

LEADER'S MONTHLY BULLETIN

August 2025

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

Caroline



PLEASE HAVE YOUR SAY

We're inviting residents to give their views on how they would best like to receive information about future planning consultations.

Our short online questionnaire seeks feedback on how communities would like to be involved in the process of preparing planning policy documents such as Local Plans, Design Codes, neighbourhood plans, and planning guidance. Printed versions of the survey are also available from local libraries.

Information provided through this questionnaire will inform the Council's future consultation and engagement processes for planning policy document preparation and will be used to update the Council's Statement of Community Involvement (SCI).

The questionnaire closes on 3 September 2025. If you have any questions about the consultation, please contact our Planning Policy Team.

Complete the questionnaire [here](#).

THE LLOYDS TOUR OF BRITAIN MEN IS BACK FOR 2025!

Britain's biggest professional cycle race and the UK's largest free-to-spectate live sporting event will return to East Suffolk this September, as the opening stage of the race take place in the district on Tuesday 2 September.

East Suffolk will host the first stage of the race, as Woodbridge and Southwold play host to the stage one start and finish.

The exact stage route for the opening leg of the tour will be published soon, but it will include Wickham Market, Aldeburgh, Saxmundham, Framlingham, Halesworth, Bungay, and Beccles.

[Find out more.](#)



JOIN THE EAST SUFFOLK SPORTIVE!

Ahead of the opening stage of the Lloyds Tour of Britain Men coming to East Suffolk, cycling enthusiasts are invited to take part in a special event in Woodbridge.

The East Suffolk sportive takes place on Sunday 31 August and is open to cyclists of all abilities.

The event, Pedal and Picnic in Woodbridge, will be in aid of Suffolk Mind and those signing up early will be automatically entered into a prize draw.

Entrants can choose from either a 50km or 100km route. Also, if you would like to get involved in the event but not cycle, there will be family activities at Kingston Field.

For more details or to ask a question, please email:
leisure@eastsuffolk.gov.uk.

[Sign yourself up now!](#)

MARINE POLLUTION PREVENTION

More than a tonne of end-of-life fishing gear has been prevented from posing a potential hazard to marine life following a successful recovery programme.

A four-day appeal for nets, ropes, plastic pots and fish crates was held in Lowestoft by a team of partner organisations belonging to the Eastern and Southern Plastics Coalition (ESPC), during the week of World Oceans Day.

The activity recovered 1,194 kg for recycling, as well as more than a tonne of additional material unable to be recycled but now destined for safe disposal.

The scheme was supported by East Suffolk Council and coordinated through the ESPC, which led on liaison with the local fishing fleet to engage them with the initiative, while Keep Britain Tidy sorted and prepared materials received for subsequent recycling, and energy firm RWE provided main funding for the project.

MULTI-AGENCY DAY OF ACTION IN FELIXSTOWE

Officers from East Suffolk Council's Communities, Environmental Protection, Licensing and Fraud Teams, East Suffolk Services Ltd and local district councillors were joined by officers from Suffolk Constabulary, Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service, Suffolk County Council's Trading Standards team, Immigration Enforcement and Felixstowe Town Council for a day of action on Wednesday 2 July.

Organised and funded by the East Suffolk Community Safety Partnership, the event saw partner agencies conduct a series of checks and inspections aimed at strengthening community safety through collective activity.

Trading Standards, Licensing, Police and Immigration Enforcement carried out compliance and investigation checks on four premises.

This event follows similar events held in Saxmundham and Lowestoft this year.

REGULATORY JUDGEMENT

Having undertaken wholesale 'Stock Condition Surveys' of its social housing properties, East Suffolk Council has acknowledged that many of its homes fail to meet what is known as the 'Decent Homes Standard'. As a result, the Council referred itself to the Regulator of Social Housing.

The Regulator has identified serious failings in how East Suffolk Council is delivering its Safety and Quality Standard obligations, and that significant improvement is needed. Based on their assessment, they have concluded a C3 grade for East Suffolk Council.

The Council has written to all tenants explaining the current situation and at present, while a significant number of our homes are classed as 'non-decent', there are currently only four with the most concerning 'Category 1 Hazard' out of 4,345 properties, while around 200 are placed in Category 2.

Read our full response [here](#).



ART TRAIL: HOP TO IT! SUFFOLK 2025

The [Hop to it! Suffolk 2025 art trail](#) has arrived in East Suffolk! St Elizabeth Hospice has chosen Felixstowe, Woodbridge, Beccles and Lowestoft as locations to host the trail, alongside Suffolk's county town, Ipswich.

East Suffolk Council are a proud presenting partner of the trail, and we want to raise as much money as possible for this brilliant service.

We're sponsoring two hares, which are located in Beccles and Lowestoft. We'd like to encourage residents to get involved in the trail, and to show the hospice that they should continue to involve the district in future events.

