

LEADER'S MONTHLY BULLETIN

October 2024

Welcome to the latest edition of my monthly bulletin, which aims to keep councillors, officers and town and parish councils up to date on the month's main news stories and any emerging issues from the district.

Caroline



COUNCILS JOIN FORCES

At the beginning of September, councils across Suffolk came together to call on the new Government to save council homes.

In July, 20 of the largest council landlords published an interim summary of their proposals to improve social housing. This led to over 80 more councils signing the final report, including Mid Suffolk District Council, Babergh District Council, East Suffolk Council and Ipswich Borough Council.

This unprecedented cross-party coalition of over 100 council landlords jointly published a report detailing five solutions for the Government to improve social housing. The report includes a plan for a 'decade of renewal', with local authorities and central government working together to get Housing Revenue Accounts (HRAs) back on stable foundations, bring all homes up to modern and green standards, and deliver the next generation of council homes.

HISTORIC CHANGES TO WASTE AND RECYCLING

East Suffolk Council has agreed a historic, new approach to recycling collection, and with it, a commitment to greatly improve environmental outcomes for the district.

At a meeting of Full Council on 25 September, members agreed to radically increase the range and volume of products which households can recycle, in line with the requirements of the Environment Act 2021.

This will see all households supplied with an additional wheelie bin or other container to separate paper and card from plastics, metal, cartons (including Tetra Pak) and glass bottles or jars.

A weekly food waste collection service was also agreed earlier this year.

This extra collection service allows the Council to adopt a three-weekly residual waste collection service, rather than the current fortnightly arrangement, without a reduction in the overall combined capacity of household bins.

Working together in response to Government legislation, Suffolk's district and borough authorities - Babergh, East Suffolk, Ipswich, Mid Suffolk and West Suffolk Councils - are all reviewing their waste and recycling services to meet new nationwide 'Simpler Recycling' requirements by 31 March 2026.

Specific details are still to be determined however some FAQs about the changes [here](#).



TOUR OF BRITAIN COMES TO EAST SUFFOLK

On Sunday 8 September, East Suffolk hosted the overall finish of the Lloyds Bank Tour of Britain Men.

The final stage started in Lowestoft, where First Light Festival CIC organised a day of celebration, featuring a host of engaging activities, live entertainment and workshops.

Residents lined the streets to watch the race as it passed through Beccles, Framlingham, Aldeburgh and many more towns before moving on to Felixstowe for the finish.

Felixstowe also showed wonderful support in the lead up to the final stage with their Love Felixstowe festival, which proved to be a huge success with local residents.

Thank you to all those who helped bring this amazing sporting event to our district.

Take a look at our social media coverage [here](#).



LOWESTOFT TENANTS MOVE IN

Six newly built properties have provided affordable rental accommodation for tenants following the redevelopment of unused offices in Lowestoft. The two-bedroom homes were built at the site of a former office building and car park.

East Suffolk Council acquired the plot in 2021 for the development of affordable housing.

Among the first group of tenants were former St Peter's Court residents who moved to new accommodation earlier this month ahead of next year's planned demolition of the 1960s tower block.

CUSTOMER SERVICES CENTRE RELOCATES

East Suffolk Council's face-to-face Customer Services facility in Lowestoft has relocated, moving temporarily to Riverside, before moving permanently to Lowestoft Library at the end of the year.

Earlier this year, Cabinet agreed to relocate the facility from the Marina Centre as part of plans to transform an area of the town centre into a thriving Cultural Quarter.

Customer Services at Riverside is open 5 days a week and, to ensure a presence remains in the town centre, a limited service is also available at Lowestoft Library.



'HERE FOR YOU' ROADSHOW SUCCESS

This summer, East Suffolk Council set up a series of roadshows, in a variety of locations across East Suffolk, aimed at connecting with the local community. At each location, councillors and senior officers were on hand to listen to any concerns or questions from residents.

The final roadshow of the year took place in Woodbridge, where we answered questions on planning permission, parking and waste and recycling. Residents were also asked to fill out a survey about their local area.

The roadshows proved to be a success, with good levels of attendance and plenty of people stopping to speak with us.

The information gathered from the roadshows and survey will help us create better outcomes for our residents and communities, and shape the future of East Suffolk.

