

Edition: **August 2024**

EastSuffolk

Magazine

TELL US WHAT YOU THINK!

You can complete our survey on page 14 or do it online!



WILL YOU HELP US?

We think East Suffolk's Amazing and we want to keep it that way. Will you do your bit to help us? See page 5!

Tim Bennett - Southwold



OUR WINNERS!

Photo competition winners capture beauty of East Suffolk!



Welcome from the Leader



Welcome to the latest edition of the East Suffolk magazine, which we deliver to residents in the district to provide a range of useful news and information about our services, how we can support you and our communities, and details of our plans for the future.

We have laid out our plans for the next four years in 'Our Direction 2028' and everything we do is with you and your future in mind. I am particularly proud to lead a Council which works so incredibly hard for the people it serves, however we are an open and transparent organisation which always wants to hear more about what you think and how we can improve what we do for you.

So, please take part in our residents' survey – details of which you can find later in the magazine. Elsewhere you can also find out about our East Suffolk roadshows which got underway this summer and where our next events will be taking place. A great opportunity to see us in person, say "hi" and give us your feedback on everything we do. We can't wait to see you.

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

**TAKE A LOOK AT
OUR DIRECTION
2028 NOW →**



Contact us

You can do more online at www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk

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

Email us customerservices@eastsuffolk.gov.uk



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www.x.com/eastsuffolk



www.instagram.com/eastsuffolkcouncil

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 www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk



My East Suffolk



Report a missed bin



Garden waste service

Parking in East Suffolk – now simpler to pay!

Too many parking apps for different locations? Good news!

Motorists parking in East Suffolk Council-owned car parks can now choose from a selection of cashless payment providers.

We've joined the pilot phase of the National Parking Platform (NPP), a multi-vendor cashless parking solution delivered by the Department for Transport. Joining the NPP gives drivers the choice to use their preferred parking app or website, rather than having to use a single provider which the Council has chosen on their behalf. This makes paying for parking easier, quicker and more convenient.

In addition to RingGo, there will now be other parking providers to use when paying for parking cashlessly in all 73 chargeable Council-owned car parks across East Suffolk. Currently: PayByPhone, JustPark, APCOA Connect and AppyParking+. More suppliers may become available later.



Cllr Toby Hammond, East Suffolk's cabinet member for Economic Development and Transport said:
"By joining the platform during the pilot stage, we have a unique opportunity to help shape the future of the scheme, ensuring that residents and visitors in East Suffolk will benefit from reliable and secure cashless parking services for years to come."



All East Suffolk car parks will still accept cash using the on-site payment machines. A valid ticket will still need to be clearly displayed if paying by cash. Monthly and annual tickets already purchased through RingGo will cross over to the new platform automatically and will remain valid.



For information on parking in East Suffolk: www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/car-parks



Half million-pound fund for emergency response

A new fund has been established to provide immediate, short-term financial support to East Suffolk communities affected by emergency events like flooding.

In February, as part of the 2024-25 Budget setting process, we created a Resilience Reserve in response to the severe disruption caused by Storm Babet last October. Now, Cabinet members have agreed how this £500,000 pot will be managed, through a newly established Resilience and Emergency Response Fund (RERF).

The RERF is designed to ensure East Suffolk Council can be more flexible and responsive to ensure reasonable additional costs incurred by town and parish councils during an emergency event are covered.

In the aftermath of Storm Babet, longer-term grants were available under central government's flood recovery framework, however a gap was identified to support the

immediate and urgent needs of residents and communities; such as, provision of skips to remove damaged household items; and costs (food, bedding, clothing) for displaced people using the emergency centres.

East Suffolk Council's cabinet member for Resources and Value for Money, Cllr Vince Langdon-Morris, said: "In East Suffolk alone, 320 properties were directly impacted by Storm Babet last October.

"As much as we cannot sit back and allow climate change to irreversibly worsen, we must also try and support communities affected by its ongoing impacts, including flooding from rising sea levels, prolonged rainfall and intense storms. This fund can bring significant relief for our residents at a time of need.

"However, importantly, the RERF is a short-term resource and is in no way a replacement for central government support."



