

Leader's monthly bulletin – September 2023



Welcome to the next edition of my monthly bulletin, which aims to keep councillors, officers, and town and parish councils up to date on the month's main news stories and any emerging issues from the district.

Caroline

Refurbished play area in Beccles reopened

A children's play area at Beccles Common has been officially reopened following the completion of refurbishment work.

Designed by eibe play Ltd, and aimed at toddlers and juniors, the play area features a basket swing, cradle swing for toddlers, a me-to-you swing, a cargo climbing net, a toddler climbing unit with slide, and a junior climbing unit, with a climbing wall and slide.

The refurbishment has been made possible thanks to a partnership between East Suffolk Council and Beccles Town Council and an official opening took place on Friday 11 August, attended by myself, Cllr Plummer, representatives from Beccles Town Council and eibe play Ltd.



Four community projects benefit from developer contributions

Over £140,000 from the new Local Community Infrastructure Levy Fund has been allocated to community projects in East Suffolk.

The Local Community Infrastructure Levy Fund was created in April and applications from projects in Beccles, Blundeston, Rendlesham and Southwold have now been approved.

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is a fee which East Suffolk Council charges developers when new development is built in the district. CIL can then be put towards improvements to local infrastructure, such as play areas, schools, transport schemes and GP surgeries.

The new Local CIL fund is based on 3% of the district CIL received in the previous financial year. Funding of up to £50,000 is available to projects located in, or close to, an area where new development is taking place, and the project must be deliverable in the short term.

Applications from the Waveney Meadow Project in Beccles, Blundeston Play Park, Rendlesham skate park and nature walk and Klondyke Skate Park in Southwold were recently approved by the CIL Spending Working Group.



Three neighbourhood plans adopted

Neighbourhood plans for Saxmundham, Rushmere St Andrew and, Shadingfield, Sotterley, Willingham and Ellough have all been formally adopted by East Suffolk Council.

The Rushmere St Andrew and Shadingfield, Sotterley, Willingham and Ellough Neighbourhood Plans were adopted at a Full Council meeting on 28 June, with the Saxmundham Neighbourhood Plan adopted on 26 July. These three plans will now form part of the development plan for East Suffolk and will influence future planning applications within each neighbourhood plan area.

A neighbourhood plan gives communities the opportunity to shape development within their local areas. Neighbourhood plans are based on extensive public consultation to ensure that residents have their say on how development will take place. Plans are subject to a local referendum to ensure public support before being adopted by East Suffolk Council.

Five neighbourhood plans have now been made this year, following the adoption of both the Halesworth and Oulton plans in February.

Landowner fined for failing to comply with enforcement notice

An East Suffolk landowner has been ordered to pay more than £5,000 in fines and costs for failing to comply with an enforcement notice imposed for breaching planning controls.

Kevin Oram appeared at Suffolk Magistrates' Court on Monday 31 July to admit five counts of breaching two enforcement notices issued by East Suffolk Council. He was ordered to pay £5,134.78, including a total fine of £1,535, for failing to comply with the notices on land west of Guildhall Lane, Wrentham, last August.

The notices were initially served in March 2022 for a failure to remove items and restore land to the condition it was in before its use was found to have changed without authorisation in February 2021.

The unauthorised change of use of the land, and unauthorised operational development, included a residential use, the storage of materials, vehicles and caravans, and the erection of structures and laying of hardstanding.

River Deben steamship hulk granted special protection

The iron hulk of the Lady Alice Kenlis, designed by the same shipwright as the Cutty Sark, has been granted protection by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) on the advice of Historic England.

The Lady Alice Kenlis was an iron steamship designed by Hercules Linton in 1867. He is the designer of the internationally renowned Cutty Sark, launched two years later in 1869. The Cutty Sark (now at Royal Museums Greenwich) was a state-of-the-art Victorian tea clipper and was one of the fastest of its time, making the journey from Sydney to London by sail in 73 days.



The Lady Alice Kenlis, situated on the National Trust's Sutton Hoo estate, is important in our understanding of early iron ships and its relationship to the Cutty Sark offers an insight into Linton's evolution of thought. Protection by scheduling will ensure that the hulk of the ship will be protected by law.

