



Great Bricett Annual Parish Meeting

MINUTES of the Annual Parish Meeting held at the Village Hall on Tuesday, 9th May 2023 at 7pm

PRESENT: Cllr S Burnett (PC), R Morley (PC), J Walsh (Village Hall)

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mrs J Blackburn (Clerk), County Cllr Kay Oakes, District Cllr Dan Pratt and two members of the public.

GB01/23/24 - CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

The Chairman of Great Bricett, Cllr Sue Burnett, welcomed those present.

GB02/23/24 - APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Arland Shawe-Taylor (PCC), Martin Kinsey (Wattisham), Mr Gough (Ringshall Primary School)

GM03/23/24 - MINUTES 10th MAY 2022

The minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting, held on 10th May 2022, were approved as a true record and were duly signed by the Chair.

GB04/23/24 - REPORTS RELATING TO THE PARISH

Representatives of the following organisations were invited to speak and answer any questions. Where received, their reports are attached to the Minutes.

- a) **Great Bricett Parish Council** – *Cllr Sue Burnett*
(Full report attached to these Minutes)

Report had been circulated prior to the meeting. No questions were asked.

- b) **Suffolk County Council** – *Cllr Kay Oakes*
(Full report attached to these Minutes)

Report had been circulated prior to the meeting. No questions were asked.

- c) **Mid-Suffolk District Council** – *Cllr Daniel Pratt*
(Full report attached to these Minutes)

Report had been circulated prior to the meeting. No questions were asked.

- d) **Village Hall Management Committee** – *Judy Walsh*
(Full report attached to these Minutes)

Report had been circulated prior to the meeting and Judy Walsh read through it.
No questions were asked.

- e) **Parochial Church Council (PCC)** – *Arland Shawe-Taylor*
(Full report attached to these Minutes)

Arland Shawe-Taylor was not present at the meeting. His report had been circulated prior to the meeting.

f) **Tree Warden** – *Cllr Sue Burnett*

Report had been circulated prior to the meeting. No questions were asked.

g) **Ringshall Primary School** – *Mr Gough*

(Full report attached to these Minutes)

Mr Gough was not present at the meeting. His report had been circulated prior to the meeting.

h) **Community Speed Watch** – *Cllr Sue Burnett*

(Full report attached to these Minutes)

Report had been circulated prior to the meeting. No questions were asked.

i) **Wattisham Airfield** – *Martin Kinsey*

Martin Kinsey was not present at the meeting and a report had not been received.

GB05/23/24 - PUBLIC FORUM

No issues were raised.

The meeting closed at 7.05pm.

Chairman

Date

Chairman's Report 2022-2023

On considering what to put in this report a good deal of brain strain was required to get my memories in order. So the chances are that the order of events may be out of sync!!

One of the most important events was the Planning Appeal concerning the Business Park, the Chair of Ringshall PC (Chris Payne) and I had a Zoom Meeting in June with one of the Planners from Mid Suffolk who was to lead the Appeal. The meeting was mostly to get local information from us.

In September the Appeal was held in Offton and Willisham village hall and lasted 4 days, Chris Payne and I attended every day and eventually the Appeal was successful.

Richard Morley, our Vice Chair also had a Planning issue to resolve regarding the damage to trees in Woodland View, the investigation into this is ongoing. It seems as though the Planning Department was less than efficient in dealing with this problem.

Little progress has been made with the Red Lion Pub which remains empty and boarded up, we hear various rumours that it has been purchased and will be a Public House again – none of these have come to fruition so far.

Andrew Auchterlonie has been on the case with moving the phone box to its new location outside the Village Hall and the Defibrillator has been installed. At the moment we have decided not to add anything else inside the phone box.

The new trees in the Community Woodland are looking healthy and hopefully all will have survived the very hot dry summer of last year, so many thanks to all the people who assisted with watering. Thanks also go to Derek Weston and Barry Abbott for their help during the year. We have signed a 5 year contract for the grass cutting but the majority of the grass will only be cut twice a year with 'pathways' cut more regularly to allow access and smaller wildflowers to grow. We have paid the £1 a year for the 20 year lease on the land and we agreed with Nick Thompson, the land owner, that that the £20 be donated to the Macmillan Charity.

During the year the Parish Council have been going through the process of registering the Green with the Land Registry, so that the ownership is with the Parish Council and the Village. This process is not quite complete.

With a number of houses being built in the Village the Parish Council has received a considerable sum of money from the Community Infrastructure Levy, we circulated a questionnaire to ask for suggestions for the use of this money. As yet no decision has been made.

Sue Burnett
Chair of the Parish Council

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April 2022

Violence Against Women and

Girls funding announced

Suffolk County Council has announced £350,000 of funding to support the ambitions set out in the Suffolk Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy 2022.

This fund has been provided by Suffolk County Council to support the work of the strategy in preventing violence, supporting victims, pursuing perpetrators and strengthening the system.

Organisations will be able to apply for this funding to support initiatives that are synonymous with the objectives of the strategy and aim to stop violence against women and girls.

Cllr Bobby Bennett, Cabinet Member for Equality and Communities, and chair of the Safer, Stronger Communities Board said:

This funding cements our continued commitment to protecting our communities. Our focus for these projects is women and girls, due to the gendered nature of the crimes, but there is also scope to include projects to support men and boys as well as those that are transgender, non-binary, and gender non-conforming. This is a real opportunity to boost funding across Suffolk to harness creativity and innovation to help tackle this very important issue.

The fund is to be launched in partnership with Suffolk Community Foundation. Any organisations wishing to make an application can do so by visiting [Suffolk Community Foundation](#) or contacting them on grants@suffolkcf.org.uk or 01473 602602.

Organisations can make an application for funding for up to £5,000 for pilot projects or up to £50,000 for projects which have already been piloted. These grants are available for up to 3 years.

Suffolk has launched its 3-year strategy for Violence Against Women and Girls, in line with the Government's plan to reduce and prevent this type of crime, improve collaboration between services and ensure perpetrators are brought to justice. The strategy has been prepared collaboratively by the Safer Stronger Communities Board (SSCB) – consisting of representatives from Suffolk County Council, district and borough councils, Suffolk Constabulary, Suffolk's Police & Crime Commissioner, community safety partnerships, health and probation services, the Norfolk & Suffolk Criminal Justice Board and Suffolk Safeguarding Partnership.

The SSCB have a shared commitment to tackle the incredibly important issue of Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) which includes, but is not limited to, domestic abuse, sexual violence, stalking, coercive and controlling behaviour, and revenge porn – all of which have a devastating impact on victim-survivors, families, and communities.

The Strategy is available to view online at: [Suffolk VAWG Strategy 2022-25](#)

150 miles of new road surfaces in Suffolk

Suffolk Highways begins its programme to resurface and surface dress 150 miles of new roads across 173 different sites across the county this year.

The two separate programmes provide new surfaces for vehicles to travel on, with the treatments expected to last between 5 and 20 years; depending on the type of treatment and volumes of vehicles using the roads amongst many other factors.

Road resurfacing is a process where the old surface is either overlaid with a new surface or removed to a certain depth and a new surface is applied, whereas surface dressing is a preventative process that is used to seal and improve the surface of the roads, slowing down the deterioration of the road surface and improving its skid resistance. The rapid speed of this process means that disruption to road users, local businesses and emergency services is minimised. The process involves an application of hot bitumen emulsion, followed by a layer of stone chips. Sites may be patched and prepared in advance of the surface dressing.

Following several trials across the UK, it has been demonstrated that the removal of some road markings can have a positive effect on road safety by reducing vehicle speeds. Therefore, road markings may not always be replaced like for like. This approach also supports the need for Suffolk Highways to reduce its ongoing maintenance liabilities.

As part of the surface dressing process, it is essential that once the road is reopened to traffic, the 20mph speed limit is adhered to, this avoids damage to vehicles and the slow-moving traffic further embeds the chippings. The road is swept at regular intervals to remove any excess chippings.