PROTECTING MILLIONS IN PUBLIC FUNDS

More than £2.8million of public funding was protected as a result of work by [East Suffolk Council's Corporate Fraud Service in 2024/25](#).

The team uncovered more than 103 cases of irregularity between the beginning of April 2024 and the end of March 2025.

An annual Corporate Fraud report, presented to the Council's Audit and Governance Committee this month, showed that officers helped to detect £2,844,032 of irregularity during the last financial year.

Intervention included the cancellation of nine Right to Buy applications following due diligence activities, providing £1,724,500 of prevented losses by retaining these properties within council housing stock and continuing to yield monthly rental income and be available for social housing needs.

Meanwhile, tenancy fraud investigations resulted in the recovery of 10 social housing properties, saving an estimated £930,000 and enabling genuinely eligible families to become tenants.

The Corporate Fraud Service Team is professionally resourced and skilled in investigating any potentially fraudulent activity relating to the organisation, its partnerships, and direct contractors.

Reports of suspected fraud can be made to East Suffolk Council by calling 01394 444444 or emailing fraud@eastsuffolk.gov.uk or completing our online fraud report on the [Corporate fraud](#) section of the website.



HELPING LOCAL EVENTS THRIVE

A new grant scheme which supports local events to attract more attendees has been launched by East Suffolk Council.

The Events Growth Grant Scheme is offering projects funding of up to £25,000, to support the organisation and deliver of events in East Suffolk.

Funded through the Sizewell C Tourism Fund, this grant scheme aims to encourage the development of events which not only benefit local communities but also attract visitors from outside the district, particularly during the off-peak tourism season.

Applications are now open, and will be assessed by a panel on a rolling monthly basis.



TRANSFORMATION OF WISSETT POND

East Suffolk councillors George King and Graham Parker have used funding from their Enabling Communities Budgets towards the restoration of the Wissett Way pond.

A key part of the project, delivered in partnership with Pathways Care Farm, was the wooden planters and picnic benches installed on the site.

One of the benches has been installed in memory of Trevor Rix, a much-loved resident of Wissett Way, who often took it upon himself to clear and tidy the pond.

These works are part of a broader commitment by Cllrs King and Parker to improve public spaces across their ward.



STATEMENT ON SIZEWELL C DECISION

A statement from Cllr Tom Daly,
Cabinet Member for Energy
Projects, following confirmation by
the government of Final
Investment Decision for Sizewell C:

"East Suffolk Council acknowledges today's decision by government on the Final Investment Decision for the Sizewell C new nuclear power station promoted by Sizewell C Co at Sizewell, Suffolk. Final Investment Decision is a key financial milestone for the project and follows on from the announcement of a further £14.2bn funding announced as part of the government's Spending Review in June. The project will now proceed with certainty.

"The project was granted development consent by the Secretary of State for Business, Energy, and Industrial Strategy in 2022 and formally commenced in January 2024. Construction is expected to take approximately nine to 12 years. At this time, the technological development of renewables and the market

"situation will be such that the case for a massive inflexible nuclear provision will be, at best, unclear.

"East Suffolk Council recognises the continued challenges this will bring to East Suffolk's communities as a result of the scale of construction works associated with the development, alongside other planned energy infrastructure development in East Suffolk. The Council will continue to work with the project promoter and all key stakeholders, seeking a coordinated and strategic approach to the delivery of energy infrastructure projects in East Suffolk.

"East Suffolk Council believes that renewable energy, like offshore wind and solar, provides a better long-term answer to the energy security and carbon reduction future of the UK. ESC requests that alongside this significant investment in large scale nuclear, similar investment will come forward for community energy initiatives and domestic insulation, to help meet our climate commitments in the climate crisis, and to support our communities with unaffordable energy prices."

IMPROVING PLAY AREAS ACROSS EAST SUFFOLK

Work is now underway to redesign several play areas across East Suffolk, providing high-quality play spaces for children of all ages and abilities to enjoy.

Play areas at Beccles, Felixstowe, Framlingham, Kesgrave, Rendlesham, Trimley St Mary and Wrentham were identified for improvements in a review of play areas carried out in 2022. In 2024, residents were invited to give their views on how these play areas could be improved and this feedback was used to develop plans for redesigned play spaces. Earlier this year, the proposed designs were circulated to local communities for their views and the final designs are now being installed.

These improvements are part of a five-year programme of improvements to East Suffolk's play areas and other consultations will take place on other areas in due course.

[Find out which play areas are being improved.](#)



STOPPING ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

East Suffolk Council has secured a Full Closure Order at a [property in Lowestoft](#) following complaints of serious disorder of anti-social behaviour.

The order was secured by the council's Housing Services team following a court hearing at Norwich Magistrates' Court on Friday 5 July.

It excludes anyone from occupying the property for a period of three months – and can be extended for a further three months on application, if required.

[Find out more about how to report anti-social behaviour.](#)

SEAFRONT COMPLEX TAKES SHAPE

The construction of a two-storey development on Lowestoft's seafront has reached an important milestone, with the steel structure now emerging from the ground.

