

Edition: December 2024

# EastSuffolk

Magazine

## EYES OF THE WORLD ON EAST SUFFOLK AGAIN

Tour of Britain showcases  
district - Page 3



## HERE for you!

East Suffolk roadshow visits local  
towns to hear what YOU think  
about our services! - Page 15

# Welcome from the Leader



**Welcome to the latest edition of the East Suffolk magazine, which is delivered to households throughout the district so that we can provide you with lots of useful news and information about our services, our plans and ambitions for the future and, of course, what we are doing right now to support you.**

I really hope that this edition helps to explain some of the decisions we are taking and why we are taking them in a clear and easy to understand way. One of the biggest this year has been our proposal to increase the amount and type of recycling we collect from you each week. Although the new service will not come in until 2026,

there is plenty of information in this edition about what will happen and why, which will hopefully be both informative and reassuring.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a healthy and happy New Year. I look forward to serving you once again in 2025 in what I hope will be a happy and positive year for us all.

**Cllr Caroline Topping,  
Leader, East Suffolk Council**



## Photo Competition!

**East Suffolk's amazing and a search is once again underway for fabulous photos celebrating where we live!**

It's the return of our competition giving photographers of all ages and experience the chance to showcase their favourite sights and scenes from across the district.

East Suffolk 'Through the Lens', will see the winning photo grace the cover of the next East Suffolk Magazine in the spring. High street retail vouchers will also be up for grabs for the overall winner, under-16 winner and three runners-up.

Entrants are encouraged to submit photographs that capture the essence of East Suffolk – from its people and wildlife to its historic buildings and beautiful landscapes. Entries should be submitted via an East Suffolk Through the Lens online entry form before midnight on Sunday 26 January. Previous entries will not be considered.

The overall winner receives a £100 high street voucher as well as seeing their photo printed on the front cover of the spring edition of East Suffolk Magazine. One under-16 winning entrant will also be chosen to receive a high street voucher worth £75, while three runners-up will each get a high street voucher worth £25.

More information about the competition and how to enter can be found at [www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/photo-comp](http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/photo-comp)



# East Suffolk

## on world stage

East Suffolk welcomed Britain's biggest professional cycle race in September, playing host to the final stage of the Lloyds Bank Tour of Britain Men. It marked the seventh edition of the men's Tour to have visited Suffolk, and the very first time that the county hosted the prestigious final stage of the event. Cllr Sarah Whitelock, East Suffolk Council's Cabinet Member for Communities, Culture, Leisure and Tourism said: "We were thrilled to see the return of the Lloyds Bank Tour of Britain Men this year, and it was especially exciting for us with the entire final stage being held within East Suffolk."

"East Suffolk Council was instrumental in bringing this major event to our district and we worked really hard to create an exciting programme of activity at the start in Lowestoft and finish in Felixstowe, as well as encouraging residents and businesses along the route to get involved and show their support for the race."

"National sporting events such as the Tour of Britain bring huge benefits to the area, attracting visitors to the district and providing a real boost for local businesses and communities. The day was absolutely spectacular, with spectators lining local roads and streets in their thousands and our beautiful district enjoying the international spotlight."

The 20th edition of the race was decided on a 158-kilometre (98.5-mile) final stage through East Suffolk on Sunday 8 September, coming after five days of racing which began in the Scottish Borders. Riders set off from Lowestoft's Promenade, before heading inland via Beccles

and Bungay, and then south through Halesworth, Framlingham, and Saxmundham, before racing along the Suffolk coast between Thorpeness and Aldeburgh.

The second half of the route took in Snape, Wickham Market, Kesgrave, and Martlesham, before a run in and exciting finish on Sea Road in Felixstowe. The final stage was won by Slovenian rider Matevž Govekar, with Team Bahrain Victorious and the overall winner of the whole race was Welsh cyclist Stevie Williams riding for UCI ProTeam Israel-Premier Tech.

However, while the event showcased elite cycling, it also featured a host of engaging activities, live entertainment and workshops, ensuring a memorable day out for all. Activities in Lowestoft included creative workshops hosted by First Light Festival and the National Literacy Trust, as well as sports and fitness challenges and interactive sessions, to promote health, wellness, and community spirit.

At the finish, Felixstowe BID and Felixstowe Town Council worked with East Suffolk Council to run the Love Felixstowe festival, in the two days before the race, with an outdoor cinema, street performers, live music, beachside events and creative workshops.

And the whole event was topped off by the presence of one of this country's greatest ever sportsmen, and winner of more Tour De France stages than anyone in history, Sir Mark Cavendish who chatted with fans and received a special award on stage in honour of his retirement following a truly incredible career.

