

Edition: March 2021

# EastSuffolk

Magazine



Helping businesses through difficult times, providing support for local people, East Suffolk Council is here for you!

Find out what we have been doing for you during this pandemic and how we continue to help those who need it most.



## YOU CAN DO IT ONLINE!

How our essential services are just a click away - **Page 15**

## COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS:

Funding the schemes and projects that are needed where you live - **Page 08**





## A message from the Leader of the Council

Welcome to our first ever East Suffolk magazine, bringing you a range of news and important information from East Suffolk Council. It was the greatest honour to be elected the first ever Leader of this newly formed local authority in 2019 and I personally want to ensure that we provide you with a publication which tells you exactly what you need to know to benefit from the services we provide.

We are here to serve the residents of East Suffolk as well as businesses, community groups and of course those who visit us in such a beautiful part of the country.

This magazine arrives at what is, and has been, an extraordinary period of time, not just here but throughout the country and around the world.

The covid-19 pandemic has greatly affected everyone and I would like to say how incredibly proud I have been of the efforts and resilience shown by local people during this difficult year.

We have all been asked to stick with it, to follow the guidance presented to us by the government and health services and although I know that you have all done incredibly well, I fully appreciate that this has come at a cost.

Many of you will have lost loved ones, many will have not been able to work or have seen their businesses suffer and it has been incredibly upsetting. As a council we have worked as hard as we possibly can to support you, through schemes like 'Home But Not Alone' which has supported vulnerable residents in Suffolk and the distribution of critical grants and funds to businesses.

As a council, we have huge ambitions to improve the lives of everyone in East Suffolk and while the pandemic has set us, and everyone of course, back somewhat, we are in a strong position financially to fulfil our ambitions.

Throughout this magazine, you will see examples of what we have done and what we hope to do – and I hope you find it both interesting and informative.

I am sure that better days are around the corner and I wish you all good health and a better 2021.

Cllr Steve Gallant



## Contact us

You can do more online at [www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk](http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk)  
Information about some of the services we provide online on page 15.

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

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

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## The East Suffolk Plan

The East Suffolk Council Strategic Plan (2020-2024) is our framework to deliver a huge range of vital services for our local communities.

We want everyone who lives in, works in and visits East Suffolk to have the best possible quality of life and this plan is our 'compass', guiding all our decision making. We agreed five key themes to show us the direction we will take:

**Growing Our Economy, Enabling Our Communities, Remaining Financially Sustainable, Delivering Digital Transformation, Caring For Our Environment**

Deliberately, the plan does not list the specific 'nuts and bolts' of each and every service we deliver. Instead, it outlines our five high-level ambitions in a clear, concise and simple to understand format and it is the template for everything we do and seek to be.



[www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/east-suffolk-strategic-plan](http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/east-suffolk-strategic-plan)

## Your Council

East Suffolk Council was created in April 2019 following a decade-long partnership between the former Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Councils. We made history by becoming the first brand new 'super' district council, having already saved £22 million worth of taxpayers' money through the original partnership.

There are 55 councillors in East Suffolk representing a total of 27 different wards. All councillors are elected every four years, with the next vote taking place in 2023. A councillor's primary role is to represent their ward and the people who live in it. You can find more information at [www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/yourcouncil](http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/yourcouncil)

### East Suffolk Councillors and their wards

#### Aldeburgh and Leiston

Jocelyn Bond 07825 720522  
Tony Cooper 01728 830181  
TJ Haworth-Culf 07825 720877

#### Beccles and Worlingham

Elfrede Brambley-Crawshaw 07738 264091  
Graham Elliott 07824 821515  
Caroline Topping 07825 421117

#### Bungay and Wainford

Judy Cloke 07825 386561  
David Ritchie 01986 783889

#### Carlford and Fynn Valley

Tony Fryatt 07887 988271  
Colin Hedgley 01473 738468

#### Carlton and Whitton

Frank Mortimer 07894 171236  
Trish Mortimer 07505 974296

#### Carlton Colville

Jenny Ceresa 07824 864583  
Craig Rivett 07831 370806

#### Deben

James Mallinder 07810 815879

#### Eastern Felixstowe

Steve Gallant 01394 276336  
Steve Wiles 07825 720534  
Mark Jepson 07825 720601

#### Framlingham

Vacancy  
Maurice Cook 07825 421128

#### Gunton and St Margarets

Linda Coulam 07818 577882  
Mary Rudd 07867 372976

#### Halesworth and Blything

Alison Cackett 07824 865294  
Tony Goldson 07810 815606

#### Harbour and Normanston

Janet Craig 07825 421091  
Tess Gandy 01502 800484  
Keith Patience 01502 582283

#### Kelsale and Yoxford

Stephen Burroughes 01986 785283

#### Kesgrave

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

#### Kessingland

Letitia Smith 07824 864973

#### Kirkley and Pakefield

Peter Byatt 07833 415510  
Louise Gooch 07824 865555  
Malcolm Pitchers 07824 541488

