the bottom of a cliff, do not stand less than the height of the cliff away. That means that if the cliff is 25 metres high, don't go closer than 25 metres towards it.**

In addition, HM Coastguard has the following safety advice: Make sure that you are properly equipped for walking along coastal paths. Remember to wear sturdy shoes or boots and check the weather forecast and tidal times before you set out. Carry a fully charged mobile phone and tell someone where you are going and what time you will be home. Only use the designated paths, take notice of any warning signs and fences in place, be responsible and don't take any unnecessary risks.

If you notice anything unusual or dangerous about cliffs or any coastal defences, please email coastalmanagement@eastssuffolk.gov.uk

In an emergency always call 999 and ask for the Coastguard.



Improving private renting

Suffolk's five district and borough councils are delivering a ground-breaking project aimed at improving the experience and environment for landlords and tenants in the private rented sector.

Called 'Safe Suffolk Renters', this multi-faceted initiative is designed to create a better understanding of the pressures and problems in the sector, and to improve standards, particularly in the worst private rented homes in the area. To achieve this, the project team will consult widely with tenants, landlords and stakeholders in the county.

The project is already speaking with key stakeholders and staged a landmark conference for private sector landlords at the University of Suffolk, in Ipswich, last month. It featured practical guidance and information on a range of subjects including mortgages, financing, tax advice, property maintenance and changes to legislation.

Similar conferences for tenants and stakeholders will follow. It is hoped the outcomes of the SSR project can be developed into a sustainable model for collaborative working into the future and will also be fed back to help shape future government policy.



Safe Suffolk Renters



Funded by UK Government

Head to www.safesuffolkrenters.org where you can:

- sign up for a free property health check (private rented tenants / landlords only)**
- sign up for a free device to measure humidity in the home to help control condensation**
- register for future events**



Relive the spirit of 2012!

Cultural Connections is a brand-new idea for boosting volunteer numbers and has been made possible by the post-London Olympics Spirit of 2012 fund.

Working in partnership with Great Yarmouth Borough Council, and following our joint City of Culture bid, the aim is to encourage new volunteering in the Culture, Heritage and Arts sectors, one of the economic drivers in the East of England. It also seeks to overcome the barriers to getting involved such as lack of transport, caring responsibilities or personal, social and health challenges.

Since June, Cultural Connections has signed up 60 new volunteers, some of whom have already been taking part at Folk East, Love Felixstowe week, the Tour of Britain cycle race, or joining the Woodbridge Museum's team of stewards – plus more besides!

We can help people with small grants towards the costs of getting to a volunteer placement and can also help make new events happen. Plus there is a rewards programme to thank those who join and build their volunteering hours.

If you or someone you know would like to get involved with the project or have an event you'd like to propose, contact Matthew Townshend, Volunteer co-ordinator in East Suffolk: matthew.townshend@eastssuffolk.gov.uk or call on 07775 018844.

Sign up to join the Cultural Connections family at www.culturalconnectionsvolunteering.org.uk



'Seashore Village' comes to life

Development of a new seaside leisure site has reached new heights with the opening of its activity park area, featuring climbing walls, sports equipment and games.

Work has also finished on a new seaside beach hut development, featuring 27 traditional-style timber beach huts provided by East Suffolk Council.

The schemes form part of a wider project to regenerate an area of land between Sea Road and the Promenade, in Felixstowe. It has been entirely re-landscaped, with ramp access and fully accessible public conveniences with changing facilities.



As well as a cluster of climbing walls, the new activity park features concrete table tennis tables, pétanque piste, accessible picnic benches, chess tables and an outdoor space for workouts.

Meanwhile, each beach hut was purpose-built by PJ Spillings Ltd and Hollins Architects oversaw work led by Gipping Construction to landscape the area.



Huts are being sold on a long-lease arrangement, with full details available from Scott Beckett, by calling 01394 338000 or emailing enquiries@scottbeckett.co.uk.

'Pod style' beach chalets – designed with accessibility and inclusivity in mind – will also be available to hire inside an adaptable building which can be configured as five single chalet spaces or opened-up for larger groups.