- First sweep: within 24 hours after completion of the works
- Second sweep: within 7 days after works are completed
- Third sweep (if required): within 14 days of works being completed.

Councillor Paul West, Suffolk County Council's cabinet member for Ipswich, operational highways and flooding, said:

Each year Suffolk Highways uses a range of data to identify a number of roads across our county that are in need of a new surface. This process covers over potholes, stops them from forming in future and provides a new surface for all to travel on. These programmes are extensive and weather-dependent, so regular progress updates will be issued via Twitter @Suff_highways and on the Suffolk County Council website. I appreciate that these works can be disruptive to Suffolk residents, however these improvements do provide long-term benefits to all and are very much welcome across the county.

For further details, including the programmes of work, please visit the [road resurfacing](#) and [surface dressing](#) pages. Both programmes are subject to change due to the operations being weather dependent. Therefore, they will be updated regularly.

May 2022

Council on course to plant 200,000 trees

Suffolk County Council has planted 198,547 trees across Suffolk in just the last two years (at an average of 272 per day).

Much of this was possible thanks to £400,000 of the council's own Suffolk 2020 Fund, to protect and encourage biodiversity in the county.

In one year, 198,547 average adult trees could absorb the equivalent CO2 emitted by:

- 8,845,898 miles travelled in a typical petrol car
- 903 typical household gas boilers running for a year
- 199 Suffolk residents each year

The planting includes 12 miles of new mixed native species hedgerows across 15 county farm holdings, delivering new wildlife habitat, ecological corridors and enhanced landscapes.

The council worked with many partners to make the tree planting a success, including The Woodland Trust, Suffolk Tree Warden Network, county farm tenants, landowners, local authorities and communities, and contractor Giles Landscapes.

Councillor Richard Rout, Suffolk County Council's cabinet member for Environment and Public Protection, said:

This amazing achievement would not have been possible without all the partners we work with, to whom I'm grateful for getting these trees in the ground. From the support of our exceptional Suffolk Tree Warden Network volunteers, through to the children at local schools, we really have put Suffolk on the UK map for tree planting. Once the healing wood is completed at Howard Community Academy later this year, we will have surpassed our target of 200,000 trees for Suffolk.

All the trees have been registered as part of the Queen's Green Canopy to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, and contribute to the continuing Suffolk-wide ambition of Creating the Greenest County.

June 2022

Suffolk leading the way in UK's water conservation

New scheme based in Felixstowe reuses over 800,000 tonnes of water.

Since its launch in February 2021 a unique scheme to the UK, based in Felixstowe, has saved over 800,000 tonnes of water being lost to the North Sea - and reused it to grow Suffolk crops.

Drainage water has traditionally been pumped away to the River Deben and North Sea, damaging saltmarsh along the way. Instead, it is now pumped back inland, conserving the saltmarsh and refilling 14 reservoirs, which six local farms are using to irrigate their crops.

Last week (9-10 June 2022) local landowners and national organisations were invited to visit the site, to hear first-hand from the scheme's operators, Felixstowe Hydrocycle, and from farmers who are benefitting from the scheme.

Organised by Suffolk County Council, working with the Environment Agency and University of East Anglia as key partners of the project, the event aimed to inspire more schemes to be trialled around Suffolk, the UK and Europe.

Councillor Steve Wiles, County Councillor for Felixstowe Coastal and Suffolk County Council's Deputy Cabinet Member for Highways, said:

I'm extremely proud that Suffolk and the council is a national leader with projects like this. I'm grateful for the vision and commitment shown by all the partners and landowners who are making this a success. Our region is a dry place and already faces challenges with its water supply – it's estimated that by 2050 we'll need to double our supply if we continue to use water at the current rate. Any way that we can conserve water is crucial and if we can do this whilst supporting our farmers and landowners, then it reaffirms Suffolk's importance to providing for the UK. This project epitomises the council's ambition to protect and enhance our environment. It also complements our aim for the authority, and Suffolk, to be Net Zero by 2030. Sustainable projects like this really do confirm how Suffolk can be the greenest county.

The Felixstowe scheme is one of only four being trialled across Europe, overseen by FRESH4Cs, a cooperation project between 10 UK, Belgian and Dutch partners. FRESH4Cs has received funding from the Interreg 2 Seas programme 2014-2020 co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund.

The drainage water is sourced from the Kingsfleet near Felixstowe and travels along a 12km pipeline to local farms where it is stored in existing reservoirs ready for irrigation. The pipeline route has been carefully plotted to avoid areas of conservation and archaeological sites.

Extra funding agreed by Cabinet to fund new SEND places

Funding for second phase of £45 million five-year project agreed by Cabinet.

Suffolk County Council's Cabinet has today agreed an additional £15.9million to complete the funding for the creation of at least 879 specialist places for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities.

This money marks the second phase of a £45million five-year project to deliver specialist provision for SEND students in Suffolk. These places include units attached to mainstream schools and three new special schools.

So far, 500 new places have opened across the county, with another 325 due to open between September 2022 and September 2024 under phase 1. The additional money will enable the completion of phase 2 of the project, and the creation of between 54 to 72 new places, depending on design and planning.

The new SEND places support the growing number of children and young people in Suffolk who need specialist help at school. Between September 2021 and May 2022 there have been 1,333 referrals for specialist placements for children currently in mainstream schools.

Rachel Hood, Cabinet member for education, SEND and skills at Suffolk County Council, said:

I have had the privilege of visiting some of these new units and seeing first-hand the significant difference they make to children and young people and their families. It is vital that we continue to increase not only the numbers of places we offer, but also the mix of help and support we offer so we can continue to meet the varied need of lots of young people. This significant investment shows our ongoing commitment to improving our SEND provision and making sure all children and young people in Suffolk have the best education to suit their needs.

Plans for new SEND places under phase 3 will come before Cabinet from September. The newly-approved £15.9million includes £6million to complete phase 2, £4.6million to cover overspend and a grant from the Department for Education of £5.3million.

The special schools include Castle EAST, a new communication and interaction school in north Suffolk; a new social, emotional and mental health school in west Suffolk named Sir Peter Hall; and a communication and interaction school in south Suffolk, Woodbridge Road Academy.

July 2022

County Councils unanimously agree “no” to damaging pylons proposal

Authorities in Essex and Suffolk have united to condemn the current proposals for a 180km network of 50m tall electricity pylons.

Essex County Council and Suffolk County Council have passed motions at their full council meetings in July, to oppose the East Anglia GREEN proposal put forward by National Grid for a 180km network of electricity pylons between Norwich, Bramford and Tilbury.

Norfolk County Council is expected to consider the motion at its next full council meeting, following a planned debate yesterday (19 July 2022) being postponed.

The councils agree that the plan for pylons is destructive and outdated, and will cause irreversible damage to the countryside, wildlife habitats and local communities.

A new electricity network is needed to transmit the ambitious 50 GW of offshore wind that the Government aims to be delivered by 2030, and to connect new projects like Sizewell C. So much of this ambition falls on East Anglia, to provide energy for much of the country.

The councils fully support the need to generate this renewable and low carbon electricity, to meet local and national Net Zero ambitions. However, they believe that more suitable, sustainable and modern alternatives for the network have not been properly investigated and presented, such as undersea cable routes around the coastline of East Anglia.

Formalising their long-standing positions on the East Anglia GREEN proposal, the two councils join a group of 13 MPs who recently signed a letter criticising the consultation, along with a growing public petition with thousands of signatures

Councillor Matthew Hicks, leader of Suffolk County Council, said:

We are sending a strong message with the councils coming together to reject this completely unacceptable project to get electricity onshore. There is significant momentum against the pylon proposal from our residents, businesses, and our MPs. There has been no clear and detailed information presented on alternatives, particularly an offshore solution. In Suffolk, we have been lobbying for strategic electricity networks since 2011 and we will continue stand firm alongside our neighbours to ensure that Suffolk, Norfolk, and Essex are not damaged by the serious shortcomings in these current plans.