Photo credit: Ryan Kuhl

In addition to the RERF, a dedicated council officer will be appointed, to build upon our existing emergency response capacity, providing a communication, co-ordinating and enabling role for our town and parish councils, communities and residents before, during and after future emergency events.

Responding to an emergency – all you need to know

www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/emergency-planning-and-business-continuity

East Suffolk... Through the lens!



A stunning selection of images triumphed in a competition inviting photographers to showcase East Suffolk 'Through the Lens'.

The competition gave photographers of all ages and experience the chance to exhibit their talents by capturing their favourite sights and scenes from across the district.

More than 350 entries were submitted during the seven-week competition – with one amazing photo eventually chosen by a panel of judges as overall winner, along with three runners-up and an under-16 winner.

Tim Bennett's winning photograph, entitled 'Early morning swim at Southwold Beach', impressed judges with its striking colour, light, and sense of tranquillity.

Highly commended runners-up included Peter Stokes' ghostly image of Felixstowe Ferry on the River Deben, Darren Kirby's imposing impression of a misty Lowestoft beach scene, and Jordan Shaddick's breathtaking shot of a hare bounding across Boyton and Hollesley Marshes.

Meanwhile, Bruno Leon's beautiful depiction of a vole eating a blade of grass at RSPB Minsmere was a worthy winner in the under-16 category of the competition.

Entrants were encouraged to submit photographs that captured the essence of East Suffolk – from its people and wildlife to its historic buildings and beautiful landscapes.

Cllr Caroline Topping, East Suffolk Council Leader and judging panel member, said: "We were so impressed with the range and quality of photographs submitted for 'East Suffolk Through the Lens'. Viewing them was a real treat and confirmed the beauty and diversity of landscape in our district.

"Some were inspiring, others were humorous or cleverly composed, and all were worthy of praise for representing something special about East Suffolk to the photographer. Thanks to everyone who submitted an entry and congratulations to our winners."

Tim Bennett's winning photo graces the cover of this magazine and high street retail vouchers were also awarded to the overall winner, under-16 winner and three runners-up.

Look out for the next competition later this year!



Tim Bennett



Bruno Leon



Peter Stokes



Jordan Shaddick



Darren Kirby

Let's take pride in where we live!

We want everyone to work together to maintain the beauty of East Suffolk, and this is why we are encouraging more residents to take active pride in their local area!

This includes reducing fly-tipping, recycling properly and even, where possible, looking after the spaces outside residents' own property.

There is already an incredible network of volunteers who help keep our district beautiful, with regular litter-picks, planting, and an all-round effort to keep their local area clean. East Suffolk Council is encouraging more people to get involved and to really do their bit to keep East Suffolk Amazing.

The Council will support local communities and groups by lending out equipment for litter pick events, including hi-viz vests, litter pickers, bags and bag hoops. With this in mind, a range of information about how communities can get involved in schemes, as well as a range of tips and advice, can be now found online.

Cllr Caroline Topping, Leader of East Suffolk Council said: "We invest every single penny we can in services to help maintain the beauty and cleanliness of East Suffolk – but sometimes, we have to be honest and admit that it can never necessarily be enough.

"The pressure on budgets is felt in our homes as a result of the cost-of-living crisis, they are felt by businesses who are doing their very best to stay afloat, and they are also felt by councils such as ours who have seen their funding reduced considerably.



"So, what is possible? For me, and for everyone at East Suffolk, we hope and believe that the incredible local pride we all share can be put to the best possible use. If local people and organisations want to play their part, we would love them to get involved. East Suffolk's Amazing... let's keep it that way!"

Find out more about how YOU can help Keep East Suffolk Amazing!
www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/amazing



Keeping your wellbeing in mind

We've produced a brand-new booklet called 'Well Minds East Suffolk' containing an extensive range of advice and information, including details of local support services for people of all ages in need of help with their mental health.

10,000 booklets have been distributed to community settings across the district, including libraries, community centres and the network of Warm Welcomes, part-funded by the Council. You can also download it to share or read online and it has been funded by the East Suffolk Community Partnership Board.

