

TUNSTALL PARISH COUNCIL

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2024

Government's new housing targets must put infrastructure first

Suffolk County Council has raised concerns in its response to the government's proposed reforms for planning policies for England.

In particular, it expresses fears about the lack of clarity around infrastructure, such as schools, transport, waste and community facilities when new housing developments are approved.

Last week, the government closed its consultation on plans to change the National Planning Policy Framework and other parts of the planning system.

The proposals include a significant increase in the number of new homes to be built across Suffolk – the government's own figures suggest that East Suffolk alone would see an 87% increase in the number new homes, compared those currently planned.

Suffolk County Council is already very active in securing developer contributions and delivering infrastructure. It secures Section 106 contributions as well as funding from the Community Infrastructure Levy from district councils - but this is to maintain a baseline level of service rather than make a positive overall improvement to infrastructure.

In its response to government, the council said that the simple question of "who pays" for the infrastructure needs to be answered when permissions are being granted. Local planning authorities should not be allowed to assume that other authorities and agencies will make up any difference.

Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service and Trading Standards honour their heroes

Firefighters, staff, and volunteers have been honoured at Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service's annual awards ceremony.

More than 50 long service and good conduct medals and clasps plus accolades and certificates for outstanding service to the community were presented in the ceremony at Trinity Park Showground in Ipswich on Wednesday October 2.

The awards also recognise the work of Suffolk County Council Trading Standards and emergency planning.

The Miles Hammond Trophy, awarded for excellence by an individual or team during an emergency incident, has been awarded to Firefighter Matthew Brown.

He was sitting in his car in Lowestoft when he saw a teenage girl knocked down as she crossed the road.

She was thrown into the air and landed 10 metres away. Matthew gave her CPR until an ambulance arrived. He also aided the driver of the car to prevent him becoming a target of hostility at the scene of the accident.

The Excellence in Community Safety Award was won by the Suffolk Trading Standards 'No Cold Calling Zone' team for its work in reducing doorstep crime and promote confidence in people who may have been subject to doorstep crime or who are more vulnerable to it.

There are now 217 such zones across Suffolk and since the launch of the first, in 2009, more than 34,000 households have been protected from cold callers, either by living in a zone or through stickers provided to individual households which give legal effect to the displayed 'no cold calling' request.

The Cabinet Member Award for Volunteer of the Year went to the Salvation Army, whose volunteers provide refreshments for firefighters at the scene of major incidents.

The team are on stand-by 24 hours a day to crew a response vehicle kept at Stowmarket fire station. On receiving the call they mobilise to buy fresh food and get to an incident within 40 minutes.

Over the years the team have provided thousands of firefighters with tens of thousands of hotdogs, sandwiches, soups, and hot drinks.

The Alan Soards Award for Best Fire Station went to Debenham fire station for its work in the aftermath of Storm Babet, despite being flooded itself.

A Lifetime Achievement award was made to Nigel Howlett of Suffolk Trading Standards in recognition of his 44 year career with the organisation which has seen him successfully investigate numerous rogue businesses.

They include car-clocking cases, where many miles were taken off vehicles; an investigation into a business producing counterfeit goods which required a visit to Dublin to obtain evidence; and the prosecution of a rogue builder for fraudulent trading against consumers on home improvement work.

A dozen Certificates of Merit were presented by Yvonne Gilchrist-Mason OBE, the High Sheriff of Suffolk, while Certificates of Long Service were presented by Councillor Liz Harsant, the Chair of Suffolk County Council.

Chief Fire Officer Jon Lacey and Becky Heginbotham-Blount of Suffolk Resilience Forum presented awards marking the work of the forum, a multi-agency group providing strategic and operational guidance for major incidents.

His Majesty's Deputy Lord-Lieutenant of Suffolk, Mark Pendlington, presented HM The King's Long Service and Good Conduct Medals, which are awarded for 20 years service to Firefighter Neil Bonham, Watch Manager Kevin Chambers, Firefighter Bryan Cooper, Crew Manager Gareth Cossey, Area Manager Henry Griffin, Firefighter Gary Nayler, Crew Manager Richard Plant, Firefighter Shelly Pleasance, Watch Manager Kirsten Thorpe, Firefighter Carl Vearer and Firefighter Darren Wood.

