

## CHARSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of Meeting Held on Tuesday, 16<sup>th</sup> November 2021

**Present:** Councillors Pedgrift, (Chair), Moor (Vice Chair), Laird, Haird, McArthur, Sharp and Pam Hembra (Parish Clerk)

Tony Fryatt, District Councillor, Elaine Bryce, County Councillor

**Members of the Public:**

		<b>Action</b>
<b>1.</b>	<b>Apologies and Approval of Absence</b>	
	Councillor Murray	
<b>2.</b>	<b>Declarations of Interest</b>	
	Recreation Ground	
<b>3.</b>	<b>Approval of Minutes of the Meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2021</b>	
	Minutes were approved and signed by Councillor Pedgrift.	
<b>4.</b>	<b>Progress Reports for Information or Matters Arising</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Finger Post Plaques – Councillor Pedgrift has now received the location map and has reported one broken sign.</li> <li>- The grass verge has still not been cut – Councillor Bryce will look into.</li> <li>- Cameraman video – SALC advised us to seek help from ICO on whether it would be legal to film motorists.</li> </ul>	<b>Clerk</b>
<b>5.</b>	<p><b>Points from the public</b> – A chance for the public to raise matters of interest relevant</p> <p><b>Monewden Airfield</b> As Councillor Pedgrift declared an interest in this topic Councillor Moor chaired this item.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Clerk to Cretingham, Monewden and Hoo Parish Council has been informed that Monewden residents have been monitoring the airfield and believed the permitted number of movements (400) had been exceeded this year.</li> <li>- The owners of the airfield log all take offs and landings and believe there had been a total of 356 movements.</li> <li>- It was also suggested that non permitted aircraft may have used the site.</li> <li>- It was reported that helicopters are allowed to land on private property but do not land at the airfield.</li> <li>- A resident of Charsfield felt the noise levels have been intolerable this year.</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Due to the lockdown at the beginning of the year flying had been restricted therefore more flights were undertaken in a shorter period of time.</li> <li>- There had been two very busy days this year – one on 10<sup>th</sup> July for members when 33 aircraft were present and their charity open day on 29<sup>th</sup> August when 59 aircraft were present.</li> <li>- Most people using the airfield are visiting local people and are not just flying around. Historically there had been complaints when a flying club had operated out of Monewden but this was no longer the case.</li> <li>- Aircraft fly out of two or three other local airfields and therefore planes flying over are not necessarily from Monewden.</li> <li>- Hopefully with more electric aircraft there will be less noise.</li> </ul> <p>Councillor Moor, having read the Certificate of Lawful Development relevant to Monewden Airfield, pointed out that she believed only five aircraft were allowed to operate out of Monewden airfield. She recommended that the owners of the airfield contact the District Council to clarify this point. Any queries residents have in respect of operations should be directed to the District Council Planning Department and any noise complaints should be directed to the Environmental Health Department</p> <p><b>St Peters Meadow</b> Excavations have taken place behind No 6 St Peter’s Close taking out a 7 ft bank of earth but there is now a foot wall of earth piled against the fence of No 6. The Planning Department have been asked to come and check the safety aspect.</p> <p><b>Bridge Garage</b> Mike Willson had expressed concern about rumours the garage was closing down because they have not heard from Planning as yet and therefore could not start improvement work. The Parish Council hoped the fencing would be no higher than at present.</p>	
<p><b>6.</b></p>	<p><b>Reports</b></p> <p>6.1 County Council – report below Councillor Bryce was happy to be used as a conduit for items connected to Highways etc. The budget for Highways had been cut by £4M last year.</p> <p>6.2 District Council – report below</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Very good plan for the environment</li> <li>- On line event for eco farming on 19<sup>th</sup> November 2-4 pm by zoom</li> <li>- East Suffolk Survey – post Covid</li> <li>- Affordable housing</li> <li>- Sustainable housing</li> <li>- Walking and Cycling Strategy</li> </ul>	

