



Councillors monthly bulletin – May 2022

Welcome to the May edition of my monthly bulletin, aimed at keeping Parishes up to date on the main news stories from East Suffolk and, where possible, giving you a heads up on issues which are emerging.

Regards

Carol Poulter

Councillor for the Wickham Market Ward East Suffolk Council

Managing Director appointed to lead East Suffolk Services



The creation of a new trading company in East Suffolk - delivering crucial services such as waste and recycling collection, grounds maintenance and street cleansing - has moved a step closer with the appointment of its first Managing Director and confirmation of the

organisation's trading name.

Cassandra Clements arrives from Babergh & Mid Suffolk Councils, where she is currently Assistant Director for Environment & Commercial Partnerships, to lead the newly created East Suffolk Services. She will be tasked with driving the highest possible standards of service delivery, while seeking the best possible value for money for residents, businesses and all local stakeholders.

This Local Authority Trading Company (LATCo) will operate as an 'arms-length' commercial business, separate to the Council, following the conclusion of the contract East Suffolk Council holds with Norse for the provision of operational services in July 2023.

Supporting customers to get online

Our Customer Services Team now have fully trained 'Digital Champions', who are available to help customers use our online services at the Marina Centre in Lowestoft and at desks within local libraries, by appointment.

Most East Suffolk residents now use our online services to report issues, make payments and find out information, however some people find it more challenging to use these services.



Our Digital Champions are available for anyone who needs support to get online, not only to learn how to use our online services but to also feel more comfortable with online shopping, banking, using email and connecting with people.

Appointments are available at the Marina Centre and at desks within libraries across the district. To make an appointment with a Digital Champion, please call 03330 162000.

Response to planning consent for major offshore windfarm projects

The Secretary of State for the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy has awarded planning consents for ScottishPower Renewables East Anglia One North and East Anglia Two Offshore Wind Farms.

The projects will contribute up to 1.7GW of renewable energy, once constructed, and help towards achieving the Government's ambitions of 40GW of offshore wind by 2030.

The Council will now be responsible for discharging a number of the requirements imposed on the developer via the Development Consent Orders, with the potential that the projects may commence construction in 2023.

Read the full response at www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/news/east-suffolk-council-responds-to-planning-consent-for-major-offshore-wind-farm-projects/

Sale completed for former Melton Hill offices in Woodbridge



We have completed the sale of our former Melton Hill offices in Woodbridge, to the family-run Manningtree building firm, Rose.

The site has been vacant for more than six years since the offices moved to Riduna Park in Melton.

Rose has a history of working in the town – most recently on the Queens Drive development of 33 new homes.

Read more at www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/news/east-suffolk-council-completes-sale-of-former-melton-hill-offices-in-woodbridge/

Masterplan finalised for South Lowestoft and Kirkley

Following extensive public consultation, the Lowestoft Seafront and High Street Heritage Action Zone has been published.

Initiated by the Council through the London Road, Lowestoft High Street Heritage Action Zone (HSHAZ), the Masterplan has been developed to enhance public spaces and improve connectivity between the seafront, Kirkley Village and the town centre with the overall aim of enhancing the area for residents and visitors.

View the Masterplan at www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/news/masterplan-finalised-for-south-lowestoft-and-kirkley/

Our wild spaces are back

Returning for its third year, our 'Pardon the weeds, we're feeding the bees' campaign is back, with over 100 wild spaces where grass and wildflowers are left to grow to help wildlife thrive.



These areas, which are large enough to provide an environmental benefit and do not present any safety issues for local communities, will be marked with our eye-catching yellow signs to make residents and visitors.

Town and parish councils, supported by Norse, will monitor the conservation areas to remove litter and control any invasive plant species.

This year, we're also encouraging town and parish councils to create wild spaces on their own land – these will be marked with special green 'Pardon the Weeds' signs.

See a full list of all our wild spaces here: www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/news/wild-spaces-return-to-east-suffolk/

New programme agreed to drive down number of empty long-term homes

An ambitious three-year programme has been agreed to drive down the number of long-term empty homes in East Suffolk.

Long-term empty properties are defined as residential properties that have been empty for at least two years.

In East Suffolk, 280 properties in private ownership have been empty for more than two years. These will be prioritised for action according to type, location, duration unoccupied, and housing need in the surrounding area.



The appointment of a dedicated Empty Homes Officer was among proposals put forward to drive policy.

New affordable homes welcome first residents



A contractor who worked on a new housing development near Saxmundham has been able to move into one of the homes himself.

