



District Councillors Report to Great Bealings Parish Council

For November 2025

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

(Colin.Hedgley@eastsoffolk.gov.uk)

Apologies for the brief report, I have been confined to bed with 'flu for the past week

My Enabling Communities Budget. (May 25-May26)(£7,500)

All my money has now been allocated. Great Bealings benefited by £2000 for the Village Hall heating project Project.

Westerfield Quarry (SCC/0093/25SC)

The Application is now with the SCC planning department.

I am not sure when the SCC Planning Committee will make their decision but we will probably know all at the same time as it will be "front page news".

Neighbourhood Plan adopted by Otley

East Suffolk Council has formally adopted the Otley Neighbourhood Plan following support from residents and Full Council.

Residents took part in a public referendum on 18 September to decide whether the Neighbourhood Plan should be used to help the village decide planning applications in the area. Following their vote in favour, the document was formally adopted by Full Council at a meeting on 24 September.

The Otley Neighbourhood Plan outlines the vision for the future of Otley and sets out to protect and enhance the key services and facilities within the parish to support the needs of future generations, whilst also preserving the character of the parish.

The vision for Otley is supported by a series of objectives. These objectives will be delivered through the Neighbourhood Plan policies, which are used to determine planning applications. Policies incorporate landscape and ecology, heritage preservation, local green spaces, climate change, design, services and business, transport, further education and community services.

In light of the additional homes now to be built in East Suffolk (see below) I believe it is essential that every village has its own Neighbourhood Plan. So, congratulations to Otley.

Talking of Otley, you will be aware that the Otley College Application for HGV training was approved by the planning Committee on the 28th October. I voted against.



500 more homes in East Suffolk

The government has increased our expected Local Housing Need numbers by 87% in the past year, we are facing a real challenge to ramp up the amount of homes in East Suffolk. Given that brownfield sites are not plentiful - and are challenging and expensive to build on, with inherent risks of land contamination, flood risk and ecological issues - progress can be slow and very expensive to achieve development. Hence the council are looking for more development sites. (see item below)

East Suffolk Council's Strategic Planning Committee has voted to approve planning permission which will transform the former Jeld Wen factory site in Lowestoft, delivering up to 500 homes and more than 16,000 sqm of employment development.

However, in recent years its potential has been aided by the delivery of the Gullwing bridge, improving its prominences and connectivity in the town, plus new road connections into the site.

The Strategic Planning Committee meets quarterly and is tasked with only considering the Council's largest and more strategic development proposals. An extraordinary meeting was called for this item, with Councillors from both the North and South Planning Committees considering the application. The vast majority of Members voted to approve the application, with one abstention.

Councils ask communities to identify potential development sites

Residents, developers, landowners, businesses and other organisations are being invited to submit locations which could be considered for planned future development.

East Suffolk Council, will shortly start preparation of their new Local Plan. Other Suffolk District Councils are also carrying out this work.

The new Local Plans will set out a strategy identifying sites for development and set policies against which applications for planning permission are determined, alongside national planning policies and Neighbourhood Plans.

These will provide a blueprint for the future of each area - ensuring residents and communities have sufficient housing, employment and inward investment, that environment and heritage is protected, and the right infrastructure is in place.

As part of the early preparatory work, councils are working together to launch a 'Call for Sites', beginning today, Monday 20 October. The Call for Sites runs until 5pm on 9 January 2026, with the exception of Ipswich, which ends on Monday 15 December 2025.

This invites submissions of land to be put forward for consideration to be included in Local Plans - for uses such as housing, employment, sports and leisure and community purposes.

These are not planning applications, and no site put forward will automatically see development take place.



The process involves a form to be completed by anyone wishing to submit sites. The form can be completed online, by email or by post.

Each suggested site will be considered by planning teams before it is decided whether it goes forward as a proposed Local Plan site allocation. Decisions about preferred allocations will be based on a range of evidence and assessment, as well as through public engagement.

The four district and borough councils have aligned their Local Plan timetables ahead of Local Government Reorganisation.

Babergh and Mid Suffolk are developing a Joint Local Plan covering both districts. East Suffolk Council's Local Plan will replace the existing Suffolk Coastal and Waveney Local Plans. Ipswich Borough Council's Local Plan will succeed its previous plan adopted in 2022.

More information about the Call for Sites consultation can be found on each council's website.

The week commencing 3rd November is National Youth Work Week.

We want to take the opportunity to shine a light on youth work and youth provision in East Suffolk and the amazing job it does in transforming the lives of our young people.

This is the first time we as a Council have marked this awareness week and we are going to mark it in the below ways.

Social media celebrating local provisions

We will be featuring through our social media examples of youth provision and the inspirational people behind them.

Visit your local youth providers and see them in action

If you already know your local youth providers, why not pop along and catch up with them in this special week? Or, if you haven't been able to visit before, why don't you try visiting during the week or November? We have collated contact details for local youth providers. If you'd like to schedule a visit, simply find a provision in your local area, get in contact with them to arrange a date and time and then when you visit, please do take a photo and send it to communities@eastsoffolk.gov.uk so we can use it in our social media campaign. We have tried to capture as many youth provisions as we can but if there are any missing, we will be sure to add them

- **4YP's Hang Out in Kesgrave;** Thursdays from 5.30 at Millennium Hall, Millennium Way, Kesgrave; please email enquiries@4yp.org.uk
- **Just42 in and around Woodbridge** - variety of provisions in the Woodbridge area; for more info, contact Caroline at caroline@just42.org.uk
- There are existing youth clubs in Grundisburgh and a creative youth club in Woodbridge. If you need any assistance, just let us know! Hopefully you will be able to pop along on the 4th and/or make a visit and see brilliant youth work and provision in action!



East Suffolk Council is a supporter of International Fraud Awareness Week 2025 – 16-22 November 2025

East Suffolk are supporters of the International Fraud Awareness Week 2025 which will run this year between 16 – 22 November 2025. This year is the 25th Anniversary of the International Fraud Awareness Week campaign. International Fraud Awareness Week (16 – 22 November 2025) is an opportunity for organisations and communities to come together to look at how far reaching the effects of fraud can be.

Every year across the country, billions of taxpayers' money is lost due to fraud. The National Fraud Office suggests that the full extent of public sector losses is unknown, since much fraud is hidden, difficult to find or remains unreported. We encourage everybody to report such activity to us, so that those responsible can be stopped.

To report any suspected fraudulent activities committed against East Suffolk Council, please email fraud@eastsoffolk.gov.uk or call 01394 444444.

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