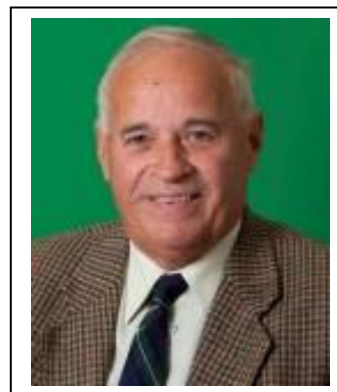


Parish Report November 2022

Councillor

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Information Updates

For information on local support during the Cost-of-Living Crisis, visit: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19/suffolk-advice-and-support-service/>

For information on supporting Ukrainian refugees in Suffolk, email: refugeesupport@suffolk.gov.uk or ukrainesupport@communityactionsuffolk.org.uk

Avian Influenza - Statement

Suffolk has declared an Avian Influenza Prevention Zone to mitigate that risk of further outbreaks of disease occurring. The disease has been detected at more than 70 premises since the beginning of October, as well as multiple reports in wild birds. The Zone, meaning mandatory housing measures for poultry and captive birds, will be in place until further notice and will be under regular review.

Bird keepers and members of the public should report dead wild birds to Defra's national Dead Wild Bird Helpline on 03459 33 55 77 and keepers should report suspicion of disease in their birds to the Animal & Plant Health Agency (APHA) on 03000 200 301.

For more information on your local area, visit the Government's Interactive Avian Influenza Disease Map at <https://defra.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=8cb1883eda5547c6b91b5d5e6aeba90d>

Cost of Living Budget Survey - SCC Open up for your thoughts

SCC has released a survey to local residents, asking for their thoughts on the upcoming 2023/24 budget. A summary of responses will be considered when deciding how to spend your money. With inflationary pressures, our Group expects government to seek spending cuts – meaning public services could be cut and council Reserves may have to be used.

Our Group fully recommends you share your thoughts on how the Council should spend their money, as well as highlight vulnerabilities you see in your communities that need further addressing.

For a link to the online survey, click here: <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/7BQY0J/>

Cost-of-Living Leaflet: Updated to Show Support

Over 85,000 leaflets, highlighting information and guidance during the crisis, were distributed amongst Suffolk communities. The leaflet shows all the help Suffolk offers with finances and household expenses, as well as how to stay warm this winter. Our Group strongly suggest anyone vulnerable to take a look at how Suffolk can help.

For a link to the leaflet, click here: <https://suffolk.pagetiger.com/cost-of-living-support/scc1>

SCC's Launch of 'Winter Matters' Campaign

SCC have launched their Winter Matters campaign, which aims to help ease the pressures of winter for Suffolk residents. This is a signposting campaign that centres around five key themes: Finances, Safety, Environment, Health and Wellbeing, and Highways.

For more information and advice on how SCC can support you during winter, visit: www.suffolk.gov.uk/wintermatters

Suffolk's Launch of 'Childhood' - short film to raise awareness of the need for foster carers

In a ground-breaking national collaboration, 56 Local Authorities across England have worked together to create a short film to raise awareness of fostering.

It is aimed at finding more people who may be interested in becoming foster carers and providing nurturing, positive homes for children and young people across the country who need them.

The new film, simply called 'Childhood', highlights the impact of neglect on children, particularly brothers and sisters who may be left at times to try and care for each other. It shows the journey of 'Sophie' and 'Charlie' who are in a very difficult home situation where their needs are not being met, to being nurtured and supported through foster care to attend school and be able to enjoy their hobbies and interests. In other words, have a childhood. **[Watch the short film on YouTube.](#)**

The aim is that this film will be shared on all 56 participating council's social media and other platforms, right across the country, reaching many more people and leading them to consider whether the rewarding role of fostering could be an option for them.

If you think you might be interested or know someone who might be interested in becoming a foster carer, then please don't hesitate to get in touch on **01473 264800** or alternatively **[visit our the Fostering page](#)** on our website for more information.

Suffolk's Superheroes scoop top awards

Worthy winners from across Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service and Trading Standards received recognition at a glittering awards ceremony. The Fire Awards – honouring the bravery and commitment of those looking after Suffolk's communities – made a welcome return after a two-year hiatus due to Covid. Over 50 awards were presented, including those for long and outstanding service, as well as acknowledgement for some of the newest recruits.

Amongst them were firefighters from Newmarket and Mildenhall Fire Stations who received the Miles Hammond Trophy for their response to a road traffic collision earlier this year, when they worked tirelessly to prevent a person badly injured and trapped in a vehicle from having their legs amputated. They weren't alone in being honoured for their commitment, with Station Manager Darren Cooper and the LEJOG team awarded the Derek Northey Trophy for their Land's End to John O'Groats cycle ride earlier this year, which saw them raise over £54,000 for The Fire Fighters Charity whilst raising awareness of mental health support.