Organisers are still crunching the numbers for 2024 but it is clear that the race has provided a real boost to the local area, which is why East Suffolk Council works hard to support it. Suffolk also hosted a stage last year and research showed how successful it was.

**Over £1m** Estimated net economic benefit supporting the regional economy

**88%** of spectators described the race as very enjoyable

**52%** of spectators inspired to cycle more often

**52%** of spectators came from outside Suffolk with **16%** staying overnight

**89%** of spectators would visit the area again



Sir Mark Cavendish with Council Leader Caroline Topping and councillor colleagues

# Better Recycling from 2026

**From 2026, East Suffolk Council will supply all households with an additional wheelie bin or other container to separate paper and card from plastics, metal, cartons (including Tetra Pak) and glass bottles or jars. This will be in addition to a brand-new weekly food waste collection service.**

This extra collection service will also allow the Council to adopt a three-weekly waste collection service, rather than the current fortnightly arrangement, without a reduction in the overall combined capacity of household bins.

Cllr Sally Noble, East Suffolk Council's Cabinet Member for the Environment, said: "National targets require us to divert 60% of waste to recycling by 2030 and 65% by 2035. The current co-mingled method of collecting recycling in one bin means that a large amount of the paper and card we collect is contaminated by the other items. The 'twin stream' method, with an additional recycling bin, will transform the quality of materials for re-use, with huge environmental benefits. This also means that much less residual waste will need to be collected.

"We know that some people are worried about the space they need for an additional bin. However, as we do currently, we will always seek to help any residents who have legitimate storage concerns. Additionally, alternative arrangements will be considered for households who may struggle with less frequent waste collections – for example those with medical needs or children in nappies."



## Why three-weekly waste collections?

- Suffolk has the potential to divert over 58% of waste from rubbish bins to other recycling and organic waste collections. On this basis, and to encourage improved recycling habits, a twin stream recycling and three-weekly waste collection service would greatly increase recycling rates and reduce the waste which is unnecessarily disposed of.
- Three-weekly waste collections will also significantly reduce carbon emissions compared to two-weekly waste collections.

## Will we be collecting less waste and recycling overall?

- No. While a three-weekly collection of non-recyclable waste would reduce the frequency that this particular bin is collected, the new recycling service, alongside the weekly collection of food waste, would actually increase the combined bin capacity each household receives.

## What if I don't have room for an extra bin?

- As we do currently, we will be able to help residents overcome any legitimate storage concerns. Other councils have 'rolled out' this new service and supplied additional full-sized bins to over 90% of residents. However, we will be working with all communities to ensure the right solution is provided.

## How will you address hygiene concerns as a result of fewer waste collections?

- The new food waste collection service means that there should be a great reduction in odorous waste or vermin as a result of less frequent residual waste collections. However, in line with our consideration for legitimate storage issues, alternative arrangements would be considered for households with medical needs and households with children in nappies.

## What are the cost implications for the taxpayer?

- East Suffolk Council has been allocated a total of £2,367,763 under 'New Burdens Funding' to cover the capital costs of purchasing vehicles, containers and new assets to support food waste collection. Ongoing New Burdens revenue funding is also promised to support all councils' ongoing costs of operating food waste services.
- All three-weekly residual waste options are less expensive than their fortnightly counterparts. However, an additional cost to ESC is expected compared to the current baseline and a continuation of the current comingled collections proves to be the most expensive option.
- The estimated cost of changing to twin stream recycling is £41/tonne and fully co-mingled (to include the new materials) is £75/tonne, reflecting the greater cost of sorting a bigger tonnage of mixed materials. Based on an expected 8,000 tonnes of recycling material, the co-mingled option would cost the council an additional £272,000 per year.



## Recycling Centres

You can recycle lots of different household items at any of the 11 Recycling Centres across Suffolk, as well as donating items for the charity reuse shops. Remember you must book your slot before visiting a Recycling Centre. You can book online at [www.suffolkrecycling.org.uk](http://www.suffolkrecycling.org.uk).

Anyone without internet access can telephone Suffolk County Council on **0345 606 6067** and someone can book it online for you.

### Did you know....?

- ***the booking system reduces the waiting times of visitors to each Recycling Centre and helps manage traffic***
- ***you can book up to seven days in advance or on-the-day in near real time***
- ***you can also cancel or reschedule your appointment if your plans change.***



Before you set off in bad weather, check @Suffolkrc on X (formerly Twitter) for information about site closures and updates.



# Warm Welcomes

POP IN  
AND  
SAY HI!

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, try different activities and find out about support available locally.

These spaces have proved to be really popular with residents over the past two winters and, in Lowestoft, they are popular all year round with nearly 16,500 people accessing them between April and September. These funded winter Warm Welcomes are open between early November and 31 March 2025 and are not just warm in temperature but also warm in spirit in bringing people together.

