

March 2024 Parish Report
East Suffolk Council GLI Group – Cllr Wilson Update

After passing our budget in February, which was unanimously approved by all Councillors from every party, we are now moving towards a full year in office. I've been busy with the Licensing Department running a consultation about street trading, taking the Taxi Training Course to check that our safeguarding policies are strong enough, and as Deputy for Value for Money, I've been getting deep into the council processes of procurement (making sure we're spending an annual £80m on the right sort of products) and also consultants, of which there seem to be an abundance.

Please stay in touch and do make sure people know they can contact me on 07787 121 854.

Tim x

Winners revealed in 'East Suffolk Through the Lens' photo competition

A stunning selection of images have triumphed in a competition inviting photographers to showcase East Suffolk 'Through the Lens'. Entrants were encouraged to submit photographs that captured the essence of East Suffolk – from its people and wildlife to its historic buildings and beautiful landscapes.

Organised by East Suffolk Council, the competition gave photographers of all ages and experience the chance to exhibit their talents by capturing their favourite sights and scenes from across the district. More than 350 entries were submitted during the seven-week competition between 11 December and 28 January – with one amazing photo eventually chosen by a panel of judges as overall winner, along with three runners-up and an under-16 winner.

Tim Bennett's winning photograph, entitled 'Early morning swim at Southwold Beach', impressed judges with its striking colour, light, and sense of tranquillity. Highly commended runners-up included Peter Stokes' ghostly image of Felixstowe Ferry on the River Deben, Darren Kirby's imposing impression of a misty Lowestoft beach scene, and Jordan Shaddick's breathtaking shot of a hare bounding across Boyton and Hollesley Marshes. Meanwhile, Bruno Leon's beautiful depiction of a vole eating a blade of grass at RSPB Minsmere was a worthy winner in the under-16 category of the competition.

GLI Cllr Caroline Topping, East Suffolk Council Leader and judging panel member, said:

"We were so impressed with the range and quality of photographs submitted for 'East Suffolk Through the Lens'. Viewing them was a real treat and confirmed the beauty and diversity of landscape in our district.

"Some were inspiring, others were humorous or cleverly composed, and all were worthy of praise for representing something special about East Suffolk to the photographer. Thanks to everyone who submitted an entry and congratulations to our winners."

Tim Bennett's winning photo is set grace the cover of East Suffolk Magazine when delivered to every household in the district next spring. High street retail vouchers are also on their way to the overall winner, under-16 winner and three runners-up.

To see all the photos chosen by judges, visit: www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/news/east-suffolk-through-the-lens-photo-competition-winners/

Grow for it! Residents encouraged to grow their own

East Suffolk residents are being encouraged to grow their own this spring with the return of a successful programme offering free growing kits.

Following the success of East Suffolk Council's Field to Fork programme last year when 1,500 growing kits were distributed to primary schools across the district, the scheme is now returning for 2024.

Field to Fork aims to encourage people to try to grow their own food and improve their health and wellbeing in the process.

This year, 1,900 kits will be made available, each one containing compost pellets, seeds and free access to Groundwork East's online GROW Programme.

Those interested in a kit can apply online and kits can then be collected from locations across East Suffolk, including libraries, community hubs and churches over the next four weeks. Priority will be given to those on the existing Field to Fork distribution list and then the kits will be made available to all from Monday 18 March.

GLI Councillor Sarah Whitelock, East Suffolk's cabinet member for Communities, Leisure and Tourism said: "We want to help people feel more confident with growing their own fruit and vegetables, which can help save money and help people make healthier food choices. The growing kits were well received last year and we are looking forward to seeing everyone's produce as the weather warms up."

Apply for a growing kit here: my.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/service/Field_to_fork

Anyone in need of help completing the application form can contact our Customer Services team: 0333 016 2000

Each growing kit is packed in Melton by Realise Futures. Next month, a small grants scheme will open to support community farms, allotments and gardens to help people get involved with growing their own food. The Field to Fork grant scheme will provide grants of up to £2,000 to help engage local people with 'grow and eat' projects that will feed communities and help people stay active and connected.

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