

July 2025 Parish Report East Suffolk Council GLI Group – Councillor Update

East Suffolk Council - HERE For You!

Following a successful series of events last year, East Suffolk officers and councillors will be visiting towns around the district again this summer, chatting to local people about council services and asking how they feel about what we do.

Events have taken place in Saxmundham, Lowestoft, Kesgrave and Beccles this year, and will be followed by Beccles in July, Felixstowe and Southwold in August before finishing in Framlingham in September.

Councillors and senior officers will be present to listen to local people and chat about our plans, our services and how we are looking to improve lives and outcomes not only in the towns we visit but throughout East Suffolk.

East Suffolk Council - HERE For You! Come and find us at:

6 August - Felixstowe

27 August - Southwold

24 September - Framlingham

All events are from 10am until 1pm.

Helping town and parishes to support nature

Prepared by environmental charity Groundwork East on behalf of East Suffolk Council, a new toolkit is now available for town and parish councils to support conservation in their local area.

As part of the Council's Nature at Work scheme, the toolkit contains branded graphics for town and parish councils to use online to promote their involvement with the conservation scheme, which has created 116 wild spaces across East Suffolk which are being left to grow over the summer.



New signs have been installed on council-owned land across the district to help identify the wild areas where grass cutting will be limited to twice per year for the benefit of pollinators such as bees and butterflies. The signs feature a QR code directing people to further information about the scheme, including how residents and community groups can get involved. A map of all the sites is available, and photos from the locations will be added throughout the year.

Groundwork East is currently working with town and parish councils to build awareness of the sites, and these councils are encouraged to help monitor the sites to better understand what species are present and how the sites are changing.

GLI Cllr Sally Noble, East Suffolk's cabinet member for the Environment said: "Nature at Work aims to respond to the climate emergency and biodiversity crisis by supporting nature at small-scale community sites across East Suffolk. The refreshed scheme has a new focus this year, working with local schools, town and parish councils and community groups to raise awareness of the benefits of the Nature at Work scheme and encouraging people to consider how they can get involved in their own garden or community space."

A guide to making a wildflower meadow, a species guide and information regarding funding opportunities for town and parish councils is also available.

Town and parish councils are also invited to a free webinar on Wednesday 20 August (9am – 11am) to introduce the toolkit and find out more about the Nature at Work scheme, including the benefits of green spaces, ideas for funding and how to monitor and record the wildlife in your town and parish.

Book your free place at: eastsuffolk.gov.uk/environment/nature-at-work/

Get involved in planning the future of your local area

East Suffolk residents are invited to give their views on how they would best like to receive information about future planning consultations.

East Suffolk Council is seeking feedback on how communities would like to be involved in the process of preparing planning policy documents such as Local Plans, Design Codes, neighbourhood plans, and planning guidance.

Residents are invited to complete a short questionnaire, available at:

tinyurl.com/4y8zzpxn

Printed versions are available from local libraries.

Information provided through this questionnaire will inform the Council's future consultation and engagement processes for planning policy document preparation and will be used to update the Council's Statement of Community Involvement (SCI).

GLI Cllr Mark Packard, East Suffolk's cabinet member for Planning and Coastal Management, said: "How we plan for new homes, schools, employment and infrastructure affects everyone who lives in, works in or visits the district and so it is important that our communities can help shape planning policy and guidance. Whether you are an East Suffolk resident, business, developer, community organisation, or a town or parish council, we would like to hear your views on how we can best engage, inform, and consult with you during these processes."

The questionnaire closes on 3 September 2025.

If you have any questions about the consultation, please call 01394 444557, email planningpolicy@eastsuffolk.gov.uk, or write to East Suffolk Council, Planning Policy and Delivery Team, Riverside, 4 Canning Road, Lowestoft, Suffolk NR33 0EQ.

Funding available to support Tour of Britain activities

Town and parish councils, local groups and voluntary organisations in East Suffolk are invited to apply for funding to support community activities relating to the upcoming Tour of Britain Men.

Britain's biggest professional cycle race, the Lloyds Tour of Britain Men, will return to East Suffolk this September, with the opening stage of the race starting in Woodbridge on Tuesday 2 September.

To further support this sporting spectacle, East Suffolk Council's Tour of Britain Grant Scheme has now opened for applications, offering grants to towns and villages on or near the race route. Funding can be used for activities which support local businesses or schools, increase visitors to town centres, encourage volunteering, improve cycling access or to hold cycling themed events.

Grants of up to £1,000 are available for town centres and up to £500 for smaller villages.

Cllr Sarah Whitelock, East Suffolk's cabinet member for Communities, Culture, Leisure and Tourism, said: "We are delighted to welcome the Lloyds Tour of Britain Men back to East Suffolk for the third consecutive year, and to be hosting the opening stage. We want to ensure towns and villages on the race route can maximise the benefits of the Tour for their communities and I would encourage groups and organisations to liaise with their respective town or parish council to ensure a successful joined-up application."

Applications close on Wednesday 6 August at 9am.

Community groups and voluntary organisations are advised to liaise with their local town or parish council before applying as only one application can be accepted from each town or village.

Apply now at: eastsuffolk.gov.uk/community/community-grants-and-funding/tour-of-britain-grants/

Ease the Squeeze on Cost of Living

Are you, or someone you know, worried about the increasing cost of living? We understand the pressures faced by many people today and we are working closely with key partners to ensure support is available to help ease the squeeze for households in East Suffolk.

To make it as easy as possible for you to access the services and support available, locally and nationally, we have gathered information about them in one place:

www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/community/squeeze/

For the most up to date information regarding East Suffolk Council, please visit:

www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk

View the Well Minds East Suffolk booklet: tinyurl.com/9xhka624