



District Councillors Report to Swilland and Witnesham Grouped Parish Council Meeting

For September 2023

Carlford and Fynn Valley Ward.

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

From District Councillor

CLlr Colin Hedgley

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Attendance at Parish Council Meetings

CLlr Dan Clery (the other District Cllr for this ward) and myself have decided to split the responsibilities of attending Parish Council Meetings as we found the two of us tearing round the Suffolk countryside appearing at two sometimes three meetings per night a little over the top. We will attend in person half each of the 19 parishes.

We will then change over after 12 months and so on until the next election. We will both however send a report each month. At the same time if you wish to consult with either one of us at any time that is perfectly in order. It's just physical attendance that is affected. But, of course if, you require one or both of us at any particular meeting we will be more than happy to attend.

Offering a Warm Welcome to residents in need

Voluntary organisations and community groups in East Suffolk are invited to apply for funding to become a Warm Welcomes venue, offering residents a warm safe space to socialise this winter.

The second round of East Suffolk Council's Warm Welcomes (formerly Warm Rooms) grant applications is now open, following a successful programme last winter.

Last year, Warm Rooms operated over the winter months to provide warm, friendly spaces across East Suffolk. This winter, the rooms have been rebranded as Warm Welcomes following feedback from those visiting Warm Rooms and the host venues.

Warm Welcomes provide a safe, warm and welcoming space where members of the community, including people who may be struggling with the cost of heating their homes, can come to meet with others and access information about additional support available in the community.



Grant funding is available for venues wishing to host a Warm Welcome in their community over the winter. Each venue is asked to provide a minimum of 8 hours per week however this can be provided in different ways throughout the week. The funding can be used as a contribution towards energy costs, refreshments, food, activities and the purchase or hire of resources such as craft materials.

Applications close on Friday 22 September and all applications will be considered by a panel. All Warm Welcomes must be ready to open from 30 October and remain available until 1 April 2024. Once confirmed, a list of all the Warm Welcomes will be made available online.

For full eligibility criteria and to apply, please visit www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/warm-welcomes

For any queries about the grant scheme, please email communities@eastsuffolk.gov.uk

Suffolk Climate Emergency

The Suffolk Climate Emergency Plan (SCEP), is an ambitious plan developed to drive Suffolk towards net zero emissions by 2030. This plan has been agreed by Suffolk's Public Sector Leaders, and will support the county's commitment to tackling the climate emergency. It is designed for use by everyone living, working and visiting Suffolk and is implemented by all public sector organisations across the county. The plan is structured into 5 key themes, and each theme has a designated group assembled from local experts, specialists and other influential parties connected to the relevant sector. For further information, please contact David Walton, Suffolk Climate Emergency Programme Manager.

Community Partnership News

A Community Partnership online workshop is running next week to begin drafting ideas and actions to fund at the October meeting. Our 3 priorities have been agreed and now it's time to agree how we are going to take practical action against them, preferably with fewer projects but larger budgets for each. 5th September at 10am, open to Parish Councils also.

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Some agreements for funding the Road Safety designs from local schools to be printed.

We be tallying the amount this week and seeking further funding options. Paperwork for ECB funding will be provided to you for your signature.

3 new walking routes will be launched this week thanks to CP funding. Sites include Kesgrave, Martlesham and Rushmere, each with varying difficulty. The Martlesham walk also includes the new Martlesham Wilds area. Promotion will be done this week through a range of options. Any support with this is greatly appreciated.

Road Safety Week planning is underway. Further details to follow shortly.

We've seen a series of Anti-Social Behaviour reports over the summer, particularly between neighbours. Many of these cases have been complex and taking considerable time to resolve.

Some signage to remind residents about managing their dogs and reducing dangerous dog incidents is being proposed in Martlesham. Signage will be offered to other parishes as well if they wish. Funding will not be available from East Suffolk Council, so parishes will need to consider this themselves. Designs and further details to follow.



Finally, the Men's Cycle Tour will come through the District on Thursday 7th September, starting and ending in Felixstowe. It will travel through some of our CP area, but blink and you'll miss it! Full route details are here - [Tour of Britain | Stage Five](#)

Designs revealed for £4.9m seafront development

As part of a major programme to reinvigorate Lowestoft's seafront, designs have been finalised for the next phase of improvements at Jubilee Parade.

Having been awarded £4.3m from the Government's Levelling Up Fund in March, the development at Jubilee Parade will include a two-storey café, concession units, public toilets, a Changing Places facility, and extensive public realm improvements to the surrounding seafront area. An accessible lift will also be installed to connect the lower promenade with the first-floor level and greatly improve wider accessibility between the Upper Esplanade and Lower Promenade for wheelchair and pushchair users, complimenting the ten accessible Eastern Edge beach huts and the boardwalk installed last year.

