

TOP-TEN REPORT FOR BUNGAY AND THE VILLAGES (NOVEMBER 2023)
East Suffolk Councillors Toby Hammond and Anthony Speca

1. We're delighted to announce ESC's new vision: *Our Direction 2028*. It sets out ESC's new priorities for environmental impact, sustainable housing, tackling inequalities, and a thriving economy. It also explains how we'll do things differently after voters asked for change. See <https://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/yourcouncil/how-your-council-works/east-suffolk-strategic-plan/>.
2. ESC is now disbursing Government-funded financial help for residents and communities affected by Storms Babet and Ciaran, including £500 per flooded household, up to £2,500 per flooded business, up to £5,000 for future flood-resilience work, council tax discounts and business rates relief. For up-to-date information, visit ESC's dedicated webpage: <https://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/features/storm-babet/>.
3. During the flooding, we joined an emergency support group swiftly convened by Bungay Town Council and Bungay Community Support to help affected residents. This group proved effective at coordinating communication in the context of Bungay Town Council's emergency plan. ESC records suggest that no Parish Councils/Meetings in our ward have emergency plans in place. We strongly recommend implementing them, and our emergency-planning officers can support this vital task: <https://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/contact-us/emergency-planning/>.
4. With nights turning cold, conditions for those sleeping rough can be dangerous. In these difficult times, rough sleeping is increasing, and it has recently been reported in our ward. If you find anyone sleeping rough, please enable ESC to help them by contacting our dedicated officer team at roughsleepercoordinator@eastsuffolk.gov.uk. **In an emergency, dial 999.**
5. Many residents tell us there's room for improvement to parking regulations in Bungay, Beccles, Halesworth and other towns. As Cabinet Member for Transport, Toby is leading a rolling parking review, which will collect suggestions for parking improvements. Residents have diverse views on parking, and many of the changes rely on County, so we can't promise to solve all problems! But now is the time to feed in your thoughts – email toby.hammond@eastsuffolk.gov.uk.
6. ESC owns considerable commercial land in Lowestoft, Beccles and Leiston. Companies in Lowestoft historically served North Sea oil and gas, but today they focus on offshore wind and green technology. With the UK's legal net-zero commitments, we believe Government took a backwards step when it announced new licences to 'wring every last drop' of oil and gas from the North Sea. So we've decided that only companies working for the clean-energy transition will be welcome to sign new leases with us as our commercial tenants.
7. We're frequently asked about EV charging, particularly in ESC car parks. We're keen to help improve EV charging infrastructure, and we think that specialist companies are best placed to manage and maintain EV chargers. A broken charger is worse than none at all! ESC will now open up suitable locations on our land to specialist EV charging operators.
8. Anthony has contacted East Suffolk schools to invite Year 10-13 pupils to take part in his innovative Model District Council simulation in February. They'll meet in the Council Chamber in Lowestoft to draft and debate a motion on youth democracy, including a possible permanent East Suffolk Youth Council. Please encourage your community's youth to join in (see poster).
9. As Chair of Council, Anthony was also pleased to attend the following civic events this month: Lowestoft Remembrance Day Memorial Service, Bungay Remembrance Day Memorial Service, our ESC Youth Takeover Day for schools, and our 13th annual ESC Quality of Place Awards for the best place-based architecture, design and planning across East Suffolk this year.
10. As Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Toby attended the Suffolk Chamber of Commerce Business Awards. He was pleased to present a Net Zero Award to pioneering local business Lickety Ice for their impressive sustainability efforts.