



Councillors Report to Otley Parish Council

For Sept 2025

Carlford and Fynn Valley Ward.

Rushmere Village, Great Bealings, Little Bealings, Playford, Bredfield, Grundisburgh & Culpho, Witnesham and Swilland, Westerfield, Hasketon, Clopton, Charsfield, Dallinghoo, Tuddenham, Boulge, Burgh, Debach, Otley.

From District Councillor

Cllr Colin Hedgley

(Colin.Hedgley@east Suffolk.gov.uk)

Westerfield Quarry

The Application is now on the SCC planning website. SCC/0093/25SC.

Please send in your objection. Anyone can send in, you do not have to live in Westerfield. All objections must be in by 12th September. Please go to the “Stop the Quarry” Website for more information. If the go-ahead is given, then Sinks Pit will be busier than ever as the Westerfield Quarry gravel will be brought to Sinks Pit for washing and grading. Plus, there will be even more lorries on our local roads. The time may come when money has to be raised in order to brief a Barrister, so put a few pounds behind your clock on the mantelpiece just in case!

Missed Bins

There has been a few cases of missed bins lately.

If your bin is missed, go onto the East Suffolk Council website, click on “Waste” then “Waste Collection and Disposal” then “Household Bin Collection” then “Missed Bin Collections”.

Scroll down to report a bin that has not been collected. Alternatively, you can telephone the Customer Services on 0333 016 2000.

Trees and Branches etc

If you wish to report on trees that appear dangerous, such as overhanging branches etc or hedges that require cutting back then there are a number of ways you can report.

1. contact ESSL - **03300 166111** or customerservices@east Suffolkservices.co.uk

2. Also, here is the link to the ESC page on reporting trees
<https://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/planning/design-heritage-ecology-trees-landscape-and-rights-of-way/trees/report-a-problem-with-a-tree/>

3. Otherwise you can [report a tree online](#) and ESSL will investigate in due course.



Unitary Authority etc. (My personal opinion)

You are all aware of the major boundary changes that will affect us all in the next few years.

I have always been slightly doubtful of the "one size fits all" proposal as I could not see how it would save money and pay for a mayor. I therefore gave my support to the idea of investigating a three unitary authorities plan, East Suffolk, West Suffolk and Central Suffolk (Ipswich).

Now the final plan of the District Authorities has been published, I note that half of Carlford Ward has been hived off to Ipswich. (Great Bealings, Little Bealings, Playford,, Tuddenham Westerfield, Rushmere and Witnesham). I am extremely unhappy about that and will vote against it. No one has asked the voters if that is what they want.

You can read about the plans for the one unitary Authority on the Suffolk County Council website "One Suffolk" and the plans for the three system unitary authorities on the relevant ESC website. <https://threecouncilsforsuffolk.org>)

Additionally, this news report is on the BBC website:-

The UK government did not do its own analysis of the cost of the biggest reorganisation of councils in England for decades, the BBC has learned.

Deputy Prime Minister Angela Rayner said "a significant amount of money" could be saved by merging councils in 21 areas into single authorities.

Rayner's department, the ministry of local government, based its cost estimates on a 2020 report commissioned by the County Council Network (CCN) that said £2.9bn could be saved over five years.

But the CCN has since revised its analysis and now says the reorganisation could make no savings and actually cost money in some scenarios.

Tim Oliver, chairman of the CCN, said local government reorganisation "could unlock billions in efficiency savings to be reinvested in frontline services", if it was delivered at the right scale.

Oliver said the CCN supported the government's reforms but added: "We are concerned over the potential costs of reorganisation where proposals seek to replace the two-tier system with multiple small unitary councils."

A two-tier system means responsibilities are split between a county council and district councils.

Councils involved in the reorganisation have been submitting plans to create new local authorities in their areas.

Some have proposed setting up multiple smaller unitary authorities in their areas.

In Essex, for example, the county council has proposed three new unitary authorities in the region.

The government will decide which proposals to take forward and intends to inform most councils next year.



A government spokesperson insisted the reorganisation "will improve services and save taxpayers' money".

Financial shocks

Ministers talked up the potential to save money as one of the main benefits of local government reorganisation.

Speaking to MPs in June, Rayner said: "Local government reorganisation will lead to better outcomes for residents and save a significant amount of money that can be reinvested in public services and improve accountability."