GP PRACTICE EXPANSIONS

East Suffolk Council has allocated £1.5million to fund the expansion of three local doctors' surgeries to ensure that residents benefit from improved health facilities in areas of housing growth.

The allocations were included in a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Spending Report, approved by Cabinet on 3 September and presented at the last Full Council meeting.

The project, supported by Suffolk and North East Essex Integrated Care Board, will help offer up to 60 additional appointments per 1,000 patients per week and deliver more services in community settings.

To date, East Suffolk Council has formally allocated over £14.3m of District CIL to a variety of local infrastructure projects.

Providing the right infrastructure to housing developments is key to East Suffolk Council's goal of creating sustainable housing.

YOUTH COUNCIL TO BE FORMED

Young people in East Suffolk have been invited to make a difference in their local community by standing for election to a new Youth Council.

The new Youth Council is set to be formed, comprising at least two representatives from every secondary educational institution in East Suffolk, as well as the home-schooled.

The Youth Council will influence decisions and drive real change across the district by working closely with East Suffolk Council to ensure young people have a say in council decisions.



JUBILEE PARADE PROGRESSES

Last week, local construction company P.J Spillings were awarded the contract to deliver the second phase of construction work at the Jubilee Parade development in Lowestoft.

The contract will deliver a two-storey restaurant and café complex together with three new leisure concession units, public toilets, and a Changing Places facility.

A new lift will also be installed to greatly improve accessibility along the seafront for those with mobility issues and for pushchair users

Construction is expected to start in October and finish late summer next year.

Read the full story [here](#).



DAY OF ACTION IN BUNGAY

Council officers have taken part in a multi-agency day of action to improve community safety in Bungay.

Organised by the East Suffolk Community Safety Partnership, officers from East Suffolk Council's Communities, Environmental Protection, Licencing, Housing, Tenant Services, Fraud, Waste and Private Sector Housing teams joined forces with Suffolk Police, Suffolk Fire and Rescue and Bungay Town Council for a day of checks and inspections, aimed at strengthening community safety and addressing environmental issues.

Checks were carried out on several potential issues, for a full list of findings see [here](#).



MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT LEAFLETS

Information has been provided to residents in Aldeburgh, Leiston, Saxmundham and the surrounding villages to help them [access mental health support](#).

Earlier this year, East Suffolk produced a '[Well Minds East Suffolk](#)' booklet, containing advice and contacts to help those in need of mental health support. The booklet's extensive range of support and information is designed for people of all ages and backgrounds.

10,000 booklets were produced, funded by the Community Partnership Board and two local Community Partnership groups as part of their Well Minds East Suffolk programme which has also been providing free mental health training for voluntary and community organisations.

The booklets were delivered to community settings across the district, including libraries, community centres and the Council's network of Warm Welcomes.

To make residents aware of this support, the Aldeburgh, Leiston, Saxmundham and villages Community Partnership provided over £1,500 to fund the production and delivery of over 13,000 leaflets. These leaflets were distributed to households and businesses in the partnership area.

The leaflets were delivered at the end of September, and we are hopeful that this will enable more people to access the support they need.

View the Well Minds East Suffolk Leaflet [here](#).



STAY UP TO DATE WITH THE LATEST EAST SUFFOLK NEWS!

The Communications Team shares all [media coverage daily on SharePoint](#), so you can easily stay up to date on media stories relevant to East Suffolk Council, whether on local, regional or national news outlets, TV, radio, print or online.

We do a lot of great work in East Suffolk, and we want everyone to know! I would therefore like to encourage all Councillors to share their own good news stories with the Communications Team so they can help showcase some of this work, whether this is from projects funded through your Enabling Communities Budget or supporting an initiative which will benefit our local communities.

We keep our communities up to date in a variety of ways and social media has an important role to play. Please follow us and share our posts with your audiences.

If you have any questions or need any help with communications and promotion, please [email the team](#).



DIARY DATES

Thursday 17 October 6.30pm	Overview and Scrutiny Committee	East Suffolk House
Friday 18 October 10am	Licensing Sub-Committee	Riverside
Monday 21 October 6.30pm	Licensing Committee	Riverside
Tuesday 22 October 2pm	Planning Committee South	East Suffolk House
Wednesday 23 October 6pm	Melton, Woodbridge and Deben Peninsula Community Partnership	East Suffolk House