#### Lothingland

Paul Ashdown 07824 821545

#### Marlesham and Purdis Farm

Chris Blundell 07769 087612  
Ed Thompson 07975 516592

#### Melton

Rachel Smith-Lyte 07825 421137

#### Orwell and Villages

Melissa Allen 07810 816018  
Richard Kerry 07903 301075

#### Oulton Broad

Edward Back 07824 865678  
Andree Gee 07825 272985  
Keith Robinson 07824 864412

#### Rendlesham and Orford

Ray Herring 01728 746337

#### Rushmere St Andrew

Mark Newton 07769 088603

#### Saxmundham

John Fisher 07825 720575

#### Southwold

David Beavan 07825 421088

#### Western Felixstowe

Stuart Bird 01394 275128  
Michael Deacon 01394 211146  
Tracey Green 07825 721005

#### Wickham Market

Carol Poulter 07826 664355

#### Woodbridge

Chris Mapey 07931 300082  
Kay Yule 07825 716370

#### Wrentham, Wangford and Westleton

Norman Brooks 07824 821539







## COUNCIL TAX FREEZE

Supporting you during these tough times

This year, we've committed to spending £129 million on delivering essential services to residents, businesses and communities across East Suffolk.

We know many residents are struggling financially due to the pandemic - so, to help you, we've frozen our element of council tax for 2021/22.

This means that if you live in a Band D property, for example, you will pay £14.27 per month to East Suffolk Council (£171.27 per year) – the same amount as last year.

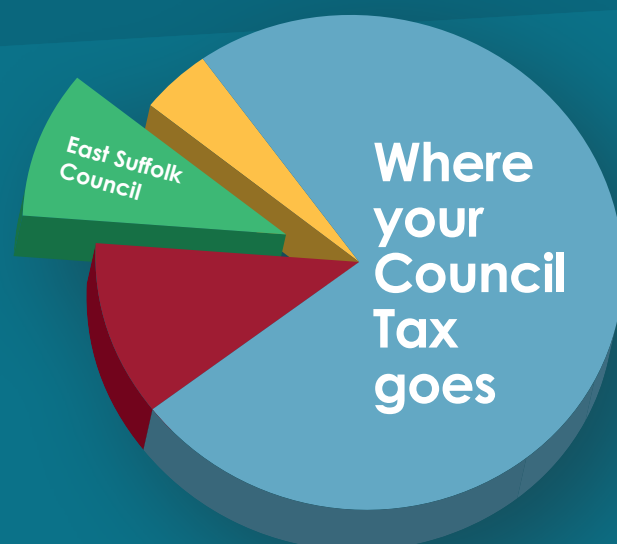
Covid-19 has presented significant financial challenges for the Council however we have used our reserves – which are set aside to use in emergencies like this – to enable us to continue our support of residents, communities and businesses during the pandemic, whilst remaining financially sustainable ourselves.

This is a key ambition within our Strategic Plan - ensuring the Council provides value for money to residents, delivering the best services possible and using our assets wisely to generate income which can be put back into services.



Did you know you can sign up to view your council tax account, move to paperless billing or set up a direct debit online? Head to:

[www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/council-tax](http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/council-tax)



East Suffolk residents living in a band 'D' property will pay £1,879.37 per month in Council Tax during 2021/22. This is divided between the following organisations as follows:

<span style="color: #4F81BD;">■</span> Suffolk County Council £1,397.16 (74.3%)	<span style="color: #FFC000;">■</span> Town & Parish Councils £73.25 (3.9%)
<span style="color: #C00000;">■</span> Suffolk Police & Crime Commissioner £237.69 (12.7%)	<span style="color: #008000;">■</span> East Suffolk Council £171.27 (9.1%)

Only £14.95 million of our £129 million budget comes from your council tax payments. The rest comes from other sources including income, business rates and Government funding.

We are always looking at ways we can save money – one idea is to install solar panels in our buildings and car parks to reduce energy costs, which is also better for the environment!

## At your leisure

Over the past four years, we've invested over £10 million in improving our leisure centres by providing refreshed, state-of-the-art facilities that can be enjoyed by our communities for many years to come.

We are entirely committed to providing access to high quality leisure facilities for everyone who lives in East Suffolk and the multi-million-pound programme, which has transformed our venues is precisely the kind of financial investment which we believe will improve the lives and outcomes of our residents.