Cllr Sarah Whitelock, East Suffolk's cabinet member for Communities, Culture, Leisure and Tourism, said: "Improving the mental health and wellbeing of our residents is one of the main priorities for this

Administration. We know that many people in East Suffolk are struggling with their mental health following the Covid-19 pandemic, the high costs of living and other challenges.

"There are a lot of specialist groups who can offer advice, but it can be difficult at a time of crisis to know where to look. These new booklets bring all the information together providing a valuable resource for anyone in need of help, or who is looking for guidance with a friend or family member."



Read the
booklet now!



£500,000 to boost our towns!

East Suffolk towns have benefited from over £500,000 in investment thanks to our Towns Revitalisation Programme, helping to ensure that all our towns are economically vibrant and can achieve long term sustainability both for the local community, businesses and visitors.

The programme has developed and delivered a varied and wide-ranging series of projects to support the 11 key towns, plus the one large village of Wickham Market. From initial research, establishing priorities for local stakeholders, to the creation of action plans and funding bids, the programme has always been based on local needs.

The main themes of the programme have included:

- Capacity building
- Marketing and branding
- Skills development
- Digital development
- High street improvements
- Events development

The programme has benefited from both external funds from Government allocated to support town centres, as well as funding directly from East Suffolk Council. Our own East Suffolk Towns Initiative has provided grants of £120,000 allocating funding of £10,000 to each location. We have also provided a further £150,000, plus additional staffing costs to these schemes.

Over
£300,000
directly from
East Suffolk
Council!

Find out more!

www.eastsuffolkmeansbusiness.co.uk



High Street improvements

Among a range of different schemes, the Town Development Programme has delivered public space capital improvements helping to strengthen the importance of town centres for social and cultural activity and to create more vibrant places where people choose to visit, live, work and invest. This has been through a grant programme using both East Suffolk funds and UK Shared Prosperity funding and has seen a raft of public realm and wayfinding capital improvements supported.

Actions include renovated town signs and maps in Bungay as well as installation of new benches, finger posts and dropped kerbs; updated town maps in Beccles; updated town maps in Woodbridge along with new wayfinding and signage; new town maps in Leiston; updated maps and signage in Wickham Market as well as new benches; new planters for Lowestoft town centre; new wayfinding in Halesworth including fingerposts and maps plus displays of local artwork and photographs in empty shop windows in Halesworth and updated maps and town trail information in Framlingham.



Circular economy in East Suffolk

What is the circular economy?

The circular economy is a model of production and consumption, which involves sharing, leasing, reusing, repairing, refurbishing and recycling existing materials and products for as long as possible.

In this way, the life cycle of products is extended. In practice, it implies reducing waste to a minimum. When a product reaches the end of its life, its materials are kept within the economy wherever possible thanks to recycling. These can be productively used again and again, thereby creating further value.

East Suffolk Council is keen to promote and support businesses, Community Interest Companies (CIC) or social enterprises that support the circular economy!



If you run a business, Community Interest Company (CIC) or social enterprise that supports the circular economy, we are collecting further case studies and will be promoting examples of good practice around the circular economy through our eight Community Partnerships. If you want to get in touch, share your story or find out more, please email communities@eastsoffolk.gov.uk.

How it's done!

East Suffolk Council has provided grants to Creative Leiston Community Interest Company (CIC), which operates Project40Seven, based in the heart of the High Street in Leiston. The CIC has received three grants from the Council's 'Ease the Squeeze' (ETS) programme set up to help residents with the rising cost of living, but with an emphasis on reducing, reusing and recycling.

These include an ETS Field to Fork Growing Spaces grant for the 'Leiston Land Army' allotment to grow produce for distribution within the Leiston Pantry and the local affordable food supply network- with a focus on reducing food waste. The Pantry itself was funded through an ETS Community Pantry Grant to provide more affordable food to residents via a 'social supermarket' model and within its first year of operation has saved 14 tonnes of food goods from entering the waste stream.

Creative Leiston has also set up a Uniform Exchange (which received a ETS Uniform Bank grant) to enable local parents to access new and good condition second hand uniform items and sports clothes. The multi-use space also includes drop in sessions, life skills courses, Crafted, Refill Zero Waste Shop, a community cafe and will soon have its Library of Things in operation.