30 Year clasps were awarded to Deputy Chief Fire Officer Dan Fearn, Firefighter Les Field, Crew Manager Peter Goodhand, Watch Manager Steve Mullen (retired), Firefighter Stefan Saunders, Area Manager Andy Smith, and Station Manager Mark Walker.

40 Year clasps were awarded to Watch Manager Martyn Hazelwood, Watch Manager Paul Jolland, Crew Manager Paul Kerridge, and Station Manager Russell Punchard.

A minute's silence was observed in memory of Firefighter Steven Fisk, an on-call firefighter with Halesworth fire station, who passed away in September.

Suffolk launches pothole prevention programme ahead of winter weather

Suffolk County Council has launched a pothole prevention programme to target areas of Suffolk's road network that could worsen when the winter weather hits.

Teams with additional resources and the latest technology have already started visiting and treating locations susceptible to deterioration or where there are smaller defects that could grow as the colder and wetter weather strikes.

Building on the success of earlier trials with the Roadmender Elastomac and Dragon Patcher machines, teams will be deployed across Suffolk to use this equipment in addition to our usual Safety Defect Service that deals with larger defects as they occur.

Highways workers using the Roadmender Elastomac system will target urban roads that are at higher risk of damage to locate cracks and smaller potholes and carry out repairs. Unlike traditional methods, which require potholes to be saw-cut, excavated and asphalt to be compacted on top, Elastomac is a flowable material used to seal the repaired area.

Once applied, this adhesive, flexible material bonds with the existing road surface, preventing water getting in the cracks and extending the road's lifespan. The process is

more sustainable and efficient, reducing material movement and waste by 90%, lowering costs and minimising disruption.

With the Dragon Patcher machines, these clean the surface of the road using compressed air, preparing it for repair with an application of aggregate and hot bitumen material, and will target rural roads.

Fuelled by biodiesel, HVO (hydrotreated vegetable oil), the patcher reduces raw material use, generates zero waste, and has demonstrated significant carbon savings compared to traditional patching techniques.

The locations have been carefully chosen, focusing on areas with a higher risk of potholes forming during winter. Highways teams will be working when weather conditions allow, from 7am to 5pm, moving across the county to treat the more vulnerable areas. Whilst the repairs are underway, traffic will be managed temporarily by staff on site, and there may be waiting times of up to 15 minutes.

Highways authorities up and down the country experience an inevitable rise in potholes during the winter months. Water seeps into cracks in the road surface which freezes, expands then breaks up the road surface. The purpose of this preventative programme is to seal treated areas of Suffolk's road network to reduce water getting into cracks reduce the overall number of potholes forming.

For more information on our targeted project, please visit the [pothole prevention programme page](#).

Council to offer interest-free loans to make homes more energy efficient

Suffolk County Council will offer interest-free loans to help make residents' homes warmer, safer and cheaper to run.

Energy efficiency upgrades such as insulation, solar panels, batteries, glazing, or heat pumps will all be possible with loans of up to £15,000 to be repaid over a maximum of 7 years at 0% interest.

The £3 million project will be open to homeowners across Suffolk from November, but you can [register your interest now at Lendology](#).

Making homes more energy-efficient helps retain their heat and use less energy, meaning homeowners can save on their energy bills and reduce their carbon emissions. A warm home also has a positive impact on health and well-being.

Money for the loans comes from £3 million of funding received as part of the council's negotiations with the previous government to secure a County Deal.

It was allocated from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to support an energy efficiency and energy generation 0% loan fund for people that cannot access grants currently available to low-income households.

The scheme supports Suffolk's Climate Emergency Plan, by increasing the number of properties which have energy-efficient and low carbon energy measures installed.

An increase in demand for energy efficiency measures will also help support businesses providing those services, meaning jobs, skills development and investment in the green economy.

Suffolk County Council is partnering with Lendology CIC to deliver the interest-free loan scheme. Lendology CIC is an experienced Social Enterprise Lender, managing similar schemes with councils across the country.

For more information and to register your interest in an interest-free loan, visit [Lendology's website](#).

Rendlesham Revealed inspires classroom archaeology activities

Suffolk County Council's successful Rendlesham Revealed archaeology project is expanding its legacy to primary schools across the county.