### What we've done so far...



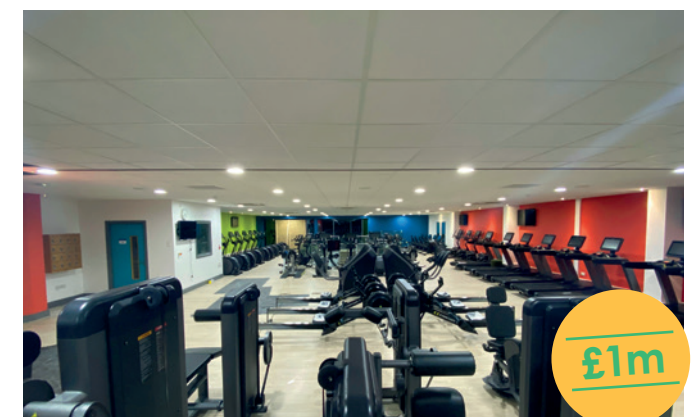
In June 2018, we completed a £3.5 million redevelopment at Deben Leisure Centre.



Leiston Leisure Centre reopened after a £4 million redevelopment in August 2019.



A £3.4 million redevelopment at Waveney Valley Leisure Centre was completed in October 2020.



We completed a £1 million refurbishment at Waterlane Leisure Centre in February 2021.

## What's Next?

We are currently working on a proposed new 'destination' leisure centre in Felixstowe which will replace the current Felixstowe Leisure Centre and Brackenbury Sports Centre.

### OUR LEISURE OPERATORS

Our leisure centres are operated by Places Leisure in the south of the district and Everyone Active in the north of the district. For more information on our leisure centres, including facilities, prices and opening hours,

please visit [www.placesleisure.org](http://www.placesleisure.org) or [www.everyoneactive.com](http://www.everyoneactive.com)



## East Suffolk means business

The Government has introduced a series of grant schemes to assist businesses who are affected by Covid-19 restrictions and we're doing everything we can to simplify the process, including making automated payments based on previous applications where possible.

We want to ensure that local businesses receive the much-needed financial support they're entitled to, so if you haven't already applied please make sure you do so at [www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/business](http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/business)

WE HAVE  
PAID OUT NEARLY  
**£90 MILLION**  
TO OVER 6000 LOCAL  
BUSINESSES SINCE  
THE START OF THE  
PANDEMIC

Got a question about business grants?  
Get in touch by emailing  
[COVID19BusinessGrants@eastsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:COVID19BusinessGrants@eastsuffolk.gov.uk)

For more information on business support  
and advice available, visit  
[www.eastsuffolkmeansbusiness.co.uk](http://www.eastsuffolkmeansbusiness.co.uk)



### Free digital advice service helps local businesses thrive online

As part of our commitment to support local businesses affected by the pandemic, we're offering a Digital Advice Service which provides free support to small businesses in East Suffolk – especially those in the retail, leisure and hospitality sectors, who may need help with creating or improving their website, online shop or social media presence. Businesses will be offered 1-2-1 advice and access to Digital Skills Talks.

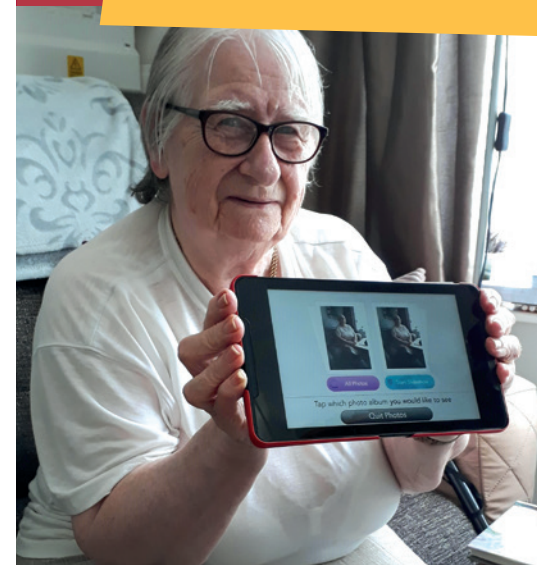
To find out more and to sign up for the Digital Advice Service visit  
[www.eastsuffolkmeansbusiness.co.uk](http://www.eastsuffolkmeansbusiness.co.uk)  
Or you can email  
[smarttowns@eastsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:smarttowns@eastsuffolk.gov.uk)

One of the businesses who have used the free Digital Advice Service is Wooden Roots in Rendlesham, Woodbridge.  
**Owners Marcus and Gemma Brown got in touch with us.....**

*The scheme has helped us regain our confidence and put us back on track with a brand-new website that we are now 100% in charge of. We now have access to this amazing community of experts that we can openly reach out to for help and guidance and know that they genuinely want to see us succeed. Well done for pulling this scheme together and congratulations on it being a success!*

## Covid - helping our communities

We have been working with volunteers, businesses and local organisations to support the most vulnerable members of our communities during the pandemic.