Find out more at www.project40seven.co.uk



Energy Efficiency Net Zero Grants

East Suffolk Council's Energy Efficiency grant programme has been created to maximise existing or emerging local strengths in low carbon technologies and goods, and supports the development of a carbon net zero East Suffolk economy. It's a small grant with big plans!

Small to medium enterprises can benefit from a grant offering between £10,000 - £15,000,

covering up to 50% of the project costs. The grant scheme supports the priorities of moving to net zero, or reducing a company's carbon footprint, by making energy efficiency improvements such as new windows, or solar panels, capital purchases such as electric vehicles, building upgrades such as insulation, and machinery upgrades to more modern or new technologies which reduce the business carbon footprint.

To date, East Suffolk Council has supported 10 businesses across the region. Projects range from the installation of solar energy systems, to the purchase of an electric van.

For more information



East Suffolk welcomes back the Tour!

The Lloyds Bank Tour of Britain Men is back in East Suffolk this September, and for the first time ever, the entire final stage will take place right here within the district!

It will mark the seventh edition of the men's Tour to have visited Suffolk, and it will also be the first time that the county has hosted the prestigious final stage – with the last day of Britain's biggest professional cycle race getting underway in Lowestoft and finishing in Felixstowe on Sunday 8 September.

Since its return in 2004, the Tour of Britain 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.

Cllr Sarah Whitelock, East Suffolk Council's cabinet member for Communities, Culture, Leisure and Tourism said: "We are thrilled to see the return of the Lloyds Bank Tour of Britain Men this year, which is especially exciting as the entire final stage will be held within East Suffolk.

"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. We are looking forward to September and seeing this amazing sporting spectacle in our district."

Full details of the stage route, which will start from the seafront in Lowestoft and take in many roads, villages, and towns familiar to the peloton from previous Suffolk stages, can be found on www.britishcycling.org.uk/tourofbritain.

What does the Tour bring to East Suffolk?

An Economic Impact Report, produced by Suffolk Growth, revealed that over 113,000 spectators lined the 192.4km route of last year's stage through the county, with an estimated 53% of these coming to see the event from outside of the local area and 89% pledging to visit the area again. The local hospitality industry also benefited with an estimated 9,500 attendees enjoying overnight stays.

30% of spectators cycled to the event with 52% inspired to cycle more often as a direct result of watching the race, supporting Suffolk's ambition to get more residents cycling and benefiting from the physical and mental wellbeing it can provide.

A Suffolk Growth spokesperson said: "This report is a welcome confirmation of the benefits and positive impact of hosting major events in Suffolk. The Tour of Britain 2023 showcased Suffolk domestically and globally as a fantastic visitor destination, but equally the event presented a timely economic boost to the hospitality sector and an opportunity for communities to meet and celebrate along the route."



Green Light says Go

A charity dedicated to transforming lives through the power of nature has received a major funding boost from East Suffolk Council towards completion of a unique new learning centre.

East Suffolk Council has committed £110,000 of grant funding towards the Green Light Trust's vision to provide health and wellbeing programmes from the new building at Castan Wood, in Martlesham, for children, young people and adults with complex needs.

The environmental education charity launched an appeal last November to raise the money needed for completion of the carbon negative, cement-free learning centre – built using a hemp-based modular construction system.

The Green Light Trust already hosts a range of outdoor, woodland activities aimed at providing equitable access to nature at the 26-acre site. East Suffolk Council's contribution from earmarked reserves will assist completion of the centre, which received initial support from Suffolk County Council and the Suffolk Growth Investment Fund.



Councillor Rachel Smith-Lyte, East Suffolk Council's deputy cabinet member with responsibility for the Environment, approved the grant in consultation with cabinet member for Resources and Value for Money, Vince Langdon-Morris.



Cllr Smith-Lyte said: "I'm thrilled that we have been able to support the Green Light Trust's appeal to raise money for completion of this new purpose-built eco exemplar indoor learning centre."

