



November 2021 Town and Parish Newsletter

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Build Back **Better**
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Cabinet to study £50 million plan to boost Suffolk bus services

On October 7th it was announced that wider coverage, cheaper fares, improved ticketing, and better evening and weekend services are among proposals forming part of a £50 million plan.

Subject to approval by the Suffolk County Council Cabinet, the Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) will be submitted to the Government by the end of the month.

Following on from the submission of the BSIP, the council, bus operators and other stakeholders will be working together to establish a countywide Enhanced Partnership.

This will enable the BSIP proposals to be delivered, building on experience gained from the existing Ipswich Quality Bus Partnership.

The funding bid is being made to the government's £3 billion fund under its Bus Back Better national bus strategy for England.

Suffolk County Council will be asking for a minimum of £50m over three years - £15m each for the first two years and £20m for the third.

A report to Cabinet members said:

"The Bus Back Better National Bus Strategy provides a real opportunity to be ambitious in delivering a bus service for Suffolk that will support sustainable transport and the Council's carbon reduction ambitions."

Other proposed features include:

- Reviewing service frequency on Suffolk's key corridors, including evenings and weekend services
- Simplified services - including regular timetabled buses and 'demand-responsive' services
- Expanding the experimental Katch electric demand-responsive bus, which is currently being piloted between Framlingham and Campsea Ashe for Wickham Market station to other rural areas
- Identify and implement bus priority opportunities and changes to parking on key corridors, with particular focus on the 'last mile' where buses are delayed by congestion approaching key destinations
- Lower fares for those aged up to 25
- Contactless touch-on and touch-off ticketing and daily fare caps
- Multi-operator ticketing o Expanding rail and bus ticket options (PlusBus)
- Develop existing park and ride sites as mobility hubs and identify new ones to serve rural areas or new development sites o Explore merging Ipswich's two bus stations into one main hub

Read the:

- [Bus Back Better strategy for England](#) (GOV.UK)



New discoveries of Suffolk's Anglo-Saxon past unearthed in the Deben Valley

It was announced on October 11th that archaeologists had uncovered evidence of settlement and community 1,400 years ago at the time of the earliest East Anglian kings.

Archaeological excavation near Rendlesham is adding to Suffolk's rich history, with archaeologists uncovering evidence of settlement and community 1,400 years ago at the time of the earliest East Anglian kings.

The discoveries have come as part of the community archaeology project Rendlesham Revealed: Anglo-Saxon Life in South-East Suffolk, run by Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service and funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, who awarded a grant of £517,300 for the four-year project.

Summer 2021 saw the first season of archaeological excavation, which uncovered the remains of buildings and pits over a wide area indicating an extensive settlement whose inhabitants were engaged in farming and craft working. Evidence that helps build up a picture of everyday life over 14 centuries ago includes:

- bones from butchered cattle, sheep and pigs, indicating the types of livestock that were kept and the meat that was eaten
- items associated with spinning and weaving, including spindle whorls and loomweights
- melted metal fragments and slag which indicate iron smithing and the manufacture of copper-alloy objects
- pottery vessels for cooking and storage
- items of dress, including a copper-alloy brooch and buckle

Soil samples were also taken which will give evidence of crop farming and the local environment of the past.

Discoveries of other periods of history were also made:

- field boundary ditches and pits pointing to agriculture and activity in the Bronze Age
- a settlement enclosure of the Iron Age
- a First World War training trench, probably dug by a battalion of the Territorial Force in 1914 or early 1915

The excavation was undertaken by local volunteers under the guidance of a small expert team coordinated by Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service and staff from the Suffolk Office of Cotswold Archaeology. More than 150 volunteers from the local community contributed to the summer's fieldwork, including from Suffolk Family Carers, Suffolk Mind and the local Rendlesham and Eyke primary schools.

This season's fieldwork at Rendlesham is now over and the excavations have been backfilled. Work has begun on analysis of the finds with provisional results expected in Spring 2022.

The next season of archaeological fieldwork will take place in Summer 2022 and local people will again be able to sign up and volunteer.

To find out more about the Rendlesham Revealed project visit heritage.suffolk.gov.uk/rendlesham

MPs from Norfolk, Suffolk and Essex and County Councillors, unite to protect the countryside and communities from the worst impacts of new pylons and cables

It was announced on October 12th that the Off Shore Electricity Grid Task Force (OffSET) has been set up to review and respond to the Government's Offshore Network Transmission Review (OTNR).