But her department insisted it was not necessary to commission separate in-house analysis of the cost of reorganisation at the public's expense, in response to the BBC's freedom of information request.

The government's savings estimates were based on data produced by PwC, an accounting firm, and analysis by the CCN, external, a cross-party lobbyist group.

A PwC report in 2020 estimated potential savings of £2.9bn over five years if all councils in two-tier areas were replaced by single authorities.

But in updated analysis this year, external, the CCN said the reorganisation could cost £850m over five years and deliver no savings if 58 new councils, based on a minimum population of 300,000, were created in all 21 two-tier areas.

"Under this scenario no long-term efficiency savings would be delivered, meaning it would be more efficient to retain the current two-tier system in England," the CCN's analysis said.

Oliver said the CCN's analysis showed "that splitting county areas into unitary councils with populations as small as 300,000 will create hundreds of millions of new unsustainable costs for local taxpayers".

The councillor said the government must ensure the new councils created are the right size to achieve efficiencies, improve capacity and withstand financial shocks.

"Failure to do so could pile further strain on already under pressure care services and at a time when many county and district authorities could see their funding reduced," Oliver said.

'Mega councils'

The District Councils' Network (DCN) said the reorganisation could produce poor results given the funding pressures already facing local government.

"It's astonishing that the government has undertaken no independent analysis before embarking on the biggest reorganisation of councils for 50 years," said Sam Chapman-Allen, chair of the District Councils' Network.

"Mega councils, with populations of half a million people or more, could be imposed on areas when there's no independent, up-to-date evidence to justify councils of this size, and many large councils created previously are struggling financially."

The DCN said it was not too late for the government to commission analysis on the optimal size of councils to maximise potential savings.

The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government said: "Councils across the country have also told us that bringing services together under one roof means residents get



joined-up support when they need it most, while clearer structures mean people know exactly who's responsible for delivering their services.

"Councils will also develop their own proposals for how reorganisation works best in their areas, as we fix the foundations of **local** government through our Plan for Change."

(I do not think that this report augurs well for us Council Tax payers).

Please do e mail me with your thoughts on the Devolution Plans before the 24 September as that is when the full council votes on these measures.

Free music sessions hit the right note with Kesgrave residents

Kesgrave students have been working with professional musicians to help deliver free music sessions for older residents with long term health conditions.

Run by Britten Pears Arts, Participate Kesgrave is a free to access music project for older people, particularly for those living with long term health conditions including dementia and Parkinson's, and their carers. The sessions, which take place in Leiston, Saxmundham, Woodbridge and Kesgrave, are delivered by professional musicians, working with those attending to create and contribute to the music.

At Participate Kesgrave, sessions over the summer term have become intergenerational, with students from Kesgrave High School, co-designing the sessions with the musicians and then delivering them in the community. The involvement of the students has been funded by the Kesgrave, Rushmere St Andrew, Martlesham, Carlford and Fynn Valley Community Partnership and the Community Partnership Board.

Participate Kesgrave takes place at the Bowls Pavilion at Kesgrave War Memorial Community Centre every Tuesday at 10am. These are free sessions, but booking is required: www.brittenpearsarts.org/take-part/adults/participate

Seafront Gardens awarded coveted Green Flag for tenth year

Felixstowe's famous Seafront Gardens will continue to fly the prestigious Green Flag after being recognised as one of the country's best parks for the tenth consecutive year.

The Grade II listed gardens have been awarded the mark of quality for public parks every year since completion of a restoration project funded by East Suffolk Council and the Heritage Lottery Fund.

The site is one of 2,250 in the UK to achieve the award, which is the international quality mark for parks and green spaces.

The news that Felixstowe's Seafront Gardens have met the standards required for the accreditation is testament to the hard work and dedication of the team that care for the green space so that visitors and residents alike can enjoy it.

Since restoration took place between 2011 and 2015, the grounds team has boosted ecological diversity by protecting the grass banks and providing a habitat for invertebrates and reptiles.



