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July 2024 Town and Parish Newsletter

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To promote and support the health and wellbeing of all people in Suffolk



To strengthen our local economy



To provide value for money for the Suffolk taxpayer



To protect and enhance our environment



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Suffolk County Council's Children and Young People's Community Health Service has been awarded the prestigious Baby Friendly Award and is the latest UK health care service to gain recognition from the UK Committee for UNICEF (UNICEF UK) Baby Friendly Initiative.

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Suffolk County Council fears more damage to the county, with yet another major energy infrastructure project possibly landing in Suffolk.

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A property developer is found guilty of using fake certificates for a Newmarket residential development following a prosecution brought by Suffolk Trading Standards.

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A joint strategy and action plan has been launched today to help support autistic people of any age and their families.

Page 24 - Ipswich property management company and director sentenced for breaching fire safety regulations

Edward Ottley and Home from Home gave misleading information to a fire risk assessor over cladding used at Ipswich apartments.

Page 26 - Major flood investigation report published as Suffolk continues response to Storm Babet

Suffolk County Council has today published a detailed report into one of the worst hit communities during Storm Babet.

Page 27 - Council remains opposed to Norwich to Tilbury pylons in formal consultation response

Suffolk County Council has formally objected to National Grid's current proposals for pylons between Norwich and Tilbury, as it submits its response to the project's statutory consultation.

Page 29 - Council bringing more community EV charging points to Suffolk

Over 60 new community venues across Suffolk will have new electric vehicle (EV) chargepoints, as Suffolk County Council's 'Plug In Suffolk' project continues to grow.

Page 30 - Free outdoor events to celebrate The Brecks this September

A festival of outdoor activities to celebrate The Brecks will take place from 7 to 22 September 2024.

Page 31 - Sizewell C Community Fund now open for applications

Suffolk Community Foundation is inviting eligible charitable and not-for-profit groups in East Suffolk to bid for a share of up to £23m following the opening of the Sizewell C Community Fund.



Fire service urges people to stay safe this summer

With summer well and truly here, Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service is asking everyone to be fire safety aware.

Last summer firefighters from the service responded to more than 200 fires in the open, which includes woodland, heaths, farmland, and fields, between July and September.

For the same period in 2022 there were 500 fires due to extreme temperatures which resulted in the service declaring a major incident for the first time in decades.

While such incidents are thankfully rare, Suffolk's senior fire officer is asking people to stay vigilant and play their part in reducing the risk of fires.

Chief Fire Officer Jon Lacey said:

"Hot, dry weather can result in tinderbox conditions and in a rural county such as Suffolk a fire can quickly take hold and spread in open areas.

"I would ask that everyone do what they can to prevent fires breaking out as so many incidents can be avoided by people taking just that little bit of extra care and thinking about what they are doing.

"Please help us to help you and the wider community by preventing incidents from happening in the first place, reducing the chance of anyone being seriously injured or even killed in a fire."

During hot and dry weather, people are encouraged to:


- Put litter in the bin when out and about.
- Avoid barbecues and campfires in public open spaces.
- Ensure that any cigarettes are totally put out and disposed of properly.
- Pick up any glass items instead of leaving them lying around after a picnic.
- Report any fires in the countryside immediately by calling 999.

Farmers are also urged to slow the spread of fires by storing hay and straw with a break between stacks and away from other buildings, especially those housing livestock or containing fuels and chemicals.

Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service has been working closely with the National Farmers Union and county-based agricultural machinery manufacturers to ensure effective team working and knowledge sharing.

The service also recently provided training and advice at an NFU health and safety event.

The service also offers Home Fire Safety Visits, which involves specialist staff and operational crews visiting Suffolk residents in their homes to provide bespoke fire safety



advice, including designing a fire escape plan to help people safely evacuate their property in the event of a fire, and fitting smoke, carbon monoxide and sensory alarms.

The service uses Safelincs – the online Home Fire Safety Check - which helps prioritise the most vulnerable in our communities. More details are available at www.safelincs.co.uk/hfsc/

Mr Lacey said:

“Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service is keen to reach those most at risk from fire. This is often households with other needs such as disabilities, mental health issues, or reliance on financial support.

“We are also more than happy to help and advise anyone who wants information around fire safety and prevention.”

Fire safety information can be found on the Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service website at www.suffolk.gov.uk/suffolk-fire-and-rescue-service

Guidance is also shared regularly on the service’s [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) channels.

250 young people take part in Suffolk Youth Climate Conference

250 local schoolchildren have pledged to write to their local Member of Parliament about climate change having been inspired by guest speaker, Chris Packham.

This year’s Suffolk Youth Climate Conference, held on 3 July 2024 at Suffolk One Sixth Form College, was organised by the Suffolk Climate Change Partnership.

It is just one way that the partnership is engaging with schools, charities, and community groups to bring about positive change, not just for the environment, but also for the health and wellbeing of Suffolk residents.

Speakers such as Chris Packham, Lord Deben, Kids Against Plastic and Scarlett Westbrook inspired the students with messages of urgency and hope. Chris Packham’s talk looked at the power young people have to shape the future.

A range of workshops allowed the children to discuss topics such as electric vehicles, nature-based solutions, the global food system, coastal adaptation, plastic pollution, flood and water management, sustainable fashion and climate anxiety.

Students also had the opportunity to engage with 30 charities and organisations, that are all working to improve the natural environment in Suffolk.

Emma Dixon, Suffolk Climate Change Partnership Manager, said:

"The Suffolk Youth Climate Conference empowers young people in Suffolk to join us in the fight against climate change.

"The Suffolk Public Sector Leaders welcome any opportunity to bring communities together to share knowledge and tools as we collectively work to reduce Suffolk's carbon emissions and protect our natural environment.

"All students in attendance will leave with the tools to express their views and concerns about climate change in their area to their local MP."

Suffolk and Norfolk awarded joint Local Visitor Economy Partnership Status

Suffolk and Norfolk have joined the new national framework of VisitEngland-accredited Local Visitor Economy Partnerships (LVEP) after a successful bid by Visit East of England supported by Suffolk and Norfolk County Councils.

Developed and administered by VisitEngland, the national portfolio of strategic and high-performing LVEPs support collaborative working locally and nationally on shared priorities and targets to grow the local visitor economy.

The creation of LVEPs was part of the UK Government's response to the recommendations of The de Bois Review: an independent review of DMOs in England, to reshape destination management across England, reducing fragmentation and bringing coherence to its DMO landscape.


VEE chair Andy Wood said:

"We're delighted that Suffolk and Norfolk County Councils have worked with us to make this successful joint LVEP application. We've brought together all the destination organisations and local authorities in the past few years, and this excellent news means we can grow that collaborative approach and deliver more for what is our largest industry sector and biggest employer."

As well as a nationally recognised official status, LVEPs have access to resources and guidance from VisitBritain/VisitEngland in areas including expert advice, dedicated toolkits and training programmes in areas ranging from product distribution, accessibility and sustainability to business support and marketing. An important strand of support will be highlighting available Government funding streams as well as developing and providing a 'toolkit' to help LVEPs with bids to those streams.

