

## County Council report – April 2022

### Help to reduce the environmental impact of your home

“Low Impact Living in Suffolk” is a new campaign making it easier for Suffolk residents to improve the energy efficiency and lower energy use of their homes.

Our homes are responsible for generating 20% of all UK carbon emissions, primarily through the heating and energy they use. There are many ways to reduce these emissions, with Low Impact Living in Suffolk sharing steps through the [www.greensuffolk.org](http://www.greensuffolk.org) website.

Information is available to demystify the products, technology and grants that help reduce the impact of our homes on the environment and save money on increasing energy bills. Residents can find out their carbon footprint, look for green energy tariffs and compare new, more sustainable heating systems including ground and air source heat pumps, biomass boilers, heat recovery, hydro and wind electricity.

Detailed information on solar panels, including buying schemes, water heating and electricity sits alongside up to date advice on recycling. Options for improving or replacing windows across properties that vary in age, materials, location, and style are also available.

of homes and budgets, to help plan your own Net Zero journey more easily.”

Low Impact Living in Suffolk is part of Suffolk’s commitment to be a Net Zero county by 2030, which is being delivered through the Suffolk Climate Emergency Plan. All Suffolk’s local authorities have declared a climate emergency and are working together to meet this ambition.

For more details on how you can plan your journey to Net Zero at home, visit [www.greensuffolk.org](http://www.greensuffolk.org).

### Thousands of trees to be planted as children create one of Suffolk’s first healing woods

Pupils from Howard Community Academy on 15 March planted the first of 3,000 new trees in their school grounds.

The primary school in Bury St Edmunds is creating a healing wood, in response to Suffolk County Council’s ambition to create these reflective spaces around the county. Once planting is complete, the space will be open to the public, as well as the pupils and staff.

The school will also continue to work with Abbeycroft Leisure’s Explore Outdoor team to deliver further educational and wellbeing support programmes for the children at the school.

150 native Suffolk Clayland tree species were planted, along with a 5-foot Oak tree as a symbol of the woods that will grow on the site. This Eastern Claylands species mix was chosen to reflect native woodlands commonly found in Suffolk, comprising of Hornbeam, Wild Cherry, Crab Apple, Birch and Oak, and have been provided by the Woodland Trust.

## Campaign urges households to recycle glass properly

Residents across Suffolk are being encouraged to get behind a campaign calling for people to recycle glass properly.

Suffolk Waste Partnership (SWP) is launching 'Glass – It's Better in The Bank', a 12-week campaign aimed at getting people to stop putting glass in their household recycling bins and to use a bottle bank instead.

Suffolk Waste Partnership comprises the county, district and borough councils working together to improve waste management services.

The SWP campaign runs until 31 May and will feature in adverts on buses, at supermarket billboards and on a van touring part of the county, plus on social media and on radio.

District and borough councils, which collect our rubbish, will be applying bin tags and stickers to recycling bins containing glass.

Crews will have a prompt in the cab to remind them to be on the look-out and recycling bins may not be emptied if they are found to contain glass.

There will be a dedicated web page about the campaign on the [Suffolk Recycling](#) webpage with a set of FAQs and an information leaflet to distribute at events.

Glass is not accepted in household recycling bins as the Materials Recycling Facility at Great Blakenham near Ipswich, where the bins are taken for sorting, is unable to separate glass from other materials.

Glass mistakenly placed in household recycling bins costs the SWP around £500,000 a year. It will **not** be recycled and can spoil other good recycling, especially card and paper.

Glass represents about half of all the wrong material in household recycling bins – other bad eggs include black rubbish sacks, food, nappies, textiles, and cartons – and rejection levels are currently running at around 20%.

## Lifesaving fire equipment to help efforts in Ukraine

Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service has pledged its support for Ukraine by providing much-needed fire engines and kit for those on the frontline.

This forms part of the ongoing National Fire Chiefs Council and Fire Aid initiative, which will see a convoy of donations travel to the war-torn country.

Two surplus engines no longer in service have been donated to Ukraine by Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service, along with vital equipment including hoses.

In addition to donating kit to Ukraine, Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service will host a charity car wash at fire stations across the county between 10am and 2pm on Saturday March 26. Funds raised from this will be shared between the Disasters Emergency Committee, who continue to provide food and shelter to those fleeing Ukraine, and The Fire Fighters Charity, which offers invaluable support to both serving and former fire staff.