National Grid completed the East Anglia GREEN non-statutory consultation in June and later this year, it is anticipated they will publish a report outlining the key themes from the feedback received and explain the next steps. They expect the first statutory consultation to take place in early 2023, with an application to the Planning Inspectorate in late 2024.

Council looks to protect Suffolk following Sizewell C decision

Suffolk County Council will now focus its attention on protecting Suffolk, ensuring that the county sees the maximum benefits from Sizewell C project.

Today (20 July 2022) the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy granted the Development Consent Order to build and operate a new nuclear power station, Sizewell C.

The council remains disappointed that a number of key issues have not been fully resolved, but is now looking ahead to the boosts for the local economy and protecting the local environment.

Whilst the council has been successful in securing many improvements to the scheme, it had raised several concerns where the impact on the natural environment could have been improved:

- The blight of the additional pylons at the main site
- Unnecessary and damaging outage car park at Goose Hill
- Sizewell Link Road should be removed after construction to prevent lasting damage to the environment.

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

During the process, the council’s voice has been strong, and our influence has resulted in a number of significant improvements to the proposals, to make them more acceptable for Suffolk. We have taken the concerns of Suffolk residents to the highest levels, from the Planning Inspectorate to the Secretary of State. We are disappointed that, in our opinion, some of these have not been listened to. It is now our role to ensure that as Sizewell C proceeds, it does so with the least possible impact on Suffolk’s residents and unique natural environment, whilst doing all we can to maximise the economic opportunities for our county.

The council has been instrumental in recent changes made to the proposals, which will see Suffolk benefit from nearly £200m of investment to mitigate the impact on communities, the environment and infrastructure. Assurances have also been secured to see a far greater quantity of construction materials will be delivered by rail and sea, reducing the number of lorries on the county’s rural roads.

Following the decision to grant the Sizewell C Development Consent Order, there is now a six week period in which judicial review challenges may be made. Subject to any legal challenges, Suffolk County Council will work with EDF Energy, local communities and local authorities, to ensure that the scheme is constructed accordingly and that opportunities for Suffolk are maximised.

[New routes added as Suffolk County Council issues updated HGV map](#)

A new map for hauliers plotting routes for journeys across Suffolk has been drawn up.

The Suffolk County Council Lorry Route Plan now incorporates new developments and roads, schemes such as Air Quality Management Areas, and changes in road safety on lorry routes.

Changes to the map include utilising new by-passes and link roads at Beccles, Eye and Haverhill to divert traffic away from town centres, and downgrading of routes at Leiston and Stowlangtoft. The new edition also features, for the first time, routes in Ipswich.

The map, compiled following a three-month consultation with all parish and town councils in Suffolk, was last updated in 2011 although a minor review was held in 2017.

While hauliers are not compelled to use the routes it does help them identify the best roads for their journey. It also discourages them from taking routes that can cause disruption, road safety concerns and environmental concerns to local communities.

Councillor Richard Smith, Suffolk County Council Cabinet member for Economic Development, Transport Strategy and Waste, said:

We have consulted with town and parish councils across Suffolk to establish what changes they would like to see. Where possible and practical to do so we have made changes but, inevitably, some people are going to be disappointed that changes they proposed could not be implemented. Suffolk is a predominantly rural county and we can only work within the road network available to us to accommodate modern-day traffic requirements.

Councillor Smith advised that parishes who feel that local HGV weight restriction traffic orders were not being adhered should sign up to the [Suffolk Lorry Watch](#) scheme. This is run by Trading Standards, in partnership with Suffolk Highways, who ensure weight restriction orders are enforced. These orders are in place to protect old or weak structures and minimise use of a route unless access is necessary.

[Read more about the review and view the new map here.](#)

August 2022

Council to boost electric vehicle charging across Suffolk

The council submitted a bid of £1,362,000 to the Department for Transport, as part of the Local EV Infrastructure (LEVI) pilot scheme.

Suffolk's residents and visitors will see further improvements to the county's electric vehicle (EV) charging network, following Suffolk County Council's successful bid to fund more charging points.

With additional contributions such as commercial funding, the project will see a total investment of around £2.75m.

The new LEVI funding will allow the council to develop the county's EV charging network by:

- PV solar power and battery storage upgrades to approximately 10 existing sites
- Installing community EV charging, PV solar power and battery storage at over 30 further sites in urban and rural areas
- Identifying key commercial sites for 7kW, rapid and ultra-rapid chargers, which will benefit the local community

Suffolk County Council has led the way in electric vehicle charging, following the launch of Plug In Suffolk in 2019. It was the UK's first 'fully open' public EV fast charging network and has seen other local authorities around the country follow that model.

Plug In Suffolk has now installed 100 charging points around the county, with an emphasis on installations in rural locations and supporting households without off-street charging capabilities.

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

This is excellent news for those living in Suffolk, and those who are visiting to enjoy everything our county has to offer. We have had over 70 expressions of interest for potential sites, which will offer over 200 new charging points, including proposals for installations of solar carports, as well as regular charging points. These are places such as community centres, village halls, sports clubs and park and ride sites, many of which are within walking distance of people who do not have access to off-street parking. Through Plug In Suffolk we have a history of successfully creating these EV charging community hubs, for example at the Coddendam Centre. We will now be able to create more sites like this, and working with parish councils and local groups makes the installations a real community effort.

This project contributes to Suffolk's commitment to be Net Zero by 2030. The Suffolk Climate Emergency Plan identified that decarbonisation of vehicles in Suffolk was a key aspect of meeting that target.

September 2022

Suffolk Roadsafe Partnership rolls out ANPR devices to target speeding motorists

Speeding motorists are to be targeted with a mobile number plate recognition system to be rolled out across Suffolk.

Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) will be rotated around sites where there is a problem with speeding or rat-running on roads with a 20 or 30mph speed limit.

The devices, 10 in total, will display the speeds of drivers to them as they approach, encouraging them to slow down.

If they continue to ignore the speed limit the ANPR camera will take a picture of them and record the date, time, speed, vehicle registration and a photo of the vehicle.

In certain cases, persistent offenders will be reported to Suffolk Constabulary and, while no one will be prosecuted as a direct result of the devices, they may be visited by a police officer who will speak to them about their driving.

The information shared with the police may also influence the deployment of speed enforcement vans to problem areas.

This project is part of the Suffolk Roadsafe Partnership between Suffolk County Council and Suffolk Constabulary.

Suffolk County Council provided £400,000 from the 2020 Fund to support a two-year trial.

A grant of £30,000 has also been awarded by the Road Safety Trust to evaluate the project and establish whether the camera scheme is effective in reducing speeding.

Councillor Paul West, Suffolk County Council Cabinet member for Ipswich, Operational Highways and Flooding, said:

Speeding traffic is a danger to everyone and a blight on the community it passes through. This scheme tackles this problem by reminding drivers that they need to slow down - and if they don't, they can expect to be contacted and told their driving is unacceptable. If it makes motorists reflect on how fast they drive and understand the need to slow down, then it has done its job.

Tim Passmore, Police and Crime Commissioner for Suffolk, said:

As a member of Suffolk Roadsafe I am very pleased to support this County Council initiative to improve road safety across the county. Speeding is one of the main issues the public raises with me, so anything we can do to remind drivers to keep to the speed limit is to be applauded.

October 2022

£7.8 million redevelopment of Foxhall Recycling Centre to begin

Work on a major expansion of the Foxhall Recycling Centre near Ipswich is set to begin.

RG Carter Ltd has been appointed by Suffolk County Council as contractor for the £7.8 million project, with work scheduled to start on October 17.

The new design will increase capacity for cars on site, reduce queuing and improve access from Foxhall Road, and provide greater capacity to meet future growth.

The site will have a raised level construction, giving better access to the containers for users without the need for stairs.