The new Suffolk-Norfolk LVEP joins the likes of Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly, the Peak District, Kent, Cumbria, the Cotswolds and Yorkshire as well as cities including London, Birmingham, Manchester and Liverpool.

Andrew Stokes, England Director at VisitEngland, said:



"The Local Visitor Economy Partnerships programme is going from strength to strength as the number of LVEPs increases, representing more of England. The new structure is transforming the visitor economy landscape, supporting its cohesion and growth in a more inclusive, accessible and sustainable way and I am delighted to welcome Suffolk and Norfolk.

"Working together, the LVEPs are ensuring England continues to be a compelling destination for both domestic and international visitors. As Suffolk-Norfolk is established as a LVEP, VisitEngland will provide ongoing support including a dedicated regional lead."

Cllr Richard Smith MVO, Suffolk County Council's Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Economic Development and Skills, said:

"Suffolk is a diverse county, full of natural beauty, history, and culture. Our historic towns and villages, picturesque coastline and attractions like Snape Maltings, Sutton Hoo and racehorses training in Newmarket make it a wonderful destination all-year round. We are the proud home of a newly-promoted Premier League football club, and our excellent food and drink offer has seen us named 'the foodie county'.

"This new LVEP status will help us to showcase what the region has to offer at a national level, attracting more visitors and realising the full potential of our visitor economy."


VisitEngland welcomed the first three LVEPs, NewcastleGateshead Initiative (NGI), Visit County Durham and Visit Northumberland, into the programme in 2023. They form the pilot Destination Development Partnership (DDP) in the North East of England, led by NGI, first announced by the UK Government in November 2022. The pilot is a valuable opportunity to prove the DDP concept and the impact the model can have on growing the visitor economy, strengthening the case for future funding.

To reinforce its application for LVEP accreditation, VEE received many letters of support from stakeholders including Lord Leicester of Holkham, the Broads Authority, Stansted Airport, Norwich International Airport, Greater Anglia, National Trust East, English Heritage, Transport East, the VENI Skills Group, Norfolk and Suffolk Tourist Attractions group, Gt Yarmouth Tourism and Business Improvement Area, Bury St Edmunds BID, Discover Newmarket, local authorities and businesses such as English Distillery and Maids Head Hotel Norwich.

Celebrating Suffolk's Dementia Marketplace and Carers Week

Column by Councillor Beccy Hopfensperger, Suffolk County Council Cabinet Member for Adult Care.

One of the less known consequences of elections are the rules around the promotion of council funded activities, which makes it harder for us as Councillors to talk about the great things we as a council are funding or supporting. Two such events took place in June right in the middle of the General Election campaign, the Dementia Market Place and Carers Week,



and I want to talk about the importance of both, as well as thank all those responsible for organising the associated events.

Suffolk County Council was proud to support this year's Dementia Marketplace, held at Trinity Park on 13th of June 2024. This is the second annual event, facilitated by Care Development East, aimed at people living with dementia and their carers, to showcase the range of information, advice and support available within Suffolk. This year the event attracted around 200 attendees across the day, with over 50 exhibitors taking part. There were a comprehensive range of marketplace stalls available, including from the Council's Adult Social Care team, who was recently awarded a "Good" rating from the Care Quality Commission, and our award-winning digital care provider, Cassius. There was also a wonderful array of speakers with opportunities for Question-and-Answer sessions – and of course delicious food on offer to keep everyone fuelled throughout the day.


Sadly, the election prevented me from being able to speak at this year's event, but I was keenly aware last year at the effort organisers go to to create safe and welcoming spaces for those with Dementia, so that their families and carers can take some time to explore the stands and listen to the different speakers, safe in the knowledge that their loved one is safe. Whether it is singing with them, seated dancing or just taking the time to sit and talk with them, the care and compassion shown is brilliant.

Dementia is an important issue for Suffolk, primarily because we have an ageing population in the county, so will likely see more instances of diseases which include dementia as a symptom. This is why we have recently published our fully co-produced Dementia Strategy for Suffolk, which aims to end the stigma associated with the condition and create a county where people with dementia feel safe in the knowledge that responsive services are based on an understanding of their needs and empowered to access information, advice, guidance and support which is readily available whenever they or their families need it.

I know the team have already had lots of positive feedback from people who attended, and I join with them in thanking all who helped to make this a fantastic event.

Carers week, which is a national event, took place between the 10th – 16th June, and is an annual campaign to raise awareness of caring, highlight the challenges unpaid carers face and recognise the contribution they make to families and communities throughout the UK. This year's theme was 'putting carers on the map', and Carers Week asked people to put their names on the carers map – which can still be done by clicking the red button at the top of their webpage.

One of the most important parts of Carers Week for me is that it helps people who don't think of themselves as having caring responsibilities to identify as carers and in turn access much-needed support. I am often reminded in the Council Chamber of the importance of unpaid and family carers, and rest assured I am in no doubt at all of the contribution they make, so the best thing we can all do is help carers realise that their caring responsibilities come with support, and then help them access that via our online Carers Self-Assessment which is available on Suffolk County Council's website.



I want to thank Suffolk Family Carers for arranging so many events over carers week, and especially for their help and support in helping us to reach more of our own carers within Suffolk County Council via our Carers Staff Network. To anyone in Suffolk with caring responsibilities, thank you for the work you do and the care and support you provide. I hope you will consider completing an online Carers Self-Assessment to access the support you are entitled to.

£4 million funding proposed to create new indoor sports facilities for Newmarket

Residents in Newmarket look set to benefit from a £4 million investment in new sports facilities.

West Suffolk Council and Suffolk County Council are leading the project, which includes talking to local sports and community groups in Newmarket about how to best use the funding to improve sports facilities. The investment could see new facilities built on land owned by Suffolk County Council at the rear of the former St Felix Middle School site - adjacent to the George Lambton Playing Fields – creating a hub for sporting activity in the community.

Any plans would be subject to formal agreement reached by both councils and any necessary planning permission and consents being sought and granted.

While plans have not been finalised, the investment would make it possible to create facilities such as new badminton and basketball courts, space for gymnastics and other sports as well as community facilities. This would be in addition to the creation of two new floodlight tennis courts on the St Felix site which have already been agreed - replacing tennis facilities that were lost when the school site closed in 2012.


Under the proposal, each council would plan to contribute £2 million towards the scheme.

Councillor Ian Shipp, Cabinet Member for Leisure for West Suffolk Council, said:

“This is an ideal opportunity to invest with Suffolk County Council in new and much needed leisure improvements in Newmarket. No decisions on details have been made but this gives us the flexibility of engaging and working with local groups and sports organisations, which we are due to begin with a meeting this week, to hear their views and make sure they help shape the provision of any future facilities. We have budgeted £2 million to help bring forward proposals, especially where there are gaps in sports provision, as part of our strategic priority of supporting and encouraging thriving communities. This will aim to help improve the health of local communities and access to new and modern sporting facilities.”