Statement following Sizewell C Final Investment Decision announcement

A statement from Cllr Tom Daly, East Suffolk Council's Cabinet Member for Energy Projects, following confirmation by the government of Final Investment Decision for the construction of the Sizewell C Nuclear Power Station:

"East Suffolk Council acknowledges today's decision by government on the Final Investment Decision for the Sizewell C new nuclear power station promoted by Sizewell C Co at Sizewell, Suffolk. Final Investment Decision is a key financial milestone for the project and follows on from the announcement of a further £14.2bn funding announced as part of the government's Spending Review in June. The project will now proceed with certainty.

"The project was granted development consent by the Secretary of State for Business, Energy, and Industrial Strategy in 2022 and formally commenced in January 2024. Construction is expected to take approximately nine to 12 years. At this time, the technological development of renewables and the market situation will be such that the case for a massive inflexible nuclear provision will be, at best, unclear.

"East Suffolk Council recognises the continued challenges this will bring to East Suffolk's communities as a result of the scale of construction works associated with the development, alongside other planned energy infrastructure development in East Suffolk. The Council will continue to work with the project promoter and all key stakeholders, seeking a coordinated and strategic approach to the delivery of energy infrastructure projects in East Suffolk.

"East Suffolk Council believes that renewable energy, like offshore wind and solar, provides a better long-term answer to the energy security and carbon reduction future of the UK. ESC requests that alongside this significant investment in large scale nuclear, similar investment will come forward for community energy initiatives and domestic insulation, to help meet our climate commitments in the climate crisis, and to support our communities with unaffordable energy prices."

Helping town and parishes to support nature

Prepared by environmental charity Groundwork East on behalf of East Suffolk Council, a new toolkit is now available for town and parish councils to support conservation in their local area. As part of the Council's Nature at Work scheme, the toolkit contains branded graphics for town and parish councils to use online to promote their involvement with the conservation scheme, which has created 116 wild spaces across East Suffolk which are being left to grow over the summer.

New signs have been installed on council-owned land across the district to help identify the wild areas where grass cutting will be limited to twice per year for the benefit of pollinators such as bees and butterflies. The signs feature a QR code directing people to further information about the scheme, including how residents and community groups can get involved. A map of all the sites is available, and photos from the locations will be added throughout the year.



Groundwork East is currently working with town and parish councils to build awareness of the sites, and these councils are encouraged to help monitor the sites to better understand what species are present and how the sites are changing. Emily Ankers, project officer at Groundwork East said: “Small sites where nature can take the lead are vital stepping stones for wildlife in our landscape. It’s amazing how biodiverse these areas can be, they’re alive with all sorts of species including the grasses and wildflowers that are so important for pollinators.” A guide to making a wildflower meadow, a species guide and information regarding funding opportunities for town and parish councils is also available. Find the toolkit, and more information about Nature at Work at: www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/nature-at-work

Town and parish councils are also invited to a free webinar on Wednesday 20 August (9am – 11am) to introduce the toolkit and find out more about the Nature at Work scheme, including the benefits of green spaces, ideas for funding and how to monitor and record the wildlife in your town and parish. Book your free place at www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/nature-at-work

Groundwork East are also working with local schools to help them create their own Nature at Work sites in their school grounds. Ten East Suffolk schools will be supported by Groundwork East to create native wildflower meadows and habitats for wildlife on their school grounds. These spaces can then be used for learning activities, encouraging future generations to be conscious of and inspired by the natural world.

Thanks to support from the Simon Gibson Charitable Trust, the Groundwork East team will be working with an additional five schools to create their very own Nature at Work patch.

Work to improve coastal assets set to take place

Work is set to take place this month on replacing important safety markers on coastal structures in the north of the district.

East Suffolk Council’s Coastal Management Team have appointed Red7Marine to remove and install aids to navigation markers from Hopton to Lowestoft.

Red7Marine will be removing existing navigation markers on the end of groynes and installing navigation markers on new piles.

The work is being completed as part of the council’s statutory requirements to maintain the aids to navigation on East Suffolk’s beaches.

This work supports the safeguarding of life and local economies by making sure that the council’s coastal assets are in the condition needed for continued protection. All work is subject to safe working conditions and is tide and weather condition dependent.

Any questions or concerns regarding the works can be directed to coastalmanagement@eastsuffolk.gov.uk, or addressed to the Coastal Management Service, Riverside, 4 Canning Road, Lowestoft, NR33 0EQ.