Waterfront regeneration funding

East Suffolk Council has secured funding worth more than £4.2million to help transform brownfield land in Lowestoft into much needed future housing.

The £4,203,800 grant is part of the second phase of the Government's £180m Brownfield Land Release Fund (BLRF), designed to unlock sites across the country to make way for more than 6,000 new homes.

The funding will help cover the cost of land remediation at the former Sanyo and Survitec manufacturing sites located on the south side of Lake Lothing, Lowestoft, in an area known as Kirkley Waterfront.

The land was acquired by Waveney District Council in 2018, having stood vacant since 2009, and forms part of the Kirkley Waterfront and Sustainable Urban Neighbourhood scheme, which focuses on regenerating the area to provide housing and jobs for local people.

The BLRF grant will go towards site clearance, demolition, removal of tanks and below ground services, removal of contamination, asbestos, hydrocarbons, and ground gas monitoring.

Boosting our town centres

The Government's UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) allocated money for East Suffolk to invest in local initiatives, and so far we have committed £1.97m to supporting our communities, places and local businesses and there's more to come!

We are providing grants of between £5,000 - £15,000 to place-based organisations to deliver capital improvements to our town centres and high streets and for events, arts, and culture activities to bring our high streets alive and attract increased footfall.

A total of just over £248,135 has been awarded to date since January 2023 across the two schemes. The events grants have led to increased footfall in our towns, with further activities yet to take place.

We will continue to resource the events grant scheme through our own funding due to the success of the scheme and in addition to this, we have funded a range of high street improvements, including but not limited to:

- Free town wifi
- Wayfinding signage
- Food and drink trails
- Town leaflets, website improvements, visual panels, maps, noticeboards
- Planters
- Dropped kerbs for disabled access
- Market regeneration projects



Local business support

- **Free start-up business support from Menta and NWES to any potential businesses or business under 12 months old within East Suffolk.**
- **A free business advisor service via the New Anglia Growth Hub, who also run a series of events and training on marketing, business growth planning, business growth support and grant support.**
- **A free net zero business consultancy service to Suffolk based businesses to help them with the creation of decarbonisation plans via Groundwork East.**
- **A range of grant opportunities including the Suffolk Business Grant Scheme, Energy Efficiency Grant Scheme and the Rural Business Investment Fund.**



To find out how to access any of the business support services or discuss what grants are available, please contact the New Anglia Growth Hub: www.newangliagrowthhub.co.uk



All aboard our bookable buses!

Katch a lift!

Katch is an on-demand bus service providing transport for rural communities in Framlingham, Wickham Market, Campsea Ashe and Snape and it's now even easier to book following the launch of a new app.

Provided by community transport operator, CATS (Coastal Accessible Transport Service), the 12-seater accessible Katch minibus can be booked through a dedicated website, by phone and now via a new mobile app – 365 Flexiroute.

Funded by the Council's Community Partnership Board, Katch will run for 12 months, or longer if there is sufficient demand.

The service runs from 7.30am to 6.30pm Monday to Friday, from 10am to 6.30pm on Saturdays, and from 10am to 6pm on Bank Holidays.



Journeys can be booked via the 365 Flexiroute app or by calling 01728 635939 between 8.30am and 4.30pm on weekdays.

Head to www.katchalift.com for more details.

Buzzabout

People living in the villages north of Lowestoft can get out and about more easily with their local bookable bus service – Buzzabout!

Operated by BACT and funded by East Suffolk Community Partnerships, Buzzabout is an on-demand bus service for residents in Gunton East, Somerleyton, Lound, Blundeston and St Olaves.

Buzzabout operates on Tuesdays and Thursdays between 8.30am and 4.30pm and you can book a trip as little as an hour before you travel (subject to availability).

Book your lift at www.buzzabout.co.uk or email info@bactcommunitytransport.org.uk or call 01986 896 896 (Monday to Friday 9.00am-4.00pm)

Buzzabout is quick, convenient and reduces your carbon footprint with every trip.

BOOK NOW



Hosting the best in the world!

More than 100 of the world's best cyclists came to East Suffolk this summer, with Felixstowe hosting a stage finish of the Tour of Britain cycle race.

