



District Councillors Report to Otley Parish Council

For July 2025

Carlford and Fynn Valley Ward.

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

From District Councillor

Cllr Colin Hedgley

(Colin.Hedgley@east Suffolk.gov.uk)

Westerfield Quarry

At the time of going to print I have no further news. I would have expected a formal submission to have been made by now.

Otley College HGV training.

I have written to the planning office to ask for an update. The reply was as follows:-

Good Afternoon Councillor Hedgley,

Thank you for your email, apologies for the delay in my reply I have been trying to sort the issues with the application to be able to give you a more robust update.

We had been awaiting ecology information for the site for some months, this was received, and the Council's Ecology Officer has advised that there are some issues with the information that has been submitted. We are awaiting updated information and then I am hopeful that we should be in a position to take the application to Referral Panel.

I do appreciate the frustrations of the residents, I had hoped that we would have been in a position to issue a decision by now but the delays in getting the ecology information as well as some clerical issues has pushed this back. The information that has now been requested should hopefully be fairly easy for the applicant to obtain and submit so we should be able to resolve the application soon.

I will keep the Parish Council informed

Green Light for Sizewell C – The First Majority British-Owned Nuclear Power Plant in Over 30 Years.

The UK Government announcement regarding the go-ahead for Sizewell C - the first British-owned nuclear power station to be announced in over three decades, with HMG as a majority shareholder alongside EDF.

The Chancellor confirmed the funding ahead of the Government's spending review where



£14.2 billion of investment will be allocated to the project.

Alongside the confirmation of the UK's first generations of Small Modular Reactors (SMRs), this landmark decision represents a step towards energy independence and the revitalisation of the UK's nuclear industry. Over 70% of Sizewell C's construction value will go to UK companies, providing a massive boost for the British economy and a major move to restore the country's energy supply chains.

£4.8million for leisure centre decarbonisation drive

Ambitious plans to upgrade and decarbonise three of the district's leisure centres are moving forward after East Suffolk Council successfully secured a £2.8million Government grant.

Along with an additional £2m investment of its own, the grant of £2.8m from the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme, run by Salix on behalf of the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, will help the Council take a major step towards its goal of becoming carbon neutral by 2030.

Leisure centres currently represent the single largest contributor to the Council's greenhouse gas emissions – now accounting for around 42% of the total – and tackling emissions from the buildings is crucial to reaching overall carbon reduction targets.

Planned upgrades to the Deben and other leisure centres will focus on replacing outdated gas boilers with cutting-edge air source heat pump systems for heating, and CO2 heat pumps for hot water in some locations, significantly cutting energy use and emissions at all three sites.

Additionally, Deben Leisure Centre will benefit from a new roof, and all three centres will gain further solar panel installations to help offset increased electricity use from the switch to electric-only systems. Funding will also help future-proof the centres by supporting the replacement of ageing equipment due for renewal – reducing the carbon footprint while avoiding major upfront costs.

All schemes will be implemented within two years – marking a significant step towards a greener, more sustainable future for East Suffolk, benefitting both the environment and local community.

Director of public sector decarbonisation at Salix, Ian Rodger said: "It's crucial we get to grips with carbon emissions if we are to reach our ambitious net zero targets set by UK Government.

"We are delighted to work with East Suffolk Council through the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme. It's clear that its leisure centres are the biggest single contributor to greenhouse gas emissions and this project will make a difference to not only the energy efficiency of the buildings but to the planet too.

"There is no time like the present to tackle our climate crisis."

The transformation of Deben and other Leisure Centres is part of the Council's wider commitment to sustainability, with previous work including improved insulation, LED



lighting, solar panels and pool covers to reduce heat loss.

[Sport and leisure centres](#)

Council submits Relevant Representation to the Planning Inspectorate objecting to National Grid's Sea Link project

National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET) submitted an application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) for the Sea Link project to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) on 27 March 2025, which was accepted for examination on 23 April 2025.

Following a comprehensive review of NGET's submitted application documentation by East Suffolk Council's officers, ESC submitted its Relevant Representation to PINS prior to the 23 June 2025 deadline objecting to the project.