	<p>- Community Partnership – Tom McGarry (Head of PR) will cooperate with the road network in this area will be a member of the Community Partnership.</p> <p>CIL – Parish Councils had been asked to comment on draft proposals for revising the current CIL scheme in ES and Waveney. There seems a large increase in the charge to developers in our area from £192 to £300. There is currently a White paper looking at a national CIL policy. There had been some input from Councillor Moor and incorporating this input The Clerk and Councillor Pedgrift would complete a submission.</p> <p>6.3 Recreation Ground</p> <p>6.4 Village Hall</p>																
<b>7.</b>	<p><b>Road Safety</b></p> <p>7.1 East Suffolk Community Partnership Road Safety Forums – A Jolliffe to speak to County Councillors. Should be out by end of week. We had indicated our willingness to participate.</p> <p>7.2 ANPR – the PC have submitted the application form</p> <p>7.3 Road Safety Week – unfortunately we had not taken any action.</p> <p>7.4 Road Safety Funding – the PC will apply for funding for signs near Bridge Garage. Several parishes applying for funding. Additional CIL Funding a possibility in the future. Councillor Bryce will endeavour to get our original quotation updated prior to our application.</p>																
<b>8.</b>	<p><b>Section 106 Grants</b></p> <p>Planning Application – PC to write to ESC to ask whether a district or development joint heating system could be considered under Section 106 for the development at the rear of St Peters Close.</p>	<b>Chair/ Clerk</b>															
<b>9.</b>	<p><b>Council Tax Reduction Scheme Proposals</b></p> <p>The PC felt that they had been asked to comment as a council with no supporting documents available. The only way to obtain the necessary information was to access the survey which appeared to have been drawn up by consultants. Councillor Fryatt was made aware of our feelings and the PC will write to ESC explaining why they will not be making a submission.</p>	<b>Chair/ clerk</b>															
<b>10.</b>	<b>Planning:</b>																
<b>11.</b>	<p><b>Finance</b></p> <p>11.1 To authorise payments as listed below:</p>																
	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Date</th> <th>Detail</th> <th>Ref</th> <th>Power</th> <th>Amount</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>12/10/2021</td> <td>PKF Littlejohn - Audit</td> <td>Bank Transfer</td> <td>LGA 1972 s 111</td> <td>£48.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>12/10/2021</td> <td>SALC – Payroll Services</td> <td>Bank Transfer</td> <td>LGA 1972 s 111</td> <td>£22.80</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Date	Detail	Ref	Power	Amount	12/10/2021	PKF Littlejohn - Audit	Bank Transfer	LGA 1972 s 111	£48.00	12/10/2021	SALC – Payroll Services	Bank Transfer	LGA 1972 s 111	£22.80	
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	25/10/2021	Marshalls – Cyril’s Tree	Bank Transfer	PHA 1875 s 164	£29.98	
	11.2	Bank Balance as at 31 <sup>st</sup> August 2021 – £7,234.63				<b>Clerk</b>
	11.3	Budget 2022-2023 – Clerk to send out draft budget				
<b>12.</b>	<b>Neighbourhood Plan</b>					
	As a result of the second Sub Committee meeting it was agreed it would not be cost and time effective to proceed with a neighbourhood plan at the present time but to keep this as an option for the future once the population of the village had increased..					
<b>13.</b>	<b>The Queen’s Platinum Jubilee 2022 and the Festival of Suffolk 2022</b>					
	Councillor Haird reported that this is slowly coming together. She was getting together a team and having a meeting with the school next week with the hope that a member of staff will come on board. Possibly have a public meeting in the New Year to gather new ideas and help. So far proposed:. Charsfest, and exhibition in Village Hall etc. PC to look at providing a beacon. Councillor Haird will approach a possible source of supply.					<b>PC</b>
<b>14.</b>	<b>Queen’s Green Canopy Initiative - <a href="https://queensgreencanopy.org/">https://queensgreencanopy.org/</a></b> Stephen Fletcher may have a possible site. He will hopefully come to next meeting to elaborate.					
<b>15.</b>	<b>Winter Fuel Payments</b> The Surviving Winter Appeal, set up by Citizen’s Advice and Community Foundation – there is a pot for individuals to apply to get help for the winter. Contact Citizens Advice on 01473 298634. Each individual applying is assessed and given whatever help they require. Councillor Pedgrift to send round an email saying help is available and also put an entry in Parish Magazine.  The Joseph Kersey Trust still has money available.					
<b>16.</b>	<b>Cyril Kindred Memorial</b> The tree has been ordered. Site has been identified on Recreation Ground by the boundary of the Chapel Graveyard. £435.02 remaining for bench. Alan Ward is going to concrete in slabs for siting the bench. Bench to be ordered from same company as the new Recreation Ground picnic table.					
<b>17.</b>	<b>Memorial for Percy</b>					
	It is unlikely that the land known as Percy’s orchard will be available to purchase so it was agreed to launch an appear for a memorial to Percy, suggesting a bench to be sited in St Peter’s churchyard. PCC to be approached to obtain permission for this.					<b>Clerk/ Chair</b>
<b>18.</b>	<b>Defibrillator Training</b>					
	This would cost £175 + VAT with a maximum of 50 participants and last 1.5 to 2 hours. Could we offer a familiarisation session instead? Councillor Pedgrift to publish the dates when she does the monthly check and invite anyone interested to examine the equipment with her.					<b>Chair</b>

