

Parish Report May 2023

Councillor

Richard Kemp

Tresco
New Road
Long Melford
Suffolk
CO10 9JY
01787 378149
richard.kemp@suffolk.gov.uk



Information Updates

For information on local support during the Cost-of-Living Crisis, visit: www.suffolk.gov.uk/CostOfLiving

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

Business curtailed for Elections

Normal business has been slightly curtailed by the recent Parish and District Council Elections. I would like to congratulate ALL successful candidates at Parish and District Level on your success in the Elections.

Well done to everyone who participated, whether standing for election, manning polling stations, turning out to vote or assisting with the Count. As always it is my privilege to work with you and I look forward to returning to normal service now the elections are complete.

99% of Pupils receive preferred primary school place on National Offer Day

99.18% of children were offered a place on National Offer Day at one of their three preferred primary schools and 95.78% were offered a place at their first preference school.

Suffolk County Council received 7,056 applications from parents and carers indicating which primary school they would prefer their child to join in September 2023.

Families who applied online can log on to the Admissions Portal from today to see the school their child has been offered. They will also receive an email to confirm this offer. Letters will be sent to parents who made a paper application by second class post today (17 April 2023).

Once school places have been confirmed, parents need to consider how their child will get to and from school. If their child is eligible for Suffolk County Council funded school travel they will receive an email by 12 May 2023 with details of how to opt-in. Any parents or carers with a child born between 1 September 2018 and 31 August 2019 who have not yet applied for a school place should make an application immediately.

Information on how to make an application can be found on the School admission pages or by contacting Suffolk County Council on **0345 600 0981**. For further information on how to view your offer online and guidance on what to do if you have not received your preferred offer, please read the School admissions FAQ page.

Suffolk Council outlines "serious deficiencies" with vast solar farm proposal

Suffolk County Council has once again deemed the Sunnica solar farm proposals "unacceptable", as final comments are presented to the Planning Inspectorate.

In a joint submission with other local authorities, responding to the proposal for the large solar farm on the Suffolk-Cambridgeshire border, the councils say that "several key items of mitigation still have serious deficiencies".

The report has been submitted as the Examining Authority closes its examination process on 28 March. They will now write a report and recommendation, to be sent to the Secretary of State, who is expected to make the final decision whether to approve the project or not, later in 2023.

Areas of concern for the councils include:

- The geographic scale of the proposal which will permanently transform the landscape
- The impact on local communities of the 24 month construction period
- Sunnica's serious shortcomings in terms of both evidence and methodology
- Sunnica's presentation of proposal which makes it, and impacts on local communities, unclear
- Mitigation proposals do not appear to be tailored to the local context

Suffolk to mark Dementia Action week with event

Representatives from more than 34 care organisations across Suffolk will host stalls at the event, which will showcase the wide range of information, advice and support available to people living with dementia and their carers, to help them to get the right support from the right providers, at the right time.

Running alongside the marketplace will be keynote sessions on a range of topics including how to live well with dementia from those with lived experience, memory assessment and the importance of a timely diagnosis. There will also be the opportunity for people with the condition and their carers to hear about the development of a countywide dementia strategy for Suffolk, and provide feedback on their experiences, needs and priorities for support.

The event, which is being facilitated by the Suffolk Dementia Action Partnership and Care Development East, will be held on **Tuesday 16 May from 10am**, during Dementia Action Week. The event will feature a designated 'Quiet Room' with activities for people with dementia to allow their carers time to look at the stalls and attend the presentations.

Tea and coffee will be available throughout the day, and other drinks and food can be purchased from the onsite bar. To book your ticket please visit the Eventbrite website.

Suffolk County Council secures £7.9million for active travel schemes across county

Suffolk County Council has been awarded £7.9 million to boost active schemes across the county.

The money has come from Active Travel England (ATE) and will be spent on seven projects encouraging cycling and walking through measures such as cycle lanes, shared-use paths and improved crossing points on roads.

They include two mini-Holland schemes totalling more than £5m for Woodbridge, £1.3m for Grange Road in Felixstowe, and £1.2m for the route between Ipswich Hospital and the University of Suffolk.

Mini-Holland schemes prioritise cyclists and pedestrians over motorised vehicles. £4m will be spent on a scheme in Woodbridge town centre.

A further £1.1m will be for a similar scheme in the south of the town including filter systems at Sandy Lane, Bilney Road/Grunisburgh Road junction, and Bullards Lane, installing a pedestrian/cycle crossing at Ipswich Road/Old Barrack Road, turning Peterhouse Crescent into a school street for Kyson Primary School, and an area wide 20mph speed limit.

Separately, Suffolk County Council is about to submit a feasibility study to the government which, if accepted, could see millions of pounds spent on expanding the mini-Holland system across the town and neighbouring Melton. Some of the schemes, such as Ipswich Hospital to the University, have previously had improvements made under previous ATE funding rounds but this new money will link up and enhance that previous work.

The council will consult with the public throughout 2023 with a view to starting work on all schemes in 2024.

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