"This is a unique site and organisation offering essential support in a nature-based setting, and the project utterly aligns with our determination to improve the wellbeing of our residents, and tackle health inequalities."



East Suffolk – HERE for you!

This summer, we're visiting 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!

Having been to Halesworth in July and Leiston earlier in August, we next go to the Triangle in Felixstowe on Wednesday 28 August and then the Thoroughfare, Woodbridge on Wednesday 18 September. Both events are from 10am until 1pm.

Councillors and senior officers will be on hand at both events in the town centre 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.

Cllr Caroline Topping, Leader of East Suffolk Council said: "We are a transparent, communicating council and the best way to listen to our communities is to come and say hi!

"After September, the roadshows will then begin again next year, visiting different towns around the district."



Roadshow dates

Felixstowe Wed 28 August
Woodbridge Wed 18 September

... and more next year!



**HERE
for
you**

500 projects – supporting our communities



East Suffolk
Community
Partnerships
Bringing ideas to life

Our eight Community Partnerships have funded more than 500 projects across the district, led by community groups and voluntary organisations. Each partnership identifies priorities using data plus insight from local groups.

These range from BoxUp (sports and leisure equipment hire boxes), in Lowestoft, to a 'Let's Talk Dementia' grant scheme for the Aldeburgh, Leiston and Saxmundham area and a Youth Opportunity Fund in Framlingham, Wickham Market, Kelsale and Yoxford to support young people to access opportunities they might not otherwise be able to afford. Over £200,000 has been invested to deliver schemes like this so far.

Cllr Sarah Whitelock, Cabinet Member for Communities said: "We are moving into a new phase of the Community Partnerships, with a real focus on tackling inequalities across East Suffolk as part of our overarching Strategic Plan 'Our Direction 2028'. We want to supercharge their impact, make them even more ambitious, and hear more voices through the partnerships, including children and young people."

The Community Partnership Board, which oversees the whole programme, also has an additional £300,000 to allocate each year. In 2023/24, this funded a range of projects as well as funding for our two disability support charities (Disability Advice North East Suffolk and Disability Advice Service), our Healthy Habits booklet for Year 6 students, and additional funding for our Ease the Squeeze programme.



Find out more!



Need a helping hand?

Our **Community Help Hub** works to improve people's quality of life and provide support with the cost of living. Our Community Help Officers provide supported access to health and wellbeing services in a way that meets your needs, while our Financial Inclusion Officers provide help with money: from budgeting advice and help with benefits, to referral for debt help and applying for grants.

www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/community-help-hub



Sara's story

Sara and her two children lived in a poorly-maintained privately rented house. Sara was struggling with money and her health, had some problems with her children's school, and was finding it all really hard. The Community Help Officers supported Sara to make and attend GP appointments, follow the suggested treatment plan and engage with mental health services, giving her the confidence to build a more positive relationship with the school. The Financial Inclusion Officers reviewed Sara's income and spending, and found that her benefits were incorrect.

They helped her to increase her income by over £400 a month and to apply for a grant to help with everyday costs. She received £3,000 in backdated benefits which helped her to pay off her debts. The Community Help Hub also assisted Sara to follow a formal process with her landlord to get the repairs to her house completed, and supported her to improve her general wellbeing, loneliness and isolation by putting her in touch with others in her community.

Holiday fun for those who need it most

The Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme is live once again, providing activities for children and young people, particularly those who are vulnerable and in receipt of benefits-related free school meals. The programme funded by the Department of Education; in Suffolk, the HAF is overseen by Suffolk County Council and coordinated for this district by East Suffolk Council.

Numerous organisations across the district provide fun activities and food over the Summer, Christmas and Easter holidays. Film-making, theatre, cooking, sport, arts and outdoor adventure are just some of the free activities on offer during the school holidays as part of HAF. These activities bring young people together, get them moving and introduce them to new experiences and skills.

This summer holiday, there are 46 programmes on offer with over 7,700 places available!

Places can be booked by eligible families through the booking system: www.eequ.org/suffolkhaf. Families can select the programmes and dates they wish to attend, and which young people will be attending. The booking system will ask about HAF eligibility, and the booking will be reviewed by the HAF Team at Suffolk County Council.