There are 22 funded Warm Welcomes across the district this winter; they are free, you can drop-in and there are refreshments and activities to enjoy. This year's Warm Welcomes venues include: The Seagull Theatre, Disability Advice North East Suffolk, Lound Village Hall, Saint Andrews Church Lowestoft, Nature Play CIC, Re-Utilise, Lowestoft Library, Beccles Library, Bungay Library, Bungay Community Support, Halesworth Library, ROPETH, Kesgrave Library, Levington and Stratton Hall, Southwold Library, Kessingland Library, Leiston Library, Aldeburgh Library, Woodbridge Library, Rendlesham Community Centre, Wickham Market Library, The Hub at Huntingfield and Fortrey Heap Hall in North Cove.

## EAST SUFFOLK WARM WELCOMES



To find out about your local Warm Welcome and when it is open, please visit [www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/fuel-and-energy](http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/fuel-and-energy)

## Putting Community Safety first

**East Suffolk Council has taken the lead at a number of multi-agency 'days of action' this year to help improve community safety in our towns and villages.**

Organised by the East Suffolk Community Safety Partnership, officers from East Suffolk Council's Communities, Environmental Protection, Licensing, Housing, Tenant Services, Fraud, Waste and Private Sector Housing teams have joined forces with a number of partners including Suffolk Police and Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service to undertake checks and inspections, aimed at strengthening community safety and addressing environmental issues.

Speaking after an event in Bungay, Cllr Lee Reeves, Chair of the Community Safety Partnership said: "The enforcement day successfully identified several potential safety and environmental issues which need to be addressed. As well as carrying out compliance and safety checks, we were able to provide guidance to residents and businesses, including advice on Personal Emergency Evacuation Plans. Many residents engaged with our officers to share their concerns and we are grateful to those who took time to speak to us."

Meanwhile, in Leiston, Locality Inspector Liz Casey said: "Our impact day not only highlighted a number of areas of concern to residents but also provided a visible presence across the town. Of course, our work continues throughout the year but we were able to reassure people with our multi-agency work and deal with a wide range of offences. I would like to thank our partners and residents."



**Take part in our new community safety survey!**



We'd like to know how safe you feel, whether you know how to report community safety concerns and what could be done to help address any concerns you may have.

# Half-a-million pound pledge for East Suffolk Towns

East Suffolk Council has pledged to extend its support for town centres with an additional £537,000 to help deliver a new Town Development Programme.

The new funding builds on the work of the East Suffolk Towns Revitalisation Programme which secured £900,000 of external funding and a further £270,000 from the Council to support town centres through delivery of Covid recovery and resilience assistance, town apps, websites and branding, skills and training, capital improvements, and events development.

The new three-year programme will build on these successes and seek to strengthen partnership working with town councils, business associations, Business Improvement Districts and other local town groups.



**Cllr Tim Wilson, Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Transport, said: "Town centres are the lifeblood of our communities and local economy – providing key services, employment, leisure and entertainment – and this Council is committed to supporting their economic viability."**

**"Our high streets face a number of ongoing challenges – not least from the rise of out-of-town and online retail – but we are now able to continue working closely with town councils, business associations, residents and visitors, to deliver local ambitions which ultimately drive footfall and diversify town centres."**



Thanks to the East Suffolk Towns Revitalisation Programme, a number of local high profile events have been supported including The Black Shuck Festival, in Bungay, and The Love Felixstowe festival and many heritage and cultural events. Meanwhile, capital improvements have included the renovation of town signs and maps in many towns, as well as installation of new benches, finger posts and dropped kerbs.

Grant funding has enabled the creation of new or enhanced town visitor websites for Southwold, Woodbridge, Felixstowe, Halesworth, Lowestoft, Leiston and Beccles, and the appointment of coordinators delivering projects in Framlingham, Saxmundham, Beccles, and Bungay.

The programme grant pot has also supported weekly town markets, the development of wide-ranging event and training programmes and the first, successful Towns Development Programme Conference was held in November.

