

October 2024 Parish Report East Suffolk Council GLI Group – Councillor Update

Council reinforces support for lifeblood town centres

East Suffolk Council has pledged to extend its support for town centres with the launch of a new programme designed to foster long-term prosperity and sustainability. Cabinet members approved an additional revenue budget of £537,000 to support delivery of the new Town Development Programme over three years from next April.

GLI Cllr Tim Wilson, Cabinet member for Economic Development and Transport, said:

“Town centres are the lifeblood of our communities and local economy – providing key services, employment, leisure and entertainment – and this Council is committed to supporting their economic viability.

“Our high streets face a number of ongoing challenges – not least from the rise of out-of-town and online retail – but we are now able to continue working closely with town councils, business associations, residents and visitors, to deliver local ambitions which ultimately drive footfall and diversify town centres.”

The East Suffolk Towns Revitalisation Programme included grant funding towards the creation of a town visitor website for Southwold, grant funding for enhancements to the Choose Woodbridge, Visit Felixstowe, Visit Leiston and Visit Beccles websites, and grant funding for the employment of marketing coordinators and projects in Halesworth, Saxmundham, Lowestoft and Bungay.

Meanwhile, a project to provide local training for businesses to support customers living with dementia led to a successful submission to the Alzheimer’s Society for Bungay to be acknowledged as a Dementia Friendly Community.

Capital improvements included displays of local artwork and photographs in empty shop windows in Halesworth, and renovated town signs and maps in many towns elsewhere, as well as installation of new benches, finger posts and dropped kerbs.

The programme grant pot has also awarded funds to cover event equipment to support weekly town markets, as well as larger grants to support the two Business Improvement Districts with event programmes and other event organisers to hold town centre events.

View the East Suffolk Towns Initiative at: eastsuffolkmeansbusiness.co.uk/town-centres/east-suffolk-towns-initiative/

East Suffolk Backs Better Building Standards

East Suffolk Council is proud to be the latest Local Authority to join the Good Homes Alliance’s ‘Local Authority and Housing Association Network’.

The Local Authority and Housing Association Network represents a growing number of councils who recognise that building standards at a national level can advance still further, providing healthier, more affordable and environmentally-sound dwellings.

Building Regulations and the planning system provide a framework for ensuring that today's new homes are increasingly more energy efficient, and that they are designed and built to support our health and wellbeing. However, the network provides a resource for councils to consider the potential of new technologies and approaches that could be taken towards higher standards.

GLI Cllr Stephen Molyneux, Deputy Cabinet Member for Planning and Coastal Management, said:

"This is a really exciting development that I'm very proud to be part of. Here in the UK, our approach to energy efficiency in buildings lags behind our European counterparts and the Local Authority and Housing Association Network is a brilliant vehicle for developing a critical mass of councils to campaign for better national standards and take immediate steps to enable progress at a local level.

"East Suffolk Council is also currently producing a 'Developer's Charter' to encourage further sustainability improvements in new housing development. These actions, alongside recognition for our award-winning Building Control team, position East Suffolk among the trailblazing councils who want to go above and beyond for local residents."

"We have ambitions above the national minimum requirement and champion exemplary approaches such as Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors' (RICS) 'Whole Life Carbon Standard 2nd Edition'. Our response to the consultation also reflects our support for other councils which are developing policies to effectively deliver net zero at a local level."

East Suffolk Council has also made the case for improved standards in its response to the Government's draft consultation on the National Planning Policy Framework.

East Suffolk's Amazing

A cross-party working group of councillors is looking at different ways that we can all work together to maintain the beauty of East Suffolk, and this includes encouraging more residents to take active pride in their local area. This includes reducing fly-tipping, recycling properly and even, where possible, looking after the spaces outside residents' own property.

There is already an incredible network of volunteers who help keep our district beautiful, with regular litter-picks, planting, and an all-round effort to keep their local area clean. East Suffolk Council is encouraging more people to get involved and to really do their bit to keep East Suffolk Amazing.

The Council will support local communities and groups by lending out equipment for litter pick events, including hi-viz vests, litter pickers, bags and bag hoops. With this in mind, a range of information about how communities can get involved in schemes, as well as a range of tips and advice, can be now found online.

For more information, please visit: eastsuffolk.gov.uk/waste/litter/amazing/

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

View the Well Minds East Suffolk booklet: tinyurl.com/9xhka624