



District Councillors Report to Great Bealings Annual Parish Council Meeting

For May 2022

Carlford and Fynn Valley Ward.

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

From District Councillor

Cllr Colin Hedgley and Cllr Tony Fryatt.

East Suffolk encouraged to ‘Clean for the Queen’

Residents and organisations in East Suffolk are being encouraged to get involved in the Queen’s Jubilee celebrations by helping to tidy up the environment we live in. East Suffolk Council has launched a new campaign to encourage and support people who want to do their bit and help clean up the litter that blights our villages, towns and countryside. Taking place on Friday 29 April – Monday 2 May, the ‘Clean for the Queen’ campaign will not only mark the very special occasion, but also help keep East Suffolk litter free.

A bit of time and effort can make a big difference to an area, not only for the people who live there but the wildlife too – it is a great way of giving something back to your local community and I hope that other residents appreciate the efforts of those who voluntarily pick up litter, helping to keep East Suffolk such a beautiful place in which to live, work and visit. It is a shame it is needed in the first place but unfortunately some people think it is acceptable to dump their rubbish anywhere they like. It would be much better if everyone took responsibility for their own rubbish and disposed of it correctly, using litter bins or taking it home, instead of other people having to pick it up for them.

East Suffolk Norse can lend out equipment for organised litter picks, including Hi-Viz vests, litter pickers, bags and bag hoops. They can also remove the waste collected if notified in advance. Register your litter pick now at www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/waste/litter/love-east-suffolk/ To find local litter picks, or to tell others about one you have already organised, go to www.suffolkrecycling.org.uk/learning-zone/get-involved/Suffolk-litter-picking



Three-year programme to drive down long-term empty home numbers in East Suffolk

East Suffolk Council has agreed an ambitious new programme as part of its commitment to tackling the issue of long-term empty homes in the area. At a Cabinet meeting on Tuesday, councillors approved revenue funding to deliver a three-year long-term empty homes programme. The appointment of a dedicated Empty Homes Officer was among proposals put forward to drive policy. Long-term empty properties are defined as residential properties that have been empty for at least two years.

In East Suffolk, 280 properties in private ownership have been empty for more than two years. These will be prioritised for action according to type, location, duration unoccupied, and housing need in the surrounding area. The dedicated programme will be designed to bring homes back into use via a variety of options.

Examples of empty homes becoming part of the Council's own stock, to provide affordable accommodation and much needed regeneration, include 560 London Road, Lowestoft, converted into a House in Multiple Occupation, and 98 Park Road, Lowestoft, now occupied as a five-bed council house. Funding to support the development of a long-term empty homes programme is available from reserves created from the New Homes Bonus (NHB) claimed by East Suffolk Council from central government in recent years. The revenue cost of the service is estimated at £281,958 for three years.

Property purchases would initially use the reserve as a source of funding, with capital receipts providing a replenishment when properties are sold.

- A survey carried out on behalf of the charity Empty Homes, in October 2016, found that around three quarters (76%) of adults surveyed believed their local authority should place a higher priority on tackling empty homes.
- There are approximately 117,000 homes in East Suffolk. The number of long-term empty homes represents less than 0.25%.

Wild spaces return to East Suffolk An annual scheme which creates essential spaces for wildlife will return this year, as part of East Suffolk Council's commitment to the environment. Launched in 2020, the Council's 'Pardon the weeds, we're feeding the bees' campaign returns for its third year with over 100 wild spaces where grass and wildflowers will be left to grow to help wildlife thrive. These areas, which are large enough to provide an environmental benefit and do not present any safety issues for local communities, will be marked with our eye-catching yellow signs to make residents and visitors aware of the scheme. Town and parish councils, supported by East Suffolk Norse, will monitor the conservation areas to remove litter and control any invasive plant species. East Suffolk Council has an ambitious environmental vision and since declaring a climate emergency in



2019, has expressed its intention to increase the number of wild spaces in the district, where a more conservation-based approach to cutting could promote biodiversity. Town and parish councils are encouraged to contact East Suffolk Council to highlight any additional areas which could benefit from a possible change in how they are managed. Residents are asked to contact their town or parish council directly if they have any suggestions for new wild spaces. Residents can also share photos of their local wildlife space on social media, tagging in East Suffolk Council and using #PardonTheWeeds.

East Suffolk Council completes sale of former Melton Hill offices in Woodbridge

East Suffolk Council is pleased to announce the sale of its former offices to a family-run developer to provide much needed housing in the Woodbridge area. The site on Melton Hill has been vacant for six years since the Council moved to its current offices at nearby Riduna Park. The sale was completed between East Suffolk Council and Manningtree building firm, Rose, on Monday 4 April.

The 3.23-acre site lies close to Woodbridge town centre, overlooking the River Deben, with views across to Sutton Hoo. It was initially sold in 2016, but the sale fell through, and the council restarted the process of marketing its former offices with a fresh perspective last July – following the end of a contract with the site’s original developer.

