

Tunstall Parish Council

SCC Monthly Newsletter - July 2023

[Councils cite concerns as consultation opens for Norwich to Tilbury proposals](#)

National Grid has opened its consultation to anyone wishing to comment on its Norwich to Tilbury proposal, previously known as East Anglia Green. This is an eight-week non-statutory consultation period which closes on 21 August 2023.

The project will see a new 400kV electricity transmission line built between Norwich and Tilbury, running a distance of 111 miles. It will be made up mostly of overhead lines and pylons, along with some underground cables and a new substation.

The new consultation reveals the route for the pylons, passing through Norfolk, Suffolk, and Essex. It shows the line will run underground through the Dedham Vale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty on the Essex-Suffolk border.

The consultation is open to residents, landowners, businesses and any individuals or groups that may be interested in commenting on the revised proposals. Consultees can participate online or via face-to-face events.

Essex County Council, Norfolk County Council and Suffolk County Council are also being consulted on the proposals as statutory consultees. All three councils have already raised concerns to the initial consultation undertaken last year.

You can read more about the Norwich to Tilbury project and view a calendar of consultation events on the [National Grid website](#). You can also comment on the proposals by:

- completing National Grid's [online feedback form](#)
- sending a completed paper feedback form to Freepost N TO T (no stamp or further address needed)
- completing a paper feedback form at one of the [consultation events](#)
- emailing your comments to contact@n-t.nationalgrid.com

Norfolk and Suffolk councils receive funding to help nature's recovery

Suffolk and Norfolk County Councils have been formally appointed by Government as responsible authorities for preparing a Local Nature Recovery Strategy for their respective counties.

This means that they will be working together to help improve wildlife habitats and reverse the decline of biodiversity across the region, working with local communities to develop a tailored nature recovery strategy for their areas.

They will also work with other local planning authorities, the Broads Authority, Natural England, and a wide range of stakeholders and partners, including farming and landowner groups.

This is all part of Government's ambition to further drive nature recovery, with 48 individual local authorities across the country receiving allocations from a £14 million funding pot. Norfolk and Suffolk County Councils will receive £333,000 and £282,000 respectively over two years to fund this work. With the best ways to support nature recovery depending on local character and geography, Local Nature Recovery Strategies will help communities map out the action needed in their area to restore nature.

The Norfolk and Suffolk councils have already been working closely with each other, jointly hosting the Norfolk and Suffolk Nature Recovery Partnership, and a host of other stakeholders and interested parties to prepare for this moment. The two authorities have pooled resources and expertise and to ensure that strategies effectively join up across the two counties to the wider benefit of nature and people.

The Strategies will focus on how to improve habitats and protect the natural environment across the region, with local approaches tailored to the specific circumstances of each area. Norfolk and Suffolk are home to a variety of beautiful and unique landscapes, from the chalk streams of the Norfolk Coast to the Stour estuary at the southeast of Suffolk and across many habitats in between, and specific policies will be drawn up to best protect and nurture each location.

Future plans will include working closely with other neighbouring counties, to identify and support opportunities for nature recovery at sufficient scale to really benefit wildlife.

Landscape gardener given suspended jail sentence for fraudulent activity

A landscape gardener has been handed a suspended prison sentence and ordered to pay compensation for a string of offences.

This includes defrauding his victims out of thousands of pounds, after Suffolk Trading Standards pursued a conviction against him.

Darren Moore, 42, of Old Warren Farm, Wimbleton, traded as Darren Moore Garden Landscaping & DIY and operated across Suffolk. He first came to the attention of Trading Standards after a consumer complained of his poor work in April 2022.

An investigation was subsequently launched into Moore, during which statements were taken from eight witnesses who alleged that he had acted dishonestly by taking payment for his services but failing to complete the work. Collectively the witnesses paid over £10,800 to Moore, £2,900 of which was refunded to three of the customers, leaving the rest out of pocket by almost £8,000.

Concerns were also raised about the quality of work carried out by Moore, with an independent chartered surveyor concluding that these “fell well below an acceptable standard” and that “the amount paid by consumers for his work was completely excessive”. In addition, Suffolk Trading Standards uncovered that Moore had failed to return all monies owed to creditors and acted dishonestly in his communications with customers.

