



# District Councillors Report to Otley Parish Council Meeting

For November 2023

**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**

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## Recent Floods

This area is still recovering from the recent torrential weather and the devastating floods. Great Bealings PC held a seminar to which Great Bealings and surrounding Parishes residents were welcomed to observe and note any lessons that may be learnt, but it was in the main centred around what can be done to prevent a similar occurrence. As you may well know, the River Lark burst its banks (as did the River Fynn) and flooded the houses in Great Bealings. Re-housing is taking place where necessary. Our sympathies are with everyone affected and their considerable losses. If you still have problems, please ring 0333 016 2000. Please see the end of this report for further information. A report of the meeting will be published in due course. Meanwhile some helpful information is available in the publications, "A Homeowners Guide to Flood Resilience" and "Property Flood Resilience" both available via the internet.

Details of the grants for affected homeowners will be released soon.

If your home was affected by flooding make sure you log it on the SCC Highways Reporting Tool. **This is the only way to register to ensure you receive grant money.**

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## The East Suffolk Council Annexe

The Annexe building, adjacent to East Suffolk House, in Melton, has not been in occupation since 2020. Therefore, the decision was taken earlier this year to lease the building to a third party. The council's Asset Management and Legal teams have been in negotiations with Suffolk County Council, who will take up occupation of the building. The lease will be completed by this Friday, 20 October. The lease arrangement includes an allocation of 20 car parking spaces. These are the spaces at the front and back of the building.

## Key infrastructure projects to benefit from £3.4m funding

Over £3million in contributions from new housing developments has been allocated to support the enhancement of community facilities in East Suffolk.



At a meeting of the Cabinet on 5 September, six applications for district Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) were approved. The successful applications, totalling £3,479,203 were:

- Improvements at Barnards Soccer Centre, Lowestoft (£101,500)
- Bungay Medical Practice extension and reconfiguration (£1.283m)
- New 3G pitch at Bungay Town Football Club (£547,803)
- Bungay Library extension (£32,400)
- Melton Early Years Provision at Melton Primary School (£1.35m)
- Extended funding for Foxhall Household Waste and Recycling Centre improvements (£164,500) - in addition to previous funding of £794,414.

The CIL funding will now be made available to these projects, subject to the provision of all necessary documentation and planning permissions.

## Flood Protection

Lowestoft Tidal Barrier Transport and Works Act Order application. East Suffolk Council has applied for a legal authorisation order required to progress the Lowestoft Tidal Barrier project.

Proposals for a new tidal barrier were developed by the Council as part of the wider Lowestoft Flood Protection scheme to help reduce the risk of tidal flooding to homes and businesses in Lowestoft. The proposal comprises twin mitre gates across the inner harbour entrance channel to Lake Lothing, on the seaward side of the Bascule Bridge, as well as new demountable tidal defences connecting to the new tidal barrier, new operational buildings and ancillary works. The proposed tidal barrier will work in conjunction with new tidal flood walls built in key locations in Lowestoft.

East Suffolk Council has now applied to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for a Transport and Works Act Order (TWAO) to obtain the required legal powers to build the scheme, including the ability to close the navigable channel during construction and operation of the barrier.

## Take extra care at the coast

High tides, intense rainfall and strong winds are forecast to impact the East Suffolk coast with large waves, debris and potential cliff collapse possible and those visiting the coast are advised to take extra care. Following a recent dry spell, the soft sandy cliffs along the Suffolk coast have dried out, leaving them not only vulnerable to wave action but also to any heavy rainfall at the top. This could lead to unprecedented cliff fall. Now we have the heavy rainfall High tides will bring water to the base of the cliffs and people are advised to check tide times before walking on the beach to avoid the possibility of being cut off. Higher than



usual tides in March and August have had an adverse effect on the most vulnerable areas of the coast, with many beaches not recovering as expected during the summer months. Coastal Partnership East, on behalf of East Suffolk Council, is reminding people to stay safe on the coast by adhering to the following:

- do not climb on eroding cliffs or sea defences.
- keep well back from the cliff edge.
- take notice of signage
- avoid walking close to the base of cliffs.
- keep pets on leads.

If you notice anything unusual or dangerous about cliffs or any coastal defences, please email [coastalmanagement@eastsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:coastalmanagement@eastsuffolk.gov.uk). In an emergency always call 999 and ask for the Coastguard.

### **Do you have a prepayment meter and live in Suffolk?**

Did you know that households on prepayment meters typically pay more for their fuel? On average prepayment meters are £100 more expensive per year than paying by direct debit. There are fewer tariff options, and an un-used meter will still use credit for standing charges.

WHHP have funding for a new project to support prepay meter households with FREE energy advice and support. Our goal is to make your home warmer and healthier with decreased energy bills.

