

September 2023

RENDELSHAM AND ORFORD WARD Parish Report

It's been a busy summer for the council as we get ready for the first real changes stemming from our new administration – this autumn we set the budgets for the next four years. So there's been a lot of meetings about what the priorities are, given the money available.

I've been doing a lot of advocating on residents behalf at the County Council level. There's limited success there but on school transport, flooding, road safety and mowing there's always progress to be made – often after following the 'squeaky wheel' tactics!

I've also been chairing a lot of Licensing Committees and attending Cabinet as the deputy member for Resources. It's been great to meet so many of you in the first 100 days in office, and I look forward to working with you all.

Transforming Suffolk's Business Support

Suffolk's district and borough councils, the County Council and New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership have partnered to invest in business support and development services, including advice to reduce carbon emissions.

By working in partnership, over £1 million will be invested in Suffolk business support services from July 2023 to March 2025. The initiative has combined local authority funding of £632,047 from the UK Government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, which aims to improve pride in place and increase life chances across the UK by investing in communities and place, supporting local business, and people and skills. In addition, £153,407 will come from Suffolk County Council and £300,000 from New Anglia LEP.

Suffolk's economy is primarily composed of micro and small enterprises, accounting for 98.1 per cent of all businesses. The partners recognise that to unlock their potential, tackle challenges and significantly boost economic growth, these businesses require targeted support. The consultancy will assist Suffolk businesses in identifying what achieving net zero would mean for them, providing advice and developing action plans.

Have your Say on a New Planning Document

East Suffolk residents are invited to have their say on a new planning document covering custom and self-build housing.

A consultation on the draft Custom and Self-build Housing Supplementary Planning Document (SPD), which provides guidance on the development of custom and self-build housing, begins on Wednesday 6 September.

The Suffolk Coastal Local Plan and the Waveney Local Plan each contain a policy which supports custom and self-build housing. The Custom and Self-build Housing SPD provides further guidance on the application of these policies:

- Policy SCLP5.9 Self Build and Custom Build Housing (Suffolk Coastal Local Plan, 2020)
- Policy WLP8.3 Self Build and Custom Build (Waveney Local Plan, 2019)

The draft SPD covers a range of topics including the types of housing that qualify as custom and self-build housing, an overview of the self-build exemption from Community Infrastructure Levy, consideration of design and the application of design codes, and guidance to help ensure custom and self-build housing is appropriately marketed.

Comments on the Draft Custom and Self-build Housing Supplementary Planning Document must be submitted by 5pm on Wednesday 18 October 2023.

From 6 September, you can view the consultation and comment.

Comments can also be emailed to planningpolicy@eastsuffolk.gov.uk or sent to East Suffolk Council, Planning Policy and Delivery Team, Riverside, 4 Canning Road, Lowestoft, Suffolk NR33 0EQ.

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.

One of the shelters comprises a log pile placed on top of rubble and covered with subsoil. This will eventually become overgrown and provide an excellent place for reptiles and amphibians to overwinter and to catch the sun to allow reptiles to bask.

Located next to the Broads National Park, Woods Meadow is a 19.7-hectare site with a wildflower meadow, protected trees and seven English Oaks which were planted in 2022 to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Planting began last year on a 5.8-hectare mixed native woodland whilst a restricted area known as the Hay Field provides a haven for ground nesting birds, especially skylarks. This fully enclosed area is reopened to visitors during the winter and serves as a safe area for dogs to be exercised off the lead.

For the most up to date information regarding East Suffolk Council, please visit:
www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk

Best wishes,

Tim