Take a look on Eequ to see what activities are still on offer this summer and keep an eye out on Eequ for activities for the Christmas 2024 holidays! For any queries, please contact HAF@east Suffolk.gov.uk.



Book a place now!
www.eequ.org/suffolkhaf



Cost of living support

Ease the Squeeze is designed to help residents with the cost of living. It includes a broad range of projects that support people in lots of different ways, from helping with school uniform to helping you grow your own vegetables. So far, Ease the Squeeze has supported thousands of residents.

To keep people warm and connected we funded dozens of Warm Welcome spaces in local communities, provided free winter warmth packs and, working with health partners, piloted a 'warmth on prescription' project aimed at the over 60s and children with respiratory conditions.

To make sure people have enough good quality food to eat, we are building a food network across the district to increase the supply of affordable food, have funded two community pantries, provided people with equipment like slow cookers and microwaves and with cooking lessons, supported the Holiday Activities and Food programme targeting thousands of children across the district and launched Field to Fork, an exciting initiative to encourage people to grow their own food.

On top of this, we have organised uniform banks to help people access affordable school uniform, helped hundreds of residents who have referred themselves for support, worked with partners to source furniture and household items for those desperately in need, and have drawn together useful information on other sources of support for our residents online and offline.

Find out more at
www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/squeeze

EASE THE SQUEEZE



Field to Fork – an Ease the Squeeze scheme

Field to Fork has distributed over 1,700 free home growing kits to families, helping people to grow their own food and enjoy the health and wellbeing benefits of gardening together as a family. We have also funded over 20 new community growing spaces where people can come together, learn more about growing and produce even more home-grown food. The project has saved nearly 10,000kg of CO2 and produced nearly £40,000 worth of fruit and vegetables.



Infrastructure... by East Suffolk Council!

Did you know that we help deliver new and improved community facilities through funding from developments? When new housing is delivered in East Suffolk, we collect money from developers, which WE invest back into our communities.

This includes fantastic projects such as extensions to schools and medical facilities, play areas, transport initiatives as well as community and leisure facilities. This year we collected £7.1 million, most of which is allocated to projects that support new housing growth in the right area at the right time. Since 2013 to we have also passed £6.7million on to Town and Parish Councils to deliver their local infrastructure projects.

So, how do we do this? It's called the **Community Infrastructure Levy!**

In 2023 six applications for district Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) were approved, including:

- **Bungay Medical Practice extension and reconfiguration: £1.283million**
- **Melton Early Years Provision at Melton Primary School: £1.35million**
- **Improvements at Barnards Soccer Centre, Lowestoft: £101,500**

Additionally, a new 'Local CIL' fund was launched last year which provides up to £50,000 to projects located in, or close to, an area where new development is taking place.

These include:

- **Waveney Meadows Project, Beccles: £22,000**
- **Blundeston Play Park refurbishment: £25,000**
- **Skate Park and Nature Walk, Rendlesham: £50,000**
- **Klondyke Skate Park, Southwold: £50,000**
- **Southwold Roads Project: £23,000**
- **Safety upgrades - Alan Hutchinson Way, Beccles: £17,500**

Find out more at
www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/CIL

We supported and funded the delivery of a new nursery school at Holton Primary School; 100% funded by over £1 million of CIL money to provide 30 much needed pre-school places.



Building healthier lives

We have recently published new planning guidance which sets out how new developments should be designed to support the health and wellbeing of residents.

The Healthy Environments Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) provides guidance on a range of topics including the provision of green open space, play provision, trees and landscaping, active travel infrastructure, healthy buildings such as homes, schools and workplaces, dementia-friendly design, community facilities and more.

Cllr Kay Yule, Cabinet Member for Planning and Coastal Management at East Suffolk said: "This document provides guidance to support the delivery of places which improve health and wellbeing outcomes. This includes active travel infrastructure, food growing areas, accessible community spaces, play spaces and much more. It joins other guidance documents on topics such as sustainable construction, custom and self-build housing, the historic environment and affordable housing."