Rehoming reptiles at Woods Meadow Country Park

New habitats have been created at a country park in Oulton Broad to help reptiles which may need to be relocated from a nearby housing development.



Ahead of the next phase of Persimmon's housing development at Woods Meadow in Oulton Broad, East Suffolk Services Ltd have helped create new homes at Woods Meadow Country Park for reptiles and amphibians which will be relocated from the construction site.

Working alongside Persimmon and ecologists, a team from East Suffolk

Services Ltd have constructed artificial habitats, known as 'hibernacula', which will provide reptiles and amphibians with a safe place to overwinter, bask and feed and will increase the biodiversity of the country park.

Woods Meadow Country Park, owned by East Suffolk Council, was created in 2019 to provide a welcoming and informal green space for local people to enjoy and which benefits their physical and mental wellbeing. Earlier this year, the park was awarded a Green Flag for the first time.

Celebrating Lowestoft in a small way



Visitors to Lowestoft Library in August were able to celebrate the town by creating scaled-down replicas of its best-known landmarks.

Funded through Lowestoft's Heritage Action Zones and Suffolk Archives, 10 creative building sessions took place throughout the school holidays offering visitors the chance to have a go at shaping some of the town's historic buildings from LEGO® bricks.

Additional sessions will be taking place at East Point Pavilion this month as part of Heritage Open Days.

The project marks the completion of the five-year North Lowestoft Heritage Action Zone (HAZ) and London Road, Lowestoft High Street HAZ schemes, and aims to encourage local people to commemorate the town's historically important, beloved and recognisable structures.

Cultural Connections Volunteering

Following a joint bid between East Suffolk and Great Yarmouth Borough Councils for City of Culture in 2021, the two councils were awarded £250,000 to launch a new volunteering programme focusing on the arts, culture and heritage sector.

[Cultural Connections Volunteering](#) is a flexible programme focusing on attracting new volunteers into the cultural sector by offering exciting volunteering opportunities, extensive support, and attractive rewards.

Matthew Townshend, Volunteer Co-ordinator for Cultural Connections Volunteering, has been working across East Suffolk to make connections with cultural organisations – everyone from First Light to the new Tomato Festival in Saxmundham. He has recruited our first volunteers and will be supporting volunteers at the new Love Felixstowe festival this month.



Cultural Connections is always looking for new volunteers, particularly young people and families, those experiencing social isolation, and people who might experience barriers to



volunteering. If you have connections to groups or individuals who you think would benefit from our supported volunteering programme, please email matthew.townshend@eastsoffolk.gov.uk.

Please also email Matthew if you have connections to arts, culture or heritage organisations looking for volunteers.

The Tour is coming!

Excitement is mounting in Felixstowe as the town prepares to host the start and finish of [Stage Five of the UK's most prestigious men's cycling race](#), the Tour of Britain, on Thursday 7 September.



The Tour attracts the world's top teams and riders and the likes of Mark Cavendish, Geraint Thomas, Primoz Roglic, Julian Alaphilippe, Wout Van Aert, Mathieu van der Poel, Tom Dumoulin, Caleb Ewan and Tom Boonen have all competed and enjoyed success in the event.

A celebratory Love Felixstowe festival will be staged ahead of the big occasion on Thursday 7 September, when the international cycle race sets off and culminates in front of crowds along the seafront.

Free events and activities are taking place in the town centre and along the seafront from Saturday 2 September as part of the festival, organised by East Suffolk Council and Felixstowe BID, in partnership with Felixstowe Town Council.

Community bike rides, live music, film screenings at the beachside events area, fun family activities, Lego workshops, pétanque, a mobile skate park, circus lessons, football and more will be taking place throughout the week. Art on the Prom will also return as part of Sunday's festivities.





Events continue into the week, with a full list of the activities available at www.lovefelixstowe.co.uk, including a 10km community bike ride and 100m sprint challenge on the day of the race.

[Speedy Sprinter and the Big Bike Race trail](#) characters are also hidden in shop windows along Walton High Street, Felixstowe High Street and Beach Street as part of a sticker collection challenge taking place in towns across Suffolk ahead of the big day.