<b>19.</b>	<b>Emergency Plan</b>	
	<p>Once new councillors names are added this will be redistributed.</p> <p>Emergency suitcase had become obscured in the store room and the Village Hall Committee are to be asked to allocate a prominent place for it, possibly a dedicated shelf.</p> <p>Councillors Pedgrift, Moor and the Clerk need to be notified of village hall key code changes.</p>	<p><b>Clerk</b></p> <p><b>Clerk</b></p>
<b>20.</b>	<b>Councillor Training</b>	
	<p>SALC have apologised as they are still trying to catch up and demand for the on line training has been high. They have developed some e-learning courses which cost £14 plus VAT.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Introduction for Town and Parish Councils</li> <li>- Introduction to Planning for Town and Parish Councils</li> </ul> <p>New Councillors would prefer to meet face to face or do the on line training rather than the E Learning.</p>	<b>Clerk</b>
<b>18.</b>	<b>Telephone Kiosk</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Hoping this might be glazed next month</li> </ul>	
<b>19.</b>	<b>Village Historian – Update</b>	
	<p>John Fox visited Bernard Catchpole in early October. They had a very valuable couple of hours discussing his Charsfield memories. Over the winter this will be transcribed and the recording made and further interaction to clarify points. When we are back to warmer weather, Bernard would like to take a small group round the village describing past places, people and events.</p> <p>A Display Board - “Charsfield in Early Victorian Times” – has been put up in the churchyard.</p> <p>Contact from Canada made re Charsfield ancestors in the 1800s.</p>	
<b>20.</b>	<b>Village Website – Up-date</b>	
	Still waiting for a meeting.	
<b>22.</b>	<b>Date of Next Meetings</b>	
	<p>18<sup>th</sup> January 2022</p> <p>15<sup>th</sup> March 2022</p>	
	The meeting closed at 21.45 pm.	

## **East Suffolk Council**

### **November Ward Report by Tony Fryatt**

#### **Environmental Activities.**

East Suffolk have been very active to plan what we could be doing for the drive to zero carbon emissions during the COP26 activities. The four headline actions are as follows;\_

#### **Lead by example**

We have pledged to become a carbon neutral council by 2030, which means we will look for environmental benefit in everything we do – this includes radical changes to our vehicle fleets and mileage usage, council buildings and new build housing stock to ensure they contribute to our carbon neutral aims. We will work with communities to establish opportunities for biodiversity and will promote digital solutions to minimise our carbon footprint.

