

May 2026 Parish Report

East Suffolk Council GLI Group – Councillor Update

Popular Roadshows Return this Summer

This summer, we're once again visiting towns around the district to chat to local people about our services and how they feel about what we do. We're HERE for you!

Having held our first roadshow in Halesworth in May, we will now be visiting the following locations throughout the summer:

- Wednesday 10 June - Woodbridge
- Thursday 2 July - Bungay
- Friday 31 July - Lowestoft
- Wednesday 19 August - Aldeburgh
- Saturday 12 September - Wickham Market

All events are from 10am until 1pm.

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.

GLI Cllr Caroline Topping, Leader of East Suffolk Council said: "Our roadshows are always very popular and give our communities the opportunity to speak directly to councillors and officers about any issues and questions they may have. Come and find out more about significant changes such as local government reorganisation, the new Local Plan and Better Recycling as well as the essential day-to-day services we provide. We look forward to meeting you!"

Never Miss a Collection with the New East Suffolk App!

A new app has been launched to help East Suffolk residents with the changes to recycling which begin in June.

The app helps residents to quickly see which bin is due for collection each week and will help people check what can be put into each bin, to help people recycle even more.

There is also the option to receive reminders ahead of bin collection day and receive alerts if a scheduled bin collection has been delayed through bad weather or a traffic issue.

The new app also enables people to find nearby council-owned car parks, leisure centres and public toilets, as well as local places to eat and their associated food hygiene rating.

GLI Cllr Paul Ashton, East Suffolk's Deputy Leader and cabinet member for Corporate Services said: "The new East Suffolk app will help residents adjust to the changes to recycling services which are being introduced across the county on 1 June, making it

even easier for people to check their collection day, the colour of bin being collected and check what items can go into each bin.

“In addition to recycling information, our new app also enables people to find nearby council-owned facilities such as car parks and public toilets, report issues directly using our online forms and check the food hygiene ratings of local places to eat, with more services to come in due course.”

The new app is available for Apple and Android in the app store (search for East Suffolk).

The new Better Recycling service launches in Suffolk from 1 June and from this date, residents will be able to recycle more items, including glass and soft plastic, through their recycling bins at home. The collections will be as follows:

- A weekly food waste collection (grey food container)
- A three-weekly general rubbish collection (black lid bin)
- A three-weekly recycling collection for glass, plastics, metal and cartons (blue lid bin)
- A three-weekly recycling collection for paper and card (green lid bin)

To help residents recycle even more, the new East Suffolk app has a handy recycling search tool to check whether an item can be recycled. There is also an AI powered image search which enables residents to take a photo of an item and check whether it can be recycled, and in which bin.

The new app is fully accessible and is voice reader compatible.

Community Spaces Set to Flourish as Bulb Giveaway Returns

East Suffolk Council will be giving away thousands of early spring flowering bulbs as its annual East Suffolk Blooms campaign returns for 2026.

Back for the fourth year, town and parish councils, community groups and organisations are invited to apply to receive free packs of pollinator-friendly bulbs to plant next spring.

The scheme works in tandem with the East Suffolk’s Amazing project which encourages everyone to maintain the beauty and cleanliness of the district, and last year established 25,000 narcissus ‘Carlton’ bulbs in the autumn, that emerged to brighten communities across the district earlier this spring.

This year, to provide greater benefit to pollinators, the council is offering mixed crocus bulbs, which is one of the earliest flowering plants that support pollinators emerging from hibernation, and is encouraging groups that missed out last time to apply.

GLI Cllr Sally Noble, East Suffolk’s cabinet member for the Environment, said:

“It’s been wonderful to see the growing number of flowers in our communities each spring since we started giving bulbs away in 2023 – with interest for the scheme growing every time we open applications.

“By encouraging groups to plant these early flowering bulbs we hope to boost the nectar that’s available to pollinators as they wake up from winter hibernation when food sources are scarce. We’ll be giving out 50 bags of bulbs across the district and we’re especially looking forward to receiving East Suffolk Blooms applications from groups which haven’t been successful in the past.”

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

The scheme is funded by East Suffolk Council’s trading company and services operator, East Suffolk Services Ltd, which 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 decides on successful applicants, with additional consideration given to groups reapplying after missing out last year. Applicants will be informed of the decision by September.

To apply, please visit: **my.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/service/east_suffolk_blooms**

Suffolk Councils Launch Reorganisation Website

www.suffolklgrhub.gov.uk

A new website providing trusted information on Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) in Suffolk has been launched by the county’s 6 councils.

The website, named Future Suffolk, is part of a shared commitment by the county, district and borough councils to ensure residents and communities understand LGR and what it means for them.

The site brings together key information, helping to communicate upcoming changes in a clear and consistent way. It also offers a single point of contact for residents, allowing them to submit any questions, comments and concerns.

The Future Suffolk website includes:

- Clear explanations on LGR
- A timeline of key milestones
- Maps of the new council boundaries
- An interactive map showing provisional ward names and boundaries
- Information on councillor numbers

The website also outlines proposed names for the new unitary councils and the details of the electoral wards within them - these are required as part of the legal process to establish the three new councils. The proposed names are Central and East Suffolk, Ipswich and South Suffolk, and West Suffolk.

Once established, the new councils will have the ability to review these names.

The website launch comes following government's announcement in March 2026, that three new unitary authorities would replace the current county, district and borough councils.

Elections for the new councils will take place in 2027 ahead of the first day of operations (known as 'Vesting Day'), when the new authorities formally assume their responsibilities.

LGR is a national programme across England to simplify and modernise local government structures, typically by replacing multi-tier systems with single unitary councils responsible for delivering all local services.

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