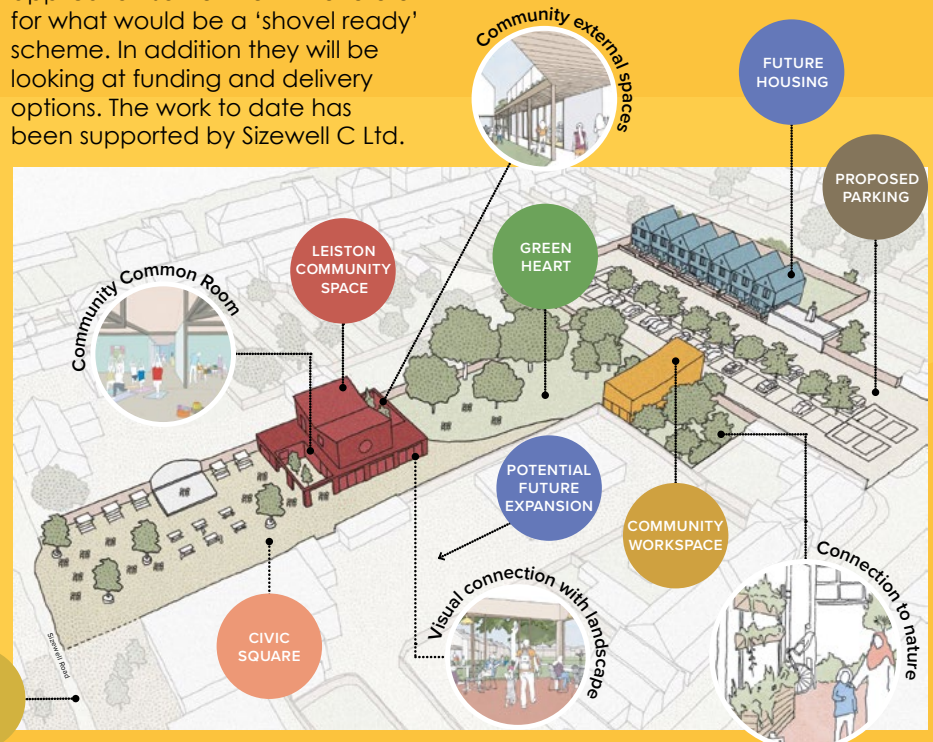
## Leiston Plan

East Suffolk Council in partnership with Leiston Cum Sizewell Town Council and Leiston Community Land Trust have recently completed the first phase of a design and feasibility study for the proposed Market Square development. The project is detailed within the Leiston Town Centre Masterplan Framework to 'Create a vibrant and distinctive additional street space in the town centre which complements rather than competes with the existing offer.'

The final report was presented to the partnership in October and proposed opening an entrance to Market Square from Sizewell Road, creating new events, public and green space within the centre of the town, a new public building which could support a range of uses or services, retain existing car parking and the provision for new homes and business premises.

The partnership is now looking at ways to advance the designs with the aim of submitting a planning application sometime in the future for what would be a 'shovel ready' scheme. In addition they will be looking at funding and delivery options. The work to date has been supported by Sizewell C Ltd.

Take a look at what has been achieved so far!



# Supporting communities through Sizewell construction

While East Suffolk Council is not responsible for the construction of the Sizewell C Nuclear Power Station, it has signed a legal agreement with Suffolk County Council and Sizewell C to put measures in place which will support local communities through this period.

This 'Deed of Obligation' includes a commitment by Sizewell C, secured by East Suffolk Council, to provide £30 million in investment for housing, economic development and tourism schemes, as well as a £23 million community fund and £12 million towards the natural environment in partnership with Suffolk County Council.

In addition, East Suffolk Council will have two nominated Trustees on a Charitable Trust created by the promoters of the new nuclear plant, to be known as The East Suffolk Trust.

This will promote, for the benefit of the public, the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment in and around East Suffolk for the next 70+ years.



**Cllr Tom Daly, Cabinet Member for Energy Projects said:** "Whilst the Council remains of the view that truly renewable energy, such as offshore and onshore wind and solar provides a better long-term answer to the energy security and carbon reduction future of the UK, the development of Sizewell C has been consented by the government and it is now under construction.

"Nevertheless, we will work closely with Sizewell C Ltd and our technical advisors to ensure that the funding secured in the Deed of Obligation will benefit local residents while also lobbying government further to ensure a coordinated and strategic approach to energy policy which protects the wellbeing of this district."

## Taking care of tourism

One of the Sizewell C (SZC) mitigation funding programmes to have commenced is a Tourism Fund of £12 million which will be managed by East Suffolk Council.

To begin with, work is underway to develop tools and systems that will provide real insight into visitor experiences, perceptions and sentiments before and after visiting East Suffolk. This work will be able to support decision making in future. Engaging with tourism businesses to inform how the annual funding should be allocated is also a priority, to ensure we maximise the opportunities and mitigate impacts on the tourism sector, where possible.

In terms of direct, immediate activities, the Council is in the process of developing new photography and video assets that local businesses and organisations can utilise to enhance their marketing efforts, and which will be available from the start of 2025.

Additionally, the Council is launching a marketing campaign aimed at increasing awareness of the district, focusing on attracting national and regional attention. This campaign will specifically target the off-peak months from January to April, aiming to draw more visitors during this quieter period.