#### **Minimise waste, reuse materials, increase recycling**

We will minimise waste generated throughout the district, encourage the reuse of materials and increase our recycling rates.

#### **Renewable energy**

We will explore new ways of encouraging and investing in the use of renewable energy, both in terms of our own consumption as a council and the ways we can offer support to our residents and businesses as part of addressing climate change.

#### **Protection, education and influence**

We will use our influence at all levels, our regulatory functions and appropriate enforcement to protect our natural environment including our outstanding coastline. This includes working through our community and business partnerships to achieve environmental gain and establishing a network of environmental champions throughout the district.

#### **Free event focuses on eco-friendly agriculture**

A free online event is taking place next month to explore examples of eco-friendly agriculture in East Suffolk and how others can follow.

Titled ‘Farming Today, Fit for Tomorrow’, attendees can learn more about sustainable farming and how we can all help to fight climate change by thinking about how our food is grown.

Organised by the [East Suffolk Greenprint Forum](#), the event will include guest speakers from Suffolk Farming & Wildlife Advisory Group, Oak Tree Community Farm, Maple Farm Kelsale, Peach and Pippin, Wakelyns Agroforestry and Fobbing Farm.

The event is taking place on Friday 19 November at 2pm – 4pm on Zoom and is open to everyone, however, registration is required at [https://my.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/service/Greenprint\\_Forum\\_event\\_registration](https://my.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/service/Greenprint_Forum_event_registration)

## Surveys and consultations

We are currently running some surveys and consultations and, as always, we want to encourage participation as feedback from people in East Suffolk is invaluable and helps us ensure we're making the right decisions for our communities.

- **East Suffolk survey**

We're asking people who live and work in East Suffolk to take part in a short service to help us shape East Suffolk. After such a difficult period, we would like to know what they think, what matters most to them and where we should be spending our money. The survey closes on 29 November: <https://eu.surveymonkey.com/r/EastSuffolkSurvey>

- **The Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document**

Consultation on draft document which will provide guidance on the implementation of our affordable housing planning policies. People are able to comment until 13 December at <https://eastsuffolk.inconsult.uk/ESAFFHSGDRAFT/consultationHome>

- **The Sustainable Construction Supplementary Planning Document**

Consultation on draft document which will provide guidance on our planning policies on sustainable construction, including guidance on a range of topics relating to the construction of environmentally sustainable buildings. People have until 13 December to comment: <https://eastsuffolk.inconsult.uk/SUSCONSPDDRAFT/consultationHome>

- **The draft East Suffolk Cycling and Walking Strategy**

Consultation on draft document which provides a district-wide shortlist of cycling and walking infrastructure opportunities. The strategy aims to encourage greater use of sustainable forms of transport, reduce contributions to climate change, support the growth of the tourism industry, and to improve the health and wellbeing of residents by ensuring more trips to work, school, leisure, day-to-day errands, or public transport hubs, such as train stations or park and ride sites, are accessible by bike or on foot. Once adopted, this strategy will replace the Waveney Cycle Strategy (2016) and will cover the whole of the district. People can have their say on the consultation until 10 January at <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/cbc57e4a9cc24eaea7d174fb34b1bf0e>

## Social media

We keep our communities up to date in a variety of ways and social media has an important role to play.

Please follow us and share our posts with your audiences!

Facebook:

[www.facebook.com/eastsuffolkcouncil](http://www.facebook.com/eastsuffolkcouncil)

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/EastSuffolk>

## **Community Partnerships**

Following the Community Partnership meeting in early October they have presented an outline plan for funding proposals for the rest of the financial year.