Located next to the Eastern Edge beach huts, Jubilee Rise (formerly Jubilee Parade) will comprise a two-storey restaurant and café complex, three new concession units, public toilets, and a Changing Places facility for those with accessibility needs. Construction of the steel work for Jubilee Rise began immediately after the First Light Festival and work is now progressing at pace.

A new lift will also be installed at the complex to greatly improve accessibility along the seafront for those with mobility issues and for pushchair users. The lift will connect the Upper Esplanade with the Lower Promenade, providing access to the restaurant space and first floor Eastern Edge beach huts.

Constructed by PJ Spillings, Jubilee Rise is expected to be completed in early 2026.

The work at Jubilee Rise supports the wider Towns Fund programme and complements the regeneration of work at Royal Plain, Royal Green and South Quay Wharf, where a new pocket park is expected to open in the coming weeks. The park, which will feature raised planters, new seating and lighting, also has a sheltered garden backdrop from which to watch the boats leaving and returning to the port.



UFFORD NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN ADOPTED

Ufford has become the latest East Suffolk parish to [formally adopt a Neighbourhood Plan](#).

Following a public referendum in June, the Ufford Neighbourhood Plan was adopted by Full Council at a meeting on 16 July.

A Neighbourhood Plan gives communities the opportunity to shape development within their local areas. Following adoption, the Neighbourhood Plan forms part of the development plan for East Suffolk and will be used to consider planning applications.

Formal adoption follows much hard work by the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group and Parish Council, and extensive public consultation to ensure that residents had their say on how development in the parish will take place.

[View the Ufford Neighbourhood Plan](#).

[More information on Neighbourhood Planning](#).

SEAFRONT GARDENS TO FLY THE GREEN FLAG

Felixstowe's famous Seafront Gardens will continue to fly the prestigious Green Flag after being [recognised as one of the country's best parks for the tenth consecutive year](#).

The Grade II listed gardens have been awarded the mark of quality for public parks every year since completion of a restoration project funded by East Suffolk Council and the Heritage Lottery Fund.

The news that Felixstowe's Seafront Gardens have met the standards required for the accreditation is testament to the hard work and dedication of the team that care for the green space so that visitors and residents alike can enjoy it.



RENEWED PRAISE FOR COUNCIL'S APPROACH TO MEMBER DEVELOPMENT

The council has been commended for its ongoing commitment to supporting members with the skills and knowledge required to go on delivering for their communities.

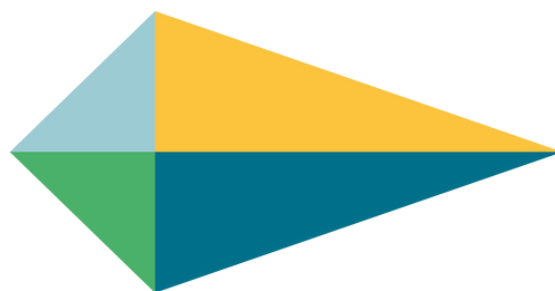
Recently, we reported on this continuing work as part of a midway review of the 'gold standard' accreditation for councillor development, retained at the end of 2023.

The nationally recognised Councillor Development Charter Plus is awarded for a period of three years to local authorities that demonstrate a strategic approach to ensuring members are well equipped to serve communities.

Developed by the Local Government Association and the nine regional employers' organisations, the Charter provides a robust framework designed to help enhance member development.

As well as reassessment to ensure continued compliance at the end of the three-year period, an 18-month interim review was submitted in May and included an evaluation of the Council's response to recommendations made by assessors when initially granting Charter Plus status.

At East Suffolk, councillor development activities are led by a cross-party Member Development Steering Group, with activities including the creation of a Member Development Strategy, a comprehensive induction programme for all new councillors, an annual training programme and a Member Development Plan process that assesses member's individual training needs on an annual basis.



EASTSUFFOLK
C O U N C I L

DIARY DATES

Wednesday 13 August 10am	Licensing Sub-Committee	Riverside
Wednesday 20 August 2.30pm	Licensing Sub-Committee	Riverside
Thursday 21 August 6pm	Framlingham, Wickham Market, Kelsale, Yoxford and villages Community Partnership	Castle Community Rooms
Tuesday 26 August 2pm	Planning Committee South	East Suffolk House
Wednesday 27 August 3pm	Aldeburgh, Leiston, Saxmundham and villages Community Partnership	Wardens Hall
Tuesday 2 September 2pm	Shareholder Reference Group	Riverside
Tuesday 2 September 6pm	Cabinet	Riverside
Monday 8 September 6.30pm	Audit and Governance Committee	Riverside
Tuesday 9 September 10am	Anglia Revenues and Benefits Partnership Joint Committee	Online (via Teams)
Tuesday 9 September 2pm	Planning Committee North	Riverside

