



October 2020 Monthly Parish Newsletter



Visit suffolk.gov.uk/coronavirus for health advice, service changes, business support and schools' guidance.

Keep up to date on the latest guidance on Covid-19 from central government here: www.gov.uk/coronavirus

Council announces £300,000 for electric vehicle charging points in rural Suffolk

100 fast charging points for electric vehicles will be installed in rural parts of the county by Suffolk County Council.

The council will be reaching out to interested parish and town councils and non-profit organisations to put in fast chargers where there are currently none. The funding will cover the installation and set-up costs, meaning very little expense for the hosts and possibly creating a source of income for them.

This project is the first to benefit from the council's Suffolk 2020 Fund, which was announced earlier this year. This is a £3m fund for the council's own projects to bid into. Projects must help address the council's climate emergency declaration and must improve Suffolk for all residents in years to come.

The £300,000 award will link into the council's existing Plug In Suffolk project, which was launched in February 2019. It is the UK's first 'fully open' public fast charging network for electric vehicles, meaning drivers simply pay by contactless payment with no need to register their details.

For further information on Plug In Suffolk or to apply to join the network, visit www.greensuffolk.org/plug-in-suffolk

Plotting the road to COVID recovery – Leaders agree £3.4 million investment in Suffolk's future

On 25 September, Suffolk's public sector leaders met to agree collective action as part of Suffolk's recovery from COVID-19 over the coming months.

To kickstart the process, the group agreed in principle to a significant investment of £3.4 million towards key priorities to support Suffolk's communities and businesses, addressing some of the challenges people currently face, including isolation, hardship, exploitation and the uncertainty of the economy.

As part of the first phase of supporting Suffolk's recovery, the following funding was agreed to support some of Suffolk's immediate areas of focus:

- **Driving inclusive economic growth** – investing in recovery (visitor economy/local investment) and the Suffolk Growth Partnership - £1,302,500m (over three years).
- **Supporting the most vulnerable** – hardship funding - £800,000.
- **Community safety** – tackling gangs and county lines – £1,352,202m (over three years).

County Council unable to support plans for Sizewell C

Suffolk County Council has stated it cannot support EDF Energy's plans for Sizewell C in its current form.

A report, and accompanying supporting documents, discussed at the Cabinet meeting on 22 September, focussed on significant concerns regarding transport impacts, site design, and the environmental impact on the Suffolk coast which remain unanswered by EDF Energy. Details of the council's position will be shared as Relevant Representations with the Government's Planning Inspectorate, which is overseeing the process for this proposed development.

It is very clear from the Council's representations that the current proposals do not sufficiently avoid, minimise, mitigate or compensate impacts of the proposed development. Many issues raised in previous rounds of consultations remain outstanding, and the lack of improvement and progress regarding many of these issues is very disappointing considering how early in the development process the council raised its concerns. The Relevant Representation document fully details the council's proposed position and lists the areas where it believes EDF Energy needs to undertake further work.

Suffolk County Council has always supported the principle of a new nuclear power station at Sizewell and recognises that Sizewell C would offer an important contribution to the national energy strategy. The council would also welcome the benefits of new jobs and skills. However, it cannot support the current proposals presented by EDF Energy as they stand today.

The council does not support EDF Energy's proposed transport strategy as it remains predominantly lorry-based and, in the council's view, is unsustainable. The authority strongly believes that an increased proportion of rail and sea transport is reasonably achievable and, in its current form, the transport impacts on Suffolk's highway network are unacceptable.

The Relevant Representation document published goes into greater detail on other areas of concern, including:

- Proposals to have additional pylons on site.
- Ecological damage.

- Suitable mitigation to protect local wildlife species.
- Appropriate levels of funding for mitigation measures and compensation to support the impact on the local community and related infrastructure.

Successful £4.4m adaptive street lighting project celebrates first year

On 17 September, Suffolk celebrated a successful first year of its £4.4m Live Labs project – ‘A Smarter Suffolk’.

Suffolk’s Live Lab project is part of the ADEPT SMART Places Live Labs Programme - a £22.9m project funded by the Department for Transport. Suffolk was one of nine local authorities to successfully bid for funding.

The main aim of Suffolk’s Live Lab is to use its existing street lighting infrastructure to provide a showcase of innovative technologies that bring efficiencies to Suffolk County Council now, and potentially to other local authorities in future.