The organiser of the partnership writes:

There is approximately £15,000 remaining in our budget for 21/22 which should be spent on addressing our current priority – Road and Traffic Safety. At the recent meeting several suggestions were made as options to address this priority, many of which focused on increasing capacity in the assets we already have.

We are now inviting applications for funding from our stakeholders until 17<sup>th</sup> December 2021. Some key points to note;

- Funding should only address Road and Traffic Safety as a priority at this point.
- Applications should be made on the attached outcome proposal form. Support in completing these applications is available.
- Submissions should be made to myself before the deadline of 17<sup>th</sup> December 2021.
- It is expected that any proposals are discussed with myself prior to submission. This is to avoid duplication and to ensure value for money.
- Consideration should be given to working in partnership with others where possible, and increasing provision of currently successful schemes is also welcomed.
- Opportunities to discuss funding options are available via Teams upon request.

We have also held meetings of the East Suffolk Community Partnership to discuss roads and road safety issues in our area. These have been well attended by local Parish members. One significant outcome was that the Sizewell C representatives will now participate in the Partnership meetings and address the potential problems raised by the Parish Councils. This will enable them to tailor the changes to respond to the local problems raised.

## **Draft East Suffolk Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Charging Schedule.**

The Planning Policy Team held a public consultation from Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> November .

They have issued the following statement:

The council have prepared a single East Suffolk CIL Charging Schedule (to replace the two separate CIL Charging Schedules in places for the former Suffolk Coastal and former Waveney areas). As part of the process an East Suffolk CIL Instalments Policy has been prepared, which allows the payment of CIL in instalments (as with the CIL Charging Schedules, there are currently two separate Instalment Policies, one for the former Waveney area, and one for the former Suffolk Coastal area).

The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is “a charge which can be levied by local authorities on new development in their area. It is an important tool for local authorities to use to help them deliver the infrastructure needed to support development in their area” (Planning Practice Guidance on CIL). CIL works alongside planning obligations (made under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990), which are used to secure on-site infrastructure and some other elements, the most significant of which is often affordable housing.

To view the consultation material, including supporting information, please visit [www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/planning-policy-consultations](http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/planning-policy-consultations).

[Tony Fryatt 12 November 2021](#)



## Suffolk County Council – Councillor Bryce

### HEALTH

#### **Extra COVID-19 support heading to Suffolk**

Public health bosses in Suffolk have welcomed the Government's commitment to provide extra resources to help fight COVID-19 in the county.

It comes as pressure on the county's hospitals is reaching critical levels due to more people needing treatment - and some of the highest rates of infection in the country.

A request for additional support was submitted earlier this week by Public Health Suffolk - on behalf of public sector partners - and is intended to secure in additional support, funding and resources to help the NHS avoid unsustainable pressure. The additional support will include:

- Support for the vaccination efforts by extending opening hours and creating pop up vaccination clinic within our communities
- Help to coordinate on the ground door knocking campaigns
- Help to reduce transmission in schools with increased testing and additional temporary powers
- Funding for COVID-19 awareness raising communications and advertising.

**Cllr Matthew Hicks, chair Suffolk's Local Outbreak Engagement Board and leader of Suffolk County Council, said:**

"I very much welcome this additional help and funding from the Government. It will support our already considerable efforts to get more people vaccinated and to slow the spread of COVID-19 in Suffolk.

"Throughout the pandemic, Suffolk has been effective at keeping our COVID rates low compared to other parts of the country. This is because we have worked hard and been proactive at every stage.

"The situation facing Suffolk now calls for the same forward-thinking and preventative work to protect residents, businesses and our way of life.

"As we learn to live with COVID-19, it will be actions such as this that prevent COVID from having an even worse impact and, ultimately, holding back our recovery."

**From Monday 1 November**, Suffolk will therefore become an 'enhanced response area' (ERA) for up to five weeks. This approach has already been used in other parts of the country to help reduce the rate of COVID-19 transmission within the community and is also being taken in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough at the same time.