Containers can also be emptied without the need to close the site.

The funding includes £794,414 from East Suffolk Council through the Community Infrastructure Levy collected from new housing developments in the East Suffolk area.

Work is scheduled to complete in early 2024 and the site will remain open to the public during construction.

RG Carter will work alongside [Concertus Design and Property Consultants](#) on the scheme.

The project will be conducted in phases to keep the centre operational throughout the build, but at certain times this may result in fewer booking slots being available to the public.

The Re-use shop will change location in the new layout and will need to be closed for a period early next year to allow this to take place.

The project will also see the installation of a feeder lane from Foxhall Road, making access into the site safer.

Of the 11 recycling centres around the county Foxhall accounts for 19% of recycling and waste, collecting more than 12,500 tonnes a year.

Councillor Richard Smith, Cabinet member for Economic Development, Transport Strategy and Waste, said:

This is a significant investment in Foxhall recycling centre that will bring benefits to its users for many years to come. Whilst the centre will remain open during work this will be a complex project which will, inevitably, result in some disruption at times, so I would ask the public to be patient while improvements are being made. Foxhall is the busiest recycling centre in the county, so once complete this really will be a flagship site for Suffolk residents.

Councillor James Mallinder, East Suffolk Council's cabinet member for the Environment, said:

We are committed to making it as easy as possible for residents to dispose of their waste correctly, so it is fantastic to see Community Infrastructure Levy funds – which we collect from developers - support these essential improvements. Once completed, the work will help ensure the site is more user-friendly, accessible, and safe for everyone. Caring for the environment is one of East Suffolk Council's priorities and making the right choices when it comes to disposing of our waste makes a really positive contribution towards dealing with our climate concerns.

For more details about the scheme go to the [Suffolk Recycling website](#).

Next round of new SEND places agreed by Cabinet

The Council's Cabinet has this afternoon agreed a new wave of funding to continue its programme to provide places for children and young people with SEND.

The £3million agreement marks the start of Phase 3 of the Capital Programme to create three additional specialist units providing 42 additional places for students with special educational needs and disabilities. This follows Phase 1 of the programme which created 825 new places across Suffolk and Phase 2, which was signed off in June 2022, and will create up to 73 new places.

So far, £45million has been allocated by Suffolk County Council to deliver the new places for Phase 1 and Phase 2 - £15million of which has been provided by the Department for Education.

In addition, Cabinet also agreed to support the Department for Education's High Needs Provision Capital Funding (HNPCF) for 2023/24 of £7million to be spent on the development of units attached to mainstream schools to support students with social, emotional and mental health problems and speech, language and communication needs. This will create up to 168 new spaces, and is an addition to previous funding agreed from the Department for Education in 2022/23 for up to 78 new places.

The third item signed off today was Cabinet's support for the application for funding for two free schools from the Department for Education. One of these will be in east Suffolk and support children with severe learning difficulties and the second will be built in Sudbury for those with autistic spectrum disorder and complex social, emotional and mental health problems. If the bids are successful, both schools will teach children and young people from across Suffolk.

In total, Suffolk will deliver up to 1,317 new places for children and young people with SEND by 2025/26.

Rachel Hood, Cabinet member for Education, SEND and Skills at Suffolk County Council, said:

We are seeing a continued increase in demand for specialist places for children and young people with SEND in Suffolk and it is vital we continue to stay ahead of this increased demand. I have seen first-hand the positive impact that these units have for children with additional needs, and their families.

The next step for Phase 3 is for schools across Suffolk to express an interest in having a specialist unit and, following these expressions of interest, the most suitable sites will be chosen. This programme for improved provision is informed by the SEND Sufficiency Plan 2022-25.

New special schools opened in Suffolk include Castle EAST, a communication and interaction school in north Suffolk; a social, emotional and mental health school in west Suffolk named Sir Peter Hall; and a communication and interaction school in south Suffolk, Woodbridge Road Academy.

November 2022

£2.5 million saved on energy costs as LED streetlight project nears completion

A project with the aim of replacing all 43,400 streetlights across Suffolk with sustainable, longer-lasting, and cost-saving LED bulbs nears completion.

It has saved more than £2.5 million pounds so far.

The change to LED streetlights supports Suffolk County Council's aim to reduce carbon, light pollution, and bring down ongoing maintenance costs for the council, all whilst providing the best value to residents.

It was expected that the council would reduce costs by around 76%, however, the target was exceeded, with 77.64% savings made to date.

In June 2021, Bouygues Energies and Services were announced as the partner to deliver the project to upgrade 43,400 Suffolk streetlights with new, reduced energy LED lanterns. The total number of upgraded streetlights is currently at 40,692 excluding any of the Ipswich Borough Council, or Town/Parish council owned streetlights. There are approximately 1,700 upgrades

outstanding, which includes any remaining heritage lantern upgrades. It is hoped that around 1200 of the remaining lanterns will be completed by the end of the year.

Prior to the commencement of the project, Suffolk Highways contacted towns and parishes to provide them with the opportunity to have their parish-council owned street-lighting upgraded at the same time. All heritage-style lanterns are also being upgraded as part of the project.

The upgrade of the lighting system will include a further rollout of SCC's central management system which will allow lights to be switched on or off and dim individual or groups of lights.

This smart technology will increase the control the council has over its power consumption which will further reduce costs. The system will also automatically flag any lights that are not working which reduces the need for night-time inspections.

Councillor Paul West, Suffolk County Council's Cabinet Member Ipswich, Operational Highways and Flooding, said:

It has been very exciting to see the incredible progress made on the LED streetlight replacement over the past 15 months. Our partner contractor, Bouygues has shown such resilience throughout which has resulted in a very well-managed programme and successful project. The shift over to these new LED lanterns has enabled the council to save a considerable amount on energy costs and supported our organisation's ambition to become carbon-neutral organisation by 2030. I would like to extend my congratulations and thank you to all those working on this project and ensuring its resounding success. I look forward to seeing its continued positive impact in the coming years as we reap the benefits of stronger, cheaper and more environmentally friendly streetlights.

Suffolk County Council adopts new Streets Guide for building more sustainable, people-first developments

Ground-breaking new guidelines for developers to help them design sustainable and low-carbon neighbourhoods have been launched by Suffolk County Council.

The [Suffolk Design: Streets Guide](#) is the first document of its kind to prioritise walking and cycling in the routes people will use - and the infrastructure required to make them safe and attractive - over the needs of private vehicles.

The guide can also be used by highway engineers, drainage engineers and Public Rights of Way officers in responding to planning applications and in the technical review and approval of new highways infrastructure.

While not compulsory, the guide has been prepared with Suffolk's other authorities using [government policies, guidance and best practice](#).

It replaces the Suffolk Design Guide for Residential Areas, last updated in 2000, and has been drawn up with [Stantec – a global leader in sustainable design and engineering](#).

In 2019, every local authority in Suffolk declared or acknowledged a climate emergency.

The design of streets has a significant role to play in the reduction of carbon emissions by prioritising walking, wheeling, cycling and access to public transport, as well as managing the effects of flooding through effective sustainable drainage systems.

By placing greater priority on designing for people as pedestrians - whether wheeled or walkers - and cyclists, the council is contributing to its ambitions for reducing carbon.

Councillor Richard Smith, Suffolk County Council Cabinet member for Economic Development, Transport Strategy and Waste, said that as the authority responsible for public rights of way the council has an important role in helping the planning system support transition to a low-carbon future.

Streets are more than just routes to travel or park, they provide places to enjoy, where people meet and socialise, they define the character of our towns and villages and support how our utilities are provided underground to our homes and businesses. All these different elements need careful consideration as we look forward to a low carbon future and adapt to climate change, so in this context, a street design guide needs to be much more than a prescriptive guidance document. It needs to provide a basis for designers to interpret and deliver streets and places that reflect much broader objectives such as increasing social value, better accessibility, helping to achieve a low carbon future, ensuring better air quality and enhanced biodiversity.