Councillor Matthew Hicks, Suffolk County Council’s Leader, said:

“Suffolk County Council is committed to returning the former St Felix Middle School site to active community and sports use – working with partners to shape proposals. Its proximity to



residential homes and other facilities has the potential to create a hub for people to enjoy. This represents a real opportunity to create valuable community and sporting facilities for Newmarket.”

Once finally agreed, the financial commitment will mean staff at both councils can start working together urgently to develop the project in full. West Suffolk Council will now liaise with local sports groups to understand their needs.

Sea Link project raises new concerns for Suffolk

Concerns have been raised by Suffolk County Council about the latest updates to National Grid’s Sea Link project, in particular plans for constructing a permanent bridge across the River Fromus.

The bridge would be used during the construction of the scheme, as part of a private access route to the converter station site at Saxmundham.

These plans have come to light in details published by National Grid (8 July 2024). Included are refinements made to its original project proposal, following a public consultation last year – however it says that although some changes have been made, plans remain largely the same.

Officers from Suffolk County Council will now review these latest revisions in detail and respond accordingly. However, a preliminary assessment has raised significant concerns, particularly in relation to the bridge, which could have a total height of around 20 feet and have a total span, including the embankments, of over 500 feet.


Councillor Richard Rout, Suffolk County Council’s Deputy Cabinet Member for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects, said:

“Should the Sea Link project go ahead, the bridge will likely have significant impacts on the landscape, adjacent heritage assets, and the water environment.

“The proposed bridge appears to be absolutely the wrong approach, and a disproportionate solution for creating the site access. From our initial look at the plans, there are likely to be more suitable routes, which would be less harmful.

“But if it really is the best answer, to prove this, National Grid needs to undertake a comprehensive and transparent review of the alternatives and publish their findings.

“The county council calls on National Grid to be open to new ideas, and where possible, to integrate their access proposals with those of other infrastructure projects. That will minimise the impact on the environment and local communities, who deserve the respect of a thoughtful and carefully considered proposal.”



Sea Link is a proposal for a new 2 gigawatt subsea high voltage direct current electricity connection, developed by National Grid Electricity Transmission. It is approximately 140km in length and predominately offshore.

It proposes a converter station near Saxmundham which will be up to 26 metres high, the cable landfall from offshore will be between Aldeburgh and Thorpeness, with around 12km of underground cabling connecting the sites, including a substation at Friston.

Local residents and communities are encouraged to share their views, and have until 11 August 2024 to give feedback on the latest changes, and the proposals in general. National Grid expects to submit its application for development consent in early 2025.

Improved Ipswich walking and cycling routes proposed as residents encouraged to have their say

Suffolk County Council wants to hear the views of Ipswich residents on the proposals for three new active travel schemes which could improve key routes into the town centre.


The schemes which form part of the funding awarded to the county council by Active Travel England have been developed to make it easier, safer and more enjoyable for residents to walk, wheel and cycle through town.

The public consultation is now open and will close on Friday 13 September 2024. The schemes which we want to hear your views on are as follows:

- **Nacton Road** – Focussed on making improvements to Nacton Road in Ipswich, between Maryon Road and Felixstowe Road. These include widening the pavement along the route, improving many of the crossings over side roads and improving busier junctions.
- **Woodbridge Road** – Set to improve the link between Ipswich and Kesgrave, making it easier for all road users to get from the centre to east Ipswich. The proposals include wider pavements to improve the journey for those walking and cycling, including segregated cycle paths and improved crossings.
- **Ipswich Hospital to Waterfront** – Aiming to make improvements to the route for those walking and cycling between the waterfront and hospital. The proposals focus on the busier and harder to navigate junctions along the route to make these safer for walking and cycling.

Councillor Alexander Nicoll, Suffolk County Council's Deputy Cabinet Member for Transport Strategy, said:

“Suffolk residents continue to benefit from over £10 million worth of funding from Active Travel England. Building on the success of previous projects, this money is helping us improve the way people travel around the county more sustainably. I am delighted to welcome the next set of active travel proposals.



“I encourage residents to read up about what we are looking to do to within Ipswich to make it safer, easier and more enjoyable to walk, cycle or wheel around the town. These schemes are developed to help residents make travel choices which have a wealth of benefits including improved air quality, eased congestion and a safer environment.

“Residents, businesses and community groups are encouraged to get involved and have their say on the proposals to help us implement positive change for the town.”

To access all the information regarding the consultation, please visit: [Ipswich Walking, Wheeling and Cycling Routes \(arcgis.com\)](#).

To access the consultation survey, you can visit: www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/ATF2024 or if you would prefer to fill in a hard copy version of a survey, please contact us via email: customer.services@suffolk.gov.uk or call Suffolk County Council on 0345 603 1842.

Suffolk County Council Backs Youth Justice Plan with a focus on keeping families together

Suffolk County Council has backed the Youth Justice Plan 2024/25 at a meeting of the Full Council on the 11th of July 2024.


The plan has a focus on supporting young people into education, training and employment and reducing the numbers of young people offending, supporting the council’s ambition to keep more families together and to keep Suffolk safe.

Each year the Suffolk Youth Justice Management Board produces a Youth Justice Plan for Suffolk. The Board includes representatives from: Suffolk Constabulary; Suffolk Probation Service; NHS Suffolk and North-East Essex and NHS Norfolk and Waveney Integrated Care Boards, and Suffolk County Council. The Youth Justice Service also consults with staff, children, and volunteers.

With the new plan, the partnership is aiming to support more children that the service works with into education, training, or employment. This year the service is running a pilot project with specialist staff to work with education providers and children to support them to remain at, or return to, school or college. The service also offers children short, accredited courses, which have been proven to have positive outcomes for young people and can encourage young people into further training.

Another key theme of this year’s plan is to take a restorative approach to Youth Justice. This is when The Youth Justice service works with victims of youth crime to find out how they think the harm caused to them can best be put right. The service then supports the young person involved to understand how their own behaviours impact on others and to re-engage with their community and society by repairing harm and restoring relationships.

As well as helping to prevent re-offending we know this approach improves outcomes for victims. This year the service is aiming to deliver more restorative approaches including



within families where relationships have been fractured by the child’s contact with the youth system.

The plan also outlines how the service will be looking in detail into the reasons why some groups of children are more likely to enter into the youth justice system, to inform interventions which aim to reduce the number of young offenders in Suffolk.

Cllr Bobby Bennett, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People’s Services said:

“I am pleased that Suffolk County Council has endorsed the Youth Justice Plan for 2024/25.

“Suffolk’s Youth Justice Service takes a child first approach – children are at the heart of all that we do. The service and the partnership can be most effective if they understand the children and young people they work with, as this means we can deliver the interventions they need to stop offending.”