To help reduce the spread, residents in Suffolk are now being encouraged to:

- Get fully vaccinated and your booster when it's due
- Wash your hands regularly with soap and water
- Always wear a face covering in crowded areas

- Ventilate indoor spaces
- Get tested regularly and stay at home if you feel unwell

It's the latest move to slow the spread of virus which has made a particular impact among Suffolk's school age children and, consequently, their parents and grandparents. Earlier this month, additional measures, including siblings of children with COVID self-isolating, restrictions on visits to schools and older children and adults wearing face masks, were reintroduced. The face mask policy starts on Monday 1 November.

*Any such support does not mean any additional restrictions on people's movements or actions. It is not a lockdown or like the tiering system that was trialled in England in 2020. Instead, it will boost the county's ability to raise awareness, tackle outbreaks and encourage people to get vaccinated.*

## Face masks back as additional measures brought in to reduce Covid-19 transmission in Suffolk schools and education settings

From October 20<sup>th</sup> face masks and restrictions on visitors are to be reintroduced to Suffolk schools to help slow the current rate of transmission in education settings.

SCC are advising that the following measures be implemented from the 1 November 2021.

- **Staff** in all education settings (primary, secondary, and higher education) to wear face coverings in communal areas outside of the classroom, unless exempt for medical reasons.
- **Students** in all secondary and higher education settings to wear face coverings in communal areas outside of the classroom, unless exempt for medical reasons.
- All education settings to restrict entry to their site to essential visitors only.
- Any visitors to wear a face covering while on-site, this includes adults collecting children in the playground.

On October 6, SCC introduced a new sibling policy, which advised children and young people aged between 4 and 18 years to stay at home when a sibling they live with tests positive for COVID-19. This applies to schools with an outbreak of Covid-19 and is still in place.

The number of cases within children and young people aged 10-14 has increased by almost 15% and cases amongst 15-19-year-olds has increased by 32% in the past week of data. This means that in October alone school children in Suffolk have lost 26,264 days of education due to positive cases of Covid-19. There has also been an increase in cases amongst other age ranges across Suffolk, which may be due in part, to family transmission.

These measures will be reviewed during the week commencing Monday 15 November 2021.

**Stuart Keeble, Director of Public Health said:**

“We have seen the number of Suffolk pupils with covid-19 increase so are working with schools to implement these additional measures immediately to help break the chain of transmission.

“We are taking these numbers seriously and school leaders are being extremely vigilant to ensure children and staff safe. If parents have concerns, we would advise them to speak to their schools who will be able to reassure parents of the measures they are taking.

“Our main focus is to balance pupil and staff safety whilst giving children as positive and normal education as possible.”

## **TRANSPORT**

### **Cabinet to study £50 million plan to boost Suffolk bus services**

On October 7<sup>th</sup> 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

The Cabinet meeting takes place on Tuesday 12 October at 2pm.

Read the:

- [agenda containing the full report](#)

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

## **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

**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](#)

## **ENVIRONMENT**

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

It was announced on October 15<sup>th</sup> 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.

## **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).

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

“The county council has the ambitious goal to be Net Zero by 2030 and further countywide aspirations set out in the Suffolk Climate Emergency Plan. So it's important that we are actively reviewing all the choices we make across the council and our wholly-owned companies. Vertas, Opus and Concertus are great examples of this, from making seemingly small changes such as swapping out canteen cutlery, to larger infrastructure decisions. But for me, these are perfect examples that every carbon reduction change we make, is a positive one.

“Every decision we make as individuals or businesses will have a positive impact on carbon emissions, energy saving and climate change. Of course, the council and its companies still have work to do, but we're proud of the progress we're making and I thank all staff who are making positive choices, no matter how small.”

The Awards provide an excellent opportunity for individuals, businesses, communities, schools and voluntary organisations to be celebrated for the environmental work they do to combat climate change, or simply for improving the area where they live.