### Connecting Older People

Due to a lack of Wi-Fi, equipment or skills, some older people have been unable to contact their loved ones. To reconnect them, we introduced the Grandpad Loan Scheme in partnership with Ipswich and East Suffolk CCG.

'Grandpads' are specially designed tablets with large buttons and an intuitive interface which makes it easier for older people to use. The devices have unlimited 4G internet, 24/7 personalised support and unlimited minutes, so users can easily make video calls at no extra cost.

The scheme is being trialled for a year, with 90 older people currently using the Grandpads and after this time, it is hoped we can secure funding to extend the scheme to even more people in need.

Details about all the support available from East Suffolk can be found at  
[www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/covid-19](http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/covid-19)

### Home, But Not Alone

East Suffolk Council has played a leading role in the local response to the pandemic.

Our Communities Team, working with partners, community groups and volunteers, have helped a large number of people in need since the pandemic began.

As part of the Home But Not Alone Scheme, developed by the Suffolk Collaborative Communities Board, our Communities Team dealt with 2,172 requests during the first lockdown, including 750 urgent food or medicine needs.

**If you do not have any support available from friends, family or neighbours and are struggling for food, medicines or other essentials or are feeling isolated, you can call the Home, But Not Alone service on 0800 876 6926 (9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday).**

### Support For The Most Vulnerable

To provide further support, we created a Hardship Fund worth over £150,000, with contributions from every councillor, our Community Partnership Board and Communities Team. Grants of between £50 and £2,500 were given to local groups to support pop-up food banks, telephone befriending services and volunteers delivering medicines across the district.

We also supported over 500 residents who are clinically extremely vulnerable to ensure they received food parcels and supplied foodbanks across East Suffolk - not just with food but also with free sanitary items for those in need.

By using video calling, the Suffolk Family Focus team has continued to support families experiencing complex and long-standing difficulties, such as domestic violence, drug and alcohol dependency, and financial issues.

The Suffolk Advice and Support Service offers free advice about debt, credit cards, access to food, fuel vouchers and more: **0800 068 3131** (9am-5pm, Mon-Fri)



# Community Partnerships

*designed for and by local people*

The East Suffolk Community Partnerships were established following local workshops in Autumn 2019. Each has been allocated funding by the council to focus on specific issues in their neighbourhoods and 'bring ideas to life'.



The East Suffolk Community Partnerships are:

- Aldeburgh, Leiston, Saxmundham and villages
- Beccles, Bungay, Halesworth and villages
- Carlton Colville, Kessingland, Southwold and villages
- Felixstowe Peninsula
- Framlingham, Wickham Market and villages
- Kesgrave, Martlesham and villages
- Lowestoft and northern parishes
- Melton, Woodbridge and Deben Peninsula

**Here's just some examples of how local communities -are benefiting:**

## Felixstowe Peninsula Community Partnership:

Education has been identified as a key priority and £5,000 was allocated to a library project at Felixstowe School.

The grant has enabled the school to buy new reading books as well as some specialist reading items, such as audio books and devices, headphones, large PC screens and new furniture.



## Kesgrave, Martlesham, Rushmere St Andrew, Carlford and Fynn Valley Community Partnership:

To address social isolation, the CP allocated £5,000 to deliver two Mental Health First Aid Awareness training sessions to enable its communities to support people's wellbeing long-term.

The sessions are aimed at local people who are used to public interactions and able to offer, or signpost to, the support required by individuals.

## Beccles, Bungay, Halesworth and Villages Community Partnership:

The CP allocated £3,250 to Bungay Town Council for a project to reclaim its old cemetery, creating a beautiful tranquil environment for local people to enjoy, with many mature and possibly some ancient yew trees.

This will enable local residents to explore local history as well as better protect and enhance a flourishing natural habitat.



## And so much more...!

**£100,000**

for a Bounce Back Fund to help reduce the impact of Covid-19 on voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations. So far, 46 community projects have benefited from the fund.

**£43,000**

for a Suffolk County Council pilot to improve rural transport connections. A taxi-bus connection between Framlingham – Wickham Market – and Campsea Ashe has already been set up.

**£75,818**

has been allocated across the eight Community Partnership to tackle local priorities, such as loneliness, youth services and community meeting points.

**£90,000**

for the relaunch of our Hidden Needs Programme to help fund projects which support people of all ages who are particularly vulnerable due to social isolation and loneliness during the pandemic.

