

## East Suffolk Council GLI Group – Councillor Update

**Daffodil Planting Campaign Blooms Success** Tens of thousands of daffodil bulbs are set to sprout across East Suffolk next spring after being distributed to communities as part of an annual planting programme.

East Suffolk Council received 120 applications from voluntary and community groups to join the scheme and receive a free bunch of around 500 bulbs to plant this winter. An East Suffolk Blooms selection panel met to decide where the available 82 sets of narcissus bulbs would eventually find a home.

**GLI Cllr Rachel Smith-Lyte, East Suffolk Council's cabinet member for Environment**, said: "We had such a promisingly high number of applications from all over the district – with some groups and organisations so keen that they requested up to five sets. In the end, we chose 82 groups to each receive a set and help boost biodiversity while spreading colour through their communities.

"I can't wait to see these vibrant pollinators flowering across East Suffolk next spring and would encourage groups and individuals to continue to plant in their areas, even if they didn't get the opportunity for free bulbs this year."

**East Suffolk Council Environmental Commitment** The council's ambition to become a carbon neutral council, in terms of our assets and operations, and to reach carbon neutrality by 2030, also includes trialling alternatives to glyphosate sprays. No sprays or pesticides are used in council-owned cemeteries and closed churchyards, unless as a final resort to remove invasive species, and glyphosate spraying on East Suffolk Council land has reduced by 45%.

**East Suffolk Council's annual 'Pardon the weeds, we're feeding the bees'** campaign has, since 2020, allowed grass and wildflowers to grow in more than 100 spaces in order to help wildlife thrive. Young people in Kelsale and Yoxford offered free transport to First Light Young people living in the Kelsale and Yoxford ward were invited to take advantage of free bus travel to the First Light Festival.

**Supported by GLI Cllr Julia Ewart**, East Suffolk Council's ward member for Kelsale and Yoxford and working with Halesworth Area Community Transport, two minibuses were available to transport young people between 13 and 17 years old to the free festival in Lowestoft.

Cllr Ewart said: "Working with our Communities Team, we've arranged this free transport to ensure that young people in rural communities have an opportunity to experience the magic of the First Light Festival. It will ensure youngsters can safely travel to and from the event and enjoy the rich creative experience on offer. I'm thrilled that we have been able to arrange this and thank all those who have made it possible."

**#ShakeltOut** The **#ShakeltOut** campaign has been launched by the Suffolk Waste Partnership to encourage households in Suffolk to help improve recycling rates across the county by making sure black bin bags and other plastic sacks are not thrown in with recyclable materials.

The Partnership, made up of the county, district and borough councils in Suffolk, says more than a quarter (26%) of the materials in Suffolk's recycling bins in 2022/23 were not able to be processed as they were spoiled.

Items that contributed to spoiled recycling collections included:

- Materials that were not clean and dry, or contained food and drink residue

- Rubbish sacks or plastic bags containing recycling
- Non-recyclable items, such as nappies and food waste

Plastic bags and rubbish sacks are a particular problem – recycling handlers can't see what's inside them and they are often full of rubbish or other non-recyclable items.

For more information, visit: [www.suffolkrecycling.org.uk/shake-it-out](http://www.suffolkrecycling.org.uk/shake-it-out)

**UK Shared Prosperity Fund East Suffolk Council** has been allocated £2.75m to invest across two and a half years (2022/23 - 24/25) in initiatives that will address inequality and contribute to levelling up. This is in addition to the £3.75m Multiply element of the UKSPF, which Suffolk County Council can apply for to support adult numeracy across the county. The funding can only be unlocked upon submission of an Investment Plan which is signed off by both the council and the government. To develop the East Suffolk Investment Plan, the council gathered stakeholder input through a public survey to invite local stakeholders to give their views on what are the most pressing local challenges that need to be addressed, and the projects and initiatives that could best address them. This input was combined with data about the local area and existing funding, the Government criteria and wider strategic priorities to inform the development of the East Suffolk investment plan. East Suffolk Council received official approval from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities for our UKSPF Investment Plan on 5 December 2022.

**East Suffolk Council have launched a series of grant schemes** as part of our eight key programmes, including: Events, Art and Culture Grant; East Suffolk Pantries Grant and the Move to Net Zero Grant. There are multiple rounds of applications for these grants; for example, the East Suffolk Events, Arts and Culture Grant scheme which is designed to increase footfall and visitor numbers to our high streets and diversify town centre uses. East Suffolk Council are particularly keen to see activities that build on or further develop the East Suffolk Town Celebrations concept and building and enhancing on existing events or activities but focusing on the town centre. This could be through photography, poetry and storytelling, gaming, theatre and education. The fund is available to community and voluntary groups, placed based associations, charities, social enterprises, community interest company's, town and parish councils and businesses associated with the culture and arts sector who are located within the geographical area of East Suffolk.