Nominations for the Awards have now closed and the winner will be announced on 12<sup>th</sup> November. Read more at [The 2021 Suffolk Creating Greenest County Awards \(greensuffolk.org\)](https://greensuffolk.org)

## **88 local leaders come together before COP26 to set ambitious Net Zero targets**

On October 21<sup>st</sup> Suffolk County Council signed up to the NGO UK100's 'Net Zero Pledge'.

There are now 88 cross-party local leaders, representing over half of the UK population and 34,030,804 million people, committed to meeting Net Zero at least five years earlier than the UK government.

In the weeks ahead of COP26, the annual UN climate conference hosted in 2021 by the UK, 23 more council leaders from all four corners of the UK signed up to the NGO UK100's 'Net Zero Pledge'.

The **new UK100 members** include South Tyneside Council, **Suffolk County Council**, Portsmouth City Council, East Ayrshire Council and Greater London Authority.

The new commitments, from rural and metro councils alike across the UK, come just over a week before COP26, with Councillor Douglas Reid highlighting the "innovative thinking and practical work" to meet Net Zero in East Ayrshire, Scotland.

### **Councillor Matthew Hicks, Leader of Suffolk County Council, said:**

"Rising to the challenge of climate change has long been a top priority for Suffolk County Council; our Greenest County Awards started back in 2007, we were amongst the first councils to declare a Climate Emergency, and we've an ambitious goal to be a net zero authority by 2030.

"In Suffolk, we're planting hundreds of thousands of trees, rolling out over 100 rural EV charging points, ensuring battery storage and renewable energy generation are a firm part of our estate, installing intelligent LED street lighting, and much more. So I'm delighted to join the UK100's Net Zero Pledge.

"We know that to address climate change everyone in our society needs to act; whether that's a local council, a school, community organisation, businesses, or each of us as individuals. We all need to think about the choices we make in our day to day lives. This is why Suffolk Public Sector Leaders have agreed the Suffolk Climate Emergency Plan, which will help drive a green economic recovery in our county and make sure everyone in our communities can be involved.

"I'm delighted to see so many councils making our environment a clear priority and coming together under the UK100 banner. It's only by working together locally, nationally, and internationally that we'll deliver the change that's needed."

## **PLANNING AND INFRASTRUCTURE:**

### **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 12<sup>th</sup> 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."



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

“The County Council has long stated its support for renewable energy generation and the Government has quite rightly set ambitious targets in this area. However, to deliver on these it is essential that public support is maintained for the necessary transformation of the energy system. This means a much more coordinated approach is needed, with more transmission being delivered offshore. We must also see full engagement with our communities so that they and our unique natural environment are protected.”

## **Suffolk County Council pledges to take its outstanding Sizewell concerns to the Secretary of State and the Government**

As the Sizewell C Examination draws to a close, Suffolk County Council has set out in its final response.

The council has raised a number of important concerns that it now feels must be taken up directly with the Government’s Secretary of State on behalf of the communities of Suffolk.

Throughout the many rounds of consultation and examination of EDF Energy’s plans and proposals for a new nuclear plant on the Suffolk coast under the name SZC Co, the county council has used every opportunity to promote the community’s response, influencing and moving many aspects of the initial proposal into a much more considered proposition.

The latest proposals include a promise of a great deal of new investment from the energy supplier into local infrastructure, upskilling local people and compensating the local economy and environmental impacts that the project would pose if it went ahead.

In its final response, submitted to the Examining Authority on Tuesday 12 October 2021, Suffolk County Council has made its position clear that while much has been achieved during the last 12 months, the additional pylons around the site continue to pose significant blight to the natural landscape and character of the area. This comes after alternative options were rejected by EDF Energy. There remains concern that EDF Energy’s current surface water drainage strategy is not fit for purpose which is very important given the scale of the development. The county council is therefore saying there is still more work to be done.

