

## **August into September 2023 Parish Report East Suffolk Council GLI Group – Councillor Update**

### **Local Matters For The Wards**

**Cllr Ewart** worked remotely week 2 of August, was away on holiday week three and had a diagnosis of covid week 4 into September. She apologises for last weeks absence.

**Cllr Burroughs** and Cllr Ewart (SCC & ESC) now have meetings, have held a hand over meeting post election and intend to have monthly meetings on line to keep each other informed of ward work. Please do share case work if you feel any issues need a broader approach.

**The Community Partnership** is the East Suffolk Council liaison and support service, with a dedicated Officer that looks after three wards as a group, ours being Framlingham, Wickham Market and Kelsale & Yoxford – plus all associated villages is in full swing. The local officer is a thoughtful and energetic individual called Sam Kenward. **Cllr Ewart and Sam Kenward are hosting a get together at The Hub in Huntingfield on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> September at 1pm.** Following a ‘ploughman’s lunch’ they will introduce village representatives from the 13 villages and 11 parishes to each other and some of the representative services will share what they do. *Parishes are kindly asked to send someone to represent their Parish as there’s so much to hear about that adds to parish life.*

**Policing** – Rural crime is escalating and Julia is working with the local police on many levels to try and pull together the various strands of communication to help track the current challenges across the ward. Whilst the local service seems troubled and not cohesive the police wish to assure parishes that there’s more going on in the background than it seems. Please dial 999 for active emergencies and log ANY crime with the 101 service if it is not timely. The crime team the ward has is operating out of Halesworth under the management of Police Inspector Liz Casey. All cases of crime are logged and can be viewed at **Suffolk Police, Halesworth, Street Level Crime** – Press for interactive map. [Halesworth | Police.uk \(www.police.uk\)](http://www.police.uk) (you may need to copy and paste this. Information on this site is very interesting.

**Grants – there are many grants around including for Warm Welcomes** (formerly Warm Rooms) funding which will be running from 30<sup>th</sup> October to 1<sup>st</sup> April. The deadline for applications is midnight on **Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2023.**

Documents can be found here:

<https://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/community/community-grants-and-funding/warm-welcomes/>.

If your parish has a large capital project it needs to look at or needs support with then CIL funding can be an option BUT the parish needs to work to a cycle that sees applications go in to ESC in readiness for the annual (generally May) selection process.

The application guidance provides information about what the Warm Welcomes programme is looking for and funding available. We advise you review both before completing the application form. Sam Kenward is able to help with this if you need support. He is on 07385464000.

#### Financial Inclusion Team

It could get really tough in the coming months, with families and individuals getting into tight places with their incomes, or lack of it, and the cost of living challenges. There is a team from the District Council that look to support such matters. As a pilot Julia is asking the team to come out to the village hall in Kelsale and will make an open invitation to join a casual opportunity to meet the team.

#### ***Fund Launched to Help Reinforce Community Hub Network***

Community groups in East Suffolk are being invited to apply for up to £30,000 in capital grant funding for upgrades and improvements to facilities. East Suffolk Council is accepting applications from local voluntary and social enterprise groups, as well as some small to medium sized businesses, for a £15,000-30,000 share in the newly launched Rural Business and Community Hub Fund (RBCHF).

The fund is part of the Government's wider Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF) and aimed at organisations that provide, or wish to provide, a multi-purpose community hub or for-public-benefit facility offering access to a range of quality, cost-effective services.

The £110million REPF was launched by the Government last September to complement the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and help to improve productivity and strengthen the rural economy and rural communities. East Suffolk was

allocated £1.129m, to be delivered via two separate strands – the Rural Business and Community Hub Fund (RBCHF) and the Rural Business Investment Fund (RBIF) – to small, rural businesses and community organisations between 2023 and 2025.

Applicants could include existing village halls, local skills providers, business and co-working spaces, health, wellbeing and mental health providers, sports and recreation providers, and arts, culture and heritage providers. Applications should meet at least one of the three main priorities of net zero, small and medium-sized enterprise investments and diversification, and agriculture and farm diversification.

Prospective applicants can contact Community Action Suffolk for further support via: [info@communityactionsuffolk.org.uk](mailto:info@communityactionsuffolk.org.uk)

### ***Three Neighbourhood Plans Adopted***

Plans for Saxmundham, Rushmere St Andrew and, Shadingfield, Sotterley, Willingham and Ellough have all been formally adopted by East Suffolk Council.

The Rushmere St Andrew and Shadingfield, Sotterley, Willingham and Ellough Neighbourhood Plans were adopted at a Full Council meeting on 28 June, with the Saxmundham Neighbourhood Plan adopted on 26 July. These three plans will now form part of the development plan for East Suffolk and will influence future planning applications within each neighbourhood plan area.

A neighbourhood plan gives communities the opportunity to shape development within their local areas. Neighbourhood plans are based on extensive public consultation to ensure that residents have their say on how development will take place. Plans are subject to a local referendum to ensure public support before being adopted by East Suffolk Council. Referendums for Rushmere St Andrew and, Shadingfield, Sotterley, Willingham and Ellough took place on 4 May and for Saxmundham on 29 June.

Cllr Kay Yule, East Suffolk's cabinet member for Planning and Coastal Management said: "Neighbourhood planning gives residents the opportunity to get directly involved in shaping their local areas, determining the location of any new development, and providing guidance for how new buildings should look. Through the hard work of these communities, these three newly adopted

plans will now be required to be used by anyone making or deciding a planning application in these areas.”

Five neighbourhood plans have now been made this year, following the adoption of both the Halesworth and Oulton plans in February.

The plans can also be viewed at libraries and the Council’s Customer Services desks local to each Neighbourhood Plan area.

### ***New Play Area in Beccles Officially Opened***

A children’s play area at Beccles Common has been officially reopened following the completion of refurbishment work.

Designed by eibe play Ltd, and aimed at toddlers and juniors, the play area features a basket swing, cradle swing for toddlers, a me-to-you swing, a cargo climbing net, a toddler climbing unit with slide, and a junior climbing unit, with a climbing wall and slide.

The refurbishment has been made possible thanks to a partnership between East Suffolk Council and Beccles Town Council and an official opening took place on Friday 11 August, attended by representatives from both councils and eibe play Ltd.

GLI Cllr Katie Graham, East Suffolk’s cabinet member for Communities, Leisure and Tourism said: “This is a wonderful new facility providing modern, fun and engaging equipment for local families and visitors to enjoy. I’m delighted to see the final transformation and am sure this will continue to be popular play area for years to come.”

### ***GLI Group Meet with Forestry Commission and Anglian Water***

The GLI Group recently met with Forestry Commission and Anglian Water to explore ways of protecting the outstanding natural environment of East Suffolk. East Suffolk Council and GLI Group Leader Cllr Caroline Topping is pleased that they were able to discuss important issues with both organisations. She said: "We are determined to develop and maintain a constructive dialogue with key environmental stakeholders and these two recent meetings really got the ball rolling.

"The presentation from the Forestry Commission was incredibly engaging and I am keen that we really do spread the word about the importance of tree planting and the range of grants that are available to do so.

Meanwhile the meeting with Anglian Water was also incredibly useful although I was disappointed by representatives' suggestion that sewage discharge into rivers was a low priority issue for the public. It was also interesting to that they are not statutory consultees with regards to planning applications which is a concern when it comes to the issue of ensuring appropriate supply to new developments.

These meetings mark our commitment to deliver on our campaign promises and prioritise residents, communities and the environment in everything that we do. The GLI Councillors are enthusiastic about improving quality of life across the district, and this is just the beginning - so watch this space!"

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