At the end of March, the Council completed the purchase of eight properties at Darsham Meadows, including four affordable rent homes to be added to our own Housing Revenue

Account (HRA) stock.

While two of the remaining four properties are still available under shared ownership via Orwell Housing Association, all of the affordable rent properties have been taken up by tenants, including a one-bedroom home occupied by Lee Jones.

The 33-year old fencer worked on the same development during its construction and moved just down the road from his family home in the village.

Read more about the development at www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/news/new-and-affordable-homes-welcome-first-residents-in-east-suffolk-village/

Delivering sustainable homes in East Suffolk

A new planning document has been adopted in East Suffolk to help guide the development of sustainable buildings in the district.

The new Sustainable Construction Supplementary Planning Document provides planning guidance on a wide range of sustainable construction topics include energy efficiency, renewable energy, water management and conservation, construction methods, and use of materials.

View the plan at www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/planning/planning-policy-and-local-plans/supplementary-planning-documents/

Grant funded training providing lifesaving first aid skills



A group of publicans and licensed premises staff from venues across Felixstowe have picked up some potentially lifesaving skills thanks to training funded by East Suffolk Community Safety Partnership (CSP).

Funding for up to 24 places on a first aid training course was provided by East Suffolk CSP for members of the Felixstowe Nightsafe network.

The Felixstowe Nightsafe network was formed in 2002 by local licensees, supported by Suffolk Constabulary and the CSP, with the aim of working together to prevent and reduce disorder around local licensed premises.

The dedication of local licensees has previously been commended for helping to make the town a safer place with a co-ordinated approach to identifying and preventing potential problems.

East Suffolk CSP was established to help improve the quality of life of people living in the district by promoting safe and healthy communities, with the co-operation of the police, district and county councils, probation, fire and rescue service, and public health.

New community play area is officially open

A new play area in Grundisburgh, created by the local community, has been officially opened.

Supported in part by community fundraising, historic Section 106 contributions and funding from the Kesgrave, Martlesham and villages Community Partnership, the creation of the new Grundisburgh Community Play Park has been a community effort, with involvement from across the village, including the Grundisburgh Playing Field Committee and the local Horticultural Society who helped with planting.

Funding was also provided by East Suffolk ward councillors, Cllrs Colin Hedgley and Tony Fryatt through their Enabling Communities Budgets.



Designed and built by contractors Kompan, the play area has equipment suitable for children of all ages and also benefits from a community garden with new flower beds, trees and shrubbery to increase biodiversity and provide habitat for local pollinators.

Surveys and consultations



We are currently running a number of consultations and, as always, we want to encourage participation as feedback from people in East Suffolk is invaluable and helps us ensure we're making the right decisions for our communities.

- **Firework displays on council-owned land**

As part of a review into firework displays on council-owned land, we have launched an 8-week consultation to better understand how residents feel about them and whether the rules need to be reconsidered. The consultation closes on Friday 20 May: www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/features/new-consultation-seeks-views-on-firework-displays/

- **Bungay Neighbourhood Plan**

Local residents are invited to comment on the Bungay Neighbourhood Plan, ahead of it being submitted for independent examination. When finalised, the Neighbourhood Plan will be required to be used by anyone considering, or making, a planning application in the Bungay Neighbourhood Area. The consultation is open until Monday 6 June at www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/planning/neighbourhood-planning/neighbourhood-plans-in-the-area/bungay-neighbourhood-area/

- **Rushmere St Andrew Neighbourhood Plan**

Local residents are invited to comment on the Rushmere St Andrew Neighbourhood Plan, ahead of it being submitted for independent examination. When finalised, the Neighbourhood Plan will be required to be used by anyone considering, or making, a planning application in the Bungay Neighbourhood Area. The consultation is open until Monday 6 June at www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/planning/neighbourhood-planning/neighbourhood-plans-in-the-area/rushmere-st-andrew-neighbourhood-area/

Staying up to date on the latest East Suffolk news

The Communications Team share all media coverage on SharePoint, so you can easily stay up to date on all media stories relevant to East Suffolk Council, whether on local, regional or national news outlets, tv, radio, print or online.

Access these at any time at

<https://eastsuffolk.gov.uk/sharepoint.com/sites/Communications/Lists/Media%20coverage/AllItems.aspx>



If you have any questions or need any help with this service, you can email the team on communications@eastsuffolk.gov.uk

Don't forget to share your own news!

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

You can email the team on communications@eastsuffolk.gov.uk

Social media

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

Facebook: www.facebook.com/eastsuffolkcouncil