For more information on the progress of the Tourism Fund, please visit the East Suffolk Means business website: [www.eastsuffolkmeansbusiness.co.uk/sizewell-c-tourism-fund](http://www.eastsuffolkmeansbusiness.co.uk/sizewell-c-tourism-fund)



# Funding secured for GP practice expansions

East Suffolk Council has allocated over £1.4m of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) to fund the expansion of three local doctors' surgeries and ensure that residents benefit from improved health facilities in areas of housing growth.

In order to meet the growing demand for health services Haven Health Surgery and Grove Medical Centre, in Felixstowe, and Cutlers Hill Surgery, in Halesworth are all being improved.

Councillor Kay Yule, East Suffolk Council Cabinet Member for Planning and Coastal Management, said: "We want to ensure that the right infrastructure is put in the right place at the right time. So, it is pleasing to see the reinvestment of money levied on developers building nearby homes back into the community to support the expansion of local GP practices to help meet increased demand.

"There is a well-documented need for housing across the country, but as work continues to meet that need, we must consider the resulting need to grow capacity in services like health and social care. It is important that our larger housing developers help to financially meet that need."

Funding worth over £600,000 has been allocated to Suffolk Primary Care for the expansion of primary care at Haven Health Surgery, to include an additional five clinical rooms and help futureproof future service delivery.

Another £61,000 will fund the conversion of four rooms at the Grove Medical Centre into clinical accommodation and £777,000 will enable Cutlers Hill Surgery to create improved welfare facilities, four new consultation rooms, healthcare assistant room and improved patient access.



CIL is paid to local authorities to raise funds from developers undertaking new building projects in their area. Funding can be used on a range of infrastructure needed as a result of development, including education, health and social care facilities, green spaces and leisure provision. To date, East Suffolk Council has formally allocated over £17.6m of District CIL to a variety of local infrastructure projects.



[www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/  
community-infrastructure-levy](http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/community-infrastructure-levy)

## North Felixstowe in focus

East Suffolk Council's engagement with local communities continued with a recent 'Question and Answer' event about the proposed North Felixstowe Garden Neighbourhood, attended by around 160 people.

The Council is leading the master-planning process for a new leisure-led garden neighbourhood to the north of the town, and residents were invited to Felixstowe School to ask a panel of elected representatives a range of questions about the proposals.

The event was the latest in a series of engagement and consultation activities to inform the Masterplan for a site which was identified for development by the agreed Local Plan.

Questions were put to panellists from East Suffolk Council, Suffolk County Council and Suffolk Coastal MP Jenny Riddell-Carpenter, and covered a range of themes including housing need, concerns around Eastward Ho and The Grove, infrastructure requirements and leisure.

Cllr Caroline Topping, Leader of East Suffolk Council, said: "I am grateful that so many people came to Felixstowe School for this event and that they took the opportunity once again to ask robust questions about our proposals. The Suffolk Coastal Local Plan, which was approved in 2020 by an independent inspector, details evidence-led housing need across the south of the district and has identified this location as a site for up to 1440 new dwellings to meet demand.

"However, consultation and engagement through this process is incredibly important and will absolutely influence the final decisions about the Masterplan. We know that local communities have strong views about these proposals, which is why we remain so committed to a transparent listening approach."

**To find out more about the scheme visit: [www.northfelixstowe.co.uk](http://www.northfelixstowe.co.uk)**



# Deben Leisure

## Refresh

**Work is underway on a refresh at Deben Leisure Centre in Woodbridge to improve the site's gym facilities.**

The centre underwent a major £3.5m improvement scheme in 2017/18, creating a new enlarged gym area, indoor cycling room, fitness studio and village changing room. In addition, the swimming pool was refurbished, and additional spa facilities added with improved communal areas. Since then, there has been a significant increase in visitor numbers and memberships, reflecting the community's enthusiasm for the improved amenities.

But it doesn't stop there! East Suffolk Council's Leisure Strategy supports ongoing improvement to ensure that all facilities are maintained to high standards and encourage take-up of healthy activities.

With this mind, a refresh of gym facilities is now underway, with the installation of new weights areas, modern gym equipment, redecoration, updated flooring, and additional mirrors. These enhancements aim to elevate the overall atmosphere of the gym and ensure that it meets the high standards expected by residents.



"Investing in our leisure centres is essential for promoting health and wellness in our community," said Cllr Whitelock, East Suffolk Council's Cabinet Member for Communities, Culture, Leisure and Tourism. "With these upgrades, we're not just refreshing the space; we're also ensuring that our members have access to the best facilities possible."