The fifth day of the UK's longest-running and most prestigious international cycle race culminated along the Suffolk coastline in the shadows of Felixstowe's pier and world-famous port on 7 September.

The stage marked Suffolk's first appearance in the Tour of Britain since 2017, and since its return in 2004, it has become a cornerstone of the UK sporting calendar. More than 15 million people have watched the event in person, with the race generating over £330m for the UK economy to date.

The return of the Tour presented an opportunity to showcase the county's natural beauty and visitor experience to local, national, and international audiences. The county welcomed a world-class event, generating direct community and economic impact, and raising the profile of cycling for both elite and leisure participants.



A final-kilometre attack from Wout van Aert earned Jumbo-Visma their fifth win in a row at the Tour of Britain and it was Van Aert who secured overall victory with a calculated and hugely impressive ride on the final hilly stage in south Wales.

Relive the race at www.tourofbrtain.co.uk

Loving Felixstowe

A celebratory Love Felixstowe festival held ahead of the Tour of Britain stage through Suffolk was hailed a huge success.

The Love Felixstowe Festival is a six-day celebratory event showcasing Felixstowe and its businesses to the local community and visitors. The town hosted free events and activities in the centre and along the seafront, organised by East Suffolk Council and Felixstowe BID (Business Improvement District), in partnership with Felixstowe Town Council.

The fun included live music, cycling activities, film screenings and saw the return of Art on the Prom following a four-year break.

Organisers are now looking forward to Love Felixstowe 2024! However they can't begin to plan for next year without your feedback. This will help the understand what worked for the town and what they need to work on.

Together, let's make the next Love Felixstowe Festival even grander and more vibrant. Here's to celebrating Felixstowe, bigger and better!

Leave your feedback at www.lovefelixstowe.co.uk



Community Pantries - Helping people access affordable food

East Suffolk Council is using money from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) to support those struggling to access affordable food in the cost-of-living crisis. In the past six months we have funded two Community Pantries in East Suffolk, one at Bungay Community Support and one at Bloodmoor Community Centre in Carlton Colville. Bungay is already supporting residents and Bloodmoor will be opening in the next month.

The pantries provide a welcoming space, similar to a shop, where people can pay a subscription of less than £5 per week and receive food worth at least £15 in return. The pantries also provide additional support, signposting to other local services and they help to reduce social isolation.

The pantry providers are part of the East Suffolk Food Network, bringing together organisations providing both affordable food, and food in times of crisis. The aim of the network is to share best practice, gain support and manage access to surplus food to ensure fairness in distribution.

East Suffolk Council understands the pressures faced by many people today and is working closely with partners and stakeholders to ensure support is available to help ease the squeeze for households in East Suffolk:

www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/squeeze

EAST SUFFOLK COMMUNITY PANTRIES



EASE THE SQUEEZE
EASTSUFFOLK COUNCIL

Warm Welcomes

Warm Welcomes are back this winter! Formerly known as Warm Rooms, Warm Welcomes are community spaces that provide somewhere safe, warm and welcoming where members of the community can come to keep warm, socialise, find out about support available and try new things! There are around 25 funded Warm Welcomes across the district; they are free, you can drop-in and there are refreshments and activities to enjoy. They are open until 1 April 2024.

To find out about your local Warm Welcome, please visit www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/fuel-and-energy or call us on 0333 016 2000.

EAST SUFFOLK WARM WELCOMES

POP IN AND SAY HI!

Quiet Lanes - when you see this sign, take your time!

Thanks to the recent completion of the 'Quiet Lanes Suffolk' project, supported by the East Suffolk Greenprint Forum, there are now 480.5 km of quiet lanes designated countywide – over 220 km of which are in East Suffolk alone.

However, the vast majority are still relatively new, having only been designated since 2021, so we appreciate it will take time for all road users to get used to seeing the new signs and modifying their behaviour accordingly.

So remember, when you see this sign, take your time!