Suffolk Archives receives national accreditation

Suffolk Archives Service has received its Provisional Archive Service Accreditation from The National Archives.

Representatives from The National Archives visited The Hold on Ipswich Waterfront on Friday 11 November, where they met staff from Suffolk Archives and were given a tour of the new archives and heritage centre building. The Hold is a partnership between Suffolk County Council and the University of Suffolk and was partly funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

Members of partnership organisations, heritage groups and volunteers from across the county also attended the celebratory event, which showcased the work that has been achieved in transforming and diversifying the archives service.

The visit comes just over a year since the building was officially opened by His Royal Highness The Duke of Gloucester and provided an opportunity for Suffolk Archives to be officially presented with their Provisional Archive Service Accreditation.

The accreditation defines good practice and agrees standards for archive services across the UK. It allows archive services to participate in a scheme supporting the ongoing development of their service against a nationally agreed standard.

Councillor Bobby Bennett, Suffolk County Council’s Cabinet Member for Equality and Communities said:

I am delighted that after being delayed by the pandemic, Suffolk Archives has now been officially presented with their certificate of Provisional Accreditation. Suffolk Archives preserves our local history so that people of all ages and backgrounds can discover more about their heritage, and this national accreditation formally recognises the important work they do.

New scheme ‘Multiply Suffolk’ to offer adults a chance to improve their numeracy skills

A new initiative named Multiply Suffolk, which will offer adults an opportunity to improve their numeracy skills, has launched in Suffolk.

The scheme is for those who do not already have a GCSE grade C/4 or higher in Maths or equivalent.

Adults can sign up for free courses and activities including Money Management and Numeracy for Parents/Carers. Unaccredited, informal learning as well as Level 1 and Level 2 accredited learning is available to residents on either a part-time or intensive basis and are offered in flexible settings to fit around people’s lives.

Multiply Suffolk has been created thanks to a £3.7m government investment from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund aimed at boosting opportunities for more people to progress and secure well-paid jobs. SCC’s Multiply Suffolk Team will work with subcontractors Realise Futures and Menta to deliver the scheme.

Councillor Rachel Hood, Cabinet Member for Education, SEND and Skills said:

This is an exciting new initiative that will help adult learners across the county. The scheme is aimed at improving numeracy skills, and it has been widely shown that people who improve their numeracy skills are more likely to be in employment, have higher wages and have better mental well-being. We are pleased to be delivering Multiply Suffolk alongside Realise Futures and MENTA and I hope that adults in Suffolk take full advantage of the scheme.

Multiply Suffolk was officially launched during the adult learning engagement event at Trinity Park, Ipswich on 9 November 2022.

For more information and/or to sign up for the scheme visit: <https://learnsuffolk.org/multiply-coming-soon/>

Funding awarded for projects to stop violence against Women and Girls

Almost £300,000 of funding has been allocated to six new projects which aim to support victims and prevent violence against Women and Girls.

At the beginning of 2022 Suffolk, launched its [Violence Against Women & Girls Strategy for 2022-2025](#).

Alongside the strategy, Suffolk County Council released more than £350,000 of funding, to be allocated across two phases, so that bidding organisations could help progress the aims and ambitions that had been identified in the Strategy including preventing violence, supporting victims, pursuing perpetrators and strengthening the system.

The fund has been administered by the [Suffolk Community Foundation](#) with all decisions carefully considered and made by the county's Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Steering Group. The VAWG Steering Group includes representation from Police, Police & Crime Commissioner, Health, County Council, District & Borough Councils, Anglia Care Trust, Probation and representatives for Voluntary & Community Sector organisations representing victims and survivors.

The VAWG Steering Group are pleased to announce that the following organisations have been successful organisations and three-year projects have been awarded as follows in phase one:

Families Together Suffolk - To provide 1:1 emotional support through the keeping safe programme. The programme also offers practical support around patterns of domestic abuse and forming healthy future relationships. Families Together Suffolk (FTS) also run a Dads Group which allows them to build trusting relationships with those who attend and start conversations as men often have abusive partners too. Visit [Families Together Suffolk to find out more](#).

Fresh Start - new beginnings - To reach children and young people who are slipping through the net. The request will pay for an outreach worker to raise awareness of sexual abuse, sexual violence and exploitation of children and young people with staff and managers of supported accommodation, children's homes, and education facilities. In addition to this, Fresh Start New Beginnings will run workshops with CYP and families to raise awareness and help through the disclosure process. Visit [Fresh Start new beginnings to find out more](#).

Lighthouse Women's Aid - Grant request towards a newly developed children and families service for women and children suffering Domestic Abuse. The programme includes advice sessions (including legal, debt and child contact arrangements); Emotional Literacy Support Assistants; Stronger families' programme. Visit [Lighthouse Women's Aid to find out more](#).

Suffolk Law Centre - The grant will help to fund a caseworker, supervisor, and paralegal to support domestic abuse survivors in Suffolk to access legal advice and representation. Visit the [Suffolk Law Centre website to find out more](#).

Terrence Higgins Trust - This grant will expand current Relationships and Sex Education service for children and young people to tackle VAWG problems through six, eight or twelve week programmes, one off workshops, weekly zoom meetings and drop-in clinics at schools and pupil referral units. The sessions will focus on healthy relationships, wellbeing, consent, empowerment, safety planning, signposting, support, and information. In addition to this, there will be professional training around these topics including online safety, safety planning, how to support young people in abusive relationships. Visit [Terrence Higgins Trust to find out more](#).

The Mix Stowmarket - To expand the diadem project; a group of up to 12 young people aged 13-23 where topics are discussed, including healthy friendships, the fine line between banter and bullying, safe romantic relationships, spotting the signs of exploitative relationships, coercion, consent, and body image. The project aims to increase confidence and self-esteem and will be offered to females, non-binary people, people with special educational needs, those from LGBTQIA+ community and the programme will be developed and offered to males to recognise their role in VAWG. The mix will also develop posters, short films (for use in schools and other venues) and 121 support. Visit [The Mix Stowmarket to find out more](#).

Councillor Bobby Bennett, Cabinet Member for Equality and Communities, said:

It is so important that many valuable projects will be supported through this fund. I have no doubt that they will succeed in making a difference to those that need it throughout the lifetime of the current strategy and its objectives. This is another positive step in our efforts to prevent Violence Against Women & Girls in Suffolk.

Successful projects for phase two funding will be announced in January 2023. Suffolk's Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy for 2022 – 2025 can be viewed on the [Suffolk County Council website](#).

December 2022

Historic half a billion pound devolution deal hands Suffolk regeneration and skills powers to level up

A landmark devolution deal, which puts money and power over building, regeneration and skills into the hands of leaders in Suffolk will be signed today.

Suffolk will be devolved power over their Adult Education budget, so they can shape provision in a way that best suits the needs of the local community and will receive immediate support to build new affordable homes on brownfield sites, as well as more capital funding to improve energy efficiency in houses.

The deal will also see Suffolk County Council handed control over a £480 million investment fund – this will be guaranteed for the next thirty years. This will enable the county to drive growth and plan for the long-term with certainty as it looks to level up and unlock its full economic potential.

Suffolk will also get a directly elected leader of the council. This not only provides a single person who is accountable to the people of Suffolk but gives the county a local champion who can attract investment and be a stronger voice in discussions with central government.

The Levelling Up Secretary will today attend a ceremony in Bury St Edmunds with Cllr Matthew Hicks to officially sign the deal. Michael Gove will also visit Norfolk to sign a devolution agreement with Norfolk County Council, which will transfer further money and power out of Whitehall. The deals follow Cornwall Council who just last week signed their own devolution deal with the government, unlocking powers and long-term funding of £360 million.

With three new devolution deals signed in the last seven days, 50% of England will now be covered by a devolution deal and reaffirms the government's commitment in the Levelling Up White Paper to offer a devolution deal to any area that wants one by 2030.