At a hearing at Ipswich Magistrates Court on 22 May, Darren Moore pleaded guilty to carrying out garden landscaping work for a fraudulent purpose, contrary to Section 9 of the Fraud Act 2006. Today Darren Moore was sentenced to 4 months in prison, suspended for 18 months, ordered to undertake 150 hours of unpaid work within the next 18 months, and pay £15,309 in compensation and legal costs.

Anyone who believes they may have been the victim of a fraudulent or substandard trader should contact the Citizens Advice Consumer Service on **0808 223 1133**.

Waste transfer station fire sparks fresh warning over safe disposal of batteries

People are being reminded of the importance of disposing of waste batteries properly following a fire at a Suffolk waste transfer station.

Operations were briefly disrupted at Haverhill waste transfer station in Homefield Road after fire broke out amongst 50 tonnes of rubbish on June 16.

Waste batteries should be disposed of properly and never thrown away with household rubbish.

The waste transfer station takes refuse material collected locally and bulks it for onward reprocessing.

The precise cause of the fire has not been determined but FCC Environment, which manages the 11 recycling centres and four transfer stations around the county on behalf of Suffolk County Council, said that when a fire starts in piles of waste it is usually caused by a battery that has managed to spark.

This can happen if there is friction, such as when a waste pile is moved or crushed.

In June 2022 a fire at the Materials Recycling Facility in Great Blakenham, near Ipswich, which recycles waste from across Suffolk, is suspected to have been started by a battery dumped with household recycling.

Lithium batteries are a particular problem but standard household batteries are also culprits, as well as vapes and small electricals plus items that do not look like they have a battery such as Christmas jumpers and light toys.

All batteries should be disposed of either at recycling centres or in collection points at most large stores where they are sold.

Work began in May to build a new recycling centre for Haverhill within the waste transfer station.

The new centre, which should be completed in early 2024, will replace the current facility in Chalkstone Way.

Fire and Rescue Services attend around 300 significant fires at waste sites per year in the UK. There are many other smaller fires that are dealt with before they become significant.

More information on hidden batteries can be found at the [Suffolk Recycling](#) website.

Details on how to find your nearest electrical recycling point can also be found at the [Suffolk Recycling](#) website.

Woman sentenced following social care payment fraud

Hannah Colley, of Fiddlers Folley, Colchester, pleaded guilty on the 5th of June 2023 to one count of failing to disclose information that she was under a legal duty to disclose, between 2018 and 2022. She was claiming care payments in Suffolk and submitted a later claim for social care direct payments from Essex County Council.

A social care review in the summer of 2022 raised concerns that Colley was not providing evidence of how her direct payment had been spent, she had been avoiding meeting with her Social Worker face-to-face and it was found that she was registered to a GP Practice in Colchester.

The concerns were referred to the Council's Counter Fraud Service who found that Colley moved from Ipswich to Colchester in June 2018, meaning she would no longer be eligible for funding from Suffolk County Council and that she had been claiming a second direct payment from Essex County Council since June 2020. During this period, she received £27,643.68 in direct payments from Suffolk County Council.

Colley was sentenced today to 26 weeks' custody suspended for 2 years, with conditions that she complete a rehabilitation activity requirement for 10 days and abide by a curfew. This curfew will require her to stay indoors nightly, for 26 weeks, between 8pm and 8am. The court also ordered her to pay compensation of £27,643.68, legal, and investigatory costs of £6,100 and a victim surcharge of £154. The Court stated that they found 'limited mitigation' in the case and made direct reference to the falsehoods that Colley had told Suffolk County Council over many years.

Suffolk receives £1.49m funding for walking and cycling pilot

Suffolk County Council has received more than £1 million from the government to fund participation in a national pilot scheme to promote cycling and walking as part of a more active lifestyle.

The county is receiving £1,495,506 over three years as one of 11 local authorities taking part in the £13.9 million Active Travel England social prescribing scheme.

Social prescribing is a national pilot scheme to promote cycling and walking as part of a more active lifestyle.

The project, launched in August 2022, is helping councils run trials to evaluate the impact of active travel on an individual's physical and mental health, such as through reduced demand for healthcare appointments and reliance on medication due to more physical activity.

This also includes allowing doctors and health workers to prescribe walking and cycling to improve patients' physical and mental health.

As the scheme progresses, GP surgeries in the pilot areas of Ipswich and Lowestoft will be invited to take part.

Work is already underway with Suffolk and North East Essex Integrated Care Board and Suffolk Information Partnership to link some referral systems.