This approach not only enhances user satisfaction but also reduces long-term costs. By avoiding the need for extensive overhauls every decade, the council anticipates significant savings and continues to provide quality leisure centres to allow the community to have access to facilities and encouraging health and wellbeing in the community.



Meanwhile, work to refresh our leisure facilities in Felixstowe is complete, with a brand-new spin room, new flooring, decoration and improved lighting along with new gym equipment. And at Brackenburg Leisure Centre in Felixstowe, we have refurbished the outdoor multi-use games area (MUGA) which sets to promote sports, health, and well-being within the community.

East Suffolk Council hosts a number of fantastic state-of-the-art leisure centres throughout the district. Find out more about our incredible venues and their value for money memberships and classes!



[www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/sport-and-leisure-centres](http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/sport-and-leisure-centres)

## Kickstart your health with Feel Good Suffolk

Feel Good Suffolk can help YOU make healthy changes! Having launched in October 2023, the service supporting Suffolk residents to make healthier choices has helped over 2,000 people to improve their health in just six months.

The scheme provides residents with access to services, supporting them to stop smoking, manage their weight and to be more physically active. And after a half a year, Feel Good Suffolk had helped around 730 people with support to quit smoking, over 1,300 to manage their weight and more than 470 to be more active.

Want to find out more? Their website is full of useful information, links and advice on how to make positive, healthy changes today. Or you can give them a call on **0345 603 4060** and speak to a member of the Customer Service team.



[www.feelgoodsuffolk.co.uk](http://www.feelgoodsuffolk.co.uk)

# Work to deliver the Lowestoft Seafront Vision project is underway!

The project will focus on the regeneration of Royal Plain, Royal Green, and South Quay Wharf with improvements to these three key areas funded through Lowestoft's £24.9m allocation from the Government's Towns Fund.

There will be new fountains at Royal Plain, a new pocket park at South Quay Wharf and a range of improvements to Royal Green including the installation of a Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) and boulder climbing.

The regeneration of this area of Lowestoft supports the wider Towns Fund programme and will be delivered by Blakedown Landscapes. It complements plans to build a two-storey restaurant and café complex at Jubilee Parade with PJ Spillings delivering this element of the scheme.

Cllr Tim Wilson, East Suffolk's Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Regeneration said: "We are pleased to award the tender for construction of the Seafront Vision project to Blakedown Landscapes. The improvements to these areas will really make a difference, such as the new fountains at Royal Plain, which have previously been enjoyed by people and families over the years.

"The project also supports wider regeneration projects outlined in the Lowestoft Town Investment Plan, such as the redevelopment of Jubilee Parade, and we hope these projects will bring further prosperity to the town and encourage more visitors to explore what Lowestoft has to offer."

Chris Wellbelove, Managing Director at Blakedown Landscapes said: "We are delighted to be appointed as principal contractor for the public realm works at Lowestoft's historic

seafront. Building on our successful completion of the regeneration works at The Ness, we are committed to delivering high quality, sustainable improvements that will enhance the local environment. We look forward to collaborating with East Suffolk Council and all stakeholders to bring this important project to life and enhancing the town's vibrant coastal identity."

Work will be completed in the spring next year with residents and visitors able to take full advantage of these updated facilities just in time for the summer months of 2025.

East Suffolk Council worked closely with local businesses and organisations throughout the design phase, including the Waveney Disability Forum. During construction, the RNLI Lifeboat Station and shop, South Pier, South Pier Entertainment Centre, Yacht Station, Jet Adventures, Harbour Inn, Iconic, East Point Pavilion, and businesses located at Pier Terrace will remain open and accessible.

## The project in full!



### Royal Green

- Demolition and adaption of existing walls along the esplanade
- Installation of Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) and boulder climbing area
- Extensive landscaping along the edges of the esplanade and the car park
- New bench seating
- Free to use exercise stations along the length of the site
- New cycle hub to the north encouraging active travel and providing space for e-bikes, bicycle parking and a bike repair station
- Introduction of electric vehicle charging points



### South Quay Wharf

- New pocket park comprising:
  - ↳ Raised planters
  - ↳ New seating and planting
  - ↳ New decorative railings
  - ↳ New lighting and paving
  - ↳ A sheltered garden backdrop from which to watch the boats leaving and returning to the port



### Royal Plain

- New fountains on Royal Plain, with jets which will meet the required standards for water play
- Additional lighting
- New benches and raised planters to the north and west



Funded by  
UK Government



THINK  
LOWESTOFT

# Worried about heating bills? We're here to help

During winter, many residents worry about affording to heat their homes and their energy bills.

The "Suffolk Centres for Warmth" Team provides energy related support and advice to help the most vulnerable households keep warm. The project is funded by Cadent, the gas distributor and delivered by East Suffolk in partnership with Suffolk Councils.

## What we can help you with?

- **Free\* Carbon Monoxide Alarms**
- **Signing up for the Priority Services Register**
- **Free Gas Safety Check**
- **Energy Efficiency Advice**
- **Slow Cooker Sessions**

Find out more!

[www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/  
suffolk-centres-for-warmth](http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/suffolk-centres-for-warmth)



The team visit local support groups to provide detailed information, ensuring that residents are made aware of the support that is available.

Recently, they visited Lowestoft Stroke Association and, among other things, helped members sign up to the Priority Services Register, supported with Council Tax reduction and discount applications, also helped to resolve a complex dispute with an energy supplier. We also returned for a Slow Cooker Session, and distributed free slow cookers as part of the event.

If you are a resident seeking advice or run a group we could visit, please email us at [ccfw@eastsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:ccfw@eastsuffolk.gov.uk) or call the Council's Customer Services Team on **0333 016 2000** and ask for Suffolk Centres for Warmth.

*\* Subject to availability*

## Interest-free energy loans

Suffolk County Council is offering interest-free loans to help make residents' homes warmer, safer and cheaper to run. Energy efficiency upgrades such as insulation, solar panels, batteries, glazing, or heat pumps will all be possible with loans of up to £15,000 to be repaid over a maximum of seven years – at 0% interest.

The £3 million project is open to homeowners across Suffolk. Making homes more energy-efficient helps retain their heat and use less energy, meaning homeowners can save on their energy bills and reduce their carbon emissions. A warm home also has a positive impact on health and well-being. The funding was allocated from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and the scheme supports Suffolk's Climate Emergency Plan, by increasing the number of properties which have energy-efficient and low carbon energy measures installed.



For more information, head to  
[www.lendology.org.uk/warm-home-suffolk-loan](http://www.lendology.org.uk/warm-home-suffolk-loan)

# Wildlife Wise on the Suffolk Coast

**A project is pulling out the stops to prevent disturbance and damage to wildlife and habitats along the Suffolk Coast.**

The Suffolk Coast's special habitats and wildlife make it an incredible place for local residents and visitors and also has several international-level designations which reflect its beauty and importance.

Wildlife Wise aims to prevent additional recreational pressure on these important coast and heathland sites and is encouraging people to enjoy nature and share these spaces with wildlife by followings some simple steps:

- **Keep you and your dog on paths away from birds nests on the ground in the areas around estuaries, beaches, heathlands and grasslands.**
- **Avoid walking on plants on beaches.**
- **Do not allow your dog to chase wildlife or farm animals.**
- **Always clean up after your dog – dog mess can damage habitats and can cause disease.**
- **Follow any signs which are there to protect you, your dog and wildlife, or to allow land management, nature conservation or farming work to be carried out easily and safely.**

As part of the project, engagement and educational activities are being developed and Wildlife Wise rangers are visiting sites to speak with and advise visitors.

Cllr Kay Yule, East Suffolk Council's Cabinet Member for Planning and Coastal Management said: "East Suffolk has miles of stunning coastline which offers a wealth of opportunities for residents and visitors to explore and pursue leisure activities to benefit their health and wellbeing however we want to help people enjoy these areas without impacting on the local wildlife."



# Are you litter heroes?

If you think East Suffolk's amazing... let's keep it that way! We are able to lend out equipment for organised litter picks, including Hi-Viz vests, litter pickers, bags and bag hoops.

Due to high demand, we operate on a first-come first-served basis, so early registration is advised. The equipment will need to be collected from one of two locations, at either East Suffolk House in Melton or the East Suffolk Services Ltd depot in Lowestoft and returned to the same depot by an agreed date, after the event has finished.

Provided that we are notified in advance, we can also remove bagged and other waste items collected from agreed collection points. We will ask you to send in a photo of the items in their collection location to aid the operatives.



Register your litter pick at  
[www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/amazing](http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/amazing)



# Helping young people find work

East Suffolk Council is to spend £420,000 on a scheme which helps young people in East Suffolk find employment.

The funding was recently approved to extend the Youth Employment Service (YES), which is currently delivered by Inspire Suffolk on behalf of East Suffolk Council.

YES is an innovative project supporting local young people aged between 16 and 24 who are not currently employed or in education to receive job coaching, skills and employment training by providing bespoke online and face-to-face support. It also offers access to other support services and programmes.

Additionally, £190,000 in external funding has also been secured from Nuclear Restoration Services (NRS) which will support the creation of an enhanced service to help young people with more challenging needs.