**£20,000**

went towards creating 2,000 EAST bags to help vulnerable older people in East Suffolk keep active, both physically and mentally, during the colder winter months.



Ashley Carver of East Suffolk Norse and Cllr James Mallinder, Cabinet Member for the Environment

## An environment for all

Since the creation of East Suffolk Council in April 2019, we have developed an ambitious environmental vision for East Suffolk and we are committed to become carbon neutral by 2030.

As a result, a climate emergency was declared in June 2019 and a cross-party Environment Task Group established to ensure the environment plays a key role in all decisions, choices and policy formation.

## Pardon the weeds, we're feeding the bees

Last year, we created 40 wild spaces across East Suffolk where grass was left to grow longer and wildflowers planted to help wildlife thrive. These spaces are cut back for winter and the signs removed..... but they will return this spring!

We are keen to introduce even more mini conservation areas this year so please contact your town or parish council if you have any suggestions for new wild spaces: [www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/town-and-parish-councils](http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/town-and-parish-councils)



## We're charging forward with new ELECTRIC CARS

We're continuing to proactively take steps to reduce our carbon emissions and introduced six new electrical vehicles to our fleet run by partners, East Suffolk Norse, in August 2020.



## Help us provide an efficient refuse service

Please ensure you're following the bin guidelines so our refuse teams can continue to provide an essential service efficiently:

- Put bins out by 6am latest on collection day
- Recycle where possible through the blue bin
- Present bin at the boundary of your property where your access meets the public highway or other agreed collection point
- Don't force too much waste into a bin as it can stick inside, meaning it won't come out when emptied
- Ensure bins do not contain any incorrect items, as it may not be emptied
- Ensure the lid on bins are closed for collections, otherwise we won't be able to empty it
- Take bins in as soon as possible after collection as they can cause a serious obstructions and block access, particularly when left on public pavements and access ways

**THANK YOU!!**



# Better Housing for a brighter future

**East Suffolk Council is committed to delivering vital new housing and is fully focused on addressing housing shortages with a target to build 50-plus new homes a year ourselves.**

We have a programme of redevelopment, bringing older properties back in to use as well as new build homes which will see a further 148 more homes available over the next three to four years.

And we are also developing a minimum energy efficiency standard to ensure our housing development programme is actively contributing towards the council's aim for carbon neutrality by 2030.

As part of our programme, we were delighted to introduce six new shared-ownership properties to our housing stock towards the end of last year – the first of their kind in the district.

The properties are located in Brampton with Stoven near Halesworth and provide an affordable ownership scheme, which combines purchasing a share in a home with a rental agreement for the remaining unowned share.

We want to develop more schemes like this for the benefit of our communities, and to support locations which desperately need new, affordable and high-quality housing options.

For more information about our Housing programme and what this could mean for you and your neighbourhood, why not take a look at our Housing Strategy? [www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/east-suffolk-housing-strategy](http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/east-suffolk-housing-strategy)

**“We've built six new shared ownership properties in Brampton near Halesworth – a first for the district”**



## Housing for older people

To ensure there is a suitable mix of homes for all residents, East Suffolk's Housing Enabling Team will be conducting a piece of research in the spring with a focus on the housing needs, desires and aspirations of our older residents.

This survey will be open to all residents regardless of age or tenure and will guide the themes and priorities of the 'Older Persons Housing Strategy' which will be published next year.

We will publicise details of the survey soon at [www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/housing](http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/housing).



[www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/housing](http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/housing)

## Making parking simpler

### RingGo – no more hunting for coins!

Available in all of East Suffolk's car parks, the simple RingGo app allows you to park quickly and easily, paying for parking using your credit or debit card rather than using cash at the machine. Using RingGo means you no longer need to queue at the machine or handle cash to pay for your parking.

RingGo is free to use so you won't pay extra for your parking. However for a small charge, the RingGo app has the option to send reminders when a parking ticket is about to expire, so drivers can top up their ticket or return to their vehicle, avoiding receiving a parking fine for staying too long. We're keen to use technology to make life easier but we want to ensure parking is still accessible to everyone, and so cash payments can still be made at the ticket machine. Download the RingGo app from your app store.



- More people are now using contactless payments in our car parks – payments via the app increased by 129% between 2019 and 2020.
- Last year, almost 300,000 parking sessions were booked in East Suffolk's car parks using RingGo.
- There is no extra charge to use RingGo to pay for parking, unless you choose to receive a text reminder when your parking time is running out.

### Permits

We have also introduced a new 'parking portal' for on-street parking permits, exemptions and dispensations. This enables residents to apply for, and manage permits, online. The system recognises valid permits from a vehicle's registration number, meaning that permit holders will no longer need to remember to display their permits.