The deal also sets out the government's plans to devolve more power to Suffolk County Council through:

- **Investment:** It will bring decades of funding worth £480 million to improve the lives of Suffolk's residents and spend on their local priorities.
- **Housing:** The deal will provide £5.8 million to regenerate brownfield land into beautiful, affordable homes and drive economic growth across the area; Suffolk will also receive greater compulsory purchase powers.
- **Education:** The agreement devolves the Adult Education Budget so they can shape provision in a way that best suits the needs of residents and the local Suffolk economy.
- **Transport:** An integrated transport settlement starting in 2024/25, to support the area to improve key transport infrastructure priorities.
- **The Environment:** The new deal will help Suffolk deliver on its ambitions to be the country's greenest county with £3 million to improve energy efficiency in homes.

Levelling Up Secretary Michael Gove, said:

I said we would give devolution deals to all that wanted them and today we are keeping that promise by putting power into the hands of the people who know best what Suffolk needs so they can level up the county and unleash its full economic potential.

It is now people in places like Ipswich, Felixstowe and Newmarket who will have a greater say on how their areas are run. Because we know important decisions are best taken by those who know their areas inside out, not by those many miles away in Whitehall.

This new deal will empower leaders in Suffolk to shape policies and direct spending to address issues that are unique to them, and I will commit to working with them even further to help drive through that change.

Cllr Matthew Hicks, Leader of Suffolk County Council, said:

This devolution deal is the first of its kind between the Government and a county council, making it a truly historic moment for Suffolk. The deal recognises Suffolk's ambitions, would put more powers in the hands of local people and bring more than half a billion pounds of investment into the county.

On the table are greater decision-making powers around transport, infrastructure, skills and more resources to help us achieve our net zero ambitions. Ultimately, this significant additional investment will improve the lives and outcomes of Suffolk's residents.

Devolution is a journey, not a one-off event. This deal for Suffolk is the first step towards an exciting future for our great county.

These deals are just the first steps in transferring power away from Whitehall into areas that want them. The East Anglian agreements mean that six of 13 places invited to negotiate devolution deals in the Levelling Up White Paper have now signed agreements with government. Suffolk and Norfolk join Cornwall – who signed their own deal just last week - York and North

Yorkshire, and the East Midlands who have already signed devolution deals this year - these deals equate to another five million being covered by a devolution deal in 2022 alone.

The deal is now subject to local consultation, a council resolution to change their governance model so that electors directly elect the council leader, and elements, such as the transfer of new powers, require parliamentary approval to secondary legislation. The deal envisages the election of a directly elected leader in May 2024. Subject to the passing of the relevant measures in the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill, Suffolk and Norfolk would call the directly elected person the “elected leader” of the County Council.

[Proposed agreement for a devolution deal between the government and Suffolk County Council \(gov.uk\)](#)

January 2023

Council to protect frontline services and increase funding in budget proposal

Adult care services and children’s services will receive £47m more funding as part of Suffolk County Council’s £685m budget proposals, published today.

Adult care services and children’s services will receive £47m more funding as part of Suffolk County Council’s £685m budget proposals, published today.

Despite an incredibly challenging economic climate, the council has been able to produce a balanced budget. This will protect the services that people rely on the most and continue to care for the most vulnerable, which accounts for 75% of the whole budget.

Adult care services will have £34m more in their budget, and children's services will have a further £13m. This will help with the extra expense needed to meet the huge increase in demands for services, as well as higher costs due to inflation.

The budget-setting has been achieved with input from the council's partners, officers, departments and notably, Suffolk residents. Over 2,600 local people contributed to an online survey and focus groups, asking where they would spend more money, spend less money, and their views on Council Tax.

The top service areas where people wanted to spend more, were social care services for adults and children.

Some of the service areas where people also said they wanted to see more money spent, will receive additional funding:

- £700,000 for SEND services to support new recruitment, which is on top of the £1.1m invested this year
- £500,000 for Highways: to use environmentally friendly weed treatments, and stop using glyphosate which can damage wildlife
- £110,000 for tree management: to support the 'right tree right place' policy, having an appropriate inspection regime and supporting the resulting tree management requirements.
- £45,000 for Citizens Advice: to support work during cost of living challenges

A budget gap for next year - the difference between what money is available and what needs to be spent - had already been identified, resulting in savings of £15.5m for next year.

Under the proposals, the council's budget would increase by 9.6% (from £625.3m to £685.3). Additional funds would come from a total 3.99% increase in Council Tax, and an increase in funds from the Government for adult and children's social care.

Regarding Council Tax, the proposed 3.99% increase would be made up of a 1.99% increase in general Council Tax and a 2.00% increase dedicated to funding adult care.

This means costs for a household would look like:

- Band B property: £22.32 per week (85 pence per week increase from 2022-23)
(Band B properties are the most common in Suffolk)
- Band D property: £28.70 per week (£1.10 pence per week increase from 2022-23)

The proposed budget will be discussed at the council's Scrutiny meeting on 10 January 2023, then presented at the Cabinet meeting on 24 January, with the final budget debated and voted on at Full Council on 9 February.

The Scrutiny meeting will be available to stream on [Suffolk County Council's YouTube channel](#), and public questions can be submitted in advance, details available at www.suffolk.gov.uk

Read [papers for the SCC Scrutiny meeting on 10 January 2023 here](#).

Suffolk County Council has reduced its carbon emissions by 15% (or 4,000 tonnes CO₂e) in the last two years, on its ambitious journey to net zero by 2030.

The council has been keen to lead from the front with its ambition to reduce its own emissions and energy costs, while inspiring and supporting others to do the same.

It is one of only a few local authorities in the country to publish a 'Carbon Budget'. This looks in detail at its environmental impact, to identify actions and costs needed to reduce emissions.

Calculating the council's carbon emissions is a complex process. Papers released last month, ahead of a Council Scrutiny Committee meeting on 9 January, explain the work that the council has been doing in the last year, as it works towards net zero by 2030.

The council is reducing the emissions that it is directly responsible for, following a £12.8m 'spend to save' investment to decarbonise its buildings, making them more energy efficient and cheaper to run.

Changes it is making include moving its small vehicle fleet to fully electric by 2025, it has upgraded street lighting across the county, changed to a renewable electricity tariff, and is increasing the number of solar panels across its estate.

But one of the elements that will determine the council's progress to net zero, is the ambition shown by the businesses in its supply chain. Although these are not carbon emissions directly produced by the council, its suppliers and contractors still affect the council's target.

The Carbon Budget will be presented at a Scrutiny Committee meeting on 9 January, and will then be discussed at the Full Council meeting on 9 February 2023.

More information on support available to businesses and residents can be found at www.greensuffolk.org

February 2023

New highways services arriving in Suffolk as multi-million-pound contract awarded

Milestone Infrastructure, part of M Group Services, has been awarded Suffolk's new highways services contract, which will begin on 1 October 2023.

Following an extensive procurement exercise, Suffolk County Council has confirmed Milestone will be its new contract partner for up to 20 years. The new partnership, which is worth in the region of £800 million - £1 billion, will be delivering highway projects and improvements across Suffolk, including but not limited to maintaining roads, pavements and rights of way, drainage, hedge trimming, construction of new road schemes, snow-clearing and gritting.

When searching for its new highways partner, the county council worked with leading industry analysts to understand the different types of arrangements that other local authorities have in place, to look at which specialist providers are in the marketplace, and to find out what aspects of contract agreement may work best for Suffolk.

The council wanted the new contract to focus on delivering greater social value, utilising local skills and talent, giving young people the opportunity to work in the sector as well as building on the council's commitment to carbon reduction and protecting the environment.

A rigorous procurement exercise was carried out over many months, with various stages of discussions with service providers, to evolve their solutions to meet the various contractual requirements and deliver an effective and efficient highway service for Suffolk. Final submissions were evaluated and extensively moderated before the final winning contract was awarded.

