

November 2025 Parish Report
East Suffolk Council GLI Group – Councillor Update

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East Suffolk Council Launches Annual Photo Competition

East Suffolk Council's "Through the Lens" photo competition is back, and entrants are being given more chances to win with the introduction of two new categories.

The return of East Suffolk Through the Lens follows the success of last year's competition, which welcomed more than 230 entries.

This year, photographers of all ages and experience are invited to submit entries for two categories, 'People' and 'Place'. Under-16s will also have their own category, like previous competitions.

High street retail vouchers will be awarded to the winner of each category.

From the three winners, one overall winner will be selected. This photograph will grace the cover of the East Suffolk Magazine when delivered to every household in the district next spring.

Entrants are encouraged to capture the essence of the district by photographing the people, places and communities that make East Suffolk amazing.

GLI Cllr Caroline Topping, Leader of East Suffolk Council, said:

"Last year's photo competition was extremely successful, proving that we have some keen photographers across the district, and I am excited to see what this year's competition brings.

"Our district is full of amazing people, places and communities with unique stories, all waiting to be captured through the lens. It could be an image of an inspiring person in East Suffolk, a beautiful landscape picture that reminds us just how amazing our district is, or an active and supportive community."

Entries should be submitted before midnight on Saturday 31 January. Previous entries will not be considered.

Winners will be announced during the week commencing Monday 23 February, with the three winners each receiving a £100 high street voucher. The overall winner will also have their photograph featured on the cover of the East Suffolk Magazine in the spring.

For more information, and to submit your entry, please visit:

www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/leisure/east-suffolk-through-the-lens/

Council Leaders Back 'Suffolk to the Power of Three' Option as Part of Local Government Reorganisation Consultation

Suffolk residents, businesses and local organisations are being urged to take part in a once

in a generational opportunity to shape how council services are delivered for their local communities.

District and borough council leaders have welcomed the launch by Government of a statutory consultation into the future of local government in Suffolk and Norfolk. People have until 11 January 2026 to have their say.

In a joint quote, the Suffolk district and borough leaders said: "This is a pivotal moment for Suffolk. By moving to three strong, locally focused councils, we can deliver better services, make decisions closer to the communities they affect, and ensure every pound is spent wisely. We urge everyone to take part in this consultation, your voice matters in shaping Suffolk's future. Three Councils for Suffolk isn't just a structure, it's a commitment to local accountability, faster decisions, and stronger communities – it is Suffolk to the Power of Three."

This is an opportunity for residents, businesses, and community organisations to help shape how local services are delivered for decades to come. The consultation seeks views on the two proposals for unitary councils in Suffolk – one for the eastern area, one for Ipswich and southern and one covering the western area of Suffolk. The District and Borough proposal is for Three Councils for Suffolk. These three councils would replace the current six councils – with each unitary providing 'all the services where YOU Live'. This Suffolk to the Power of Three model is designed to be big enough to deliver, local enough to care, ensuring strong local leadership, tailored services, and financial sustainability.

Three councils means three strong voices for Suffolk; faster decisions tailored to the needs of towns and villages; local, accountable, and responsive to their communities – Suffolk to the Power of Three. It also means council wards will be the right size to give residents better access to local councillors and decision-making. Three strong voices championing their communities locally and together regionally and nationally.

Three unitary councils would be close to and understand their communities playing to their natural economic strengths, focused on supporting business growth and innovation to create real opportunities and generating targeted investment where it's needed.

The district and borough councils, alongside finance specialists KPMG, have analysed the budgets for all six Suffolk councils alongside national evidence and the costs of change. The three council model delivers significant savings without compromising service quality. Savings of £106 million over the first five years, achieved through efficiencies and harmonised services.

This significant change to local government creates three councils with a real understanding of their communities, and the capacity to tailor services to local needs, will drive better outcomes for residents and businesses alike.

They will also be future proofed to be able to deal with a growing county which is set to have a population of more than a million by 2045.

The Three Councils for Suffolk proposal, with analysis from the Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE), shows that an additional £67.5m could also be unlocked each year

through localising Adult and Children's services – improving care for vulnerable children and adults driving better value and outcomes by focusing on prevention and early help.