WHHP can help with free home surveys to identify the following:

- Households needing emergency fuel payments.
- Support to switch away from prepayment and switching suppliers for suitable customers.
- Free draught proofing to reduce energy costs.
- Referrals for debt advice and support to avoid disconnections.
- Energy tips and tricks to reduce bills.
- Advice and signposting on a range of other housing support.

Please contact Warm Homes Healthy People on 07769 365796 or by email [prepay@eastsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:prepay@eastsuffolk.gov.uk) if you would like to book a survey or find out more. Warm Homes Healthy People keeping residents warm and healthy in their homes.

### **Partner authorities combine for collective day of action**

East Suffolk Council's Licensing and Environmental Protection teams took part in a multi-agency day of action to detect and deter crime and anti-social behaviour in Felixstowe.



Officers were joined by Council members as well as counterparts from Suffolk Constabulary, Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service, and Suffolk County Council's Trading Standards team for the operation on Tuesday 17 October. Organised by the East Suffolk Community Safety Partnership (ESCSP) and funded through the Enabling Communities Budget, the impact event saw partner agencies conduct a series of checks and inspections aimed at strengthening community safety through collective activity.

Trading Standards and Licensing officers carried out licence compliance checks and tax compliance checks on a number of premises, while police provided a visible presence on foot patrol and carried out traffic speed and vehicle checks. Environment Protection officers looked out for abandoned vehicles and fly-tipping, as well as conducting health spot-checks on food venues, while the fire service provided support with residential safety checks, and youth workers engaged with local residents on the dangers of child criminal exploitation.

The impact event saw:

- Three fly-tipping sites cleared, with evidence found at two of the sites
- 38 wheelie bins tagged with guidance about proper usage
- One abandoned vehicle located
- Two venues inspected and subject to fire safety enforcement
- Two licensed premises found to have out-of-date licences
- One unlicensed premises (found selling alcohol, out-of-date products, and with a lack of staff training) closed down
- Speed checks conducted at five sites
- Five paving or road surface issues reported
- One unroadworthy vehicle reported
- Two taxi firms checked and found to be compliant with Equality Act 2010 by way of the Taxis and Private Hire Vehicles (Disabled Persons) Act 2022

To report anti-social behaviour, call 101, use the police [online reporting form](#) or visit the anti-social behaviour section of the East Suffolk Council [website](#).

To report a crime anonymously, call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Dial 999 in an emergency or to report a crime in progress, or call 101 if the matter is not an emergency or visit the Suffolk police [website](#).

## 'Seashore Village' beach hut development complete

Work has reached completion on a new seaside development of beach huts and landscaped public greenspace in Felixstowe. The new Seashore Village attraction features 27 traditional-style timber beach huts provided by East Suffolk Council. Completion of the Seashore Village brings to fruition a wider regeneration project on land between Sea Road and The

Promenade – with a neighbouring activity park, featuring climbing walls, sports equipment and games.

## And The Bad News

Vandals damage new community facilities in Felixstowe.

Newly opened public toilets at Felixstowe’s Seashore Village have been closed for the week following a spate of vandalism which has seriously damaged the facilities.

In two separate incidents which took place last week, baby changing units, toilet roll holders, soap dispensers and locks were all damaged. Due to the extent of the repairs required, the entire toilet block has been closed and is likely to remain closed for the rest of the week whilst the damage is rectified.

The incident has been reported to Suffolk police, and anyone with information on this incident is asked to contact the police on 101. Local residents or businesses with CCTV in the immediate area are asked to review any footage from the past week.

If anyone has any concerns regarding anti-social behaviour in Felixstowe or elsewhere in East Suffolk, please call Suffolk police on 101, visit [www.police.uk](http://www.police.uk), contact your local Safer Neighbourhood Team or report incidents at [www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/anti-social-behaviour](http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/anti-social-behaviour).



## Foxhall Amenity Tip

As you know, the highway works for the Foxhall recycling centre redevelopment are being undertaken at night, with 3- way lights and some closures. This has been progressing well and the next step is for BT/Openreach to replace the existing communication boxes with road standard ones.



Unfortunately, despite our best efforts, BT are unable to sequence their works in line with our scheduled highway works. This means they have had to schedule their works during the daytime.

Between 6 – 11 November 2023 the following will be in place;

- 3-way, daytime traffic lights to manage the traffic along Foxhall Road and in and out of the Foxhall Recycling Centre
- The lights will be manned so traffic flow in and out of site can be managed manually depending on need. This will help to keep the flow of traffic along Foxhall Road.
- The nighttime works will remain in place during that period and are currently using a 3-way traffic light management system, therefore, the 3 way lights will be in place 24 hours a day starting at 6:30am on 6 November and finishing at 7am on 11 November.

