

## September/October 2024 Parish Report

From Cllr Julia Ewart  
East Suffolk Council GLI Group – Councillor Update

**Flood Resilience Training** took place in early October and was successfully attended by a good number of the Kelsale & Yoxford Ward villages. As a reminder, ALL villages are recommended to have completed their Emergency Flood preparation forms for Suffolk County Council. If your village has not, please do so before the end of October 2024.

Sam Kenward our Community Partnership Officer will be providing a sponsored 'z fold' emergency leaflet that has a magnet attached for safe keeping on the fridge (or other). Essentially it is an easy way to hold onto an accessible list of important telephone numbers and contacts should there be an emergency.

Focused support is being given to Heveningham, Huntingfield, Yoxford, Kelsale and Sibton with regards to floods, the position of the Environment Agency, riparian responsibilities and highway maintenance of drains. Being prudent, highways are being made aware of local challenges in order to ensure drains are cleaned before heavier rain fall. Anglian Water are being asked to arrest their challenges in this regard.

Please call me, Julia Ewart 07770 666604 if you need urgent support and if not available kindly leave a message.

**CIL Funding** was discussed in last month's report, with a particular reference to the District CIL fund. In the last few weeks one of our villages has approached the CIL dept for support with a Children's Play project that needs maintenance, but sadly this scheme wasn't considered suitable because the village is not one of growth or development. All Parishes have a commitment to maintain their play areas and when estimates for work are equal to the full precept then it can be a value beyond the ordinary remit of the Parish's savings. I will put to colleagues on the East Suffolk administration that in certain circumstances perhaps a fairer way to distribute funds should be proposed. Parish Council support would be appreciated in this regard.

### In other news

**Chair of the Transport Group – Community Partnership** this position has been entrusted to me for the foreseeable, which gives us a great opportunity to map and influence any transport opportunities to include the K&Y Ward. I will be looking to work with the County Council in this regard. Whilst I have an inherent interest as to how to get better rural connections, village intelligence will be greatly received. So many people would welcome 'regular' public transport.

**Mental Wellbeing** The press discusses regular the wellbeing of our younger residents and it is very apparent that so many of our young have mental challenges. With wellbeing much more discussed and considered, the rural wellbeing Officer for younger

people is working on an East Suffolk project whereupon I have asked for support for our villages as a pilot scheme. More on this later in the month.

**Sizewell C** This project is now underway, and it is my task to represent you wherever possible. I sit on the SNIP committee at ESC which gives me the opportunity to ask questions of the process and ensure that what is stated will happen to protect our local villages, will indeed take place. I also attend and listen to the Forums.

The Yoxford roundabout has gone to tender and that project is planned for 2025. I intend to give a deeper summary in the next report so that residents are able to plan likely impacts into their schedules.

A notable opportunity is that SZC have given East Suffolk Council the responsibility of distributing grants to residents who may wish to refurbish a room in their home in order to take in a Sizewell C worker. Again I will give information on this once the programme is launched. Essentially funds are available to renovate up to a value, by way of a loan, that then becomes a grant if the resident takes on the projects long term. PLEASE NOTE, this is not being supported by East Suffolk Council Funds, but it is provided by Sizewell C, which is currently funded by the national Government.

## **From the GLI Administration**

### ***Helping communities access mental health support***

Information is being provided to residents in Aldeburgh, Leiston, Saxmundham and the surrounding villages to help them access support if they are struggling with their mental health.

Earlier this year, East Suffolk Council produced a booklet entitled 'Well Minds East Suffolk' containing a variety of useful information, advice and contacts designed to help those in need of mental health support. The booklet is intended to help people of all ages and backgrounds to access support, and it has since been distributed around the district as well as online.

To ensure local residents are aware of the availability of this support, the Aldeburgh, Leiston, Saxmundham and villages Community Partnership have provided over £1,500 to fund the production and delivery of over 13,000 leaflets to be distributed to households and businesses in the Community Partnership area.

Cllr Katie Graham, Chair of the Aldeburgh, Leiston, Saxmundham and villages Community Partnership said: "Improving the mental health and wellbeing of our residents is one of our main priorities and the Well Minds booklets provide a valuable resource for people in need of support. Whilst the booklet has been well received by many across East Suffolk, within the Community Partnership we felt it was important to ensure as many residents as possible were made aware of the booklet and where information and advice can be accessed."

Cllr Sarah Whitelock, East Suffolk's cabinet member for Communities, Culture, Leisure and Tourism said: "We want to provide East Suffolk residents with as much mental health support as we can by sharing information on ways to improve everyday mental wellbeing as well as guidance on the immediate and longer-term help available locally. It can be difficult at a time of crisis to know where to turn for help, whether for yourself or someone you know, however the Well Minds booklets provide all this essential information in one place."

The leaflets will be distributed later this month, and the Well Minds booklets are available from community settings across the district, including libraries, community centres and the Council's network of Warm Welcomes.