The council wants to see the removal of the planned Sizewell Link Road after the power station is built to avoid a lasting impact on the environment.

At present, an auxiliary car park used during station maintenance outages is planned for land which is classed as part of the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty at Goose Hill, this would damage natural habitats unnecessarily.

The other area of concern is the design of the planned road crossing through the local Site of Specific Scientific Interest (SSSI). Although the design has moved in the right direction through positive stakeholder discussion, it does not represent the desired ‘Three-Span’ Bridge which the council has pushed for to provide greater protection to local wildlife and natural habitat.

**Suffolk County Council’s Deputy Leader, Councillor Richard Rout said:**

“As the examination into the proposed Sizewell C development closes, the County Council still has a number of concerns that we feel we must raise at the highest level with the Secretary of State on behalf of the communities we represent. We need to ensure that the

mitigation put in place for such a huge development offers the maximum protection of Suffolk's unique natural environment and our communities. We will continue to put forward a voice for Suffolk.

"Over the last 12 months we have made great progress seeking maximum value for Suffolk. We have secured pledges for investment in the region of £175m, covering environmental protection, highways development, and increasingly delivery in local housing, skills and tourism. We have also secured concessions which would ensure far more of the construction materials required for the development will be delivered by rail and sea, reducing the number of lorries on our rural county's roads.

"However, there remain a number of issues outstanding that we want to see addressed, most notably the blight of the additional pylons at the main site, the unnecessary and damaging outage car park at Goose Hill, and our firm view that the Sizewell Link Road should be removed after construction to prevent lasting damage to the environment. These issues are of such importance to us and to Suffolk that we feel the Secretary of State should consider them when reaching a final decision.

"The County Council and the Suffolk community, in giving such effective evidence as part of the examination, has significantly improved EDF Energy's proposals but we still believe there are areas that should be improved further to make the project the very best it can be, should the Secretary of State approve it."

Read the county council's response in full on the [Sizewell C nuclear power plant page](#).

## **EDUCATION:**

### **500<sup>th</sup> independent journey made by young people and adults with SEND**

It was announced on October 22<sup>nd</sup> that students with special educational needs and disabilities have completed more than 500 journeys on public transport after taking part in travel training.

The travel training helps build self-esteem and confidence by supporting young people and adults to use all forms of public transport, or walking routes. Trainers work one-to-one with the students to enable them to travel to their place of education or for work.

Commissioned by Suffolk County Council in 2015, the Independent Travel Training Service is delivered by Essex County Council and has helped more than 500 students across the county.

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

"This travel training is an absolute lifeline for young people and adults.

"It teaches them very practical skills about how to use public transport which will stay with them through adulthood and gives them confidence in their own independence which undoubtedly benefits other aspects of their lives.

"My priority is to ensure all children and young people, including those with SEND, are given the very best start in life. This travel training is vital to achieve this aspiration."

Tony, 21, has just completed his travel training. He was shown how to get to school on two buses, before being taught another route to get to college and he now uses the bus to meet friends and watch Ipswich Town.

**Tony said:**

“I have become much more independent and can do it on my own now.

“It means I don’t have to rely on my mum for lifts everywhere. I have learnt about road safety, what route to take and how to pay the bus driver.”

**Another student, Kelly, 21, said:**

“I have learnt how to read a timetable and get on the right bus. I am a lot more confident on the bus now.”

Callum, 21, who has had training since 2017 whilst at school, then when he went to college and recently to his work, said he would recommend the training.

The three students were presented with a certificate by Suffolk County Council Chairman, Councillor Graham Newman, at a ceremony today after completing their training.

WS Training is one of the many establishments that support SEND students and the Travel Training Service in Suffolk. The company offers a diverse study programme including apprenticeships, work experience and employment support. For more information visit: [Home | WS Training](#)

“As we learn to live with COVID-19, it will be actions such as this that prevent COVID from having an even worse impact and, ultimately, holding back our recovery.”