The Healthy Environments SPD, and supporting documents can be viewed at www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/supplementary-planning-documents

Physical copies of the documents have also been made available at the Council's Customer Service desks and in all libraries in the district.

Find out more!



Neighbourhood Planning

Neighbourhood Plans, prepared by Town and Parish Councils, set out planning policies on matters that are important to the local community and form a part of the framework against which decisions on planning applications are taken, along with East Suffolk Council's Local Plans.

A number of communities have now prepared plans for their local areas, with residents in Easton and Playford most recently voting in favour of their Neighbourhood Plans being approved, adding to the 23 plans already in place in the district.

We are available to support any community considering preparing their own plan!

www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/neighbourhood-planning

Keeping buildings safe

Building Regulations are an important set of standards which exist to protect people's safety, health and welfare in and around built environments. Anyone carrying out building work is responsible for ensuring that Building Regulations are complied with, and the role of Building Control teams is to make sure they do!

East Suffolk Council's Building Control team are among the best in the business, and this has been borne out by industry exams and professional interviews undertaken by the newly created governing body, the Building Safety Regulator.

New legislation dictates that all practicing Building Control professionals must prove their

competency, with unregistered Building Inspectors unable to practice unsupervised after 6 April 2024.

Cllr Kay Yule, East Suffolk's Cabinet Member for Planning and Building Control, said: "Many private building control companies and other local authorities have struggled to recruit and retain experienced staff following these changes, so we are delighted to have one of the strongest, most qualified teams in the country.

"So many of the Building Control team are home grown and we have strong ambitions to grow the team further to ensure the built environment across East Suffolk remains safe."

Why Building Control matters

The Grenfell tragedy witnessed the subsequent creation and implementation of the Building Safety Regulator and Building Safety Act 2022. The legislation is governed by the Health and Safety Executive who redefined the expectations of competence across the entire construction industry.

**Do you need Building Control support or advice?
Get in touch!**

www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/building-control

Call us on **01394 444219**, or email building.control@eastsuffolk.gov.uk for a response within 24 hours.



Putting our tenants first

Here at East Suffolk, we pride ourselves on providing the best possible service for our own social housing tenants. Engagement is a crucial element for our Housing Services team and provides our tenants with the opportunity to have a real say in how our service is run.

We have recently welcomed Trudi Robinson as Tenant Engagement Officer within our Housing Services team and we have also created a Tenant Engagement Strategy, which explains how we will involve tenants in our decision-making processes.

Our approach to engaging with our tenants
www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/tenant-engagement-strategy



If you are unable to access the document, or would prefer to access the draft strategy in an alternative format, please contact our Customer Services Team on **03330 162 000** or email us at ESCtenantengagement@eastsuffolk.gov.uk

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!

It's easiest to complete the survey at www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/survey, or using the QR code below to access it from your mobile device. Or fill it in below and send it to: **East Suffolk Council, Riverside, 4 Canning Road, Lowestoft NR33 0EQ.**

How proud are you of the area you live in?

Not proud at all

☐
☐
☐
☐

Very proud

☐

Thinking about the area where you live, what one thing are you most proud of?

.....

Thinking about the area where you live, what one thing most needs improving?

.....

Is there anything else which is important to you about your local area and how it could be improved?

.....

.....

We are currently projecting a budget gap of over £5m.

Which ONE from the options below would you choose to help us close the gap?

- ☐ Reduce our spending on services
- ☐ Increase fees and charges on services
- ☐ Use financial reserves as a temporary solution
- ☐ Increase Council Tax
- ☐ Don't know/no opinion
- ☐ Other ideas (please specify)

From the following broad themes which should we spend money on? (Please rank your answers - 1 being the most important and 4 the least)

Environmental Impact - delivering positive climate, nature, and environmental impacts through the decisions we make and the actions we take.

1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐

Sustainable Housing - All homes in East Suffolk are safe, suitable, and sustainable, in communities where residents are proud to live.

1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐

Tackling Inequalities - Improving quality of life across the district by tackling financial, social and health inequalities.

1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐

Thriving Economy - Enabling residents to benefit from, and contribute to, a thriving economy.