“This year we have a strong focus on understanding the reasons why young people offend and supporting more young people to stay in education, training and employment. All of this strengthens our ambition of keeping families together and providing the best outcomes for our young people.”

Outcomes will be measured against four national key performance indicators:

- To reduce the numbers of children entering the formal youth justice system for the first time
- To reduce the numbers of children already in the system who reoffend
- To reduce the number of reoffences they commit
- To reduce the use of custody for children.

Council’s shock at solar farm go-ahead

Suffolk County Council has expressed its extreme disappointment that a huge solar farm has been approved in West Suffolk.

The Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero, Ed Miliband MP, today announced that approval had been granted for the Development Consent Order, as proposed by Sunnica.

The project will see 2,792 acres of solar panels and battery storage, installed across parts of West Suffolk and Cambridgeshire.

Councillor Richard Rout, Suffolk County Council’s Deputy Cabinet Member for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects, said:

“The approval of this solar farm is a massive blow to local communities, agriculture, nature and our landscape in the west of Suffolk.

“I am frankly shocked that the poorest infrastructure application that I have ever dealt with, has now been approved - we highlighted numerous deficiencies in the submission.

“The voices of thousands of local residents, businesses and organisations have not been listened to. This scheme will permanently and detrimentally impact the landscape of a vast part of West Suffolk and remove thousands of acres of land from food production.

“Despite some improvements to the initial application, we felt that the proposals did not meet the standards we, and local communities, would expect from a project on this scale. Local residents will quite rightly be asking what it takes for a project to be refused, when the worst project we have dealt with gets consented in the face of so much opposition.”

Suffolk County Council supports national aims to adapt to climate change and provide low carbon energy for the country, which often bring benefits to support the local economy. However, it also has an ambition to protect and enhance Suffolk’s communities and environment.

The council had many issues with the application, including:

- The geographic scale of the proposal which will permanently transform the landscape
- The impact on local communities of the 24 month construction period
- Sunnica’s serious shortcomings in terms of both evidence and methodology
- Sunnica’s presentation of proposal which made it, and impacts on local communities, unclear
- Mitigation proposals did not appear to be tailored to the local context

Time will now be spent reviewing the final decision and engaging with the local community.


Hundreds of local businesses celebrated for taking climate action

Suffolk County Council’s annual Carbon Charter event, hosted at the Coddendam Centre on 11 July 2024, honoured businesses from Suffolk and Norfolk for their achievements in environmental sustainability.

More than 100 delegates from a range of local businesses shared their experiences of reducing their environmental impact, and heard from guest speakers from Suffolk Wildlife Trust and Volvo Trucks UK.

The Carbon Charter was set up in 2010 by Suffolk County Council and the Environment Agency. Since then, over 500 businesses have received Carbon Charter awards for taking climate action, by reducing their carbon emissions, supporting their local community and developing green spaces.

Earlier this year, the Carbon Charter itself was an award winner, receiving the Association of Directors of Environment, Economy, Planning & Transport (ADEPT) award for Delivering



Clean Growth in the UK – recognised for the effect the Charter is having on moving the economy towards a low carbon future, and praised for its very practical approach to helping businesses transition to net zero.

Councillor Philip Faircloth-Mutton, Suffolk County Council’s Cabinet Member for Environment, Communities and Equality, said:

“One of the county council’s ambitions is to strengthen the local economy, and one way we are actively delivering this is by supporting local businesses to tackle climate change, through the Carbon Charter.

“Customers and clients increasingly care about how seriously businesses are reducing their impact on the environment – it could be the difference between choosing one supplier over another. For a company to proudly display a Carbon Charter award, it gives confidence to their customers that they care for the environment.

“The Carbon Charter directly helps businesses of any size to address their carbon reduction challenges, provides expertise and access to grants and funding, and offers ongoing support to make changes.”

Carbon Charter Gold Awards were presented to leading print company, Denny Bros, from Bury St Edmunds, and to Seckford Hall for their exceptional environmental contributions.

Event host, the Coddendam Centre, was also presented with a Gold Award. It has reduced its carbon footprint by 91%, has public electric vehicle charging points, air source heat pumps, LED lighting, enhanced insulation and 80 solar panels which provide power to both the Centre and the national grid. In its grounds it has also established wildflower areas, newly planted hedgerows and is part of a wider community nature trail.

Andrew MacPherson, Chair of Coddendam Centre CIO, said:

“The Centre’s journey on tackling climate action has really benefitted from the support provided by Suffolk County Council, so it feels fitting to host this year’s Carbon Charter event.

“We’re extremely proud to receive our Gold Carbon Charter award, it’s a real testament to the vision and hard work of our team, sponsors and volunteers. We’ve made the Coddendam Centre a venue which visitors can feel proud of using, knowing that we’re working hard to protect the environment.”

Businesses at any stage of their carbon reduction journey can benefit from the work of the Carbon Charter, whether they are not sure where to start, or are looking to take their efforts to the next level.

For more information on the Carbon Charter, visit www.carboncharter.org

Councillors recommended to approve an extra £9.1 million for SEND services

Suffolk County Council's Cabinet will discuss a further investment of £9.1 million over three years to expand special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) services at its meeting next Wednesday 24 July.

- Funding would pay for new permanent SEND staff to support children and young people
- If approved, this year more than £20 million would have been committed to expanding the service
- Investment to be discussed at Cabinet next week

The additional investment would mean that more than 30 new permanent members of staff could be recruited to help the council keep up with expected need for SEND services and deliver its important improvement plans. It would also pay for contracts to secure more educational psychology capacity – key to helping children and young people access the help they need.

This investment is in addition to the £11.2 million over three years agreed by Cabinet in February 2024, which is being used to grow the SEND team by 15% or around 60 members of staff.

In total, the council is proposing to commit more than £20 million over the next three years to bolster SEND services.

Cllr Andrew Reid, Cabinet Member for Education and SEND at Suffolk County Council, said:

“At the moment, our staff have significant workloads and are under pressure to deliver our improvement plans.

“This new investment, which I hope my colleagues will be minded to approve, will increase productivity, lead to reductions in staff absences and enable important improvements to the experiences of Suffolk's children and young people, and their families.

“Reforming SEND services is our top priority and this investment, especially given the challenging financial situation we face, shows our commitment.”

Of the £9.1 million, £2.6 million will be spent in 2024/25. This investment in permanent staff will recur in subsequent years as they continue to support children and young people with SEND. In 2025/26, £500,000 will be added to the SEND budget and in 2026/27, a further £500,000 will be added – both of which will be recurrent in subsequent years.

This investment follows an Area SEND inspection by Ofsted and CQC in November 2023, which found widespread failings across the Local Area Partnership. As a result of this, the partnership, which delivers SEND services and is made up of Suffolk County Council, the NHS Suffolk and North East Essex Integrated Care Board (ICB) and NHS Norfolk and Waveney ICB,

published a Priority Action Plan. One of the actions in the plan includes increasing the timeliness and quality of Education, Health and Care plans and Annual Reviews. The proposed new staff would, in part, support the delivery of this work.