A new group of MPs from across the region, under the chairmanship of Sir Bernard Jenkin, and including County Councillors from the region, has been set up to ensure that the emerging proposals of the Government's Offshore Network Transmission Review (OTNR), and proposals to change the Nationally Significant Infrastructure Planning regime, are effectively scrutinised.

The Off Shore Electricity Grid Task Force (OffSET) supports the government's commitment to meet the target of Net Zero by 2050, and the aspiration to deliver 40GW of Offshore Wind, by 2030. However, this will result in a succession of electricity generation and connection projects in Norfolk, Suffolk, and Essex, over the coming decades, which will have significant impacts on the environment and communities of the region.

The group believes that these ambitions and targets cannot be met, on an "at any cost" basis. Therefore, the further development of the onshore transmission system, and the connection of offshore wind farms, and interconnectors, will require a new deal for communities and the environment. It remains a key priority that we speed up the Government's timetable to transition to the offshore transmission system, in order to protect our communities from the damaging effects of multiple cable corridors.

As well as scrutinising and responding to new policies and initiatives, the group will be a contact point for Ministers and senior officials, as well as for the National Grid, Crown Estate, and Ofgem, to engage with Regional Leaders. The group will also be inviting key stakeholders and community groups to meet with them, to better understand the impacts, and opportunities, of Net Zero transmission and generation infrastructure in the region.

OffSET's mission statement:

"OffSET exists to promote strategic leadership of the development of a coordinated offshore electricity grid, to address the need for increased grid capacity which off-shore wind, coastal new nuclear, and international interconnectors will demand, while standing up for the countryside of East Anglia so that the welcome transition to net zero electricity generation does not do unnecessary damage to our communities or the environment."

James Cartlidge MP, South Suffolk, said:

"OffSET will play a vital role in ensuring that our region's voice is heard in the national conversation about how we boost the output of renewable energy. I am proud of the huge contribution that our region is making to reaching our net zero targets, but this cannot come at a disproportionate cost to our beautiful countryside. It is vital that at all times we balance the need to reinforce the electricity grid against minimising detriment to our landscape, e.g. by using undersea cables and undergrounding through sensitive landscapes."

The Rt Hon Therese Coffey MP, Suffolk Coastal, said:

"Whilst integrating multiple projects is undoubtedly the right thing to do, rather than having separate connections, it's essential our precious landscapes and communities are protected by placing the infrastructure in the appropriate place, preferably on brownfield land, like Bradwell."

Suffolk businesses work hard to ensure we achieve net zero carbon by 2030.

Creating the Greenest County Awards 2021 sponsors show how they are making a difference.

Suffolk facilities management company Vertas, Opus People Solutions and design and property consultants Concertus are coming together to sponsor Suffolk's Creating the Greenest County Awards, taking place on 12 November at The Hold in Ipswich.

As we approach the United Nations COP26 event in November, all three companies are working hard to improve their environmental credentials and help Suffolk move towards its net zero carbon 2030 target.

Vertas has committed to minimising the impact of its operations on the environment, particularly emissions to air, land and water, and continually improving its environmental performance. Driving positive change through its supply chain has eliminated the use of single use plastic cutlery throughout its sites, instead using wooden alternatives, removing over 1,000,000 plastic items a year.

Vertas has also focused on eliminating the waste it produces, over the last 12 months it has collected 18,720 litres of cooking oil to turn into biodiesel and recycled 500,000 kilos of waste paper back into paper products, which is the equivalent of saving 8,500 trees.

Opus has recently achieved ISO14001 certification for environmental management, offering green travel discounts, a Cycle 2 Work scheme and ensuring printed materials are made from recyclable/sustainable materials and come from environmentally responsible suppliers to encourage positive change.

Concertus is passionate about using sustainable design to reduce its carbon footprint whilst delivering the best engineered solutions for the built environment. Adopting the approach of Fabric First, it is committed to recommend environmentally friendly and sustainable materials, and is currently delivering two Passivhaus certified care homes – Hockliffe Road (one of the first registered Passivhaus care homes in the UK) and Steppingley Road (the largest registered Passivhaus care provision in the UK).

