

# LEADER'S MONTHLY BULLETIN

June 2025

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Welcome to another edition of my monthly bulletin, which aims to keep councillors, officers and town and parish councils up to date on the previous month's main news stories and any emerging issues from the district.

*Caroline*



## TAKING CARE OF YOUR CONCERNS

I'm pleased to be tackling East Suffolk and county-wide issues 'head on' and discussing these concerns directly with decision makers in London. Along with Cllr Tom Daly, Chris Bally and Beth from the Energy Planning team, I recently visited Lord Hunt in Whitehall to discuss Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) and have also just been to Westminster with the other District and Borough Leaders to meet Baroness Taylor to discuss

LGR and our proposals for a multi-unitary arrangement in Suffolk.

In addition, over the summer, East Suffolk officers and councillors will be visiting towns around the district, chatting to local people about our plans, our services and how we are looking to improve lives throughout East Suffolk.

[Join us at our next event in Kesgrave on 25 June.](#)

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# FEEDBACK ON INTERIM PROPOSALS RECEIVED

The Government have now provided [feedback to our Interim Plan for Local Government Reorganisation](#).

In March, an interim report was submitted to Government by Suffolk's district and borough councils

In a joint statement Babergh District Council, East Suffolk Council, Ipswich Borough Council, Mid Suffolk District Council and West Suffolk Council said:

"We have just received the Government's response which supports us moving our proposals forward. We will now be looking through the feedback in detail to ensure the final proposals we submit in September not only meet the guidance set by Government, but crucially provide better outcomes for our communities.

"Multiple unitaries are vital in order to keep councils truly local to the people they serve and to meet the differing needs and aspirations of our county's diverse communities. Providing a locally based unitary authority big enough to deliver but small enough to care. We will be sharing further information over coming days and look forward to continuing our engagement and conversation with partners, businesses and communities."

The interim report submitted to Government by the borough and district councils said creating multiple unitary authorities for Suffolk would achieve greater outcomes for residents, grow the economy and provide flexible solutions to meet the needs of local communities – in a way that a single mega-council covering a vast geographical area would fail to do.

A multiple unitary model also offers a balanced approach to the governance of the Norfolk and Suffolk Mayoral Combined Authority, ensuring fair representation for Suffolk residents.

# SHAPING SUFFOLK'S FUTURE TOGETHER

Suffolk's five district and borough councils have launched a county-wide survey asking people for their views on the future of vital local government services.

The survey closes on 25 July 2025, and can be taken [here](#).

The move comes as part of the government's Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) initiative.

This would see county, district and borough councils replaced and all their services delivered by one or more new unitary councils covering a specific area in the county.

District and borough councils believe that Suffolk would be best served by more than one unitary council. They have submitted their interim report, which sets out the benefits of a multi-unitary model.

In a letter sent earlier this month to all Suffolk councils, the government offered clear encouragement for the districts and boroughs to continue developing their proposals.

With this in mind, they are now seeking to further develop the best possible case for a multiple unitary solution in Suffolk, creating councils that are big enough to deliver, but local enough to care; councils that will be efficient and financially sustainable, delivering genuine value for money.

This is the most dramatic change to local government in 50 years, and the Leaders of the borough and district councils are committed to ensuring that every community is involved in shaping the new councils and their services.

As part of the wider engagement work the district and borough councils are carrying out, residents, businesses, community groups and other organisations can now [have their say](#) on what is important to them, in the areas in which they live and work.

## SUPPORTING THE ARMED FORCES

We have been recognised for our commitment to supporting the armed forces community with a [bronze award from the Defence Employer Recognition Scheme](#), which recognises employers for pledging, demonstrating or advocating support for defence and armed forces personnel, while aligning their values with the [Armed Forces Covenant](#).

To qualify for a bronze award, as well as having signed the Armed Forces Covenant, employers must pledge to support the local armed forces community and employment of reservists, veterans, cadet instructors and military spouses or partners.

East Suffolk Council's pledge also includes an ongoing commitment to working with Rock Barracks as a local planning authority on engagement and decisions around redevelopment and expansion, to enable modern and improved housing to personnel and their families, including acting as a facilitator of community engagement on development projects.



## INVESTING IN BIODIVERSITY

An area of farmland is helping to benefit local wildlife by hosting one of East Suffolk's first two Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) habitat banks.

Darsham Old Hall has been added to a national register of sites available to help developers meet net gain biodiversity commitments.

Working with consultants Nature Based Farming, landowners Julian and Hannah Young established the 20-hectare 'habitat bank' to promote long-term biodiversity management while securing a reliable source of additional income.

[Read more.](#)

# MORE THAN 50 PUBLIC WORKS HOPPING TO EAST SUFFOLK

Early details have been revealed for East Suffolk's participation in St Elizabeth Hospice's Hop to it! Suffolk 2025 trail.

Final details are being added to sculptures, which will appear across four East Suffolk towns in this summer's art trail.

Felixstowe, Woodbridge, Beccles and Lowestoft will host nine large hares and 42 small leverets. These will be spread across the towns and exact details of locations will be revealed soon

East Suffolk Council has sponsored one large hare and one smaller leveret, and last year two artists were selected by Cllrs Caroline Topping and Sarah Whitelock to design and paint the sponsored hares.

Sarah Edwards is the chosen artist for the large hare, which will be located in Lowestoft. The smaller leveret will be placed in Beccles, and artist Sarah Bennett is currently adding the finishing touches to this.

The trail will take place from 21 June to 29 August. Why not get involved in this great community event?

