



District Councillors Report to Hasketon Parish Council

For July 2022

Carlford and Fynn Valley Ward.

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

From District Councillor

Cllr Colin Hedgley

Parking review launched to evaluate changing demand and meet local need

East Suffolk Council has pledged to conduct a detailed review of parking management regulations and introduce new schemes to meet changing local demand.

The review will encompass regulations such as resident parking, short term parking bays and double yellow lines, and consider a variety of factors, including shifting patterns of town centre use and growth in housing.

Cabinet members met on Tuesday to approve recommendations for the review of existing rules and the allocation of a supplementary budget for the appointment of a Highways Technician/Engineer to provide the necessary resource and capability.

The recommendation for a review follows the transferal of parking enforcement powers from Suffolk Constabulary to individual local authorities in April 2020.

The review will examine the validity of existing parking management regulations and identify areas in which other regulations could improve highway user movement.

It will also focus on identifying streets where permit management regulations will prioritise on-street parking and where parking demand could be balanced using paid parking regulations.

Cllr Norman Brooks, Cabinet Member with responsibility for Transport, said: "Not only will this review help ensure we maintain fair, reasonable and consistent administration of civil parking enforcement, but it will help make a positive contribution to the Council's carbon neutral aims, delivering on our promise to put environmental issues at the heart of everything we do.

"By ensuring we manage the kerb-space in the right locations, we can reduce the need for vehicles to hunt for spaces in towns, potentially cutting congestion, and improve the



highway network for all, including pedestrians and cyclists. It's about enabling people to safely travel for work and leisure, while having a minimum impact on the environment.

"By no means is this just about enforcement; it's about facilitating the most efficient use of the highway network."

The review will involve consultation with relevant town and parish councils, Business Improvement Districts, Suffolk County Council and other bodies, such as the Lowestoft Place Board and local business associations.

Any changes recommended to traffic regulation orders as a result of the review may require further Cabinet approval and consultation.

Operation Camouflage is back!

A popular summer activities programme returns to East Suffolk later this month, with priority given to children who are eligible for free school meals. Returning after a two-year break, Operation Camouflage begins at Sutton Heath, near Woodbridge on Tuesday 26 July. Organised by the Army Welfare Service and East Suffolk Council, the four-week programme is open to children and young people aged between 8 and 16 years old who are eligible for free school meals who live in or go to school in East Suffolk. Designed to bring young people together and help them develop new skills, Operation Camouflage runs every Tuesday to Friday from 26 July until 19 August. There will be a mix of physical, creative, educational and adventurous activities on offer including BMX pump track, circus skills, football freestyling, dance, bushcraft and much more. Snacks and lunch will also be provided. Operation Camouflage has been funded by the Army Covenant Fund, the Army Welfare Service and the Government's Holiday Activities and Food Programme.

Transport is available to children attending school in the catchment areas of Farlingaye and Kesgrave High Schools. East Suffolk Council and the Army Welfare Service have been delivering Operation Camouflage since 2008. The programme is designed to give young people from military families and those living in East Suffolk an opportunity to be active over the summer holidays. To book your free place, please visit www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/operation-camouflage

Holiday Activities

Please find attached a link that shows people all the Holiday Activity Fund (HAF) provision across the area this summer. Spaces on all of the events listed are free for those who access free school meals, whilst many providers will also offer paid spaces for others as well. Activities also provide a nutritious meal to each child attending, many of which may not receive that if they're not in these activities. We're pleased there are a range of activities this year and we have worked to provide as many spaces as possible. This will be shared on



Social Media today as well, but your support to share the link would be appreciated.

<https://infolink.suffolk.gov.uk/kb5/suffolk/infolink/advice.page?id=Zj4vWQtEbvA>

East Suffolk beaches among the best

Our beautiful beaches have once again received national awards, ranking them among the best in the country.

Four of East Suffolk's beaches have been awarded Blue Flags and Seaside Awards this year. Both Felixstowe (Felixstowe South and Pier) and Southwold (Southwold Pier) have received combined Seaside Awards and Blue Flags, while the beaches at Lowestoft South of Claremont Pier (bathing/resort) and Kessingland (non-bathing) received Seaside Awards. Eighty beaches met the high standard required for a Blue Flag across the country, while 128 beaches received Seaside Awards, and 57 beaches are proudly displaying both Blue Flag and Seaside Awards.