Nominations for the Awards are now open and have been extended to close on Thursday 21 October 2021. [Nominations can be submitted online at greensuffolk.org/awards](https://greensuffolk.org/awards)

Suffolk continues to create the greenest county with £150,000 for new trees

It was announced on October 15th that a joint bid by a number of Suffolk's authorities has secured funding from the Forestry Commission to plant around 3,000 trees this coming planting season.

Suffolk County Council submitted the bid on behalf of itself, Ipswich Borough Council, Babergh District Council, Mid Suffolk District Council and West Suffolk District Council. The successful bid will see £149,712.55 come into the county for new trees, from the Local Authority Treescapes Fund.

The fund targets treescapes that have been neglected or suffered damage in the past, including disused and vacant community spaces and those affected by tree diseases such as ash dieback. The locations are chosen where they are likely to be experienced directly by people, as well as on improving the age structure of trees in all the project areas.

One of the interesting methods being adopted to re-establish woodland as part of this project, is the Miyawaki method.

It is regarded as one of the most effective tree planting methods for creating cover quickly on neglected land, or land that has previously been used for construction or agriculture. It uses natural principles, such as using trees already native to the area and replicating natural regeneration processes, and is particularly effective in the urban environment.

Councillor Richard Rout, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Environment at Suffolk County Council, said:

“I’m delighted to have secured this funding, as it means Suffolk will benefit from even more tree planting this coming season and we can make more progress towards the county’s joint ambition of Net Zero by 2030. We are also supporting our wildlife and biodiversity, and offering more green spaces for people to get in touch with nature and support their health and wellbeing.

“Last year, the county council committed £228,000 to treeplanting and hedgerows, with 100,000 planted already and the same amount to be planted this coming season. With the Suffolk Tree Warden Network, we are following the ‘right tree, right place’ policy, to be sure that the planting is effective and has the best chance of establishing itself.”

One example of tree-planting with this project, is the planting of over 100 trees at Needham Lake. The lake is actually a flooded gravel pit close to Needham Market, with part of the site a nature reserve with wetland areas, meadows and a small woodland. The project will create an area of wet woodland alongside the river to link two small, wooded areas together. The trees will include Alder, Downy Birch, White and Grey Willow.

The planting will also contribute to Suffolk’s commitment to support the Queen’s Green Canopy project. Suffolk is working towards linking up existing woodland with the planting of new trees and hedges to connect communities and encourage natural corridors for biodiversity, aiming to plant a tree for every resident.

Councillor Jessica Fleming, Cabinet Member for Environment at Mid Suffolk District Council:

“This is welcome news and a vital step in achieving our biodiversity ambitions for the district – protecting and strengthening our plant life and wildlife.

“Covid has highlighted the importance of our green spaces and nature, and their impact on our wellbeing, more than ever before – with our Needham Lake site, set to receive new trees thanks to this funding, having also been ranked Visit England’s 12th most visited free tourist attraction in the UK during 2020.”

Lorry Route Plan review in Suffolk

The technical and community led review of lorry routes that considers changes to the highway network since the plan was updated in 2011.

The technical and community led review of lorry routes that considers changes to the highway network since the plan was updated in 2011. This includes:

- new strategic roads
- new Lorry Watch areas
- Air Quality Management Areas in Suffolk

Councillor Richard Smith MVO, Suffolk County Council’s Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Transport Strategy and Waste responsible for the ongoing review of the county’s Lorry Route Plan.

The review will involve two parts and will update and validate the County Council's existing lorry route network plan

The technical review is currently taking place. It'll look at a range of evidence including:

- Collision records and traffic data
- Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs) for weight, width and height restrictions
- The resilient road network and its strategic road network diversions as well as GPS data – showing the origin and destination of trips, routes taken and the locations of building strikes
- Public complaints
- Data from Lorry Watch schemes

Community led review

The community led review will run from **22 October 2021** to **17 December 2021**.

Suffolk County Council is seeking the views of Parish and Town Councils about their local issues and intelligence.

Information will be gathered by a survey sent to all of Suffolk's Parish and Town Councils and their County Councillor will then be asked to endorse the key issues for their area. Each local council will be limited to three issues within their community to ensure fair and equal representation across the county.

The review will be completed in Spring **2022** where the County Council plan to publish a new interactive Lorry Route map.

For more information click here: [Lorry Route Plan review in Suffolk | Suffolk County Council](#)