Benefits from these technologies are set to revolutionise the way services are delivered by local authorities through the collection of data from sensors placed on street lighting columns throughout the county. As well as working with the University of Suffolk and BT, Suffolk has spent the last year negotiating with potential providers of a wide range of such sensors so that they can be deployed in different environmental conditions - namely urban, rural and coastal locations.

The project will enable local authorities to monitor aspects such as weather, air quality, road surface temperatures, and traffic volumes, as well as create on-street electric vehicle charging and support the deployment of 5G infrastructure by the mobile network operators.

So far, Suffolk has installed 43 sensors, with plans to install hundreds more over the coming months.

The data being gathered can help to provide a picture of road use. This will be particularly valuable in areas where COVID-19 related initiatives such as cycle lanes have been implemented, as data for before and after implementation can be analysed. The original two-year timescale for the Suffolk Live Labs project was recently extended by six months to account for the impact of COVID-19. This allows a greater time period to analyse incoming data from the deployed sensors.

Window now open to apply for primary and secondary school places

Parents and carers can now apply for primary and secondary school places for September 2021.

The deadline for applications to secure a place at a Suffolk secondary school is Saturday 31 October 2020 and for primary schools it is Friday 15 January 2021. Secondary schools include high and upper schools and primary schools include infant, junior and middle schools. All applications received by these dates are processed at the same time, using the schools’ oversubscription criteria to prioritise applications where necessary. Late applications are processed after all of those received on time.

Last year, Suffolk County Council received just over 16,000 applications from parents and carers indicating at which school they would prefer their child to be educated from September 2020. Nearly 93% of applicants received offers for their first preference school and almost 98% of applicants received an offer for one of their top three preferred schools.

Before making a school application, parents and carers need to consider how they will get their child to and from school. School Travel eligibility is based on a child attending the nearest suitable school that would have had a place available. This might not be the catchment area school. To find out more about SCC's school travel policy please visit suffolkonboard.com/schooltravel.

Suffolk County Council welcomes public consultation on improving rail capacity at Ely

Suffolk County Council supports Network Rail's proposal to unlock rail capacity at Ely for passenger and freight services.

Achieving an hourly Ipswich to Peterborough passenger rail service and enabling more freight to travel by rail has moved a step closer with the announcement that Network Rail will be seeking the public's views on a proposed scheme that will unlock rail congestion at Ely Station.

The railway track through Ely Station forms part of a key rail corridor for passenger services running from Suffolk to Peterborough, the Midlands and the North. It also forms part of the Freight Rail Network that links freight rail services from the Port of Felixstowe to the Midlands and to the North of England.

Network Rail will be gathering views from members of the public by hosting a series of online events. The results of the consultation will then be used to develop a business case for investing in rail infrastructure that will unlock the congested area at Ely Station.

Have your say on a new political map for Suffolk County Council

New boundaries are being proposed for council divisions in Suffolk County Council.

The Local Government Boundary Commission wants to hear what residents and local organisations think about the proposals. A 10-week consultation on the proposals will run until 23 November 2020.

The Boundary Commission is the independent body that draws these boundaries. It is reviewing Suffolk County Council to make sure councillors will represent about the same number of electors, and that division arrangements will help the council work effectively.

The Commission has published proposals for changes to Suffolk County Council. It is proposing that there should be 70 councillors in future: five fewer than now. The recommendations also outline how those councillors should represent 70 single-councillor divisions across the county. The boundaries of all existing divisions should change except for one.

Launching the consultation Professor Colin Mellors, Chair of the Boundary Commission, said:

"We have drawn up proposals for new divisions in Suffolk County Council. We want to make sure these new electoral arrangements reflect communities. We also want them to be easy to understand and convenient for local people.

"Residents and local organisations can help us do that. We would like them to let us know whether they agree with our proposals before we take final decisions.

"It's easy to get involved. Go to our website. Or you can e-mail or write to us.

“Just tell us what you think and give us some details why you think that. It’s really simple, so do get involved”

The Commission has a dedicated section on its website where people can see the detail of the proposals and comment on the names of divisions, their boundaries and the number of councillors per division: <https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/node/18495>

People can also give their views by e-mail at reviews@lgbce.org.uk, and by post to:

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