Fire service finalises plan to protect Suffolk's communities

Councillor Andrew Reid, Cabinet Member for Public Health and Public Protection, brought the CRMP to Cabinet to seek approval for its adoption from April 2023.

The plan details Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service's priorities until 2027, including:

- Updating how response times are reported to include from the time of call and focus on the areas of highest risk, such as dwelling fires
- Addressing climate change to support Suffolk County Council's ambition to be a carbon-neutral authority by 2030, with a view to introducing more non-fossil fuel vehicles in the fleet
- Developing preventative safe and well visits, including continued work with the National Farmers' Union to tailor advice to rural and farming communities

- Assessing how the service works with partner agencies, such as supporting the ambulance service when appropriate and if capacity and resources allow for this
- Reviewing the recruitment and retention of on-call firefighters and specialist support staff to ensure Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service remains a diverse employer of choice

These priorities were identified during extensive research and pre-consultation engagement with staff and stakeholders. In addition, hundreds of Suffolk residents helped to inform the final document by providing feedback on proposals during the CRMP public consultation, which ran from October to December 2022 and included a series of public events held at six supermarkets across the county.

Jon Lacey, Chief Fire Officer for Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service, said:

Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service has a fantastic reputation both regionally and nationally, as demonstrated by His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) recently rating us as "Good" for our effectiveness and well we manage staff.

Our new CRMP will allow this great work to continue, with it identifying risk and how we can reduce this to ensure that Suffolk is a safe and healthy place to live.

The document also considers emerging challenges for our county, including an increase in wildfires and floods as a result of climate change, helping us to plan ahead and remain a resilient service that is there for you when you need us most.

Suffolk County Council will support Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service with implementing its CRMP and has allocated over £5.3million to fleet replacement in its 2023/24 budget, which includes the purchase of 20 state-of-the-art fire engines to ensure that firefighters have the equipment needed to help meet the service's priorities.

The new CRMP replaces Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service's previous Integrated Risk Management Plan, which was implemented following approval by Cabinet in July 2019

**Mid Suffolk District Councillors' Annual Report (2022/23)
For the Great Bricett Annual Parish Meeting on Tuesday 9th May 2023**

Climate Change and Biodiversity

- Mid Suffolk and Babergh became the first rural authorities to commission a full tree canopy survey as part of the Biodiversity Action Plan
- The solar carport at Mid Suffolk Leisure Centre is now producing electricity for the leisure centre in Stowmarket.
- The Duck and Teapot Café at Needham Lake opened in Spring 2022 and is a great asset to the popular visitor attraction.
- Mid Suffolk's tree planting scheme has funded and supplied trees for the Community Woodland in Great Bricett.
- The Councillors Locality Award helped funding towards a new wildlife pond in Great Bricett and plant a glade in Battisford recreation ground.
- The 'Tree for Life' project continues annually to plant a tree for every new child in the district.
- MSDC secured a 2.5 acre plot of riparian margin land on the Rattlesden River in Combs Ford. The site will be safeguarded and allowed to regenerate naturally.
- Following the adoption of the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure plan the community path between Woolpit and Elmswell has been identified as a pilot project.

Housing

- MSDC and Babergh Councils launched Central Suffolk Lettings to increase access to good housing across the districts.
- The Council continues to help households with Disabled Facilities grants and as well as enabling homeless people to access suitable housing.

Planning

- There is currently a technical consultation period about the Babergh and Mid Suffolk Joint Local plan part 1, following the recommendations of the inspector. MSDC currently has over 10 years housing land supply.
- No MSDC planning decision have been overturned at appeal during the past 2 years.
- Locally, an appeal was made against the planning decision which refused an application to site 69 mobile homes on Great Bricett Business Park. The appeal was dismissed for the following reasons: (i) the proposed development did not make adequate provision for affordable housing, and (ii) the location of the proposed development did not enable access to services by a range of transport modes.

Cost of Living

- The Council adopted a 5-point action plan in May 2022 to ensure that residents get the help that they are entitled.
- Over 34,000 households were helped using the Government's Council Tax Energy Rebate, and several 'Warm Space' projects were supported.
- Several one-off grants were awarded to community organisations to keep buildings open without passing on increased energy costs to users.
- Barking Village Hall received over £1,300 from the MSDC Winter Warmth Fund.

Economy

- The virtual high street continues to help retail businesses in Needham Market, Stowmarket and Eye. The council also put on Careeriosity fairs for school pupils in the district.
- Gateway 14 development is well underway. A large part of the site is now being constructed for The Range logistics hub, which hopes to bring in over 1,600 jobs to the district. The whole site should benefit from good walking and cycling connections and green corridors.

- The Innovation Awards project rewarded some local small businesses including Natural Building Systems Ltd based in Palgrave, Modeca Architects and Virtually There Studios, both based in Stowmarket,

Communities

- Ringshall Parish Council was awarded £20,500 towards a new play area in the grounds of the village hall.
- I was pleased to be able to allocate all of the locality budget to community groups across the villages for the following projects:
 - Installation of an Induction Hearing Loop system in Ringshall Village Hall
 - Updating the audio visual equipment at Offton and Willisham Village Hall
 - Creation of patio area at the Battsford Punchbowl community pub
 - Extension of toilets and refurbishment of showers adding a disabled toilet and baby change at Battsford and District Cricket Club
 - A wellbeing garden at Ringshall Primary School
 - Two wheelchair accessible picnic benches at Battsford recreation ground.

Following the election of new councillors in May 2023 there will be another round of Locality Funding announced.

Mid Suffolk District Council information is available via www.midsuffolk.gov.uk or by phone **0300 123 4000**

The end of term report can be found here: <https://bmsdchosting.net/End-of-Term-Report/Mid-Suffolk-District-Council-2019-2022/>

We would like to thank the Parish Council for all their work done throughout the year.

Dan Pratt Mid Suffolk District Councillor – Battsford and Ringshall Ward Email: daniel.pratt@midsuffolk.gov.uk Phone: 0777 5389193

Village Hall Report

As everyone is aware the last few years have been very challenging but for the Village Hall have also been very productive. The Village Hall has undergone many changes over the last few years thanks to the restrictions of Covid and a number of grants due to those restrictions. We have been able to redecorate throughout, have a new kitchen fitted including new flooring, a new oven and refrigerator, a fire door between the hall and the kitchen and new flooring in the lobby. We have also been able to redesign the garden behind the hall and the work on that is almost completed thanks to the hard work of Mick and Linda.

This year, thankfully, it was back to business as usual and bookings have been steady. A new monthly Men's night was introduced and swiftly followed by a Ladies' night both of which have proved very popular. The Craft club was suspended during the winter but is restarting on 15th March. The Christmas period was very busy and coffee mornings are again proving very popular. A new outside light focused on the car park and fitted with a time switch will make the hall much safer for those leaving after dark.

We are looking ahead to the coming year when we will be celebrating the Coronation of King Charles the third as well as providing a number of entertainments and events for the benefit of the Village and its Hall.

Judy Walsh

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL REPORT - May 2023

May I first record the thanks from the PCC for the continued support from the Parish Council with churchyard mowing and for providing the illumination of the South side of church during the winter months. With the support of Kate & Phil Hatch we were also able to illuminate the North side of the church again this year. We remain grateful to Oliver Cooper and Nick Thomson for providing parking space for special occasions and services.

During the year the church architect completed the required 5 yearly inspection of the building. In addition to the many repairs carried over from previous reports there are new concerns about possible movement of the porch and the reopening of cracks in the SE corner which had been repaired during the roof works.

One of the next significant repairs to the building is the replacement of the unsightly cement render around the lower sections of the inner walls with breathable lime render. After some discussions with the church approval authorities the PCC has recently been given approval for this repair. The eventual cost is expected to be in the region of £25,000 and applications for supporting grants are being prepared.