The Cabinet meeting begins at 2pm on Wednesday July 24. You can read the Cabinet papers [here](#).

Opening date for Haverhill's new recycling centre announced

Haverhill's new £2 million recycling centre at Homefield Road, will open to the public on Thursday 8 August 2024.

It replaces the centre at Chalkstone Way and will make recycling and disposal of waste even easier and safer.

Features of the new centre include:

- A raised platform giving visitors an elevated position from which to safely dispose of waste - removing the need for steps
- A one-way system and easy-to-use layout, allowing customers to access clearly marked recycling bays
- No need to close the facility to replace full containers
- Improved accessibility and increased capacity for recycling and donating items for reuse
- Greater separation between public vehicles and larger vehicles
- Queuing capacity within the site and better access from the public highway compared to the old Chalkstone Way site
- The new site is 3.5 times bigger than the old Chalkstone Way site


Councillor Chris Chambers, Suffolk County Council's Cabinet Member for Transport Strategy, Planning and Waste, said:

"It's great to be able to put a date in the diary and look forward to this state-of-the-art facility opening in Haverhill.

"Not only will this centre provide a great resource to local communities but supports our ambition to protect and enhance the environment.

"Reducing what waste we have in the first place is always a key priority, but this new site will help residents to easily reduce and recycle the waste they do have, helping to maximise resources, reducing the need for raw materials."

The Chalkstone Way recycling centre will close permanently to the public on Tuesday 6 August 2024. The booking system will be updated in due course to reflect the move, but as usual customers can still book their slot to drop off waste and recycling at www.suffolkrecycling.org.uk



The project sees FCC Environment and Suffolk County Council working as part of the Suffolk Waste Partnership with West Suffolk Council. The facility will be operated by FCC Environment, which manages all of Suffolk's 11 recycling centres.

Suffolk County Council's Children and Young People's Community Health Service Gains Baby Friendly Award

Suffolk County Council's Children and Young People's Community Health Service has been awarded the prestigious Baby Friendly Award and is the latest UK health care service to gain recognition from the UK Committee for UNICEF (UNICEF UK) Baby Friendly Initiative.

The service, which is funded by the council's Public Health and Communities Directorate has gained Stage 3 accreditation, which means that the service is fully accredited.

The accreditation stages have involved comprehensive training around infant feeding for all staff using training resources based on UNICEF Baby Friendly Initiative's 'Breastfeeding and Relationship building' material. The service achieved Stage 1 accreditation in July 2017, Stage 2 in March 2021, and following the most recent assessment from UNICEF, which included the experiences of mothers interacting with the service, Suffolk County Council's Children and Young People's Community Health Service has achieved Stage 3 accreditation.

The award was presented by Cllr Bobby Bennett at an award ceremony on Tuesday 16 July at The Orangery, Holywells Park, Cliff Lane, Ipswich.

Cllr Bobby Bennett, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People's Services at Suffolk County Council, said:

"I am really proud that our team in Suffolk have received this award from the UNICEF UK Baby Friendly Initiative. We set out to ensure that all parents and babies are supported to form a close and loving relationship – whatever their choice of feeding method – as this is the best start for every baby

"This award is a reflection of our ongoing commitment to increase breastfeeding rates in Suffolk. Breastfeeding protects babies against a wide range of serious illnesses, including gastroenteritis and respiratory infections in infancy, as well as cardiovascular disease, asthma, diabetes and obesity later in life. We also know that breastfeeding reduces the mother's risk of some cancers, and that it can support the mental health of both mother and baby."

The Baby Friendly Initiative is a global programme which aims to transform healthcare for babies, their mothers and families as part of a wider global partnership between UNICEF and the World Health Organization (WHO). In the UK, the Baby Friendly Initiative works with public services to better support families with feeding and developing close, loving relationships in order to ensure that all babies get the best possible start in life. The award is given to health services after an assessment by a UNICEF UK team has shown that recognised best practice standards are in place.



Anne Woods, UNICEF UK Baby Friendly Initiative Deputy Programme Director, said:

"We are delighted that Suffolk County Council's Children and Young People's Community Health Service has achieved full Baby Friendly status...Our work to support breastfeeding is based on [extensive and resounding evidence that breastfeeding saves lives](#), improves health and cuts costs in every country worldwide, rich and poor alike. Mothers in Suffolk can be confident that their Community Health Service will provide high standards of care."

Nautilus project could bring more harm to Suffolk

Suffolk County Council fears more damage to the county, with yet another major energy infrastructure project possibly landing in Suffolk.

A consultation has just been announced (15 July 2024) by the energy regulator Ofgem for the Nautilus interconnector.

The overall project would involve a new subsea cable allowing electricity to flow between the UK and Belgium. The plans would see the project make landfall between Sizewell and Thorpeness, with cables running to Friston, where the interconnector would be sited, connecting to the Grid at an as-yet unbuilt substation.

It had been hoped that an alternative site on the Isle of Grain, in Kent, would be considered suitable. However, that location was rejected by Ofgem. Therefore, this consultation outlines a proposal to connect the project to the UK, in Suffolk.

Councillor Richard Rout, Suffolk County Council's Deputy Cabinet Member for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects, said:

"Suffolk is yet again bracing itself for the impact of another large energy project. It feels like the same old story, with cost-savings prioritised over the harmful effects on our communities and environment.


"The council has always supported the need for the country to ensure energy security.

"But we're now seeing layer upon layer of uncoordinated energy projects impacting Suffolk, irreversibly damaging communities, their heritage and environment. It's relentless and it is unfair."

The council will carefully consider the regulator's Nautilus consultation, and its impacts, particularly in light of the Sea Link project, which is currently under consultation by National Grid.

Councillor Rout continues:

"If Nautilus comes to Suffolk, the Sea Link project, around which we also have significant concerns, must be reshaped to coordinate with it."



“The new Secretary of State has said he is committed to decarbonising the electricity system by 2030. But that goal must include serious consideration for the communities who will live with the new infrastructure.”

“We also have real concerns about the impact of on the mental wellbeing of those who must face the prospect of new infrastructure. Project promoters must recognise their duty of care, because the welfare of our communities is at stake.”

Ofgem has announced that it is consulting on the possibility of Nautilus connecting at Friston as part of its Initial Project Assessment of Nautilus. Local residents and businesses are encouraged to have their say, with the consultation closing on 15 August 2024.

Property developer guilty of fraud over fake certificates

A building company director has been found guilty of providing false building work completion certificates during the sale of flats in a development in Newmarket.

Wayne Murfet, who was boss of Lors Homes, supplied 36 fake Building Control Completion Certificates to purchasers of flats on a complex called The Grosvenor in Newmarket High Street.

In a case brought by Suffolk Trading Standards, Colchester Magistrates Court heard the certificates were supplied to purchasers of flats in the complex as part of the conveyancing process.

Trading Standards were alerted in 2019 by West Suffolk Council Building Control.