- When on a quiet lane, you'll be sharing that space with vulnerable road users including equestrians, cyclists, families walking with young children and dogs, and people on mobility scooters.
- Make sure that you travel slowly, especially when approaching and travelling around bends where you can't see what's around the next corner.
- Rule 218 of the Highway Code states that when you see the Quiet Lane sign "You should drive slowly and carefully and be prepared to stop to allow people extra time to make space for you to pass them in safety".



To visit the interactive map of quiet lanes in Suffolk go to: sites.google.com/view/quietlanessuffolk



Improving air quality in your home this winter

As the nights draw in and the temperature drops, many people start to use their open fires or wood burning stoves more frequently - some as the main source of heating and others who enjoy the ambience of an open fire.

This winter, East Suffolk Council is raising awareness of the contribution that burning makes to air pollution (particulates) both inside and outside your home, and therefore to the health of you, your family and your neighbours.

Long term exposure to air pollution, over many years, reduces life expectancy mainly due to cardiovascular and respiratory diseases, strokes and lung cancer. Even short-term exposure over hours or days has been shown to impact lung function, worsen asthma and increase hospital admissions due to respiratory and cardiovascular illnesses.

While we will never be able to eliminate all airborne particulates, there are simple steps that households can take to limit emissions both indoors and out - and that will make a big difference.



So, what can YOU do?

- Consider burning less often or for shorter periods
- Only burn dry (seasoned) wood – buy wood with the 'Ready to Burn' fuel label. Burning wet wood is inefficient as it demands a lot of heat to boil off the water first and in turn this creates a lot of smoke, tar and particulates
- Don't burn treated waste wood (i.e old furniture, treated pallets) or household rubbish – this will emit harmful fumes
- Check how to operate your appliance efficiently by controlling air supply etc. – this will save you money as well as reducing emissions
- If you have a stove, regularly maintain and service it (i.e annually) and use the correct fuel.
- Get your chimney swept regularly (up to twice a year)
- If you are buying a new stove check it is Defra approved and installed by a qualified person, see www.hetas.co.uk

For more information, visit www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/air-quality and click on 'Biomass and Wood Burning'.

Launch of East Suffolk Services Limited



East Suffolk Services Limited is now delivering a range of operational services for local communities on behalf of East Suffolk Council.

The company launched in July as an 'arms-length' commercial business responsible for delivering crucial council services such as waste and recycling collection, grounds maintenance and street cleansing.

As part of its commitment to seek the best possible value for money for residents, businesses and all local stakeholders, East Suffolk Council agreed to create the Local Authority Trading Company (LATCo) in the autumn of 2021, enabling it to play a more direct and influential role in how important services are delivered.

Services received by residents were unaffected by the transition, which also saw operational staff transfer to the new organisation from the former contracted provider, Norse.



For any enquiries about operational services, please email customerservices@eastsuffolk.gov.uk or call **03330 162 000**.

Fly Tipping costs us all!

Fly-tipping is illegal dumping on land that is not licensed to accept waste. The waste may include general household rubbish, larger household items, e.g. mattresses and fridges, garden refuse or commercial waste. It is an offence that can lead to a fine of up to £50,000 or imprisonment.

It is estimated to cost £100-£150 million every year to investigate and clear up fly-tipping, and this cost falls on taxpayers and private landowners. It is often linked to other criminal activities.



How you can help

- **Use an authorised waste carrier. If someone offers to take your waste away and they are unauthorised you are equally liable. You can check to see if a waste carrier is licenced by visiting data.gov.uk and searching for 'waste carriers, brokers and dealers'.**
- **Use household waste recycling centres. It is simple and easy to book yourself a slot through Suffolk Recycles: www.suffolk.gov.uk/planning-waste-and-environment.**
- **Use the bulky household waste collection service provided by the council.**
- **If you see someone fly tipping report it to the Council: www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/how-to-report-fly-tipping with as much information as possible or contact Crimestoppers to report large scale illegal dumping (such as lorries dumping rubbish) and hazardous waste.**

Let's all work together to be **proud of East Suffolk!**

Our Environmental Enforcement Officers are determined to seek out and take action against those that damage our environment.



Solar Together Suffolk hits 1,800 installations milestone in East Suffolk!