This submission was designed to provide the Examining Authority, which will be examining the application during the six-month Examination commencing later this year, with a summary of the Council's principal concerns, together with supporting context.

The Relevant Representation states: "ESC's position on the Sea Link project at the 2023 statutory consultation was one of objection. This position has been maintained since that time throughout the pre-application process. In light of the lack of engagement by the Applicant...ESC has no choice but to continue to object to the Sea Link project in view of the detrimental impacts that will be imposed upon the local communities who will be compelled to host and neighbour the project's onshore infrastructure. It is apparent that the Sea Link project will result in further unacceptable harm to the communities, environment and economy of East Suffolk over and above the other numerous infrastructure projects that have already been forced upon the local community.

"In the event that the project is consented, ESC remains fully committed to working with the Applicant in the interests of our local communities and environments, to secure the best outcomes possible."

local knowledge informed ESC's submission. This engagement was also used as a further opportunity to encourage town and parish councils to register themselves as Interested Parties to ensure they are able to participate in the upcoming Examination.

Further detail about NGET's proposals, including the full suite of application documents, can be found on PINS' dedicated Sea Link project page.

Operation Camouflage is back for another year!

A popular summer activities programme for young people returns to East Suffolk next month.

Operation Camouflage begins at Sutton Heath, near Woodbridge on Tuesday 23 July. Organised by the Army Welfare Service and East Suffolk Council, the activity programme is open to children and young people aged between 8 and 16 years old who live in or go to school in East Suffolk.



Designed to bring young people together and help them develop new skills, Operation Camouflage runs every Tuesday to Thursday from Wednesday 23 July until Thursday 14 August. There will be a mix of physical, creative, educational and adventurous activities on offer including touch rugby, dance workshops, circus skills, bushcraft, 'It's a knockout' and much more. Snacks and lunch will also be provided.

Funding has been secured from the East Suffolk Holiday Activity Fund to offer free places to those that are eligible for free school meals in East Suffolk. Children of military families from Woodbridge are also eligible for discounted rates of £10 per day. For those not eligible for these, there are limited spaces available at a cost of £25 per day.

Operation Camouflage is a partnership between East Suffolk Council, the Army Welfare Service and Just42, who have been delivering the programme since 2008. The programme is designed to give young people from military families and those living in East Suffolk an opportunity to be active over the summer holidays and provide safe and positive activities.

Bookings are now open for those that are eligible for free school meals and military discount and bookings will then open to all on Friday 4 July.

Book your place at <https://eastsuffolk.co/camo>

Rural Village Hall and Community Centre Repairs and Improvement Fund / East Suffolk Council Partnership Board & REPF

Village Halls, Community Centres and other 'community hubs' across East Suffolk are invited to apply for a grant of up to £15,000 to support projects that will enhance and/or maintain repair community spaces. Funded through the East Suffolk Community Partnership Board and Rural England Prosperity Fund, **grants of up to 80%** of the total cost of the project are available (capital). Grants are aimed at local organisations that want to improve/repair, enhance or upgrade their building or what's on offer in it for their building to their local community. For example:

- by increasing digital access by installing/improving broadband
- increasing accessibility to the building
- replacing the kitchen to support additional user groups
- installing sustainable energy solutions like PV cells or ground/air source heat pumps

However, we also recognise that sometimes essential repairs and maintenance, for example to the roof, windows, doors or floors, are the priority to keep the doors open to the community. **Deadline: 16 September 2025 at 9.00am.** For more details, the Guidance and Application form please see: **Website:** [Rural England Prosperity Fund » East Suffolk Council](#)

Community spaces set to flourish again as environmental scheme returns.

'East Suffolk Blooms', which encourages people in East Suffolk to grow beautiful, pollinator-friendly wildflowers, is returning for 2025.

Each year, East Suffolk Council distributes free packs of bulbs to town and parish councils, community groups and organisations to plant locally as part of the East Suffolk Blooms campaign. Successful applicants to last year's scheme planted numerous native bulbs in towns



and villages across East Suffolk, resulting in colourful flower displays which benefitted pollinators. This time, in tandem with the East Suffolk's Amazing project to promote an all-round effort to help maintain the beauty and cleanliness of the district, earlier flowering bulbs are being offered that provide colour during early spring.

