

**TOP-TEN REPORT FOR BUNGAY AND THE VILLAGES (MAY & JUNE 2024)**  
**East Suffolk Councillors Toby Hammond and Anthony Specca**

1. As our town and parish colleagues will know, Adrian Ramsay was elected MP for the new constituency of Waveney Valley, which includes Bungay and surrounding villages. On his first day in the House, Adrian emphasised the significance of working hard as a constituency MP to represent local interests. As your District representatives, we stand ready to help reflect any local concerns to Adrian, and to facilitate contact. Please don't hesitate to call on us in this regard.
2. We would also like to recognise and thank former Waveney MP Peter Aldous for his many years of hard work supporting the residents of Bungay and surrounding villages. Though we have our political differences, Peter was indisputably an excellent constituency MP, and he deserves much credit for his many achievements during his tenure.
3. At our Annual Council meeting in late May, Anthony was re-elected Chair of East Suffolk Council without opposition. He's delighted to be able to serve in this role for another year. He looks forward to progressing further the Chair's initiatives he began last year, especially establishing a permanent East Suffolk Youth Council, and reviewing and redrafting the East Suffolk Constitution to ensure its democratic soundness and its accessibility.
4. Some changes have been made to the East Suffolk Cabinet. Liberal Democrat Cllr Paul Ashton of Wrentham, Wangford and Westleton has assumed the position of Deputy Leader, and Green Cllr Sally Noble of Wickham Market has stepped into the role of Cabinet Member for the Environment with a particular interest in protecting our rivers from sewage pollution.
5. Construction of VC Cooke's incinerator at Ellough remains conditional on the developer meeting the strict carbon-emission standards we imposed on the operating permit. A carbon consultant has been appointed to ensure that VC Cooke's emissions management proposal meets the very best technical standards currently possible. We continue to await this proposal.
6. The future of Ringsfield Hall Eco-Activity Centre continues to cause concern. Significant work is being undertaken in the background to try to avoid the permanent loss of this valuable community asset, and to secure its use for many more generations of our community's children.
7. There is now more choice when paying for parking in East Suffolk. Previously a RingGo account was required for cashless parking, but that is now opened up to include four other providers. This benefits those visiting our towns who are used to other systems (e.g. PayByPhone). As with booking train tickets, this interoperability is designed to drive down booking fees for the benefit of all users. More than half of sessions are now booked with an app, but we have committed to retaining coin-operated machines in every car-park.
8. Reports continue to reach us of anti-social behaviour in Bungay, which in some cases is adversely affecting our hardworking shopkeepers and their customers. We remain in contact with Suffolk Police and particularly the Kestrel Team to encourage them to maintain a deterring presence on our streets. If you've observed or been the victim of anti-social behaviour, please report it: police presence on any given day depends on the volume of reports received.
9. Anthony was pleased to attend the following events as Chair of Council: the Suffolk Walking Festival at Thornham Walks, the Bungay British Legion Centenary, the USAAF 357th Fighter Group Remembrance Service in Theberton, two D-Day 80th Anniversary Commemoration Services at St Edmundsbury Cathedral and in Bungay, Bungay Community Support's 1st Anniversary, and the Civic Services of the Mayors of Felixstowe and Southwold. He was also most honoured to represent East Suffolk at a Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Palace.
10. First Light Festival 2024, with major funding from East Suffolk Council, was another resounding success despite mixed weather on the Saturday, with tens of thousands of visitors bringing a significant impact on the local economy and providing a genuine boost for Lowestoft and the wider area.