SCC thank everyone for their continued patience while we are redeveloping the site which will see Foxhall as the new flagship recycling centre for Suffolk.

## Cost of living project funding scheme set to launch

**Voluntary organisations, community groups and faith networks can soon access fresh grant funding for projects that help ease cost of living pressures this winter.**

The East Suffolk Cost of Living Winter Grant Fund, made possible with funding from the Suffolk Collaborative Communities Board, will provide grants for projects that help East Suffolk residents to stay warm and fed during the colder months.

Organisations can apply for between £500 and £2,500 from a total fund of £40,000 for a wide range of projects – as long as they support individuals and families to stay warm and/or to access healthy nutritious food, particularly between the end of December and end of March.

More details will be available on the East Suffolk Council website following the launch of the grant scheme. Applications will require completion of a simple online form.

### Dog Bins and Litter

East Suffolk Council's Strategic Waste and Contract Management Team, a new department within the Council, have undertaken a review of the current provision of litter and fido waste bins within the district that we have a responsibility to empty. The purpose of this review is to map the current bin provision and create a policy, that is open and transparent, for managing the stock in the future. Bins are traditionally provided maintained and emptied as a means of controlling litter or dog waste problems. There are circa 3,460 bins in varying condition across the district that are currently emptied by our service provider. Whilst the Council is committed to providing sufficient bins to help discharge its responsibilities under the Environmental Protection Act 1990, it has never had a formal policy for agreeing numbers or locations for bins. The Council's capacity to provide the



resources to empty litter bins is finite. It is likely that the demand for litter bins will, at certain times or locations, exceed the capacity to provide the service. Moving forward, the Council wishes to adopt a process of 'right bin / right place' and new bins will only be located in areas where it can be demonstrated that there is a genuine need for one. As part of this process, we have created a draft policy, which we would like to share with Town and Parish Council's for comments and consideration. While we are undertaking the review, we have temporarily closed the request for new bins service. However, if there are issues with missing or damaged bins, please continue to report these through the normal channels through our Customer Services Team.

We are aware that town and parish councils may need some time to respond, depending on the timing of your council meetings. We are also aware of the upcoming festive holiday period. To this end, the closing date for comments will be the 31 January 2024. Section 5 may be of particular interest to the town and parish councils and meetings, though we welcome comments on any aspect of the document. If the PC would like a copy of the Draft Policy.... Please e mail Colin Hedgley.

Please direct comments to [operations@eastsoffolk.gov.uk](mailto:operations@eastsoffolk.gov.uk)

### **More than 200 properties flooded by Storm Babet**

- **True number could be much higher as councils urge people to report all flooded premises**
- **Government funding available to those who report flooding**

Interim figures show more than 200 properties in Suffolk were flooded by Storm Babet.

The number of flooded premises, including businesses and homes, is expected to be higher as Suffolk councils and emergency planners work together to compile a full list.

Councillor Matthew Hicks, Leader of Suffolk County Council, said: "It is absolutely key that all residents who suffered flood damage report the incident.

"I understand that the pressures of finding somewhere to live or work, or stripping out damaged belongings may have dominated people's lives since Friday, but I would urge them to take the time in fill in a flood report online.

"We know that this financial support is urgently needed, and we will do everything in our power to get it out to home and businesses owners as soon as possible."

On Wednesday, the Communities Secretary Michael Gove and Environment Secretary Thérèse Coffey announced a number of financial measures to support those that have experienced exceptional localised flooding.



Under the measures announced:

- Flooded households in affected areas can apply for up to £500 to give cash quickly to help with immediate costs.
- Households and businesses significantly affected by recent flooding will be eligible for 100% council tax and business rates relief for at least three months.
- Small-to-medium sized businesses in affected areas will be eligible for up to £2,500 from the Business Recovery Grant to help them return quickly to business as usual.
- Eligible flood-hit property owners will be able to apply for up to £5,000 to help make their homes and businesses more resilient to future flooding via the Property Flood Resilience Repair Grant Scheme.

The support will be made available through a scheme known as the Flood Recovery Framework, which is used in exceptional circumstances to support councils and communities following severe flooding.

The full details of the scheme are yet to be announced by Government, including where residents can apply and who is eligible. Suffolk County Council will share updates with the public once received. To report a flood visit:

[www.suffolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/flooding-and-drainage/report-a-flood-in-suffolk](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/flooding-and-drainage/report-a-flood-in-suffolk)

**YOU MUST REGISTER ON THE SCC HIGHWAYS TOOL IN ORDER TO GO ONTO THE LIST TO QUALIFY FOR FINANCIAL HELP.**