Packs of Carlton daffodil bulbs will be available to collect in the autumn, around October, from two locations in the district.

The scheme is funded by East Suffolk Services Ltd, who will be providing £3,000 worth of flowering bulbs. An application form will be available to complete online until 31 August, before a judging panel meets to decide the successful applicants, with additional consideration given to groups reapplying after missing out last year.

Applicants will then be informed of the decision by September.

[Apply now.](#)

Changes to parking on Undercliff Road East this summer

To improve safety and provide more parking opportunities, changes to the current waiting restrictions in Undercliff Road East in Felixstowe will be introduced this summer.

East Suffolk Council has commissioned Suffolk Highways to implement an Experimental Traffic Regulation Order, to be operational from 7 July 2025. To allow this work to take place, parking in a section of Undercliff Road East will be temporarily restricted between 30 June and 18 July and any vehicles parked during this time may be towed away.

The order includes the creation of 'cars only' parking bays along both sides of Undercliff Road East which will not have a time limit to enable longer stays.

There will also be dedicated parking bays for disabled badge holders. These bays will have a three-hour time limit to ensure they can be used by all those who need them. Additionally, there will be new designated motorcycle parking bays, and double yellow lines will be painted on junctions to improve safety and visibility.

As the order is experimental, it will allow the efficacy of the order to be determined over the summer period and enable any feedback received to be considered. The order allows a period where changes can be made, if required, before it is formally adopted in its final form.

Council taking action to address housing issues

East Suffolk Council has implemented an improvement programme to address issues following a comprehensive 'stock condition' survey of its social housing.

The detailed survey commissioned by the Council has identified that some of the homes fall below expected standards and the Council is now working with the Regulator of Social Housing, to resolve these issues.



The surveys have been undertaken over the last 18 months with all remaining properties due to be inspected by the end of this year. The findings indicate that improvements are required to ensure all homes meet the Decent Homes Standard.

The Decent Homes Standard is a set of minimum standards for the condition of socially rented homes. It ensures that homes are fit for habitation, are in a reasonable state of repair, have modern facilities, and provide a reasonable degree of thermal comfort.

A decent home is one, which should be wind and weather tight, warm and have modern facilities. All of the surveys have included an assessment under the Housing, Health and Safety Ratings System (HHSRS), which sets out that homes should be free from hazards, enabling residents to live in homes, which do not pose a risk to their health and/or safety.

A significant amount of work is already underway, to enable East Suffolk to be fully compliant with all standards set out by the Regulator, and the Council is now engaging with its tenants to explain the situation, how this may affect them and the improvements that will now be made.

Have your say on future seafront improvement plans

Views are being sought to help shape draft proposals to enhance a stretch of Felixstowe seafront.

East Suffolk Council is inviting people to take part in developing plans to rejuvenate the South Seafront area between Felixstowe Pier and Landguard Point for residents and visitors throughout the year.

The Felixstowe Seafront Development Strategy builds on recent work to boost the vitality of the seafront through improved facilities, including the Sea You Café in Martello Park and the delivery of a new activity park and changing places toilets on the seafront.

Initial concepts have been designed by award-winning public realm architects, HAT Projects, reflecting informal consultation with local businesses, organisations and representatives.

Emerging short-term priorities include opportunities for improved lighting and wayfinding along the seafront, while a longer-term vision includes adaptations to the Edwardian gardens to create more usable and varied spaces, as well as redevelopment of space for events and outdoor activities, and potential streetscape amendments to boost connectivity and sustainability of seafront businesses.

Public consultation on the Felixstowe Seafront Development Strategy is open from June 9 to June 30, 2025.

The draft proposals can be viewed online, along with a survey where comments can be left.

[Felixstowe Seafront Development Strategy](#)

Proposals will also be on display in the Seafront Shelter opposite Beach Street during the consultation period.

A drop-in event will take place between 1pm-7pm on 17 June 2025 at the Seashore Village on the promenade. All are welcome to come and view the draft proposals – and meet with Council officers and the designers to share views on the concepts.



Following public consultation, designs will be refined and, once complete, the strategy will be presented for approval by members and will act as the vision for the South Seafront in Felixstowe.