

County Council report – May 2023

Princes Street's police and fire station receives royal seal of approval

Suffolk's largest joint emergency services hub was officially opened by HRH The Princess Royal today (Tuesday, 28 March), with the new facility in Ipswich marking the latest milestone in a highly successful collaborative scheme.

The Princess Royal was joined by local dignitaries, including Suffolk's High Sheriff, the county's Police and Crime Commissioner, Deputy Chief Constable and Chief Fire Officer, councillors from Suffolk County Council and the Mayor of Ipswich for the grand opening of the shared site earlier this afternoon (Tuesday, 28 March).

During her time at the new station, HRH The Princess Royal spoke to staff from Suffolk Constabulary and Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service who have already begun to benefit from using the state-of-the-art facility.

Demonstrations of some of the fire service's work, including water and animal rescues, also formed part of the visit, along with a tour of the building, which has undergone extensive renovations since work started on the project in December 2020.

Situated in the heart of Suffolk's county town, the facility will help maintain public safety, ensure a swift response to incidents, and promote partnership working.

Councillor Andrew Reid, Suffolk County Council's Cabinet Member for Public Health and Public Protection, commented:

"It was an honour to welcome HRH, The Princess Royal, for the opening of the largest combined police and fire facility in Suffolk today, cementing the station's status as the jewel in our county's crown and celebrating the latest in a long line of hugely successful collaborations with our emergency services partners.

He added: "We have already started to see the vast benefits of this shared site, which enables the efficient and cost-effective delivery of response activity in an environmentally responsible manner, ensuring continued value for money for our residents whilst supporting our council's net-zero ambitions.

"I would like to thank everyone involved in delivering the new building; their attention to detail has resulted in a modern, fit-for-purpose station we can all be proud of, not just locally but on a national level, with Suffolk's integrated blue light hub scheme heralded as an exemplar by central government."

Tim Passmore, Suffolk's Police and Crime Commissioner, added:

“Our county was very privileged to welcome the Princess Royal for the official opening of the new joint Police and Fire Station in the centre of Ipswich.

He added: “Our joint estates programme is one of the most important and significant examples of joint working nationally and is an excellent example of what can be achieved by pooling resources and working together. A great result for Suffolk.”

The multi-million-pound project has also boosted the local economy, following the use of Suffolk-based companies Concertus and RG Carter for the station's design and construction.

99% of pupils receive a preferred primary school place on National Offer Day

99.18% of children were offered a place on National Offer Day at one of their three preferred primary schools and 95.78% were offered a place at their first preference school.

Suffolk County Council received 7,056 applications from parents and carers indicating which primary school they would prefer their child to join in September 2023.

Families who applied online can log on to the Admissions Portal from today to see the school their child has been offered. They will also receive an email to confirm this offer. Letters will be sent to parents who made a paper application by second-class post today (17 April 2023).

Allan Cadzow, Director of Children's, and Young People Services for Suffolk County Council said:

“It is great news that the majority of families have once again been offered a place at one of their preferred schools, especially with so many being offered a place at their first preference school.”

“We appreciate that not all families may have received a place at their preferred school. If a parents' preference for a Suffolk school is refused, we will automatically add their child's name to the waiting list for that school. Parents and carers will also be advised about how to lodge an appeal should they wish to do so.”

Once school places have been confirmed, parents need to consider how their child will get to and from school. If their child is eligible for Suffolk County Council funded school travel, they will receive an email by 12 May 2023 with details of how to opt in.

Any parents or carers with a child born between 1 September 2018 and 31 August 2019 who have not yet applied for a school place should make an application immediately.

Information on how to make an application can be found on the [School admission pages](#) or by contacting Suffolk County Council on **0345 600 0981**.

Suffolk to mark Dementia Action Week with event

A drop-in event for people with dementia, their families, and carers, will be held next month at Trinity Park in Ipswich.

Representatives from more than 34 care organisations across Suffolk will host stalls at the event, which will showcase the wide range of information, advice, and support available to people living with dementia and their carers, to help them to get the right support from the right providers, at the right time.

Running alongside the marketplace will be keynote sessions on a range of topics including how to live well with dementia from those with lived experience, memory assessment and the importance of a timely diagnosis.

There will also be the opportunity for people with the condition and their carers to hear about the development of a countywide dementia strategy for Suffolk, and provide feedback on their experiences, needs and priorities for support.

The event, which is being facilitated by the Suffolk Dementia Action Partnership and Care Development East, will be held on **Tuesday 16 May from 10 am**, during Dementia Action Week.

Dr Ros Tandy, Mental Health Clinical Lead for the NHS Suffolk & Northeast Essex Integrated Care Board, said:

“Dementia and Alzheimer’s Disease are the leading causes of death in England and there are around 15,000 people in Suffolk living with the condition, so it is essential that those who care for them have a full picture of the support available to them.

“I am really looking forward to attending this event and hearing from members of our community about their experiences of our local dementia services. It’s great that there will be activities for people with dementia to take part in at the event so their carers are able to look around and learn more about what support is available from all the different stalls.”

Georgia Chimbani, Director of Adult Services at Suffolk County Council said:

“I hope that this event will give people the opportunity to explore the wide range of dementia support which is available in Suffolk. I am also pleased that Suffolk Dementia Action

Partnership, with support from Care Development East, intend to follow this event with smaller locality-based roadshows across Suffolk, to help as many people as possible access this information.”

The event will feature a designated 'Quiet Room' with activities for people with dementia to allow their carers time to look at the stalls and attend the presentations.

Tea and coffee will be available throughout the day, and other drinks and food can be purchased from the onsite bar.

To book your ticket please visit the Eventbrite website.