As a reminder we are one of eight churches under the care of Rev Dan Harrison and we continue to have our regular monthly service of communion on the 3rd Sunday.

Arland Shawe-Taylor
Churchwarden

Report for Ringshall Parish Council May 9th 2023

This report will give an overview of the learning provision in place at Ringshall Primary School during the 2022/23 academic year. It will also give an overview of the school's current plans and its plans for the future.

What is the school focusing on currently?

The 2022/23 academic year has been a busy and positive one so far. It has been a year full of diverse learning opportunities for the children with lots of visitors, trips and outside learning taking place. Our core curriculum is now well established and teachers are becoming ever more adept at modifying it to best suit the needs of our pupils.

School Development Plan

In September 2022 the school launched its new 'School Development Plan' setting out the school's priorities for the year. Looking through the lens of our development plan is perhaps the best way to review our year so far and explain what our plan will be going forward. Our development plan priorities are;

- A Trauma Informed Approach
- Improve pupil outcomes in Mathematics
- Subject leaders drive excellence across the school
- Inclusion of all vulnerable groups
- Every child a fluent reader with an expansive vocabulary

A Trauma Informed Approach

A major change this year is the adoption of a Trauma Informed Approach. We have modified our behaviour, wellbeing and nurture procedures and policies in order to ensure they are consistent with a 'Trauma Informed' approach. All staff have had training in supporting children's mental health and wellbeing using a Trauma Informed approach, with the headteacher completing a Diploma in 'Trauma Informed' practice. Mr Gough is now a registered 'Trauma Informed Practitioner.'

A trauma informed school is one that is able to support all children with their trauma or mental health needs and aims to support those children whose troubled behaviour acts as a barrier to learning. The approach centres around having a positive and empathic response to children that heal minds, brains and bodies. Key conversational skills in addressing and making sense of what has happened are central to this work, as is a shift in the whole school's culture.

Please follow this link for more information on Trauma Informed Schools - <https://www.traumainformedschools.co.uk/>

Improve pupil outcomes in Mathematics

Mathematics has been a focus this year. Whilst our maths results are not low they have lagged behind our reading and writing results. So this year we have had a major focus on developing our maths teaching and learning. A new Maths leader has been appointed and, after much research, a new maths policy document has been produced that changes the way we deliver maths.

This change in approach has been accompanied by staff training and the purchase of additional resources. As with any change, the focus has been on staff learning and development to ensure confidence with the new approach. Maths CPD sessions are run at least once a half term in staff meetings as well as on PD days and within ad-hoc staff training sessions.

Subject leaders drive excellence across the school

Strong subject leaders ensure high standards of teaching and learning across the school. With that in mind ensuring excellent subject leadership has been a priority. Subject leadership CPD sessions have been run this year in staff meetings, on PD days and as ad-hoc staff training sessions with experts from the trust. Our teachers have also played a full role in Trust wide subject leadership termly meetings. These meetings develop teachers' subject specific knowledge, subject leadership skills and help them make useful contacts across the Trust. These sessions have taken place on numerous occasions since the start of the school year to support each and every curriculum subject.

The leadership of the school continues to develop teaching practice using the 'Walk Thrus' book as a focus for pedagogy improvement. The areas selected apply to teaching in all subjects. Subject leaders are also expected to use these when assessing and monitoring lessons in their subject. Subject leaders need to monitor teachers termly and provide CPD in staff meetings.

All subject leaders have also created, and continue to update, a subject policy document called the 'Ringshall Way.' The idea of having a document like this for each subject is that it supports consistency and high quality teaching in each and every subject. This is because subject leaders have written down and explained to all teachers their expectations for their subjects. These documents can be reviewed at any time and are available on the website.

All teachers have a subject leadership responsibility, with the exception of our one 'Early Career Teacher' in EYFS. This leadership requirement, combined with an emphasis on a distributive leadership approach across the school, ensures that we consistently deliver a high quality, broad and balanced curriculum with no subjects being considered a poor relation.

Inclusion of all vulnerable groups

We continue to be committed to supporting all our pupils, especially the most vulnerable. We work hard and commit a great deal of resources to ensure our SEN support, SEN resources and SEN staff training are excellent and meet the needs of our pupils to the highest possible standard.

We want to support all our children's wellbeing and mental health. This has been a key priority at Ringshall School for some time and will continue to be a focus in the future. Again this year, our nurture sessions have been expanded.

The school has also focused on providing numerous fun and enriching activities to develop the children's general wellbeing, mental health and cultural capital. This year has been packed with many exciting enrichment activities. For example, just in the last few weeks the school has had visits from professional musicians, an expansion of our club offering such as yoga club and ukulele club, numerous virtual author visits in every key stage, further outdoor learning, themed days, such as Alice in Wonderland day and Number day, and other experiences such as Mental Health week and the launch of Mindful Monday.

Please see our Twitter feed for more information - [@RingshallPS](#)

Linked to our enrichment activities we continue to run our 'Mindful Monday,' (formally Wellbeing Wednesday). This is our weekly mental health focus day. This is a day, once a week, devoted to developing a healthy body and mind. We have a Lyfta Empathy assembly, the mindful minute meditation, zones of regulation work and the daily mile.

Every Child a Fluent reader with an expansive vocabulary

This year we have continued to work hard to develop a culture of reading and vocabulary development. All subjects review core vocabulary at the start of a lesson. There has been an expansion in cross curricular reading and reading comprehension. The library has continued to be developed and upgraded as we invest in more new books and reading materials. The timetable now allows for greater time to read and has more reading class time than previously. Reading and vocabulary have been prioritised in all curriculum subjects, not just English. We continue to focus on whole class reading as our central strategy to teach the skills of reading, but also use a variety of interventions of other teaching techniques to further develop reading skills.

On a final note

This has been a very positive year for Ringshall School, full of many exciting experiences and learning activities for the children. This has been the first full year of 'Parent Cafe's,' our termly open afternoon for parents to come in and work with their children in class on a particular subject. It has also been the first year without COVID restrictions, which has led to an huge increase in the number and diversity of activities the children have been able to partake in.

In fact, it's been such a busy year that the only way to fully appreciate it is by looking at our Twitter feed or the news section of our website. See below for links;

Twitter - [@RingshallPS](#)

News sections - <https://www.ringshallprimary.co.uk/our-school/latest-news>

As always, Ringshall Primary School intends to position itself fully within the communities it serves. Developing links and partnerships within the community is a central ambition for the school as it moves forward. If you have any questions. Please don't hesitate to contact me.

Community Speedwatch (CSW) Report

Bill Dewick and I have continued to do Speedwatch over the past year, this has sometimes been difficult due to bad weather and ill health. However, we persevered and have done this whenever we could. More volunteers would be very welcome.

The reporting system has become much more efficient and I completed a Zoom meeting to learn the new system and also meet some volunteers from other villages.

I have also been in touch with Martin Kinsey at Wattisham Airfield in the hope that we could replicate a system being employed by a private person in Ringshall in co-operation with Wattisham – to report speeding Army personnel to Mr Kinsey. However, having contacted the Community Speedwatch Team, we have been informed we cannot use our equipment for this purpose as we ‘work’ for this team and it would breach Data Protection.

SID – the Speed Indicator Device has been used in three places this year and we would like to thank Arland Shaw -Taylor for being prepared to move the device at regular intervals. The data collected from this machine is stored in the hope that it will prove useful in the future.

I think a campaign to try and recruit some more volunteers would be a good idea, as we do have the appropriate equipment, this would have to be in co-ordination with the CSW as volunteers have to be police approved.

Sue Burnett
Speedwatch Co-ordinator

Tree Warden Report

A short report.

I have been in touch with the Tree Warden Network and receive regular Whatsapps from them which contain useful information and opinions. There has been a change of the organising team and I hope to join in some of their events in the next year.

As you probably realise there is very little for a tree warden to do in the village although if asked I can ask the Tree Warden Network for advice.

Sue Burnett
Tree Warden