The certificates were similar to those issued by Building Control but had not been issued by them.


The certificates were supplied to the purchasers by their own solicitors, who in turn had received them via the developer’s solicitors.

The buyers then purchased their properties believing them to have been signed off.

Since this discovery, West Suffolk Building Control inspected and found breaches of building regulations and fire safety concerns with the building.

As a result, a 24-hour waking watch had to be installed in the building.

The court heard the building had since been sold by the developer and West Suffolk Building Control was collaborating with the new owners to have things put right so that it meets building regulations.



During the investigation it then emerged a further false building control completion certificate had been supplied by Murfet to a purchaser of a property in Cambridgeshire through another company of his called Murfet (Burrough Green) Limited.

Murfet, aged 41, of Freckenham Road, Chippenham, denied 14 counts of dishonestly and intending to make a gain by failing to disclose information to the purchaser which he was under a legal duty to disclose, namely that the building works had not been certified as complete by Building Control of West Suffolk Council contrary to section 1 of the Fraud Act 2006.

He also denied two counts of making or supplying an article for use in fraud contrary to section 7 of the Fraud Act 2006.

Sentencing is scheduled for 1st October.

Graham Crisp, Head of Suffolk Trading Standards, said:

“The actions of Murfet and Lors Homes caused significant detriment to the purchasers of the flats.

“They had no idea the certificates they received were not genuine and that their flats had not been signed off, and consequently the purchases would not have gone through when they did.

“Murfet’s fraudulent actions have caused substantial loss to the purchasers and created a significant risk to people’s safety and property.”

Councillor Steve Wiles, Suffolk County Council Cabinet Member for Public Protection, said:

“This prosecution is the result of long and complex investigation by Suffolk Trading Standards and I commend the team for its hard work in bringing this man to justice.


“We have strong building regulations in this country and that is because they are there to protect the public.

“Wayne Murfet chose to ignore those regulations and will be paying a heavy price for doing so. I welcome this judgement from the court.”

Mr Crisp said that Murfet and Lors Homes had made little attempt to rectify the problems before selling the building and that the company had now been placed into liquidation.

New technology comes to the wilds of The Brecks

The Brecks Fen Edge and Rivers (BFER) project, managed by Suffolk County Council, is installing four new Wi-Fi-enabled Info-Points, to help visitors better understand the importance of the unique landscape surrounding them. The installation is possible thanks to funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund.



A number of remote sites around the area suffer from poor mobile network signal and connectivity, however, the new Info-Points have their own WiFi networks, meaning visitors can download information, images, audio recordings and video.

The Info-Points are located at:

- Ancient House Museum, Thetford
- British Trust for Ornithology, Thetford
- RSPB Lakenheath
- West Stow Anglo-Saxon Village

Councillor Philip Faircloth-Mutton, Suffolk County Council’s Cabinet Member for Environment, Communities and Equality, said:

“The Brecks covers such a vast area, around 400 square miles containing thousands of species, with nearly 30% of the UK’s rarest species found there. There are also over 150 scheduled monuments, and over 1,000 listed buildings.

“So naturally, there will be areas which don’t have such great network coverage, but these new Info-Points will give visitors access to find out more about their surroundings, and its history.

“I’m proud that Suffolk County Council has been able to bring together so many local partners to share in protecting and enhancing this landscape, and that we have found a new, technological way to share information about The Brecks.”

As well as the four permanently located Info-Points, there is also a portable unit which can be used to complement them.

Remembering Councillor Peter Gould

Suffolk County Council pays tribute to Councillor Peter Gould, who died on Friday 19th July.

Councillor Liz Harsant, Chairman of Suffolk County Council, said:

“It is with great sadness that this council remembers Cllr Peter Gould, who sadly passed away on Friday.

“Peter was elected as a county councillor in May 2021 and represented the division of Hoxne and Eye, where he also served as an Eye Town Councillor and Mid Suffolk District Councillor. Peter dedicated his life to local politics, including senior positions in local Government across the country, and as a committed public servant in Suffolk. He was very well known and respected in his community and achieved a great deal for those living there, including being a staunch advocate for Hartismere Hospital.

“A champion of local people, his loss will be greatly felt, and our thoughts and sympathies are with his family and friends at this time.”



Matthew Hicks, Leader of Suffolk County Council, said:

“Peter was always a great sounding board with his many years of experience in local government and I valued his friendship, support and words of wisdom.

“My thoughts and prayers are with his wife, friends and family at this difficult time.”

New All-Age Autism Strategy launched in Suffolk

A joint strategy and action plan has been launched today to help support autistic people of any age and their families.

Produced by Suffolk County Council, Suffolk and North-East Essex and Norfolk and Waveney Integrated Care Boards, the vision of the new strategy is that all autistic people in Suffolk, their parents, friends and carers are able to live fulfilling and rewarding lives in a county that accepts and understands them.

The strategy and action plan were both co-produced with autistic people, and their families, and includes their experiences and voices. Autistic people can often experience differences in how they process information, their sensory environment and how they interact with other people. While autistic people share some similar characteristics, they are also all different from each other, it was therefore important from the outset that this strategy looked to capture those differences.

Alongside the strategy an action plan was also published which looks to take the priorities outlined by the strategy, and autistic people in Suffolk, and deliver them. The priorities are:

- Improving acceptance, awareness and understanding of autism within society
- Building the right support in the community and supporting people in inpatient care
- Tackling health and care inequalities for autistic people with a focus on needs lead by diagnostic pathways
- Improving autistic children and young people’s access to education, and supporting positive transitions into adulthood
- Supporting more autistic people into employment Improving support within the criminal and youth justice systems.

Speaking about the new strategy Cllr Beccy Hopfensperger, Cabinet Member for Adult Care said:

"I am pleased that Suffolk will have a strategy that is not only covering the whole lives of autistic people but has also been co-produced with the experiences of autistic people at its heart. I look forward to seeing the progress made with the action plan, and creating a county within which autistic people can truly feel safe and accepted."

Cllr Andrew Reid, Cabinet Member for Education and SEND said:



"Many people who have autism face barriers in their lives, including within education.

"I am proud that this autism strategy, and action plan, encompasses the whole life journey of a person, which includes our work to improve the outcomes of children and young people with SEND."

Lisa Nobes, Chief Nurse, NHS Suffolk and Northeast Essex Integrated Care Board, said:

"The new strategy and action plan are very much welcomed and represent a significant step forward in delivering on our commitment to helping ensure those living with autism can live happy and fulfilled lives, and that their families and carers receive all the support they need.

"We will continue to work closely with our partners and the county's autistic community to drive this plan forward and make sure that it delivers a real and positive difference to people's lives."

The strategy and action plan are available on the county council's website with hardcopies being sent to libraries across Suffolk.

Ipswich property management company and director sentenced for breaching fire safety regulations

An Ipswich property management company and its director have been sentenced following a prosecution brought by Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service.