## Suffolk County Council votes to condemn Putin's invasion of Ukraine and pledges its support for refugees

At a meeting of the County Council held on March 24<sup>th</sup>, councillors from across the political divide voted in favour of a motion condemning the war in Ukraine.

Suffolk County Council is pledging their full backing for the Ukrainian people and committing to support refugees arriving in Suffolk.

The cross-party motion described the invasion of Ukraine as "immoral and reprehensible" and praised the "enduring bravery" of the Ukrainian people against Russian aggression. The motion also stated that the council in no way associated the actions of the Russian government with individuals of Russian heritage living in Suffolk.

On the issue of refugees the council made clear its willingness to help settle individuals and families fleeing the conflict. Committing itself to support the people of Ukraine and pledged to work with District and Borough Councils along with the Suffolk Resilience Forum, the Voluntary Sector, Suffolk Refugee Support and MPs to ensure all efforts are made to welcome Displaced People coming from Ukraine to Suffolk.

The motion went on to praise the Government's economic response to the conflict but stressed the need for easier and faster routes for refugees wanting to come to this country.

The Homes for Ukraine Scheme [Homes for Ukraine – Homes for Ukraine – Local Sponsorship Scheme for Ukraine \(campaign.gov.uk\)](#) was launched on Monday 14 March to allow individuals, charities, community groups and businesses in the UK to bring Ukrainians to safety – including those with no family ties to the UK.

What we know so far about the Homes for Ukraine Scheme:

- There will be no limit on the number of Ukrainian refugees who can come to the UK for up to three years
- Refugees will be able to work, claim benefits, and access health and education provisions
- The portal for host households to offer accommodation either in their own homes or separate properties is now live and can be accessed at [Homes for Ukraine: register your interest - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)
- Arrivals will be split into two waves, with the first being host households who have already linked in with Ukrainian refugees and will submit a joint application, and the second consisting of refugees who have been matched to host households by charities and community groups
- Host households must commit to offering accommodation for a minimum of six months and will be entitled to claim £350 per month as a 'thank you payment' for up to one year
- Safeguarding checks will need to be carried out on adults in the host households
- Any accommodation offered will be assessed for suitability

- Once a host household stop accommodating the refugees, there will be an expectation for local authorities to help the refugees find alternative accommodation

We are still awaiting further detail on:

- How many refugees will be coming to Suffolk or where they will be living
- How the DBS, or enhanced DBS for any households where there will be children or vulnerable adults will operate
- What the criteria is for suitable accommodation to enable Suffolk's local authorities to undertake the required assessments

We are working with partners to put necessary provisions in place for the above and will update you once we have more information about this.

We are conscious of the plight of Ukrainian refugees and want to do all we can to ensure that their arrival into Suffolk goes as smoothly as possible. To assist with this, we are already considering how best to meet the refugees' health and wellbeing needs, what assistance can be provided with school admissions, and how we can offer support to help with integration and ESOL (English for speakers of other languages), particularly if there are lots of people arriving in dispersed, rural locations.

Work currently underway includes:

- A specific multi-agency task group to collaborate on support delivery
- Comms to the public, including regularly updated information on Suffolk County Council's website [Supporting Afghan and Ukrainian refugees | Suffolk County Council](#)
- A dedicated email address ([refugeesupport@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:refugeesupport@suffolk.gov.uk)) to facilitate information sharing with the public and community groups
- Liaison with government and regional partners

Now, we do not have any specific requirements for donated items here in Suffolk. If anyone wishes to do something practical, they could fundraise to raise contributions for charities working to support the refugee response. Details of some of those charities are below:

- To help meet the needs of the Ukraine refugees, you may wish to support national and international charities such as The Red Cross Ukraine Crisis Appeal [Ukraine Crisis Appeal | British Red Cross](#)
- Suffolk Refugee Support are our local refugee charity, you can find out about their response to the Ukraine situation on their website [Update on Ukrainian refugee situation – Suffolk Refugee Support](#)
- Further information on how to help can be found on the Disasters emergency committee website [DEC Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal | Disasters Emergency Committee](#)

We are grateful for your support so far, and our regular updates will include further information on how you and your communities can get involved, as we continue to work together as a county to do all we can to help those fleeing the conflict in Ukraine.