[Find out more.](#)



## RARE BIRD 'MATING RITUAL' CAPTURED

A fascinating and rare sighting of natural wonder was captured by the new Wildlife Wise Ranger team at Kessingland Beach recently.

Wildlife Wise Ranger Will Dowe was at the right place and the right time to film a pair of avocets performing their unique mating ritual. The intricate display of bowing, head wagging and water splashing, concludes with an affectionate crossing of bills as they run off together.

[Watch the footage.](#)

Avocets are one of the key target species for protection from disturbance by the recently installed Kessingland beach fencing.

The fenced off area aims to reduce the potential for trampling of nests and disturbance of the birds in the nesting period, which can easily cause a failed nesting attempt.

[Read more.](#)

## SUPPORTING CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH

At the beginning of May, we announced that every Year 6 pupil across East Suffolk would be receiving a new resource to help support their mental wellbeing.

Local parent and author Jen Rose has created the [Me \(and My Mind\) resource](#) - an engaging, interactive colouring journal designed to support young people to understand and manage their mental health.

This unique resource (each with its own pack of colouring pencils) is fully funded by the Community Partnership Board.

This initiative reflects our ongoing commitment to supporting young people's mental health and fostering resilient communities.



# HAVE YOUR SAY ON SEA LINK

We are urging local residents to get involved in the next stage of the planning process for the proposed Sea Link project.

The project, which is being developed by National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET), involves the reinforcement of the electricity transmission network between Suffolk and Kent.

While part of the project comprises a 122km offshore Direct Current link, a significant amount of onshore infrastructure is proposed, with landfall between Thorpeness and Aldeburgh, onshore underground cables, connection to the transmission network via either the proposed substation at Friston or via a new substation, and a 2GW converter station proposed near Saxmundham.

The onshore infrastructure will have significant environmental, social and economic impacts, both alone and cumulatively with other nationally significant projects also being proposed in East Suffolk.

East Suffolk Council has raised specific concerns regarding the project and is committed to working constructively with NGET to achieve the best possible outcome for the communities affected.

The Secretary of State has decided that the Sea Link project will be a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project and the application has been submitted for examination to the Planning Inspectorate.

Only those registered will be able to comment during the examination period. Organisations and individuals wishing to comment must register as an Interested Party by Monday 23 June 2025.

The Council is supportive of the Net Zero transition and recognises the importance of projects such as Sea Link, but to date do not have the confidence that the delivery of the project as currently proposed and understood would not result in unacceptable harm to the local environment and the existing communities.

## KITTIWAKE PROJECT FUNDING

Two East Suffolk councillors have awarded funding towards an initiative which aims to raise awareness about endangered kittiwakes.

Cllrs Graham Parker and George King, ward members for Gunton and St Margarets, granted £5,000 from their Enabling Communities Budgets to support 'Kittiwake Champions', a pioneering community project by Nature Play CIC.

The initiative highlights the red-listed kittiwake seabirds that nest along the rooftops of Lowestoft – one of only two inshore nesting sites in the UK.

Interactive stalls will pop up at public events, including the popular First Light Festival, featuring children's activities like nest-building with beach-combed materials and clay kittiwake crafts, along with multilingual leaflets and displays of real kittiwake nests recovered after storms.

[Find out more.](#)

## SCOUT GROUP FUNDING

An East Suffolk councillor has used his Enabling Communities Budget to fund improvements at a local Scout group.

Funding from Cllr Myles Scrancher helped transform a disused section of scrubland at the side of the 2nd Carlton Colville Scout Group hut into a hard landscaped area that will facilitate multiple uses and activities while also improving accessibility to the site.





## RECYCLE YOUR ELECTRICALS

We recently unveiled our plans to introduce kerbside collections of small electrical items across the whole of East Suffolk, with the hope that 120,000 households in the local community will get behind our drive to recycle their electricals.

The new kerbside collections will enable residents to leave small electrical items on top of their wheeled bins on their usual bin collection day and items will then be collected by the refuse crew and taken away for recycling.

Following a trial of the scheme in parts of the district last year, electrical kerbside collections will now be rolled out across all of East Suffolk. Residents are advised to look out for a leaflet advising them when collections will start in their area.

To try and manage demand on the service residents are asked to leave no more than 2 small electrical items, unbagged, out for collection each week.

[Find out more.](#)



## AWARDS FOR OUR EAST SUFFOLK BEACHES

Environmental charity Keep Britain Tidy recently announced the winners of the prestigious [Blue Flag and Seaside Awards for 2025](#), and once again, four of East Suffolk's beaches have been selected.

As a council, we are so proud of this achievement and would like to recognise all of the hard work that goes into maintaining our beaches.

Both Felixstowe and Southwold have again received combined Seaside Awards and Blue Flags whilst the beaches at Lowestoft South of Claremont Pier and Kessingland have received Seaside Awards.

## DIARY DATES

Tuesday 17 June 6pm	Melton, Woodbridge and Deben Peninsula Community Partnership	East Suffolk House
Wednesday 18 June 2pm	Beccles, Bungay, Halesworth and Villages Community Partnership	Venue TBC
Thursday 19 June 6.30pm	Overview and Scrutiny Committee	East Suffolk House
Tuesday 24 June 10am	Community Partnership Board	The Fromus Centre, Saxmundham
Tuesday 24 June 2pm	Planning Committee South	East Suffolk House
Monday 7 July 10.30pm	Strategic Planning Committee	East Suffolk House
Tuesday 8 July 2pm	Planning Committee North	Riverside
Tuesday 8 July 6pm	Cabinet	East Suffolk House
Wednesday 9 July 4pm	Environment Task Group	Teams

