

**September 2024 Parish Report  
East Suffolk Council GLI Group**

**CLLR WILSON Update**

***Helping communities access mental health support***

Information is being provided to residents in Aldeburgh, Leiston, Saxmundham and the surrounding villages to help them access support if they are struggling with their mental health.

Earlier this year, East Suffolk Council produced a booklet entitled 'Well Minds East Suffolk' containing a variety of useful information, advice and contacts designed to help those in need of mental health support. The booklet is intended to help people of all ages and backgrounds to access support, and it has since been distributed around the district as well as online.

To ensure local residents are aware of the availability of this support, the Aldeburgh, Leiston, Saxmundham and villages Community Partnership have provided over £1,500 to fund the production and delivery of over 13,000 leaflets to be distributed to households and businesses in the Community Partnership area.

The leaflets will be distributed later this month, and the Well Minds booklets are available from community settings across the district, including libraries, community centres and the Council's network of Warm Welcomes.

**View the Well Minds East Suffolk booklet:** [tinyurl.com/9xhka624](https://tinyurl.com/9xhka624)

***Join East Suffolk's new Youth Council and make a difference!***

Young people in East Suffolk are invited to make a difference in their local community by standing for election to a new youth council.

A new East Suffolk Youth Council will be formed, comprising at least two representatives from every secondary educational institution in East Suffolk, as well as the homeschooled. The Youth Council will influence decisions and drive real change across the district. Youth councillors will work closely with East Suffolk Council to ensure young peoples' voices are heard loud and clear in council decisions.

Cllr Anthony Speca, Chair of East Suffolk Council said: "I'm a teacher and lecturer as well as Chair of East Suffolk Council, and I believe it's vital to engage young people in politics. They're a huge part of our communities, but they're often left out of discussions about how to make things better now and for the future. But the future belongs to them especially, and it's only fair that their voice is heard. Our democracy will be stronger for it, too."

The Youth Council will be apolitical, with its own special rules of procedure designed to promote open discussion. There will be three Youth Council meetings each year – one in-person and two online – with plenty of opportunities between meetings to get together and get things done.

Each Youth Councillor will be elected for a two-year term, or until they leave education or turn 19 years of age. They will be able to set their own priorities, bring forward their own motions, and make suggestions to the district council on key issues of importance not just to young people, but to our communities as a whole.

**Aged 11 to 19 and would like to run for the Youth Council? Visit:**

[eastsuffolk.gov.uk/community/youthvoice/east-suffolk-youth-council/](https://eastsuffolk.gov.uk/community/youthvoice/east-suffolk-youth-council/)

***East Suffolk Council has agreed a historic, new approach to recycling collection, and with it, a commitment to greatly improve environmental outcomes for the district***

At September Full Council, members agreed to radically increase the range and volume of products which can be presented for household recycling, in line with the requirements of Government legislation through the Environment Act 2021.

This will see all households 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.

A weekly food waste collection service was agreed earlier this year, and the new rounds will be implemented in 2026.

Additionally, this extra collection service allows the Council to adopt a three-weekly waste collection service, rather than the current fortnightly arrangement, without a reduction in the overall combined capacity of household bins.

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

“National targets require us to divert 60% of waste to recycling by 2030 and 65% by 2035. However, recycling performance has plateaued in recent years, with East Suffolk currently diverting only 39%. This places us 203rd out of 343 collection authorities in England and Wales.

“The current co-mingled method of collecting recycling in one bin means that a large amount of the paper and card we collect is contaminated by the other items and the ‘twin stream’ method, with an additional recycling bin, will transform the quality of materials for re-use, with huge environmental benefits.

“This also means that much less residual waste will need to be collected. We have the potential to divert over 58% of waste from rubbish bins, and to encourage improved recycling habits, a revised waste collection service presents an incredible and unmissable opportunity to take a big step forward.

“Three-weekly waste collections would save an extra 6,500 tonnes of carbon emissions

a year compared to the current two-weekly model and without actually decreasing the overall, combined bin capacity that each household receives.”

Speaking at Full Council, Cllr Noble also remarked on some of the concerns that have been raised following the initial announcement of the proposals.

She said: “We know that some people are worried about the space they need for an additional bin. However, as we do currently, we will always seek to help any residents who have legitimate storage concerns. Additionally, alternative arrangements will be considered for households who may struggle with less frequent waste collections – for example those with medical needs or children in nappies.

“I can assure everyone that this Council will work incredibly to introduce these changes as smoothly and effectively as possible. We will put residents first, and a huge information and engagement campaign will provide the people of East Suffolk with everything they need to know.

“I am delighted that we have made the right decision. The right decision for this Council, for our residents and for the environment.”

### ***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/](http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/community/squeeze/)**

For the most up to date information regarding East Suffolk Council, please visit:

**[www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk](http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk)**