

## Leader's monthly bulletin – December 2021

Welcome to the December edition of the monthly bulletin, aimed at keeping you up to date on the main news stories from East Suffolk and, where possible, giving you a view of upcoming events and projects.

**Steve Gallant**

**Leader of East Suffolk Council**

### Funding boost for biodiversity

The Greenprint Forum has awarded grants totalling £8,265.19 to 11 projects in East Suffolk which will help to make a difference to the people who live in our communities by enhancing and promoting nature and biodiversity.



The Forum launched its Nature First Small Grant scheme earlier this year, thanks to funding from East Suffolk Council.

Lowestoft in Bloom has been able to create a nature garden at St Margaret's allotments site after receiving £414.95. Children from local schools will be invited to the garden to discover wildlife, learn about where vegetables come from, and carry out other activities.

Meanwhile, another project to protect biodiversity was allocated £1,600. Jetty Lane CIO is working in partnership with Transition Woodbridge to rewild the land at the site of the future Jetty Lane Centre to ensure biodiversity is protected and provide a useful addition to the network of wildlife corridors in the town.

Read more about the projects which has received funding and details about how to apply at <https://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/news/funding-boost-for-biodiversity-in-east-suffolk/>



### **New Trading Company to deliver key council services**

As part of our commitment to seek the best possible value for money for residents, businesses, and all local stakeholders, we're creating a Local Authority Trading Company (LATCo) to play a more direct and influence role in how important services are delivered.

The LATCo will operate as an 'arms-length' commercial business, separate to the Council and will be responsible for crucial services such as waste and recycling collection, grounds maintenance and street cleansing.

This means that we will exercise our right not to renew the contract we hold with Norse for the provision of operational services, and therefore this contract will come to a natural end in July 2023.

Operational staff currently employed by East Suffolk Norse, will be legally entitled to transfer to the new organisation, on the same terms and conditions, through 'protection under law' TUPE legislation and we will be seeking as seamless a transition as possible.

Read my full statement here: [www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/news/new-trading-company-to-deliver-key-council-services/](http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/news/new-trading-company-to-deliver-key-council-services/)

### **Planting trees for the Queen's Jubilee**

We are supporting 'Treebilee', a project launched by HRH Prince Charles to encourage the planting of trees during a year-long celebration of the Queen's 70-year reign in 2022.

As part of this, we have purchased 200 oak trees which will be donated to every town and parish council in East Suffolk. Not only will this mark the very special occasion, but it will also help tackle climate change and contribute towards our vision to create environmentally sustainable communities.

Town and Parish councils are being written to with details of how to take ownership of their own special tree.

## Look out for the sticker this Christmas

We're running a campaign across our social media channels this month to encourage residents and visitors in East Suffolk to look out for the Food Hygiene Rating sticker if they're planning a meal out or ordering a takeaway.



The Food Hygiene Rating scheme gives information about the hygiene standards in restaurants, pubs, cafes, takeaways, hotels and other food businesses, making it easier for people to choose where to eat or buy their food.

Food businesses are given a hygiene rating when it is inspected by one of our Environmental Health Officers, to show how closely the business is meeting the

requirements of food hygiene law.

The Food Safety Team has awarded food hygiene ratings between 0 - 5 to over 2,200 local food businesses to ensure it is safe for residents and visitors and to help businesses improve, with 5 being very good and 0 meaning urgent improvements are necessary.

Over 98% of food businesses rated in East Suffolk have a Food Safety Rating of 3 or better, meaning there are plenty of great places to choose from when it comes to deciding where to eat or buy festive foods – just make sure to check first.

The first video for the campaign was posted yesterday:

<https://www.facebook.com/eastsuffolkcouncil/videos/3062768687324219>

You can check food ratings online at <https://ratings.food.gov.uk/>

## Lowestoft leads the UK with new flood defences

A 40m mitre flood gate, the second largest in the UK, will be built in the entrance to Lake Lothing as part of the Lowestoft Flood Risk Management Project. The ambitious project will see the mitre flood gate be the first of such structure in the UK to be built without diverting the navigation channel.

The gate will form the tidal barrier element of the project and be built over several winter seasons to maintain access to the inner harbour. The 40m mitre flood gate will keep the width of the current navigation channel for vessels entering Lake Lothing. This approach will allow Lowestoft to continue developing as a hub for offshore wind energy.

The detailed design phase of the mitre flood gate will begin next year and will provide a firm completion date for the project. Once complete, the gate, working in combination with tidal floodwalls, will provide valuable protection for people, homes, and businesses for many years to come.

## Reducing waste this Christmas

We are encouraging residents to look after the environment this Christmas by reducing waste and considering eco-friendly options where possible, such as ensuring wrapping paper is recyclable, only buy the food needed to avoid food waste and how to dispose of Christmas trees.

Also, there will be no changes to bin collections during the Christmas and New Year period this year, so we're reminding people to leave their bins out for collection as normal.

