

Leader's monthly bulletin – April 2022

Welcome to the April edition of my monthly bulletin, aimed at keeping Councillors 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

Council Tax £150 Energy Rebate

Households in Council Tax band A to D are likely to receive a £150 Council Tax rebate from the Government to help towards the cost of living now that gas and electricity prices are going up.

Eligible households already paying by direct debit should receive a one-off payment straight into their bank account from us in late April or early May and do not need to do anything.

Households not paying by direct debit will need to claim the rebate which may take longer. We will contact those household to let them know how to claim. Empty homes and second homes will not get the rebate.

See more information at www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/features/council-tax-150-energy-rebate/

Felixstowe Triathlon awarded national recognition



Felixstowe Triathlon has been named Large Event of the Year at the 2022 HUUB Triathlon England Awards – after already having received the honour for the East Region.

The second annual Felixstowe Triathlon is scheduled to take part just three weeks after the Commonwealth Games close this summer – and entries are still open for the event on Sunday 28 August.

People can find more and sign up at www.felixstowetriathlon.uk/

Incredible interest shown in 'Eastern Edge' huts

A huge number of enquiries have been received from people interested in purchasing one of the contemporary beach huts that are being built on Lowestoft's seafront.

The sale of a number of beach huts is being jointly managed by agents Paul Hubbard and Steel & Co. Those who have already formally expressed an interest in buying one of the Eastern Edge huts will be contacted and provide with pre-sales information over the next few weeks.

New enquiries can be made to Paul Hubbard by calling 01502 531218 or emailing info@paulhubbardonline.com



East Suffolk united in support for Ukraine

The Council has united to condemn Russia's invasion of Ukraine and pledged to support any Ukrainians seeking refuge in the district.

Local authorities Suffolk are working closely together to ensure they can deliver an effective, co-ordinated response to Government requirements to support Ukrainians seeking refuge in Suffolk.

To assist this co-ordinated approach and to ensure those living and working in East Suffolk are kept informed of the Government's response to the crisis, a new position has now been created within our cabinet and as of Friday 1 April, Cllr Judy Cloke is the Assistant Cabinet Member for Refugee Support.

Read more at www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/news/east-suffolk-united-in-support-for-ukraine/

Robopets bringing comfort to older residents

To help older residents, especially those living with dementia, we have recently purchased 20 companion pets which are being given to local dementia groups and care homes across East Suffolk.



The pets, which are robotic cats and dogs, provide the interactive companionship associated with owning a pet which can be therapeutic for many people, especially those living with dementia.

Piloted at the Memory Lane Group in Felixstowe, robopets have so far been given to Sole Bay Health Centre in Reydon, Glebe House Residential Care Home in Hollesley, the Pear Tree Fund in Halesworth and the Forget Me Not Café in Kesgrave.

Community radio receives Community Partnership grant funding

Rendlesham Community Radio, which provides opportunities for young people to gain experience as presenters or producers, has been awarded over £1,400 in funding through the Melon, Woodbridge and Deben Peninsula Community Partnership.

The station originated as a way of connecting the community during the pandemic – broadcasting for Rendlesham Youth Group’s room in the local community centre but has since grown substantially.

As well as supporting undiscovered local talent by offering the chance to perform in the studio ‘live lounge’, the parish council-backed initiative aims to encourage young people to explore their potential in performing arts – expressing the challenges they face and telling their stories through a chosen artform.

Rendlesham Community Radio's £1,443.17 grant will be put towards further supporting its work around youth engagement, community cohesion, work-related learning, and social isolation.

New lease of life for former railway signalman's cottage

A run-down railway crossing cottage has been granted a new lease of life thanks to a deal enabled by the Council.



The former signalman's cottage, just north of Campsea Ashe, near Wickham Market, was purchased and sold as part of our strategy to

ensure availability of good quality housing for the benefit of the East Suffolk community.

Free cooking workshops

Residents in Halesworth are invited to attend free cooking workshops to learn new cooking skills, cook and eat healthy and affordable food and pick up tips on making food go further.

The sessions are open to all in the local Halesworth community, including older children who are welcome to attend with their parents.

The sessions take place between 10am – 1pm on the following dates:

- Saturday 9 April
- Saturday 23 April
- Saturday 14 May
- Saturday 21 May
- Saturday 28 May

To book a place, please call 01986 875749.

Surveys and consultations

We are currently running one survey 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.

- **Firework displays on council-owned land**

As part of a review into firework displays on council-owned land, we have launched an 8-week consultation to better understand how residents feel about them and whether the rules need to be reconsidered. The consultation close on Friday 20 May: www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/features/new-consultation-seeks-views-on-firework-displays/

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 followers!

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