### New tariffs

To make parking prices fair and consistent across the district, we have introduced new simplified tariffs in our car parks. In many areas, ticket prices remain the same or are reduced. 75% of people parking in our car parks will pay just £1 or £1.50 for a two hour stay.

We have also introduced free half hour parking in many towns to support people making regular short visits. This will also support local businesses who will benefit from drivers making quick turnarounds in our car parks.

### Tackling inconsiderate parking

To help reduce nuisance and illegal parking, parking management moved from the police to East Suffolk Council in April 2020. This enables the Council to tackle parking

problems which can cause ongoing issues within our communities. Inconsiderate and illegal parking can impact on businesses and residents and pose a danger to other road users and pedestrians. By tackling this and enforcing existing regulations, we can ensure sufficient parking is available for residents and visitors alike.



- We're working with town councils in Framlingham, Lowestoft and Southwold to make sure parking is appropriately managed for residents, businesses and visitors.
- If you see illegal or nuisance parking in your area, you can report it at any time at [eastsuffolk.gov.uk/parking](http://eastsuffolk.gov.uk/parking)
- Our parking services staff patrol approximately 70,000 streets and off-street parking places in the district.



**In more than 70% of car parks, ticket prices have been frozen or reduced.**

[www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/parking](http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/parking)



# A brighter future for our towns

A huge amount of investment in improvement and regeneration projects is breathing new life into our two biggest towns!

## Felixstowe

### The Kitchen @ Martello Park

As part of wider investment in the South Seafront area, a new landmark building is under construction. Known as The Kitchen @ Martello Park, the striking building will house a new café and restaurant which will be run by the Dedham Boathouse Group, offering indoor and outdoor dining with unspoilt views of the sea. The £1.5 million project, funded by East Suffolk Council and the Coastal Communities Fund, is being undertaken by local builders Barnes Construction and is expected to be completed in the summer.



### Seafront Gardens

Quality green spaces are essential for residents, now more than ever and last year, Felixstowe's iconic Seafront Gardens were awarded a coveted Green Flag for the fifth time, recognising them as some of the very best in the world. The award celebrates the dedication that goes into maintaining the Felixstowe Seafront Gardens to such a high standard – much of this is done by volunteer Friends of the Seafront Gardens who work alongside the lead gardeners to help keep the Gardens looking at their best.



### Shelters

The Council has invested in the refurbishment of public shelters on the South Seafront including the Manwick Shelter which was recently damaged by fire, and the long-term maintenance of the historic Martello Tower 'P', which forms the centrepiece of the park.



## Lowestoft

For the latest on the Lake Lothing 'Gull Wing' Crossing, which is managed by Suffolk County Council, visit [gullwingbridge.co.uk](http://gullwingbridge.co.uk)

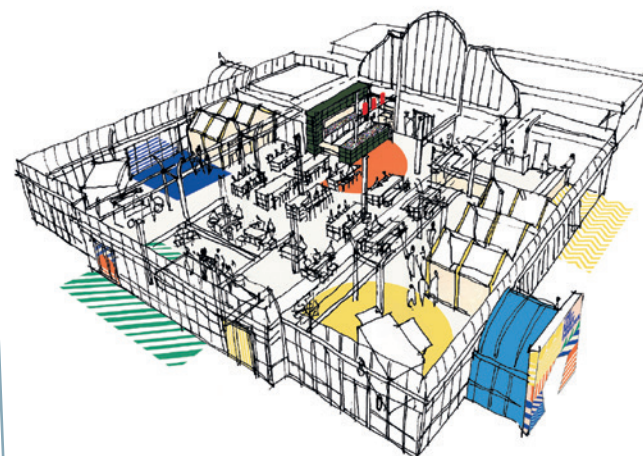
### Heritage-led Regeneration

The Lowestoft Heritage Action Zones (HAZs) are heritage-based regeneration projects led by Historic England in partnership with East Suffolk Council. The North Lowestoft HAZ focuses on the North Lowestoft Conservation Area with its medieval High Street and Scores, as well as the Ness - the UK's most easterly park.

The newly created London Road, Lowestoft High Street HAZ runs from the Surrey Street junction on London Road North to the Carlton Road junction on London Road South in Kirkley. Both schemes are working to secure lasting improvements and help breathe new life into the country's historic high streets for the benefit of local communities and businesses.

### East Point Pavilion

The East Point Pavilion on Lowestoft's seafront will be repurposed following an advance grant of £720,000 through the Government's Towns Fund. The interior of the pavilion will be redesigned, providing flexible space for community and cultural activity, space for small entrepreneurial 'pop-up' businesses to operate from and a year-round café venue, which will be managed by the team behind the First Light Festival. Led by internationally renowned designers Hemingway Design and Hudson Architects, bringing this prominent building back into use will act as a catalyst for further regeneration along the seafront.