East Suffolk Council is proud to be part of Solar Together Suffolk, a group-buying scheme which helps residents across the district to install solar panels and batteries for their homes and businesses.

Now in its fifth year, the scheme installed over 1,800 solar panels in East Suffolk last year!

The scheme helps homeowners feel confident that they are paying the right price for a high-quality installation from pre-approved installers, whilst increasing their independence from the grid and reducing their carbon emissions.

We work closely with colleagues from Suffolk County Council and all local borough and district councils across Suffolk to deliver this scheme. To date, Solar Together Suffolk has:

- **Installed 24,000 solar panels at over 2,100 Suffolk households**
- **Installed over 7,050kW of solar power**
- **Reduced over 41,100 tonnes of carbon emissions across the county**

Solar Together Suffolk is an important part of helping Suffolk achieve Net Zero by 2030, as part of the Suffolk Climate Emergency Plan.

Read more about the plan here:



Spring around the corner!

Tens of thousands of daffodil bulbs are set to sprout across East Suffolk next spring after being distributed to communities as part of an annual planting programme.

Following applications from voluntary and community groups, more than 80 sets of around 500 bulbs are being planted this winter.

In previous years, East Suffolk Council gifted bulbs to a number of groups in the north of the district. However, this year, the East Suffolk Blooms scheme was opened up for any voluntary and community group across the entire district to plant bulbs on public land.

East Suffolk Blooms was initiated by Cllr James Mallinder and has been continued by Cllr Rachel Smith-Lyte, the Council's current Cabinet member for Environment, and is just one example of the council's commitment to sustainability and combatting climate change.

Last year, 200 oak trees were distributed to communities across East Suffolk to plant in commemoration of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee. The 'Treebilee' scheme was launched by the then Prince of Wales, now King Charles III, to encourage the planting of trees during a year of celebrations to mark The Queen's 70-year reign.

More recently, a total of 30 standard trees and 300 whips were planted beside the public car park in Golf Road, Felixstowe, as part of a Suffolk-wide programme following a successful joint bid to the Government's Local Authority Treescapes Fund (LATF).

EASTSUFFOLK
Blooms



Contact us... and useful information

You can find a range of useful information and do more online at www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk

Call us **03330 162 000** (local rate number)

Email us customerservices@eastsuffolk.gov.uk



www.facebook.com/eastsuffolkcouncil



www.twitter.com/eastsuffolk



www.instagram.com/eastsuffolkcouncil

On Behalf of East Suffolk Council, Anglia Revenues Partnership (ARP) have created a new and improved online 'Contact Us' form for Council Tax, Business rates and Benefit.

This form can be used for all your needs including:

- Moving House
- Reporting a change in circumstance
- Registering a new business
- Applying for a discount or reduction
- General Enquiries regarding your bill or benefit award

The new form gathers all required information regarding your enquiry, to deliver a faster and more accurate response than by email or in writing. It is available 24/7 on the ARP website:

www.angliarevenues.gov.uk/contact



Weather related incidents occur more regularly during the winter months – however there is a range of information and support available should you be affected.

If you are faced with an emergency situation outside of working hours (including the weekend), which requires an immediate Council response, please call our 'out of hours' number: **0800 440 2516**.

Please do not call this number during normal working hours as it is diverted to other services, and ONLY call in the case of an emergency (such as further flooding or homelessness).

Closely follow flood warnings and alerts from the Environment Agency and take action if advised - www.gov.uk/check-flooding

If you have a powercut - call **105** or report it online: www.ukpowernetworks.co.uk/power-cut

For fallen or overhanging trees – if there is an immediate danger, please call Suffolk Highways on **0345 606 6171**.

Report non-emergency fallen trees or debris on the road to Suffolk Highways - highwaysreporting.suffolk.gov.uk

For dangerous structures call **01394 444219** or **0800 440 2516** outside of office hours.

Report flooding to your property - www.suffolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/flooding-and-drainage

Sign up for flood alerts - www.gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings

The Met Office provides very useful advice about staying safe in a storm - www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/warnings-and-advice

Citizens Advice East Suffolk advice line: **0808 278 7866** (Monday to Friday 10am to 2pm)