Rendlesham Revealed was a four-year, community archaeology project which made significant new discoveries about life in Suffolk and Anglo-Saxon England.

It uncovered the remains of a large timber Royal Hall, confirming the location as a royal settlement of the East Anglian Kings. At the same site, a rare, possible pre-Christian temple from the same period was also discovered.

Among the volunteers were over 287 schoolchildren from five local schools, who were actively involved in excavating the site near Sutton Hoo, and helped clean and sort the finds that were dug up during the *Rendlesham Revealed* project.

Following on from the project's success, an educational outreach officer will be going into primary schools to deliver hands-on archaeological activities with real artefacts excavated from Suffolk.

Schools can find out more about this opportunity by contacting archaeology.education@suffolk.gov.uk or visiting <https://heritage.suffolk.gov.uk/archaeology-education>. There will be a charge to schools for the service.

To find out more about *Rendlesham Revealed* and archaeology in Suffolk, visit heritage.suffolk.gov.uk.

Fostering is...Everything

Fostering can mean everything to those involved. That is the message of a powerful new fostering film from over 100 councils.

‘Everything’ was launched on 17 October 2024. It is the seventh film produced by a growing partnership of councils and children’s trusts to promote local authority fostering. The ‘Everything’ project is the largest collaboration yet, with participants from Cumbria to Devon and Lancashire to Suffolk.

‘Everything’ follows foster carer Mike and his family on a journey through time with two of the children they have looked after, who are now adults. A surprise 60th birthday party for Mike gives Will and Zara a chance to reflect on how being fostered made a difference to their lives, thanking him for everything.

Thanks to footage shot on a genuine old camcorder, we are taken to the 1990s, to see how Will settles into the family. We also jump back to the 2010s, when a young Zara is being taught to play the guitar by Mike, something that comes full circle when she performs a song at the party. Mike’s son Chris is involved throughout, showing the important role the children of foster carers play.

The concluding message of the film is that what you do with your life could forever change someone else’s – encouraging people to foster in order to make that change.

The film was developed with the input and insight of foster carers and people with care experience, was produced by Reel TwentyFive and project managed by public sector media partner CAN/Rachel Brown.

Suffolk residents urged to share their views on local pharmaceutical services

Suffolk County Council is calling on residents to share their views on local pharmaceutical services as part of a regular review to ensure that these services continue to meet the evolving needs of the community.

The Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA), which is undertaken every three years in line with statutory requirements, is a comprehensive report designed to assess current pharmaceutical services and identify any gaps or areas for improvement.

Feedback gathered through this survey will help the Suffolk Health and Wellbeing Board, NHS England, and Integrated Care Boards make informed decisions about future service provisions, including any potential new pharmacy openings.

Pharmaceutical services in Suffolk are delivered through community pharmacies—sometimes referred to as chemists—which include those located in supermarkets, online pharmacies, and specialist medical appliance contractors. These pharmacies not only

dispense medicines but also offer essential healthcare advice and support, often serving as the first point of contact for health concerns.

Residents can complete the survey online by visiting <https://bit.ly/4f4PUYC>. The deadline for submissions is 8th November 2024.

By contributing to this important review, residents can help ensure that pharmaceutical services in Suffolk remain fit for purpose and responsive to the needs of the community.

HRH The Princess Royal to open Lowestoft's Gull Wing Bridge

Her Royal Highness, The Princess Royal will officially open The Gull Wing Bridge in Lowestoft on Tuesday 19th November.

The new multi-million-pound bridge, which opened to pedestrians, cyclists, and vehicles in September, represents a significant step forward for Lowestoft and is already benefitting the town according to local businesses and residents.

Built on behalf of Suffolk County Council by leading civil engineering contractor Farrans, The Gull Wing Bridge has provided a long-awaited third crossing over Lake Lothing, which has significantly eased traffic congestion in the town centre, shortened journey times, and improved journey reliability.

By streamlining logistics and transportation in the town, the bridge is also expected to act as a catalyst for economic growth, attracting new investment and positioning Lowestoft as a dynamic and forward-looking commercial centre and community.

Timings and event details will be provided closer to the time.

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