### Flood scheme

Flood risk has long been an obstacle to growth and regeneration in the town, however the creation of Lowestoft's own permanent flood defences will provide certainty for the prospects of the town, galvanising its huge economic potential and heralding a bright and secure future for residents and businesses.

Last year, we celebrated an incredible award of over £43 million from the Government - a 'once in a century' opportunity to deliver tidal flood walls and a tidal barrier to protect and safeguard the future of Lowestoft. When complete, the defences will reduce the risk of flooding to over 1,500 homes and businesses, unlocking further growth, creating jobs and apprenticeships and securing the future of Lowestoft for generations to come.

**The innovative design of the flood protection scheme will incorporate glass flood walls at South Pier including words and artwork designed by local children to maintain the town's important connection to the sea.**

### Town Investment Plan

In November, a Town Investment Plan which sets out Lowestoft's ambitions, opportunities and challenges over the next ten years was submitted to the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government as part of a £24.9m application to the Government's Towns Fund. Accessing this funding will enable our ambitions for the town to move forward.

**In 2019, Lowestoft was chosen as one of 101 UK towns to benefit from the Government's £3.6 billion Towns Fund. Each town was invited to develop a proposal for a Towns Deal, with up to £25 million available to bid for. The Town Investment Plan forms part of the application for Lowestoft.**



### Town Centre Masterplan

**The Lowestoft Town Centre Masterplan is our response to the challenges Lowestoft town centre faces and provides a clear plan and direction to create a prosperous town centre whether as a place in which to live, work or have fun.**

It provides the blueprint for change over the next 10-15 years but also incorporates more short-term plans which will help bring activity, jobs and business to the town centre.

Led by East Suffolk Council in partnership with Lowestoft Town Council, Lowestoft Vision, Suffolk County Council and Suffolk Chamber of Commerce, the masterplan considers ways to re-purpose and guide future development in the town centre and secure inward investment to revitalise the heart of Lowestoft.

See the interactive masterplan at [eastsuffolk.gov.uk/litcm](http://eastsuffolk.gov.uk/litcm)

### And elsewhere!

We are committed to improving our towns throughout East Suffolk. We commissioned the People and Places Partnership Ltd to help understand the issues being faced by East Suffolk's town centres.

The aim of the research was to help identify strategic priorities and initiatives for the towns and inform future partnership work between East Suffolk Council and local stakeholders.

You can find the reports for each town under 'town centre support' in the Business Support section of

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

Meanwhile, if the Secretary of State consents to the delivery of major energy projects in East Suffolk, such as the construction of Sizewell C, we will have an important role to play. This will not be our decision, however we will work hard to get the best outcomes for local people including more jobs and skills enhancements whilst ensuring that environmental protection is the best it can be.



# LOCAL ELECTIONS COMING SOON!

East Suffolk Council is responsible for the staging and smooth operation of ALL elections which take place locally, even if they are not for East Suffolk Council itself.

A number of different elections will be taking place on May 6 this year:

- Suffolk County Council
- Police & Crime Commissioner (postponed from 2020)
- A number of local by-elections
- A number of Neighbourhood Planning Referenda



Naturally, we will be following all Public Health guidance to ensure that polling stations are safe. Current (at time of print guidance) says that:

- Voters must wear a face covering in the polling station, unless they are exempt
- Voters may bring their own pen/pencil to mark the ballot paper
- Due to social distancing requirements, the number of voters in polling stations may be limited and you may have to queue.

Of course, you may wish to vote by post. If so, to apply for a postal vote, visit [www.electoralcommission.org.uk](http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk) and click on 'Information for voters'. Or you can email us: [elections@eastsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:elections@eastsuffolk.gov.uk) or call 01502 523320. The deadline for postal vote applications for these elections is 5pm Tuesday 20 April 2021.

If you have not yet registered to vote, the deadline for new applications is Monday 19 April 2021.

[www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/elections](http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/elections)

## If you want to do it... you can do it online!

East Suffolk Council is fully committed to making our services as easy to access as possible. There are a huge range of things that you can do and find out about on our website, [www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk](http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk)

Here is just a selection:

- Planning services – view/comment/search for planning applications past and present
- Make a payment
- Apply for jobs at the council
- Parking permits
- Register to vote
- Housing advice, joining the housing register

Anyone can sign up for a 'MyEastSuffolk' account on our website – which is free and easy to do – and allows you to do a range of other things too!

