

**August 2024 Parish Report
East Suffolk Council GLI Group – Councillor Update**

Dear All,

I Hope you had a good summer and enjoyed the warm weather we eventually had.

As you can see from the report below, I have been very busy!

The new waste management strategy is expected to be approved on the 25th of September at full council. I am aware that the three weekly residual waste collections will be a matter of concern for some residents and also the extra bin. We are working on the details of how this is going to work. Smaller containers for households with limited space and a separate collection for nappies and medical waste are some of the issues we are looking to address. However, we believe this is the right thing to do and will bring many benefits. If you have any questions about this, please do contact me.

We have started work on our Tree and Hedgerow strategy, this is very exciting and over time, will ensure we have many more trees in the district and better connection to ancient woodlands creating wildlife corridors and increasing biodiversity.

At the latest Community Partnership board meeting, it was agreed that some funding would be given to organisations working to tackle health inequalities across the district. The focus will be on health issues such as obesity, diabetes and oral health. More details to follow.

I hope to see you all soon If I haven't already.

Kind regards.

Sally

Environmental Impact Strategy plants seeds for addressing climate and biodiversity emergencies

East Suffolk Council has given unanimous support for a strategy setting out its commitment to protecting the environment and tackling climate change.

The Environmental Impact Strategy was adopted by Full Council on Wednesday 24 July and sets East Suffolk Council's environmental vision and priorities for delivering positive climate, nature, and environmental impacts through its decisions and actions.

The most important priorities to residents who took part in consultation on the Environmental Impact theme of Our Direction 2028 were supporting sustainable transport, restoring ecosystems and biodiversity, working in partnership to manage coastal adaptation and resilience, a continued commitment to Net Zero by 2030, and supporting, promoting and implementing green tech.

All are now among the Environmental Impact Strategy's key priorities, along with a focus on reduction, re-use, and recycling of materials, encouraging food self-sufficiency, and preserving and maintaining the district's beauty and heritage.

Cllr Tom Daly, East Suffolk's cabinet member for Energy and Climate Change, said:

"Our environmental impact should be a key consideration in every decision we make, and every action we take as a local authority.

"The Environmental Impact Strategy not only sets out how we approach the challenges of climate change, but also how we can reap the multiplier benefits of changing the way we use and consume resources."

East Suffolk Council has committed to collaborate with other local and national organisations to deliver the strategy's priorities, including by working with partners to address important national issues such as low carbon transport and decarbonising private homes.

Cllr Sally Noble, East Suffolk's cabinet member for Environment, added:

"There is an urgent need for us all to take action to address what has become an ecological emergency. We have a duty to our residents, wider society, and future generations, to ensure that our environment impact is at the forefront of our work and feeds into our other priorities for things like housing, equality and the economy."

New strategy to encourage tree planting across East Suffolk

A new focus on increased tree planting across East Suffolk has been agreed to improve biodiversity and help tackle the climate crisis.

A motion resolving to boost tree planting, proposed by Cllr Sally Noble, East Suffolk's cabinet member for the Environment, was passed at a Full Council meeting in July.

It was agreed that the Council would develop a Tree and Hedgerow Strategy, seeking input from residents, community groups, and experts to identify key priorities and requirements for tree and hedgerow planting and management of existing trees across the district.

Currently, forests cover just 12% of land in the UK, whereas Europe's total land area has forest cover comprising 47%. The Tree and Hedgerow Strategy would aim to enable 250,000 trees to be planted across East Suffolk, increasing canopy cover by 1%.

Landowners play the key role in protecting and planting trees and will be invited to suggest spaces suitable for tree planting. Ongoing work to map the tree canopy in East Suffolk will be completed, creating a map of council-owned land where there are opportunities for tree planting and feeding-in to Suffolk's developing 'Local Nature Recovery Strategy'.

Cllr Noble said:

"Trees are vital for protecting our environment, removing carbon dioxide and pollutants from the air, reducing flooding, and providing essential wildlife habitats. Protecting existing trees and planting new trees is crucial in tackling the climate, biodiversity and ecological emergencies already declared by the Council. The Council already has a good record of tree planting initiatives, and we now want to really enhance these efforts and aim to plant thousands more trees across the district."

The Council will also commit more resources to supporting the work of town and parish councils, as well as local tree wardens and community volunteers, who all perform a fundamental role in protecting and managing new and existing trees. Working with Suffolk County Council, East Suffolk Council will also promote the importance and value of street trees.

Council to consider transformation of recycling services

East Suffolk Council will consider proposals to radically increase the range and volume of products which can be presented for household recycling at a meeting of its September Cabinet.

Working together in response to Government legislation, Suffolk's district and borough authorities - Babergh, East Suffolk, Ipswich, Mid Suffolk and West Suffolk Councils - are all reviewing their waste and recycling services to meet new nationwide 'Simpler Recycling' requirements by 31 March 2026. With this in mind, East Suffolk's Cabinet will discuss plans to vary the existing 'dry' recycling collection service by including glass and cartons; with plastic film to be incorporated the following year. This will be in addition to a brand-new weekly food waste collection, which is to be introduced across the county in the Spring of 2026.

As part of this refreshed recycling approach, East Suffolk will consider the adoption of 'twin stream' collections, where all households would be supplied with an additional wheelie bin or other container to separate paper and card, from plastics, metal, cartons (including Tetra Pak) and glass bottles or jars.

Twin stream recycling would reduce the amount of processing required at the Material

Recycling Facility (MRF) keeping paper and card away from the glass and moisture in the recycling, making these materials easier to recycle while retaining a higher resale value. Splitting the recycling into two separate containers is also shown to reduce overall contamination of the recycling compared with co-mingled collections.

Through this approach, Suffolk has the potential to divert over 58% of waste from rubbish bins to other recycling and organic waste collections. On this basis, and to encourage improved recycling habits, the report which councillors will also consider proposes to reduce the collection of non-recyclable waste from fortnightly to once every three weeks.

Cllr Sally Noble, East Suffolk's Cabinet Member for the Environment said:

“Government legislation through the Environment Act 2021, requires all local authorities to meet new recycling requirements by 2026, and while this presents a challenge to local authorities and to households, it also provides an incredible and unmissable opportunity to take a big step forward. By introducing a twin stream recycling and three-weekly waste collection service, communities can greatly increase recycling rates and reduce the waste which is unnecessarily disposed of. Councils around the country have already successfully adopted this approach and, if approved, these proposals will make it simpler to recycle a wide range of products, bringing huge environmental benefits.

“Additionally, while a three-weekly collection of non-recyclable waste would reduce the frequency that this bin is collected, the new service, alongside the weekly collection of food waste, would actually increase the combined bin capacity each household receives. In short, this refreshed approach offers a once in a generation opportunity to make huge recycling improvements - but it would not lead to an overall reduction in the quantities collected from households.”

Once final decisions are made, it is the intention of all district and borough council in the county to engage with the Suffolk Waste Partnership regarding an implementation programme; and to deliver a comprehensive public engagement and communications campaign to inform and explain the changes to residents.

Ease the Squeeze on Cost of Living

Are you, or someone you know, worried about the increasing cost of living? We understand the pressures faced by many people today and we are working closely with key partners to ensure support is available to help ease the squeeze for households in East Suffolk.

To make it as easy as possible for you to access the services and support available, locally and nationally, we have gathered information about them in one place:

www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/community/squeeze/

For the most up to date information regarding East Suffolk Council, please visit:
www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk