

November report from District & County Councillor Judy Cloke

District:



Some of you will be aware Stephen Baker is standing down as Chief Executive of ESC . Chris Bally has been chosen to succeed him. He was the unanimous choice of the interview panel. He lives in Felixstowe and has worked for 30 years in public service.

Felixstowe resident Chris has worked for almost 30 years in public service.

He is currently Director for Corporate Services and Deputy Chief Executive at Suffolk County Council, where he has 13 years of experience at a senior level, having worked previously at Tendring District council and the Audit Commission. I have met him many times since I joined SCC , he is a likeable, engaging and very competent man and I think he will be excellent in his new role.

East Suffolk Council's Customer Services Centre will be temporarily relocated to Lowestoft Library whilst refurbishment work is carried out. This started on 31 October whilst work is undertaken at the Marina Centre. The refurbishments will restyle the reception area to enable the Council's 'Digital Champions' to more easily help customers who need support using online services.

Free-to-use public Wi-Fi has been launched in another two towns as part of a variety of digital projects for the district. The East Suffolk Digital Towns programme has now been rolled out to Beccles and Halesworth, following previous launches in Felixstowe, Lowestoft, Southwold and Woodbridge. I had thought it would have rolled out in Bungay during the summer, but plainly got that wrong.

East Suffolk Council will begin engagement with local communities following the launch of consultation on two major energy projects.

National Grid Ventures (NGV) and National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET) have launched consultations on the EuroLink and Sea Link projects.

Sea Link is a domestic interconnector between Suffolk and Kent, required for network reinforcements, while EuroLink is an international, multi-purpose interconnector between the Netherlands and Suffolk.

Both are informal and non-statutory consultations, followed next year by formal, statutory consultations. NGV and NGET are seeking comments and feedback on their potential landfall, cable route and converter station options.

The consultations will last eight weeks until 18 December 2022. They will include some face-to-face events and webinars.

Events are due to take place for people interesting in representing their local area as a district councillor. These will be led by the Leader , Steve Gallant , but the Labour and Liberal Democrat and Green Leader David Beavan will also be there . The nearest event for us is on Monday 14 November 6pm at Riverside, Lowestoft The closing date for expressions of interest in these events has passed, but if interested, I am sure you can be squeezed in.

democraticservices@eastsoffolk.gov.uk

Bungay residents are invited to help shape a new project to support people with dementia and memory loss. The survey closes on 28 November 2022. [Bungay Dementia Project survey](#)

The East Suffolk Greenprint Forum is hosting an event to hear about the need for community resilience in the face of climate change, how communities are already making positive changes to become more resilient, and what more communities want to do. If interested, you can register via: [Forthcoming events » East Suffolk Council](#) Any help sharing through your own channels would be much appreciated. A flyer has been published: [Climate-Resilient-Communities-21-November-2022.pdf \(eastsoffolk.gov.uk\)](#) along with this press release [Environmental forum to focus on Climate Resilient Communities » East Suffolk Council](#)

County:

A £7.8million redevelopment of Foxhall recycling centre is underway . It will mean greater capacity for cars onsite and reduce queuing.

SCC is keen to hear from Suffolk residents, businesses and local communities, as it decides its budget for next year. This has been partly funded by ESC through CIL to the tune of £794,414.

An online survey has been launched, and a number of focus groups will be held, for you to have your say on the services which are important to you.

A summary of your responses will be included in the report considered by the council when agreeing the budget in February 2023.

The budget setting process includes your thoughts, advice from council officers, elected members from political groups, businesses and partners in health and other public service organisations across Suffolk.

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On October 11th the Council's Cabinet agreed a new wave of funding to continue its programme to provide places for children and young people with SEND.

The £3million agreement marks the start of Phase 3 of the Capital Programme to create three additional specialist units providing 42 additional places for students with special educational needs and disabilities. This follows Phase 1 of the programme which created

825 news places across Suffolk and Phase 2, which was signed off in June 2022, and will create up to 73 new places.

Suffolk County Council is asking anyone with spare space to consider signing up to host a Ukrainian family.

Some Ukrainian guests, who arrived in the UK via the Homes for Ukraine scheme, have now been with their sponsors for six months.

Sponsors of the Homes for Ukraine scheme originally signed up to host guests for at least six months, with the option for those who are willing and able to continue beyond this. Not all hosts are able to continue to offer accommodation to guests beyond six months and some of those guests are not yet ready to move on to private rented accommodation. The county is now in need of new hosts to offer them a safe haven while the war in Ukraine continues.

The council is looking for a wide range of homes for single people, mothers with children, and larger families. Areas in particular need of new hosts are Bury St Edmunds, Felixstowe, Haverhill, Ipswich and Lowestoft.

Self-contained accommodation is particularly helpful, for instance an annexe, holiday let or second home.

It is now possible to register with Suffolk County Council if you are interested in hosting a Ukrainian family – visit www.suffolk.gov.uk/ukraine to find out more.

In partnership with the County Council, Community Action Suffolk are holding a number of drop-in sessions over the coming weeks, for potential new hosts to find out more about hosting a Ukrainian family.

There will be opportunities to ask questions and understand more about what is involved, including what makes a suitable property, what checks they will need to undertake and more information about the matching process.

The events are aimed at anyone who is interested in hosting Ukrainian guests, either in their own home or a separate property that they own.

JC 8/11/22