Home from Home Property Management Ltd and company director Edward Ottley were sentenced at Ipswich Crown Court for a total of eight offences – four by the company for non-compliance with the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005, and four for the actions of Edward Ottley for failing to comply with the legislation.

The flats in Wolsey Street, Ipswich. (Picture: SFRS)


Ottley, 62, of Tuddenham, and Home from Home, whose registered address is Pownall Road, Ipswich, were found guilty on June 6 in a Crown Court trial heard at Colchester Magistrates Court.

Ottley received a 10 month prison sentence, suspended for 18 months, and was ordered to perform 120 hours of unpaid work.

Home from Home was fined £60,000.

Costs of £49,500 were awarded to Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS), to be divided equally between Ottley and Home from Home.

A spokesperson for SFRS said:



“This sentence reflects the severity of the potential risk to residents from Home from Home’s actions had a fire occurred.

“SFRS Protection Officers actively work to ensure premises are compliant with fire safety legislation.

“The inadequate fire safety measures and management in this case could have resulted in serious injury or loss of life and we hope this will send a clear message to all managing agents of the importance of fire safety.

“SFRS is committed to working with those willing to address fire safety issues, but as an enforcing authority will not hesitate in prosecuting where lives are placed at risk.”

Councillor Steve Wiles, Suffolk County Council Cabinet Member for Public Protection said:

“Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service rightly maintains the highest standards when it comes to public safety and I am pleased to see that the court has supported that position.

“The safety and wellbeing of the public is paramount, and when the actions of companies such as Home from Home undermine that it is only right that they are held to account.”

Home from Home Property Management Limited (HFH) manage the premises at 2-100 Wolsey Street, Ipswich.

In July 2017 it was established that aluminium composite cladding material - like that found to be the cause of the dramatic fire spread at the Grenfell Tower fire tragedy in London the previous month - was in use at the flats.

A fire risk assessment of the premises had been undertaken in 2017 by a company appointed by Home from Home, but it did not take into account the high fire risk posed to the residents by the cladding.


The fire risk assessor had been given inaccurate information by Home from Home in relation to the level of risk from the cladding.

When this became apparent, the assessor invalidated the fire risk assessment he had produced, advising Home from Home to arrange for a new assessment to be undertaken.

In 2019 officers from SFRS attended the premises and identified the fire risk assessment remained that of the original company, and the assessment still did not address the risk of the cladding.

Other areas of non-compliance with the legislation were also identified.

They related to ensuring the means of escape was safe, that automatic opening vents operated correctly, ensuring the premises was equipped with a suitable fire alarm system, and for ensuring residents knew what to do in the event of a fire to enable them to evacuate the building safely.



In August 2021, Home from Home appointed the services of a new fire risk assessor who corroborated the findings of SFRS in respect of the ongoing risk to residents.

The new fire risk assessor has worked to ensure there is no longer a significant risk to life and HFH is working towards the removal of the cladding with government funding support.

Major flood investigation report published as Suffolk continues response to Storm Babet

Suffolk County Council has today published a detailed report into one of the worst-hit communities during Storm Babet.

A detailed investigation into the flooding which occurred in Framlingham during October 2023 has taken place to understand what caused these events and recommend what could be done to alleviate flooding here in future.

As lead local flood authority, the county council has a duty to investigate significant flooding under Section 19 of the Flood and Water Management Act. These investigations help to establish the source of flooding, factors which may have caused or exacerbated the flooding, the impacts on people, services and infrastructure and any actions which could be taken to increase resilience to future storm events.

The reports include a list of short, medium and longer-term recommendations, which serve as potential actions to improve resilience and reduce the risk of flooding in these communities. The actions have been tailored to a range of parties, including individual homeowners, community groups, landowners and Risk Management Authorities, all of which can contribute to help mitigate local flood risk.

For short term measures, key highlights include the implementation of community flood plans, maximising Property Flood Resilience (PFR) grants, removal of blockages within watercourses and drainage infrastructure, as well as improvements to flood warning systems and the sensitive management of land – some of these measures have already been taken.

For medium to longer term recommendations, there is emphasis on potential improvements to drainage infrastructure and the creation of new natural flood management features, to reduce flood risk within the catchment. These longer-term recommendations would require external funding and collaboration with landowners and communities to implement.

Since the storm, targeted recovery work has been carried out across the county to ensure damaged highway infrastructure is repaired, those whose properties were flooded get help and that investigations can start which will identify how to reduce flood risk. In any usual year, Suffolk County Council carries out around three or four of these flood investigations, however following Babet, approximately 50 have been commissioned.

Councillor Paul West, Suffolk County Council’s Cabinet Member for Ipswich, Operational Highways and Flooding, said:

“The impact of Storm Babet is still being felt across the county with some people still not back in their homes. Communities such as Framlingham have suffered as a result of this storm and these in-depth investigations will help us work with them and other communities to lower flood risk and build resilience ahead of future flood events.

“We recognised the importance of carrying out these investigations thoroughly following Storm Babet, so invested an extra £1 million of funds to bring in additional specialists – ensuring we could do more for our communities, and quicker!

“I also urge anyone who suffered internal flooding as a result of Storm Babet to apply for the £5k grant to make their homes more resilient to future floods. Applications can be made until April 2025 and anyone interest should make contact with the Council at floodgrants@suffolk.gov.uk.”

Council remains opposed to Norwich to Tilbury pylons in formal consultation response

Suffolk County Council has formally objected to National Grid’s current proposals for pylons between Norwich and Tilbury, as it submits its response to the project’s statutory consultation.


Various reports support the council’s position of objecting to the scheme and the council has reiterated the scope for the project to be delayed. This, in turn, opens up the opportunity for a full assessment of other viable alternatives, such as an offshore solution or the undergrounding of cables.

The scale of the proposed project will affect 10 different electoral divisions in Suffolk, and have a considerable impact on their communities.

These impacts go beyond the aesthetics of the project, including harm to National Landscapes, the consequences of HGV construction traffic on rural roads, serious implications on nine airfields, and the cumulative effects of other energy projects, in particular solar farms.

Notwithstanding the council’s overall objection to the scheme, it has also put forward comprehensive and detailed proposals to reduce the damage done to Suffolk’s communities and environment, should it be consented by the Secretary of State following an examination in public next year.

Councillor Richard Rout, Suffolk County Council’s Deputy Cabinet Member for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects, said:



“The submission of our formal response to this statutory consultation is the culmination of many months work listening to, and standing up for, Suffolk’s communities. Pylon-free solutions remain possible, and National Grid and Ofgem need to take these seriously and fully assess the options.

“I am grateful to members of the public, councillors at all levels, and our staff who have worked tirelessly across our communities highlighting the deficiencies of this scheme.

“From impacts on private airfields and public rights of way, through damage to our unique landscapes and ecology, and the impact on the setting of listed buildings and our farming community – all of these issues and more have been brought to us and improved the quality of our submission.”

Recent reports help to support the council’s position:

The ESO East Anglia Network Study by The National Grid Electricity System Operator, explored better ways to connect offshore wind in Norfolk, Suffolk, and Essex. The council previously stated that it was critical for National Grid to take these findings into consideration as they continue planning their Great Grid Upgrade, including the Norwich to Tilbury project.

The “Valued Landscape Assessment” of the Waveney Valley, commissioned by Norfolk and Suffolk County Councils, acts as a timely reminder to National Grid, of the need to respond effectively and robustly to the sensitivities of Suffolk’s landscapes and communities.

The Hiorns Smart Energy Networks report, commissioned by Essex County Council in close collaboration with Norfolk and Suffolk County Councils, suggested that it is possible for the Norwich to Tilbury project to be paused in order to consider alternatives.

Cllr Rout continues:

“The Hiorns report which we commissioned with Norfolk County Council, summarises that ‘there is the opportunity to pause development of the Norwich to Tilbury project’.

“This is something which must be recognised, so that the best possible solution can be fully explored to help provide energy security to the country, whilst being fair to, and supportive of, the many communities that will be affected.

“The proposals for this project do not go far enough. I will not stand for our communities being swept aside and ignored in the pursuit of unnecessarily, fast-tracked energy projects.”

The statutory consultation for the Norwich to Tilbury project closes today (26 July 2024), with an application submission expected to the Planning Inspectorate in 2025.



Council bringing more community EV charging points to Suffolk

Over 60 new community venues across Suffolk will have new electric vehicle (EV) chargepoints, as Suffolk County Council's 'Plug In Suffolk' project continues to grow.

Fast charging facilities will be installed at 63 new sites, including community centres, village halls, scout huts and other community hubs, plus 25 existing chargepoints from an early iteration of Plug In Suffolk, will be adopted under a new contract.

The county council has successfully bid for £7.3 million from the Government's Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) fund, which supports local authorities to plan and deliver charging infrastructure for residents without off-street parking.

£1.4 million of the LEVI funding will go towards the community charging infrastructure, with a further £5.9 million allocated for on-street charging, which will be developed later this year.

Councillor Philip Faircloth-Mutton, Suffolk County Council's Cabinet Member for Environment, Communities and Equality, said:

"The county council has led the way bringing an EV charging network to Suffolk. In 2019, the Plug In Suffolk project provided the UK's first fully-open EV charging network, with 100 chargepoints installed across 32 community sites across the county.

"With this latest wave of investment, we're doubling the amount of sites which will see a Plug In Suffolk installation, meaning nearly 100 locations across the county.

"With over 1 million electric vehicles now on the UK's roads, we know that the charging infrastructure must keep pace. That's why we are continuing to invest, particularly in more rural areas which might typically be overlooked by private companies."

Andrew Farrow, Centre Manager at Needham Market Community Centre, said:

"We're really excited that Plug In Suffolk is giving us the opportunity to install brand new chargepoints at our community centre. We're seeing more enquiries about charging facilities, so being able to offer that service to new and existing customers really helps our business. It's also giving us the opportunity to realise our carbon reduction ambitions, and consider where we could make other changes and improvements."

Connected Kerb is an award-winning electric vehicle charging company, which has been awarded the contract to install the new community chargepoints and adopt the existing ones.

All costs associated with the chargepoints will be covered by Connected Kerb, including the cost of the electricity used to power them and any maintenance and repair required over the lifetime of the contract. Host venues will receive a net profit share of every kilowatt sold, from activation until their contract term ends.



Free outdoor events to celebrate The Brecks this September

Over 50 events, many of which will be free, will celebrate the fifth and final year of The Brecks' Fen Edge & Rivers Landscape Partnership Scheme.

From accessible walks around the River Lark to yoga, from identifying wildlife to outdoor swimming, a huge range of activities for all ages and abilities is planned.

The Brecks' Fen Edge & Rivers Landscape Partnership Scheme began in 2020, following a five year grant of £1.97 million from The National Lottery Heritage Fund. Using the money raised by the National Lottery players, the project has been creating positive and lasting change for people and communities in and around The Brecks.

A small partnership delivery team hosted by Suffolk County Council has facilitated successful management of the project, bringing together more than 60 local, regional and national groups, as well as many volunteers - all with a central vision and plan.

Councillor Philip Faircloth-Mutton, Suffolk County Council's Cabinet Member for Environment, Communities and Equality, said:

“For five years, a wonderful, growing network of organisations has worked together to create outdoor opportunities and conservation projects, showcasing the magic and history of The Brecks – all whilst helping to protect and enhance the local environment.

“With the scheme coming to an end in December, we have been working closely with Norfolk County Council on plans to protect the future of The Brecks.

“September's festival will celebrate The Brecks and offer a huge variety of activities in this special place, giving people a chance to walk, run, cycle, swim in organised events, attend educational talks, or learn new skills.”

The Brecks is an invaluable part of the UK's landscape, covering nearly 400 square miles:

- Over 40% of the landscape is covered by conservation areas
- Nearly 13,000 species have been recorded in the area
- 28% of the UK's rarest species are found there
- It contains Thetford Forest and Kings Forest, making the largest lowland forest in the UK
- It is home to eight registered parks and gardens, 157 scheduled monuments and over 1,000 listed buildings

The festival runs from 7 to 22 September 2024, the full programme of events can be found at www.brecks.org



£23m Sizewell C Community Fund now open for applications

Suffolk Community Foundation is inviting eligible charitable and not-for-profit groups in East Suffolk to bid for a share of up to £23m following the opening of the Sizewell C Community Fund.

Around £2m will be made available each year for the next 10 years. The money will be awarded to projects in the East Suffolk Council area that promote the economic, social or environmental wellbeing of the communities most impacted by the construction of Sizewell C, and which enhance people's quality of life.

Julia Pyke, Sizewell C Joint Managing Director, said:

“The Sizewell C Community Fund is a wonderful way to ensure that local communities benefit from the Sizewell C project for years to come. It's a key part of the legacy we want to leave for East Suffolk. We're excited to see the many projects and initiatives that will benefit, and to see the impacts they'll have across our region.”

Grants will be decided by an awards panel made up of representatives from Suffolk Community Foundation, Suffolk County Council, East Suffolk Council and Sizewell C, as well as four independent members who have a close connection to the area. The panel will meet four times each year to award the money.

Melanie Craig, Chief Executive of Suffolk Community Foundation, said:

“We are delighted to open the Sizewell C Community Fund, which will make a significant difference to our local communities over the coming decade. We will focus on using our expertise to make sure this money benefits those communities most where work is taking place for the Sizewell C project.

“This is an exciting opportunity which comes at a time when rising demand and reductions in central funding are placing charities and community groups under ever increasing pressure. The money therefore has the potential to make a real and lasting difference.

“We are looking forward to using the extensive experience we have built up over the past 19 years to ensure it is put to the best possible use for local people.”

For more information about the fund, eligibility criteria, and how to apply, [visit the Sizewell C Community fund page on the Suffolk Community Foundation website](#).