Cllr Tim Wilson, East Suffolk's Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Transport said: "On average, YES has supported 300 young people each year since its inception, and I am pleased that council funding has been agreed to support this vital service for a further three years. The service has evolved in response to the current challenges faced by our young people and the need for more specialised support is clear. The external funding from NRS will enable YES to provide an enhanced service for those with more complex needs, including young people in the more rural parts of East Suffolk who sometimes struggle to access services."

Information from local secondary schools has already identified an increase in the number of students who may be at risk of being unemployed or not in further education once they leave school and will likely require additional support.

Learn more about Inspire Suffolk's work here: [www.inspirecharityuk.org](http://www.inspirecharityuk.org)



## Youth Council making a difference!

Young people from across East Suffolk are hoping to make a difference as part of a brand new Youth Council.

The East Suffolk Youth Council will influence decisions and drive real change. Elected Youth Councillors will represent their peers and communities up and down the district, and their voices will be heard loud and clear by East Suffolk Council.

Cllr Anthony Specca, Chair of East Suffolk Council said: "I believe it's vital to engage young people in politics. They're a huge part of our communities, but they're often left out of discussions about how to make things better now and for the future. But the future belongs to them especially, and it's only fair that their voice is heard. Our democracy will be stronger for it, too."

"I'm proud that we're establishing the new East Suffolk Youth Council as a special Chair's initiative. Our first cohort of Youth Councillors have now been sworn in, and they're already beginning to set their priorities. But there are still seats open, and I encourage even more young people to think about joining the Youth Council. East Suffolk needs you, so stand up and make a difference!"

The Youth Council will be apolitical, with its own special rules of procedure designed to promote open discussion. Each Youth Councillor will be elected for a two-year term, or until they either leave education or turn 20 years of age. They will be able to set their own priorities, bring forward their own motions, and make suggestions to the district council on key issues of importance not just to young people, but to our communities as a whole.



Find out more about our Youth Council!



# Our Roadshows... **HERE** for you!

This summer, Councillors from all parties and officers visited towns around the district to chat to local people about our services and how they feel about what we do. We're here for you!



Our roadshows took us to Halesworth, Leiston, Felixstowe and Woodbridge between July and September with councillors and senior officers on hand at each event to listen to local people and chat about our plans, our services and how we are looking to improve lives and outcomes not only in the towns we visit but throughout East Suffolk.

Next year, we're planning to head out on the road again – visiting more places, heading to different locations to meet and speak with as many of you as possible.

**Cllr Caroline Topping, Leader of East Suffolk Council said:** "There is no better way to get a real sense of how local people feel about the services we deliver than getting out and meeting them.

**"I attended all four roadshows around the district and spoke to so many different people about their lives and challenges. The events were a great success and I'm really looking forward to getting them up and running again next year."**



## We want to know what **YOU** think!

We want to know more about the people who live and work in East Suffolk, to help us deliver services that **YOU** need. We would like to know what matters most to you and where we should be spending our money. Take part and help shape East Suffolk!

The survey is always live, without a deadline, and makes a real difference to our approach to the services we plan and deliver. A paper copy is included in alternate editions of this magazine – so the next one will be included in our Spring publication.

It's easiest to complete the survey at [www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/survey](http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/survey), or using the QR code to access it from your mobile device.



# Contact us... and useful information

You can find a range of useful information and do more online at [www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk](http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk)

Call us **0333 016 2000** (local rate number)

Email us [customerservices@eastsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:customerservices@eastsuffolk.gov.uk)

 [www.facebook.com/eastsuffolkcouncil](https://www.facebook.com/eastsuffolkcouncil)

 [www.x.com/eastsuffolk](https://www.x.com/eastsuffolk)

 [www.instagram.com/eastsuffolkcouncil](https://www.instagram.com/eastsuffolkcouncil)

## Christmas and New Year bin collections

**As we get ready for the festive celebrations, please note these changes to bin collections:**

Normal collection day	→	New collection day
Monday 23 December	→	Saturday 21 December
Tuesday 24 December	→	Monday 23 December
Wednesday 25 December	→	Tuesday 24 December
Thursday 26 December	→	Friday 27 December
Friday 27 December	→	Saturday 28 December
Wednesday 1 January	→	Thursday 2 January
Thursday 2 January	→	Friday 3 January
Friday 3 January	→	Saturday 4 January

Bin collections will take place as normal on Monday 30 December and Tuesday 31 December.

**Remember to leave  
your bin out by 6am  
on your collection day.**



**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](http://www.gov.uk/check-flooding)

If you have a powercut - call **105** or report it online: [www.ukpowernetworks.co.uk/power-cut](http://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](http://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](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/flooding-and-drainage)

Sign up for flood alerts - [www.gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings](http://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](http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/warnings-and-advice)

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