Trading Standards also received a Certificate of Merit from the High Sheriff of Suffolk, Jamie Lower Pinkerton, for their response to the significant outbreak of Avian Influenza in Suffolk and ongoing efforts to work with partners to slow the spread of the disease and protect the county's birds. In addition, inspiring individuals from across Public Protection were recognised, including Holbrook firefighter Charlotte Bird who was crowned Recruit of the Year and awarded the prestigious Silver Axe for her dedication to completing the 'Approved to Ride' training last year despite facing illness.

The Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to Neil Elmy, Fleet and Equipment Manager, for his service of over 20 years, during which he has overseen the design, delivery, and procurement of all 150 vehicles within Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service's modern fleet.

Watch Manager Brian Stringer from Long Melford also received this award in acknowledgement of his 34 years working as a firefighter in west Suffolk, which has sadly been brought to a premature end following a terminal illness diagnosis. Brian sadly passed away soon after the award ceremony.

The evening concluded with the presentation of Her Majesty The Queen's Long Service and Good Conduct Medals and Clasps by Clare, Countess of Euston, HM Lord-Lieutenant of Suffolk. It was the first time that the long service clasps had been presented after Wil Tel, Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service Group Manager, campaigned for these to be introduced nationally for those in Fire and the Police who achieve 30 or 40 years of service. Wil began lobbying Government for this change back in 2013 and his dogged determination saw him write to numerous MPs, ministers, lords, baronesses, the Home Office and even Buckingham Palace to ensure that the change could come into force.

Next round of new SEND places agreed by Cabinet

The Council's Cabinet has agreed a new wave of funding to continue its programme to provide places for children and young people with SEND.

The £3million agreement marks the start of Phase 3 of the Capital Programme to create three additional specialist units providing 42 additional places for students with special educational needs and disabilities. This follows Phase

1 of the programme which created 825 new places across Suffolk and Phase 2, which was signed off in June 2022, and will create up to 73 new places. So far, £45million has been allocated by Suffolk County Council to deliver the new places for Phase 1 and Phase 2 - £15million of which has been provided by the Department for Education.

In addition, Cabinet also agreed to support the Department for Education's High Needs Provision Capital Funding (HNPCF) for 2023/24 of £7million to be spent on the development of units attached to mainstream schools to support students with social, emotional and mental health problems and speech, language and communication needs. This will create up to 168 new spaces, and is an addition to previous funding agreed from the Department for Education in 2022/23 for up to 78 new places.

The third item signed off today was Cabinet's support for the application for funding for two free schools from the Department for Education. One of these will be in east Suffolk and support children with severe learning difficulties and the second will be built in Sudbury for those with autistic spectrum disorder and complex social, emotional and mental health problems. If the bids are successful, both schools will teach children and young people from across Suffolk.

In total, Suffolk will deliver up to 1,317 new places for children and young people with SEND by 2025/26. The next step for Phase 3 is for schools across Suffolk to express an interest in having a specialist unit and, following these expressions of interest, the most suitable sites will be chosen. This programme for improved provision is informed by the SEND Sufficiency Plan 2022-25.

New special schools opened in Suffolk include Castle EAST, a communication and interaction school in north Suffolk; a social, emotional and mental health school in west Suffolk named Sir Peter Hall; and a communication and interaction school in south Suffolk, Woodbridge Road Academy.

Full Council - 20th October - GLI Motion

Suffolk GLI submitted a motion calling for Suffolk County Council to reject the idea of an "Anti-Growth Coalition". The term, coined by former PM Liz Truss, suggests anyone who criticised the government's economic policy was part of a coordinated group against growing our economy.

Our Group wanted Suffolk County Council to denounce this term and acknowledge the importance in different opinions – including the view that growth should consider social responsibilities, community voices, sound financial policy, and environmental limits. Something we believed this government was not adhering to.

The Conservatives voted against our motion, however we still feel it is important that our local authorities reject untruthful and divisive claims made by a Prime Minister.

Cabinet Meeting - 11th October

The Cabinet met for the first time since the summer political recess. The Cabinet agreed to spend £2m on new care provision for Children and Young People in Felixstowe. In addition, SEND services received £10m to provide more specialist units in Suffolk. Our Group was hugely supportive, as we want to remove the pattern of families travelling cross-county for support.

The Suffolk Local Access Forum submitted their annual report, which included their concerns about Sizewell C and its effect on green networks and Rights of Way. Our Group have strongly campaigned in support of the Forum's position, and we will continue to voice concerns over the damning effects of nuclear power on our coastal landscape and biodiversity.

In addition, the Cabinet endorsed Transport East's new 2050 strategy, which focusses more on green travel and linking rural communities to local economies. Our Group recognises the importance of connecting isolated residents for both profession and pleasure, and we will ensure SCC adopts all priorities into its own policy.

Follow us on:

Witter - [Suffolk Green, Lib Dem & Independent Group \(@SuffolkGLI\) / Twitter](#)

Instagram - https://www.instagram.com/suffolkgli_group/

Facebook - Search 'Suffolk GLI - Green, Liberal Democrat & Independent Group'

Website - [Suffolk Green, Liberal Democrat and Independent Group – The GLI Group at Suffolk County Council \(suffolkgli.wordpress.com\)](#)