This is the third consecutive year in which Felixstowe has received the Blue Flag, while it comes as a welcome return to Southwold, which was last awarded a Blue Flag in 2018.

Another step towards environmental aims with dedicated officer role appointment

This Council has stepped up its commitment to delivering on environmental ambitions by appointing a dedicated lead officer to help shape policy in the fight against climate change.

The new Environment and Climate Change Lead Officer will be responsible for advising the Council on environmental strategies, policies and initiatives, and their contribution to national, regional and local goals.

Acting as a champion for environmental issues, the Lead Officer will also raise awareness of the impact of emerging environmental issues and the difference the Council can make.



In January, ESC demonstrated its commitment to delivering against its environmental ambitions by approving the additional funding required for the new post.

The Council has now confirmed the appointment of Paul Mackie – bringing with him more than 15 years of experience in the environment sector to this important new role.



Paul spent seven years working with East Suffolk Council as part of Coastal Partnership East, raising more than £75million of investment for projects to help make our coastal communities resilient to climate change.

As well as advising colleagues and partner organisations on the Council's Strategic Plan objectives, strategies and associated work concerning climate change mitigation and adaptation, Paul will work closely with Cabinet Member for the Environment, Councillor James Mallinder.

Helping to deliver affordable homes in East Suffolk

A new planning document has been adopted to help guide the development of affordable homes being delivered across the district.

This Council has adopted a new Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document (SPD), which provides guidance to support the implementation of planning policies on affordable housing.

The new document includes guidance on the design of affordable housing, legal agreements and carrying out local housing needs assessments. It will be a material consideration in the determination of planning applications going forward.

[View the Affordable Housing SPD, and supporting documents, including the Consultation Statement and the Adoption Notice.](#)

Physical copies of the documents are also available at ESC's Customer Service Centres and at all libraries in the district.

Unlocking potential with apprenticeships

This Council has once again opened applications for its apprenticeship scheme, offering a fantastic opportunity to gain real life work experience, new skills and qualifications while also being paid.

This year, the successful scheme, which has seen over 80% of apprentices stay beyond their apprenticeship, has eight exciting opportunities available in a number of teams, including ICT, Customer Services, HR, Food Safety, Communities and Assets.

Applications can be submitted at www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/apprenticeships until Sunday 12 June and successful applicants start in September.

Housing improvement programme making progress

ESC is making progress with a detailed improvement programme following the authority's decision earlier this year to report itself to the Regulator for Social Housing.

The Council's review, which encompasses information dating back to East Suffolk's predecessor authority Waveney District Council, is considering how we set our rental charges, to ensure we meet the requirements set out in the nationally recognised 'Rent Standard'.

The Council previously explained that some tenants, who moved in after 2014, may have been incorrectly charged a higher rent. An independent, external audit of every rent



account is now underway, and this will identify which tenants have been affected and calculate any overpayments that should be credited back to the rent account.

The review is also looking at all aspects of Health and Safety related to our properties, including Fire Risk Assessments, Asbestos Management, Water Safety, Gas and Electrical Safety as well as the management and maintenance of equipment including Lifts and Stairlifts.

Following the Council's decision to report itself, the Regulator has considered the information provided to them by East Suffolk and has now shared its findings. As anticipated, they confirm breaches of Housing Regulations, and their findings have been published in the form of a [Regulatory Notice](#).

The Regulator for Social Housing acknowledged that the Council acted in an appropriate manner, understands the issues fully, has taken appropriate advice and has developed a detailed plan to address all issues in a timely fashion.

Surveys and consultations

- ESC are currently running a number of consultations and as always, want to encourage participation as feedback from people in East Suffolk is invaluable and helps us ensure we're making the right decisions for our communities. Please check the ESC website for more information.
- **Draft Housing in Clusters and Small Scale Residential Development in the Countryside Supplementary Planning Document**
Providing further guidance on the development of small scale housing, of up to five dwellings, in the countryside. The consultation is open until Friday 5 August at https://east Suffolk.inconsult.uk/Draft_Housing_Clusters_SPD/consultationHome