National awards for two East Suffolk green spaces

Two green spaces in East Suffolk have been officially recognised as being amongst the best in the country after receiving a Green Flag Award. Both Felixstowe Seafront Gardens and Woods Meadow Country Park in Oulton Broad have been awarded the international quality mark for parks and green spaces.

This is the eighth consecutive year that Felixstowe Seafront Gardens has received the Green Flag award. The award for the Victorian cliffside park follows East Suffolk Council's four-year restoration project, launched in 2011, to return the Grade II listed green space to its former glory as part of a town-wide regeneration programme.

Improving access to private rented housing in East Suffolk

A new scheme, which will help East Suffolk residents to better access private rented housing, has been launched. Approved by East Suffolk Council's cabinet a new lettings partnership – East Suffolk Lettings – will be created, along with the introduction of a new Guaranteed Rent Scheme, to increase residents access to the private rented sector and minimise the use of temporary accommodation. East Suffolk Lettings will encourage landlords to work with the Council, by charging a lower rent, at Local Housing Allowance or within 10%. Landlords will be offered a financial incentive based on the difference in cost between what they would have been able to charge, compared to the lower rate they are charging. In return, the Council will guarantee the rent is paid on time, each month and will



provide support to the tenant to ensure the tenancy is managed appropriately. This will include completing inventories, three-monthly home visits to check on the condition of the property, supporting with benefit claims, and managing utilities.

Transport East

The EV charging point study is supporting local strategies. Recently launched EV study and charging point mapping tool are already helping to support the future of electric vehicle uptake in the region.

Around thirty officers from local councils and businesses in the East of England attended a well-received launch webinar which outlined the outputs from the report and the possibilities the digital dashboard can provide.

While the tool and report have only been available for a few months we are seeing the insights being used by our partner local authorities, including Suffolk County Council, Essex County Council, Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Council and Southend Council, as they develop and publish their EV strategies.

New policing model: PCC and Chief answer your questions

The way local policing is delivered in Suffolk is changing and a new county policing model goes live in December 2023. In advance of the changes, the Police and Crime Commissioner Tim Passmore and Chief Constable Rachel Kearton are hosting a series of meetings to talk through the plans with local communities and answer any questions they may have.

Meetings will be held across the county through September and October with an on-line meeting in November.

These are:

WEST AREA: Thursday September 21 2023 at Bury Town Football Club, Cotton Lane, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1XP

SOUTH AREA: Wednesday October 4 2023 at Police Headquarters, Portal Avenue, Martlesham IP5 3QS

EAST AREA: Tuesday October 10 2023 at Wherry Hotel, Bridge Road, Oulton Broad, Lowestoft NR32 3LN

MID SUFFOLK: Tuesday October 17 2023 at the new Stowmarket Police Station, IP14 2QU

All meetings start at 6.30pm and there is no need to book, just turn up on the evening.

There is also an on-line meeting on Tuesday November 7 2023 at 6pm via Microsoft Teams.

Please email spcc@suffolk.police.uk to register and an invite will be sent through via email in advance of the meeting.

Nitrous Oxide Use Locally.

There have been recent discoveries of Nitrous Oxide being used by young people in the Kesgrave and Martlesham area. These incidents have been reported to the relevant authorities. Nitrous Oxide is a colourless gas that is usually inhaled using a balloon. It slows the users brain activity and body's responses. It's main use is for pain management in clinical settings because of its instant effect. People that use Nitrous recreationally can experience;

- Feelings of euphoria and relaxation
- Sound distortions and hallucinations

It can also give the user a severe headache, cause dizziness or intense feelings of paranoia. Mixing Nitrous Oxide use with other substances also increases the risk of harm to the user. Long term or heavy use can remove oxygen from the brain, among other issues.

There have been a small number of reported deaths linked to the use of Nitrous Oxide.

Its effects are short lasting, leading users to take multiple doses. It is difficult to judge the correct 'dose' to take, leading to people using more than they planned to. Psychological addiction has also been reported.

If you find any canisters, these cannot be disposed of through a general waste bin because the canisters are pressurised and may explode when processed. They can be taken to Foxhall Recycling Centre for disposal with other gas canisters, or by reporting the issue to the land owner.

Harm reduction advice can be found online, however the recommended option is to not use it at all. If you feel you, or someone you know, requires support, Turning Point provide confidential advice and help across all ages in Suffolk via their website or by phone – 01473 220240.