1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐

We have pledged to become Carbon Neutral by 2030.

Do you support additional spending to achieve this pledge?

Yes ☐ No ☐ Not sure ☐

We are allowed to increase our portion of Council Tax by just under 3% (only £5 a year extra for a Band D property) without requiring a referendum. To help fund crucial services, what level of increase would you consider to be fair?

3% ☐ Less than 3% ☐ More than 3% ☐

Do you agree with the principle of us investing in land and building in the district to generate income for the Council?

Yes ☐ No ☐ Not sure ☐

Do you agree with the principle of us transferring viable land and buildings to local communities for them to run, use and maintain for their own local benefit?

Yes ☐ No ☐ Not sure ☐

Is your local area a place where people from different backgrounds get on well together?

Strongly agree ☐ Agree ☐ Disagree ☐ Strongly disagree ☐

How often do you feel lonely?

Often/ Always ☐ Some of the time ☐ Occasionally ☐

Hardly ever ☐ Never ☐

Have you given any voluntary unpaid help to any groups, clubs or organisations in the last 12 months? (This could be anything that you have taken part in or helped with in any way)

Yes ☐ No ☐

So that we can understand a little more about the responses to our survey, please indicate your age range

Under 16 ☐ 16 to 24 ☐ 25 to 34 ☐ 35 to 49 ☐

50 to 64 ☐ 65 to 79 ☐ 80 or over ☐

Please enter your postcode, excluding the last two digits, so we can understand where responses are coming from. This is not for identification purposes.

.....

I am ... (tick all that apply)

- ☐ A resident of East Suffolk
- ☐ Working in East Suffolk
- ☐ Going to school or studying in East Suffolk
- ☐ A business owner in East Suffolk

If you would like to take part in future consultations about how we run services for your local area, please tick this box ☐

www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/survey



East Suffolk Lettings

We have created East Suffolk Lettings and introduced a new Guaranteed Rent Scheme to increase access to good quality homes in the private rented sector for eligible residents in the East Suffolk district.

The scheme brings landlords and prospective tenants together by helping with offers of suitable and affordable accommodation to applicants in need.



Cllr David Beavan, Cabinet Member for Housing, said: "We provide a no-fee letting service that takes into consideration the landlord and tenant needs to ensure long term sustainability. In addition, we offer financial incentives – deposit bond, facilitate viewings, inventories, and inspections, and can offer support to tenants to ensure tenancies are managed appropriately."



East Suffolk Lettings provides reassurance, support and help to both landlord and tenants by offering a smooth process once a let has been agreed.

For more information and to access guidance leaflets please visit our website.

www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/east-suffolk-lettings
or call 0333 016 2000



EAST SUFFOLK EMPTY HOMES

Providing a free service to owners of empty homes - to help bring their properties back into use!

Empty properties can not only bring down the amenity of a neighbourhood, but are also a waste of resources as they could provide much needed accommodation without the need for new housing. Empty homes often become a target for vandalism, arson, squatters, fly-tipping and other criminal behaviour.

Cllr David Beavan said: "Our Empty Homes Officer has been busy encouraging and supporting owners of homes that have been left empty to bring them back into use. It isn't always an easy process, but we are enjoying some great successes."



If you have a home that isn't currently occupied and would like to know what help we can provide, please email emptyhomes@eastsuffolk.gov.uk or contact our customer services team on 0333 016 2000.

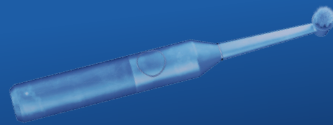
HUMANS OF
East Suffolk

Don't bin them, recycle your old electricals

Anything with a plug, battery or cable can be recycled and turned into something new.

We're introducing electrical recycling collections across the district. Look out for a leaflet over the coming months which will let you know when collections will begin in your area.

Scan or search **recycle your electricals** to find all your local donation or recycling points.



recycle
your
electricals

Together with

EASTSUFFOLK
COUNCIL



Did you know you can recycle all these items in your recycling bin at home?

✓ Plastics



✓ Metals



✓ Paper/card



www.suffolkrecycling.org.uk