**View the Well Minds East Suffolk booklet:** [tinyurl.com/9xhka624](https://tinyurl.com/9xhka624)

### ***Join East Suffolk's new Youth Council and make a difference!***

Young people in East Suffolk are invited to make a difference in their local community by standing for election to a new youth council.

A new East Suffolk Youth Council will be formed, comprising at least two representatives from every secondary educational institution in East Suffolk, as well as the homeschooled. The Youth Council will influence decisions and drive real change across the district. Youth councillors will work closely with East Suffolk Council to ensure young peoples' voices are heard loud and clear in council decisions.

Cllr Anthony Specca, Chair of East Suffolk Council said: "I'm a teacher and lecturer as well as Chair of East Suffolk Council, and I believe it's vital to engage young people in politics. They're a huge part of our communities, but they're often left out of discussions about how to make things better now and for the future. But the future belongs to them especially, and it's only fair that their voice is heard. Our democracy will be stronger for it, too.

"I'm proud that we're establishing the new East Suffolk Youth Council as a special Chair's initiative. It will have robust links with East Suffolk Council, and youth councillors will be able to influence discussions and debates. I'd encourage every young person to think about standing for election as a youth councillor. It's a great opportunity to make a difference!"

The Youth Council will be apolitical, with its own special rules of procedure designed to promote open discussion. There will be three Youth Council meetings each year – one in-person and two online – with plenty of opportunities between meetings to get together and get things done.

Each Youth Councillor will be elected for a two-year term, or until they leave education or turn 19 years of age. They will be able to set their own priorities, bring forward their own motions, and make suggestions to the district council on key issues of importance not just to young people, but to our communities as a whole.

All the newly elected Youth Councillors will come together for an induction day in November. At the induction day, they will receive special training to help them to understand their new roles, and they will be able to get to know one another. And they will continue to have the support of the Chair, as well as other East Suffolk councillors and officers all throughout their terms of office.

**Aged 11 to 19 and would like to run for the Youth Council? Visit:**

[eastsuffolk.gov.uk/community/youthvoice/east-suffolk-youth-council/](https://eastsuffolk.gov.uk/community/youthvoice/east-suffolk-youth-council/)

***East Suffolk Council has agreed a historic, new approach to recycling collection, and with it, a commitment to greatly improve environmental outcomes for the district***

At September Full Council, members agreed to radically increase the range and volume of products which can be presented for household recycling, in line with the requirements of Government legislation through the Environment Act 2021.

This will see all households supplied with an additional wheelie bin or other container to separate paper and card from plastics, metal, cartons (including Tetra Pak) and glass bottles or jars.

A weekly food waste collection service was agreed earlier this year, and the new rounds will be implemented in 2026.

Additionally, this extra collection service allows the Council to adopt a three-weekly waste collection service, rather than the current fortnightly arrangement, without a reduction in the overall combined capacity of household bins.

Cllr Sally Noble, East Suffolk Council's Cabinet Member for the Environment, said:

“National targets require us to divert 60% of waste to recycling by 2030 and 65% by 2035. However, recycling performance has plateaued in recent years, with East Suffolk currently diverting only 39%. This places us 203rd out of 343 collection authorities in England and Wales.

“The current co-mingled method of collecting recycling in one bin means that a large amount of the paper and card we collect is contaminated by the other items and the ‘twin stream’ method, with an additional recycling bin, will transform the quality of materials for re-use, with huge environmental benefits.

“This also means that much less residual waste will need to be collected. We have the potential to divert over 58% of waste from rubbish bins, and to encourage improved recycling habits, a revised waste collection service presents an incredible and unmissable opportunity to take a big step forward.

“Three-weekly waste collections would save an extra 6,500 tonnes of carbon emissions a year compared to the current two-weekly model and without actually decreasing the overall, combined bin capacity that each household receives.”

Speaking at Full Council, Cllr Noble also remarked on some of the concerns that have been raised following the initial announcement of the proposals.

She said: “We know that some people are worried about the space they need for an additional bin. However, as we do currently, we will always seek to help any residents who have legitimate storage concerns. Additionally, alternative arrangements will be considered for households who may struggle with less frequent waste collections – for example those with medical needs or children in nappies.

“I can assure everyone that this Council will work incredibly to introduce these changes as smoothly and effectively as possible. We will put residents first, and a huge information and engagement campaign will provide the people of East Suffolk with everything they need to know.

“I am delighted that we have made the right decision. The right decision for this Council, for our residents and for the environment.”

### ***Ease the Squeeze on Cost of Living***

Are you, or someone you know, worried about the increasing cost of living? We understand the pressures faced by many people today and we are working closely with key partners to ensure support is available to help ease the squeeze for households in East Suffolk.

To make it as easy as possible for you to access the services and support available, locally and nationally, we have gathered information about them in one place:  
**[www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/community/squeeze/](http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/community/squeeze/)**

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