Following a successful first round, the second round of funding applications is now open. Grants of between £5,000 - £10,000 per application are available and applications close on 28th July.

For more information, visit: [www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/business/uk-shared-prosperity-fund](http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/business/uk-shared-prosperity-fund)

For the most up to date information regarding East Suffolk Council, please visit: [www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk](http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk)

## Particular to the Parish Councils of Kelsale & Yoxford Ward

### Community Partnership Officer and Meetings

Every ward is part of a group of wards to make up part of the Community Partnership. There are eight of these with East Suffolk Council. Your village is, along with all the Kelsale & Yoxford ward, along with Framlingham and Wickham Market, and villages. Your Community Officer is **Sam Kenward**. His email is [sam.kenward@eastsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:sam.kenward@eastsuffolk.gov.uk) and his mobile is **07385 464000**. Sam is not tied to his desk but works in the community and is on the go nearly all the time.

The group is funded and is brought together to promote there being much more cohesion between the Parish council, the District Council, the Officers and the residents. The District council can't force anyone to attend the quarterly meetings that are held bringing many people together from a group of wards (charities, clubs, groups, special interest groups) but parishes that do make use of this service benefit enormously. Sam will be looking at developing the cycle tour with me, or not, depending upon the uptake.

### Planning - Changes In The Process

The planning department is advocating reverting to allowing the Parish and its Member (Councillor) to 'call in' some planning decisions to the planning committee. This is really useful when a community has real concern. Watch this space for these changes being announced. In the meantime, there was a good meeting on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> July, 2023 at High Lodge where much was discussed about how the planning system works. I hope that a new reference book with clip in sheets will be made and sent out for Parishes to reflect in its content how each process works in planning, which is much needed for new parish councillors and also to bring forwards the process of change.

Parishes are expressly asked to really get involved with their responses but also to come to the Planning Meetings to speak with respect to their submissions. The data shows that only a small percentage or so turn up for the hearing.

### Sizewell C & Its Development

All villages should now show an interest in how the development of Sizewell C will play out. Our main roads and lanes are going to be heavily affected. There is a focus group being reconvened over in Middleton by Julian Cusack in the name of '**Sizewell C Joint Parishes**'. If you wish to be involved or would like to be kept in abreast of their activity I highly recommend you getting in touch.

Do let me know if you would like his details. I will continue to attend on all Parishes.

Given the challenges of tanking water in from Levingston, planning permission imminent for the water plant there, then it seems ever more tankers will be coming north up the A12 and there is every reason for Suffolk County Council to get the trunk roads sorted out.

I have personally asked for the following:

- For visit to Hinkley Point, accompanied on site by EDF, to understand further how the plant construction is working out in reality.
- Full transparent presentation of the District Council's Plans for and of Sizewell C
- A full presentation from EDF about their current approach to the delivery of Sizewell C

All villages will be approached by Zoe Botten – the new Community Relations Manager for an appointment in the Autumn. Please inform me of when yours is because it is important for us to have continuity in the information that EDF discuss with each Parish.

### **Has Your Clerk Got In Touch? Did You Know That We Are Having New FB Page?**

Over the holiday I will set up a new FB page for Kelsale & Yoxford Ward to help all the villages post their activities as one. I will also start the new whatsapp group for the clerks and ask each clerk to sign in on tel **07770 666604** and I will put the group together. All will be established ready for the autumn.

### **Case Work**

If you hear of anyone needing support with issues that involve issues that the District Council attend to, please encourage them to get in touch. From potholes to planning challenges as your District Cllr. I am available at [julia.ewart@eastsoffolk.gov.uk](mailto:julia.ewart@eastsoffolk.gov.uk).

Also, money is getting tighter and the cost-of-living crisis is biting hard. We must not let anyone go without. There are funds around for supporting those in need. I can signpost to some positive avenues to get help.

### **Holiday**

I will be away from the 14<sup>th</sup> August and back in September. Please accept my apologies for that period for any meetings I may miss. I will not be particularly available due to internet connections, feel free to call East Suffolk Council for support or call the Community Officer Sam Kenward.