As a result, no bin hangers will be left on the bins this year, however, you can view or down a copy of your 2022 bin collection calendar at <https://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/waste/waste-collection-and-disposal/bin-collection/your-2022-bin-collection-calendar/>

## Drink, feast, and shop east this winter

Residents and visitors to East Suffolk are being urged to 'drink, feast, shop east' this winter with a new campaign created to boost local business.

'Think Local' is funded by the Welcome Back Fund to support the safe return to high streets and help build back better from the pandemic.



The campaign will highlight hidden gems, share unique local shops, restaurants, pubs, and experiences - and deliver a few surprises along the way. It has been given a big thumbs up by shops across East Suffolk who are hoping Christmas trade will help them recover from a difficult 18 months.



Those unable to get to their nearest high street can still support local businesses by using Click It Local East Suffolk, a new virtual high street service.

Launched on Thursday 2 December, Click It Local East Suffolk has also been funded by the ERDF Welcome Back Fund and is supported by the Council.

Residents anywhere in the district can use Click It Local East Suffolk to buy from any participating local shop and have it delivered on the same or next day. From weekly food essentials, gifts and treats to last-minute basics, customers can buy everything they need from as many shops as they like, with one payment and one delivery.

Businesses interested in finding out more about signing up with Click It Local can contact [georgina@clickitlocal.co.uk](mailto:georgina@clickitlocal.co.uk) or sign up directly via [www.clickitlocal.co.uk/store-sign-up/](http://www.clickitlocal.co.uk/store-sign-up/)

### **First Light organisers to manage restyled pavilion**

The organisers of Lowestoft's First Light Festival have been confirmed as the operator for the East Point Pavilion, which is to be repurposed into a community and events space.

Last year, planning permission was granted for the pavilion to be redesigned internally, creating a food hall with a mix of traders within a flexible, open plan space for community and cultural activity, art, music, and comedy performances.

Supported by the Council, First Light CIC will use their expertise to curate a programme of events and activities to be held within the pavilion, in addition to a unique street food offer. First Light CIC will also use the pavilion as an office base.

A contractor to undertake the refurbishment work is currently being sought, with work expected to start in January, ready for an Easter opening.

### **Surveys and consultations**

We are currently running a couple of surveys and consultations and, as always, we want to encourage participation as feedback from people in East Suffolk is invaluable and helps us ensure we're making the right decisions for our communities.

- **Draft East Suffolk CIL Charging Schedule**

Residents are invited to have their say on a draft Community Infrastructure Levy Charging Schedule which sets out the amount developers pay to fund new and improved infrastructure in East Suffolk. The consultation ends at 5pm on Thursday 23 December 2021: [www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/planning/developer-contributions/community-infrastructure-levy/cil-charging-schedule/](http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/planning/developer-contributions/community-infrastructure-levy/cil-charging-schedule/)

- **The Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document**  
Consultation on draft document which will provide guidance on the implementation of our affordable housing planning policies. People are able to comment until 13 December at <https://eastsuffolk.inconsult.uk/ESAFFHSGDRAFT/consultationHome>
- **The Sustainable Construction Supplementary Planning Document**  
Consultation on draft document which will provide guidance on our planning policies on sustainable construction, including guidance on a range of topics relating to the construction of environmentally sustainable buildings. People have until 13 December to comment:  
<https://eastsuffolk.inconsult.uk/SUSCONSPDDRAFT/consultationHome>
- **The draft East Suffolk Cycling and Walking Strategy**  
Consultation on draft document which provides a district-wide shortlist of cycling and walking infrastructure opportunities. The strategy aims to encourage greater use of sustainable forms of transport, reduce contributions to climate change, support the growth of the tourism industry, and to improve the health and wellbeing of residents by ensuring more trips to work, school, leisure, day-to-day errands, or public transport hubs, such as train stations or park and ride sites, are accessible by bike or on foot. Once adopted, this strategy will replace the Waveney Cycle Strategy (2016) and will cover the whole of the district. People can have their say on the consultation until 10 January at  
<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/cbc57e4a9cc24e4e7d174fb34b1bf0e>
- **Proposed extension to Beccles Cemetery**  
People are invited to have their say on proposals to extend Beccles Cemetery. The proposed extension will allow for traditional burial and cremation plots, as well as meadow burial plots where grass will be left to grow longer in the summer. Green burials will also be available. People can view the documents at <https://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/assets/Community/Cemeteries/Beccles-Cemetery-extension-consultation.pdf> and email comments to [leisure@eastsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:leisure@eastsuffolk.gov.uk) by 31 December 2021.



### **Follow us on social media**

We keep our communities up to date in a variety of ways and social media has an important role to play. Please follow us and share our posts with your audiences!

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/eastsuffolkconservatives/>

**Twitter:** <https://twitter.com/easuffolkstories?lang=en>

**East Suffolk Conservatives website:** <https://www.eastsuffolkconservatives.org.uk/>