The consultation is open, and your views are vital. Visit the official consultation here: www.gov.uk/government/consultations/local-government-reorganisation-in-norfolk-and-suffolk

Energy Projects Update

Sea Link's six-month long Examination in public started on November 5, with open floor hearings being held that week. Open floor hearings give interested parties, including members of the community, the opportunity to speak directly to the Planning Inspectorate, the examining authority, and voice their concerns.

Serious concerns were raised by members in the community about the impact of the project on East Suffolk's residents and the environment. In particular, concern was raised about the cumulative impact of Sea Link alongside the significant other development that is consented and known in the district, including Sizewell C, offshore wind projects, interconnectors with Europe, and proposed residential development. These projects will overlap in time, geography, and impact, and are impacting our communities, who have already had to engage with multiple proposed NSIPs for years, struggling with engagement fatigue, whilst also stretching the Council's resources.

People are understandably worried that the project will harm the valuable tourism industry, a backbone of Suffolk's industry and a hugely important component of East Suffolk's economy. Visitors from around the UK also spoke at the hearings, confirming that they visit the region annually but have already started to shift holiday plans to Norfolk, as they would rather avoid the East Suffolk district due to the increasing construction activities and road network delays. Some commented that they didn't want their fond memories of the beautiful East Suffolk landscape to be spoilt by having sight of the construction works, so they instead, prefer not to see it at all.

Concerns were also raised about impacts on productive farmland, including by a local farmer whose land is proposed to be compulsorily acquired by National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET) should development consent be granted. Many speakers also considered that NGET failed to adequately consider brownfield sites.

People said their mental wellbeing is threatened, and the sense of tranquillity that people find here may be lost. There is real worry about communities being divided and made to be isolated from each other, by successive and tandem road closures and diversions. This mental toll placed on local residents by NSIP proposals was particularly evident in an emotive account given by a Friston resident, who lives adjacent to the Friston substation site, where works have already commenced for ScottishPower Renewables' East Anglia ONE North and TWO projects. The resident described the dust as 'unbearable' and noted that the projects in the area are making residents 'incredibly unwell'. We also heard that there was a real fear that emergency vehicles will and are being delayed in accessing our rural

communities as a result of the numerous and poorly co-ordinated road closures, diversions and speed limits.

Multi-generational farmers and landowners are facing compulsory acquisition of land which has been part of their family farm for generations, threatening livelihoods and their way of life, not to mention their sense of purpose due to their business focussing on food generation.

There was a clear theme from residents wanting consideration, collaboration, and communication. It was evident that our residents feel that development should not come at any cost, and that our residents deserve the reassurance that their lives and peace of mind are being valued and protected, and their voices heard and respected.

The statements heard displayed the significant strength of feeling amongst local residents about the cumulative impacts they are experiencing daily on their day to day lives, the environment and the wider economy. The strong message was that enough is enough.

Annual Spring Bulb Giveaway Announced

Thousands of spring flowering bulbs are to be given away free to communities across East Suffolk this week as part of the 'East Suffolk Blooms' campaign.

The annual giveaway which supports communities in the district to grow pollinator-friendly spring flowers and to brighten public spaces is back for the third year.

Earlier this year town and parish councils, community groups and organisations were invited to apply to be part of the environmental scheme which has been funded by East Suffolk Services Ltd.

Working alongside the East Suffolk's Amazing project which encourages everyone to maintain the beauty and cleanliness of the district, this year's scheme will provide groups with packs of early flowering 'Carlton' daffodil bulbs that are ready to be planted in public spaces.

The 50 groups that were successful in applying have been invited to collect their bulbs this week from East Suffolk Services Ltd at Lowestoft and Ufford.

GLI Cllr Sally Noble, East Suffolk's cabinet member for the Environment, said: "Since the introduction of the East Suffolk Blooms scheme in 2023, over 63,000 bulbs have been planted across East Suffolk - providing vital sources of pollen and nectar to pollinators.

"By adding these early flowering daffodils to public spaces across the district, we hope to boost the food available to pollinators such as bees and butterflies when they need it most at the start of spring.

"We'd like to thank the hard-working people across the district who will be taking the time to plant 25,000 of these early flowering daffodils this autumn, and we can look forward to seeing their wonderful yellow display in just a few months' time."

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/

For the most up to date information regarding East Suffolk Council, please visit:

www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk

View the Well Minds East Suffolk booklet: tinyurl.com/9xhka624