Consultations

Comments invited on cycle parking in Felixstowe

People living and working in Felixstowe are invited to give their views on the availability of cycle parking facilities in the town.

East Suffolk Council, Felixstowe Town Council, Felixstowe BID and Suffolk County Council are working together to improve the cycle parking facilities in Felixstowe and the surrounding area.

Using information from the East Suffolk Walking and Cycling Strategy 2022 and local knowledge, a map of potential new or improved cycle parking has been created.

Residents, businesses, stakeholders and visitors are invited to give their feedback on the locations of the parking and suggest other suitable locations which could be considered:

The [consultation closes on 22 September](#) and all feedback received will help to shape the final decisions.

Deadline extended for proposed renewal of PSPO

Residents in Lowestoft have been invited to have their say on the proposed renewal of a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) which prohibits drinking alcohol in public spaces.

A PSPO is currently in place for the Harbour ward in Lowestoft and prohibits the consumption of alcohol in specific areas. This order was introduced in 2020 and following a review of data collected by Suffolk Police, it is recommended that the order is renewed.

[A consultation is open until 5 September](#) (extended from 26 August) inviting people to give their views on the proposed renewal.



Last month, Communities officers were available in person at the Britten Centre in Lowestoft to speak to people about the PSPO consultation.

Stay up to date with the latest East Suffolk news!

The Communications Team shares [all media coverage on SharePoint](#), so you can easily stay up to date on all media stories relevant to East Suffolk Council, whether on local, regional or national news outlets, tv, radio, print or online.

We do a lot of great work in East Suffolk, and we want everyone to know! I would therefore like to encourage all Councillors to share their own good news stories with the Communications Team so they can help showcase some of this work, whether this is from projects funded through your Enabling Communities Budget or supporting an initiative which will benefit our local communities.

We keep our communities up to date in a variety of ways and social media has an important role to play. Please follow us and share our posts with your audiences.

[Facebook](#) [Twitter](#) [Instagram](#)

If you have any questions or need any help with communications and promotion, you can email the team on communications@eastsuffolk.gov.uk

Diary dates

- 5 September at 4pm - Shareholder Reference Group (Conference Room, Riverside)
- 5 September at 6.30pm - Cabinet (Conference Room, Riverside)
- 11 September at 10.30am - Felixstowe Peninsula Community Partnership (Hadwen Room, Felixstowe Library)
- 11 September at 6.30pm - Audit and Governance Committee (Deben Conference Room, East Suffolk House)
- 12 September at 11am - Anglia Revenues and Benefits Partnership Joint Committee (Level 5 Meeting Room, Breckland House)
- 12 September at 2pm - Planning Committee North (Conference Room, Riverside)
- 13 September at 10.30am - Licensing Sub-Committee (Deben Conference Room, East Suffolk House)
- 13 September at 2pm - Community Partnership Board (Deben Conference Room, East Suffolk House)
- 14 September at 10.30am - Licensing Sub-Committee (Deben Conference Room, East Suffolk House)
- 14 September at 4pm - Southwold Harbour Management Committee (Stella Peskett Millennium Hall)
- 19 September at 6pm - Lowestoft and northern parishes Community Partnership (venue tbc)
- 20 September at 4pm - Aldeburgh, Leiston, Saxmundham and villages Community Partnership (venue tbc)
- 21 September at 6.30pm - Scrutiny Committee (Deben Conference Room, East Suffolk House)
- 25 September at 2pm - Licensing Sub-Committee (Deben Conference Room, East Suffolk House)
- 25 September at 3.15pm - Licensing Sub-Committee (Deben Conference Room, East Suffolk House)



- 25 September at 6pm - Melton, Woodbridge and Deben Peninsula Community Partnership (Deben Conference Room, East Suffolk House)
- 26 September at 2pm - Planning Committee South (Deben Conference Room, East Suffolk House)
- 27 September at 6.30pm - Full Council (Deben Conference Room, East Suffolk House)
- 28 September at 2.30pm - Licensing Sub-Committee (Conference Room, Riverside)
- 28 September at 3.45pm - Licensing Sub-Committee (Conference Room, Riverside)