Suffolk will use its funding for projects that will see patients in parts of Ipswich and Lowestoft offered free access to guided walks, cycle training and bike loans.

Introductory walk and cycle groups are taking place now on Friday mornings in Ipswich at Murray Park and Holywells Park. In Lowestoft, they are operating from Normanston Park.

These will be available through July and August, with participants offered 1-1 journey planning, 1-1 buddy walking, or cycling and bike maintenance training.

From September, walking and cycling groups will take place across Ipswich at Whitton, Chantry, Gainsborough, Wherstead and Central Ipswich.

In Lowestoft they will be taking place at the Seafront, Normanston Park, Nicholas Everett Park and Sparrows Nest. Other venues will develop as the pilot progresses.

There will be varying levels of activity depending on health needs, with each activity lasting up to 90 minutes with a rest break and free drink in a local café.

There will be plenty of rest stops based on the needs of the participants. Equipment can be provided to include walking aids, bicycles, or e-bikes.

All activities are led by experienced and qualified cycle and walk leaders.

Later in the year other activities are planned in the form of community events, themed walks, or cycle rides, cycling courses and a digital walking app featuring challenges and treasure hunts focused on the areas of Ipswich and Lowestoft.

Participants within the target areas can be referred through a GP or voluntary group or a self-referral by contacting thewaytogosuffolk@suffolk.gov.uk or calling 01473 260060.

For more details about the scheme go the [Way To Go Suffolk](#) website.

Suffolk County Council has also received £545,528 over three years from the Government's Capability Fund to develop and invest in cycling initiatives.

This includes setting up an accessible cycling scheme in Stowmarket for those unable to use a bicycle and working with a selection of organisations offering their staff a free six-week e-bike trial - [launched with Associated British Ports at Port of Ipswich last November](#) - and which now has almost 30 bikes on trial around the county.

Happy Birthday Cassius and Social Work Award sponsorship

This month we celebrate the two-year anniversary of Cassius, Suffolk's digital care partnership between Suffolk County Council, technology company Alcove and change management consultants Rethink Partners, and the results so far have been fantastic.

Cassius offers modern, cutting-edge care technology which blends in with mainstream technology and can be used to complement face-to-face care. Since launching in 2021 we have had over 3,800 referrals, provided over 7,600 pieces of digital care technology and things just keep growing with over 100 referrals each week over the last month alone. Aside from the £12.9m of savings made so far, by helping people stay independent for longer in their own homes and avoiding more expensive care options, what we are really seeing is that people, their families, friends, and carers are now at the heart of their own care. They can do more for themselves, and continue to live good, fulfilling lives within their own communities across Suffolk.

What is most impressive about Cassius, is that it's not just about the technology, it goes the extra mile to provide the information and intelligence necessary to ensure people get the right care. It also offers an end-to-end service, talking people through their needs, providing ongoing guidance, advice, and support, as well as installation of the necessary technology.

Cassius also received three prestigious awards earlier this year, At the Health Tech Digital Awards 2023, it was named Best Innovation Project of the Year; it was awarded Best New Assistive Technology Solution of the Year at the Assistive Technology Awards 2023, while Cassius+, a new pilot project in the west of Suffolk, won Best Innovation Project of the Year at the same awards.

Speaking of awards, Adult Social Care is about more than just new technology, however important that may be these days, it is always primarily about people, and we are pleased to announce that Suffolk County Council are sponsoring the Newly Qualified Social Worker of the year awards, having been immensely proud of the achievements of one of the Newly Qualified Social Workers in winning the award last year.

At Suffolk County Council we believe our workforce is the cornerstone of delivering high-quality services and we are proud of the investment we make in our staff to ensure they have the skills, time, and support necessary to improve the lives of people across the county.

Recruitment into Adult Social Care is a top priority, and like every other local authority across the country, at times that can be tough. In Suffolk, we are fortunate to have a highly successful Apprentice Social Worker programme running alongside other sponsored recruitment schemes, a range of funded and supported post-qualifying programmes, and an excellent Assessed and Supported Year in Employment programme, with co-production firmly embedded across social work education through our Social Work Teaching Partnership.

So, if you are reading this and want to join an ambitious and innovative Local Authority, and its Adult Social Care service which is leading the way through cutting-edge care technology, and celebrating the incredible work of social workers, carers and others – visit [Suffolk Jobs Direct](#) and search for adult social care.

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