- Subscribe to garden waste services
- Other waste services such as reporting missed bins, bulky household waste collections
- Report issues such as fly tipping, abandoned vehicles
- Apply for other council services
- View your council tax/housing benefits account
- Council house tenants portal – MyHome

### What you can't do...

We'd like to think we can do everything, however there are some services which we don't manage! If you have any questions or concerns about roads, including street lighting and potholes, this is the responsibility of Suffolk Highways. And additionally, if you have any questions about Household Recycling Centres, these are managed by Suffolk County Council.

## Census 2021 will provide a snapshot of modern society

Households across East Suffolk are being asked to take part in Census 2021.

The census is a once-in-a-decade survey that gives us the most accurate estimate of all the people and households in England and Wales. It has been carried out every decade since 1801, with the exception of 1941.

It will be the first run predominantly online, with households receiving a letter with a unique access code, allowing them to complete the questionnaire on their computers, phones or tablets.

"A successful census will ensure everyone from local government to charities can put services and funding in the places where they are most

needed," Iain Bell, deputy national statistician at the Office for National Statistics, said.

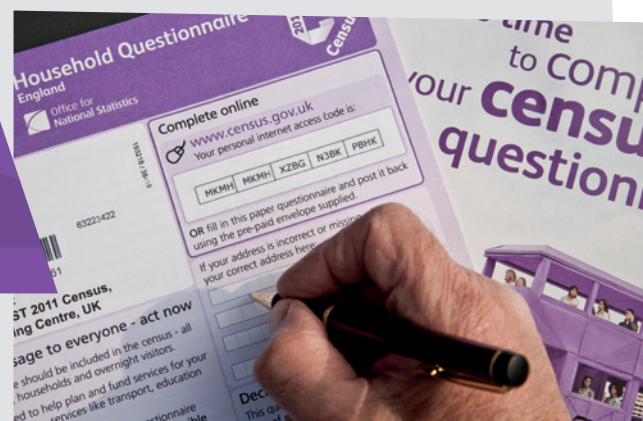
"This could mean things like doctors' surgeries, schools and new transport routes. That's why it is so important everyone takes part and we have made it easier for people to do so online on any device, with help and paper questionnaires for those that need them."

Census day is March 21, however households across the country have already been receiving letters with online codes allowing them to take part.

The census will include questions about your sex, age, work, health, education, household size and ethnicity. And, for the first time, there will be a question asking people whether they have served in the armed forces, as well as voluntary questions for those aged 16 and over on sexual orientation and gender identity.

Results will be available within 12 months, although personal records will be locked away for 100 years, kept safe for future generations.

For more information, visit [www.census.gov.uk](http://www.census.gov.uk)



## Covid Vaccinations

The COVID-19 vaccine is our best defence against the virus alongside effective social distancing, wearing a mask and washing your hands.

Getting vaccinated means protecting yourself and may also help to protect your family, friends and patients from the virus.

The vaccine has been developed and approved following a number of clinical trials involving thousands of people across the world. It has also undergone mandatory safety tests to ensure it is safe for humans.

It is being given in two doses by your local NHS service. Appointments are held up to 12 weeks apart, based on updated guidance from the UK's Chief Medical Officers.

For more information go to [www.sneevaccine.org.uk](http://www.sneevaccine.org.uk) - a website set up by Suffolk and North East Essex NHS, but which also incorporates information for those cared for by the Norfolk & Waveney NHS service.

[www.sneevaccine.org.uk](http://www.sneevaccine.org.uk)



# Let's sort it out

**DON'T LET YOUR RECYCLING  
GO TO WASTE** – only put these  
items in your blue bin please:

**EMPTY, CLEAN,  
DRY & LOOSE**



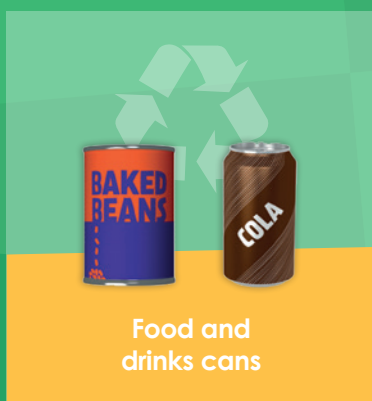
**Plastic bottles**  
(squash and lid on)



**Plastic yoghurt, pots,  
tubs and food trays**



**Bathroom and household  
cleaning with all tops on**



**Food and  
drinks cans**



**Aluminium foil and trays**  
– roll foil into a ball



**Empty aerosols – e.g.  
deodorant, air freshener**



**Paper, newspapers,  
magazines and junk mail**



**Cardboard, clean food  
packaging, boxes**



**Cards & books,  
paperback & hardback**

Visit [www.suffolkrecycling.org.uk](http://www.suffolkrecycling.org.uk)

for more information on what can and cannot be recycled at home  
and how to recycle items not accepted in your blue bin.