



District Councillor's Report to Playford Parish Council Meeting

For January 2024

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

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Firstly, I hope you all had a happy Christmas.

Secondly I would like to wish you all a very peaceful and prosperous New Year.

That said, I am well aware of the suffering and hardship that many are still experiencing from the October 2023 floods, added to which we now have the more recent flooding of the past few weeks. Fallen trees, raised manhole covers and blocked drains just pile agony upon agony. I unapologetically reproduce some of the advice from last year.

If you have problems with flooding, please ring East Suffolk Council on 0333 016 2000.

They will direct you to the most appropriate department that can help you. To report a Fallen Tree or a Flooding incident please telephone Suffolk County Council on 0345 606 6171. Meanwhile some helpful information is available in the publications, "A Homeowners Guide to Flood Resilience" and "Property Flood Resilience" both available via the internet.

Take extra care.

High tides, intense rainfall and strong winds are forecast to impact the East Suffolk coast again with large waves, debris and potential cliff collapse possible and those visiting the coastal areas are advised to take extra care. We have now suffered heavy rainfall for some time and run off and deep puddles are causing many roads to be dangerous. Slow down when driving through water on the highways. Continual house building and the tarmacking of drives with inadequate drainage, has forced water onto the roads with the consequential results.



Formal response to National Grid's Sea Link consultation

East Suffolk Council has raised a number of key concerns in response to consultation on proposals for a major energy infrastructure project.

The Council submitted its written response, agreed by East Suffolk Council's Cabinet, to National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET) as part of statutory consultation into the Sea Link project, which is one of several reinforcement projects proposed as part of the Great Grid Upgrade. NGET has stated that the Sea Link project is required to add greater capacity to the electricity transmission network, allowing anticipated renewable energy, generated offshore, to connect to the network and be transported around the country.

The project includes installation of a new high voltage undersea electricity cable link between Suffolk and Kent – with construction of a converter station near Saxmundham, a substation near Friston, and underground cabling running from both sites out to sea at Aldeburgh. A number of public exhibitions and webinars were held in East Suffolk as part of the consultation between 24 October and 18 December 2023 – with postal responses accepted until Tuesday 2 January 2024.

NGET has said it will give all representations due regard in preparation of proposals for the scheme prior to formal submission to the Planning Inspectorate in the autumn of 2024. As a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP), the decision on whether to grant development consent for Sea Link will rest with the Secretary of State.

Learning centre funding boost for environmental education charity

A charity dedicated to transforming lives through the power of nature has received a major funding boost from East Suffolk Council towards completion of a unique new learning centre. East Suffolk Council has committed £110,000 of grant funding towards the Green Light Trust's vision to provide health and wellbeing programmes from the new building at Castan Wood, in Martlesham, for children, young people and adults with complex needs.

The environmental education charity launched an appeal last November to raise the money needed for completion of the carbon negative, cement-free learning centre – built using a hemp-based modular construction system.

The Green Light Trust already hosts a range of outdoor, woodland activities aimed at providing equitable access to nature at the 26-acre site. East Suffolk Council's contribution



from earmarked reserves will assist completion of the centre, designed and manufactured externally by Suffolk based Natural Building Systems, and which received initial support from Suffolk County Council and the Suffolk Growth Investment Fund.

Lauren Shand, Green Light Trust CEO, said: “We are hugely thankful to East Suffolk Council for their support, which puts us in a position to be able to complete the build and start reaching many more people in need of our services.

“This building is being constructed with deep green principles in mind and we are delighted that this has been recognised and supported by the Council. We will be able to showcase through this build, new and sustainable ways of working which have the potential to positively influence the wider construction industry.”

Council Tax

The East Suffolk Council Cabinet has agreed that an initial proposed Band D Council Tax for East Suffolk Council of £186.57 for 2024/25, an increase of £5.40 or 2.98%, be approved.

“PRECEPT SURVEY: PCC proposes increase in precept to fund Constabulary in 2024/25

As your Police and Crime Commissioner, setting the policing budget is one of my most important responsibilities. I must ensure that the Chief Constable has the resources required to provide an efficient and effective service. Later this month I will need to make a decision about the policing element of the council tax precept. I am planning to ask the [Police and Crime Panel](#) to support my proposal to raise the policing element of the precept by £13 a year (for a Band D property) to enable us to maintain the standard of service that the public expect.

I would be very grateful if you could take part in the survey (link below) and let me know what you think. Could I also ask you to forward this on to others within your organisation/network and anyone else you think may be interested to comment.

[PCCPreceptSurvey2024](#)

(Control and click to follow link)

Please go to my [website](#) for more detail.

Tim Passmore: Police & Crime Commissioner for Suffolk”



East Suffolk Through the Lens photo competition launch

A search is underway for fabulous photos celebrating East Suffolk – ‘Through the Lens’.

East Suffolk Council is excited to announce the return of a competition giving photographers of all ages and experience the chance to showcase their favourite sights and scenes from across the district.

The competition, relaunched under the new name East Suffolk Through the Lens, will see one winning photo grace the cover of East Suffolk Magazine when delivered to every household in the district next spring. High street retail vouchers will also be up for grabs for the overall winner, under-16 winner and three runners-up.

Entrants are encouraged to submit photographs that capture the essence of East Suffolk – from its people and wildlife to its historic buildings and beautiful landscapes.

More information about the competition can be found at the [East Suffolk Through the Lens](#) webpage.

Entries should be submitted via an [East Suffolk Through the Lens online entry form](#) before midnight on Sunday 28 January.

Winners will be announced during the week commencing 26 February, with the overall winner receiving a £100 high street voucher and seeing their photo printed on the front cover of the spring edition of [East Suffolk Magazine](#).

One under-16 winning entrant will also be chosen to receive a high street voucher worth £75, while three runners-up will each get a high street voucher worth £25.