The buyer’s intention is to work up plans and engage with the local community very soon – and we look forward to seeing the creation of a residential scheme that will meet local needs

Council Tax £150 Energy Rebate

Households in Council Tax band A to D are likely to receive a £150 Council Tax rebate from the Government to help towards the cost of living now that gas and electricity prices are going up. Eligible households already paying by direct debit should receive a one-off payment straight into their bank account from us in late April or early May and do not need to do anything. Households not paying by direct debit will need to claim the rebate which may take longer. We will contact those household to let them know how to claim.

Empty homes and second homes will not get the rebate.

See more information at www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/features/council-tax-150-energy-rebate/

Lots of interest shown in 'Eastern Edge' huts

A huge number of enquiries have been received from people interested in purchasing one of the contemporary beach huts that are being built on Lowestoft's seafront.

The sale of a number of beach huts is being jointly managed by agents Paul Hubbard and Steel & Co. Those who have already formally expressed an interest in buying one of the Eastern Edge huts will be contacted and provided with pre-sales information over the next few weeks.

New enquiries can be made to Paul Hubbard by calling 01502 531218 or emailing info@paulhubbardonline.com



East Suffolk united in support for Ukraine

The Council has united to condemn Russia's invasion of Ukraine and pledged to support any Ukrainians seeking refuge in the district.

Local authorities Suffolk are working closely together to ensure they can deliver an effective, co-ordinated response to Government requirements to support Ukrainians seeking refuge in Suffolk. To assist this co-ordinated approach and to ensure those living and working in East Suffolk are kept informed of the Government's response to the crisis, a new position has now been created within our cabinet and as of Friday 1 April, Cllr Judy Cloke is the Assistant Cabinet Member for Refugee Support.

Read more at www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/news/east-suffolk-united-in-support-for-ukraine/

Robopets bringing comfort to older residents

To help older residents, especially those living with dementia, we have recently purchased 20 companion pets which are being given to local dementia groups and care homes across East Suffolk. The pets, which are robotic cats and dogs, provide the interactive companionship associated with owning a pet which can be therapeutic for many people, especially those living with dementia.

Piloted at the Memory Lane Group in Felixstowe, robopets have so far been given to Sole Bay Health Centre in Reydon, Glebe House Residential Care Home in Hollesley, the Pear Tree Fund in Halesworth and the Forget Me Not Café in Kesgrave.



New lease of life for former railway signalman's cottage

A run-down railway crossing cottage has been granted a new lease of life thanks to a deal enabled by the Council.

The former signalman's cottage, just north of Campsea Ashe, near Wickham Market, was purchased and sold as part of our strategy to ensure availability of good quality housing for the benefit of the East Suffolk community.



East Suffolk Council responds to planning consent for major offshore wind farm projects

East Suffolk Council acknowledges that The Secretary of State for the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy has awarded planning consents for ScottishPower Renewables East Anglia One North and East Anglia Two Offshore Wind Farms.

The projects will contribute up to 1.7GW of renewable energy, once constructed, and help towards achieving the Government's ambitions of 40GW of offshore wind by 2030. East Suffolk Council will now be responsible for discharging a number of the requirements imposed on the developer via the Development Consent Orders, with the potential that the projects may commence construction in 2023. The projects are the third and fourth to be developed in the East Anglia Zone, following East Anglia One and East Anglia Three offshore wind farms, which were consented by Government in 2014 and 2017 respectively. ScottishPower Renewables was awarded the rights to develop the East Anglia Zone as part of the Crown Estate's Round 3 process.

The East Anglia One North and East Anglia Two projects will make landfall at Thorpeness with underground cables laid to a substation site immediately north of the village of Friston. The projects share the same onshore Order Limits and include a requirement that should



the cabling associated with the projects not be installed at the same time, the first project must install the ducting for the second project concurrently with the installation of the first project's cabling. This is one measure which has been secured to help reduce the disruption and adverse effects experienced along the cable route by the environment and local communities nearby.

Managing Director appointed to lead East Suffolk Services

The creation of a new trading company in East Suffolk – delivering crucial services such as waste and recycling collection, grounds maintenance and street cleansing – has moved a step closer with the appointment of its first Managing Director and confirmation of the organisation's trading name. Cassandra Clements arrives from Babergh & Mid Suffolk Councils, where she is currently Assistant Director for Environment & Commercial Partnerships, to lead the newly created East Suffolk Services. She will be tasked with driving the highest possible standards of service delivery, while seeking the best possible value for money for residents, businesses and all local stakeholders. This Local Authority Trading Company (LATCo) will operate as an 'arms-length' commercial business, separate to the Council, following the conclusion of the contract East Suffolk holds with Norse for the provision of operational services in July 2023

Cllr Colin Hedgley

Cllr Tony Fryatt