

PARISH REPORT SEPTEMBER 2025

ORWELL & VILLAGES

Local Government Reorganisation

At the full council on 24th September East Suffolk Council agreed to present the Case for Change to Government. This would replace all five district councils within Suffolk and the County council with three new unitary authorities responsible for providing all council services in their area.

As indicated in previous reports this would split up the current East Suffolk Council area and place Felixstowe, Martlesham and Kesgrave and our villages in a unitary with a much-enlarged Ipswich which would expand into Babergh as far west as Hadleigh.

Despite this the size of the three unitaries at 255,000 to 270,000 falls below any unitary proposed in the other eight areas under the fast-track programme. As such we suggested at full council that the covering letter to government contain a simple addition that if the government were minded to reject the three unitary proposal on the grounds of size, that they consult on both two and one before deciding. At the subsequent Cabinet meeting held immediately after full council that proposal was accepted.

We therefore await the Government consultation beginning in November and their decision which should be received in January.

Nature at Work- Parish council consultation

As you may be aware ESC rebranded the Pardon the Weeds project to Nature at Work this year. A total of 126 areas have been set aside so far where grass cutting will take place only twice a year. We are now looking to expand this with the support of parish councils to identify locations within their area which may provide wildlife natural habitats. This work is being undertaken in collaboration with Groundworks.

The application form link is here.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=zd8g6wAtIEG3ftMq4e9wM9Y6HP66WQtHuMj0fsVjZxhURFUzMkxHWk9MRVBGQ084S05aVVZPR1IYSyQIQCN0PWcu>

Notice from Bloor Homes on proposed Brightwell development

As you may have seen in the press Bloor Homes have indicated that they have purchased land opposite the Brightwell Lakes development site and intend to apply for outline planning permission for up to 1,300 homes.

This is the first notice received since East Suffolk Council since the land supply fell below the 5-year requirement last month due to the rise of 82% in housebuilding required by the Government. This proposed development is also likely to affect the plans to improve the A12 corridor from Seven Hills to Woodbridge.

Call for Land

The compilation of a new Local Plan for the whole of East Suffolk is now underway. The first step is for the local authority to make a call to landowners to come forward for potential sites for various types of developments. This will commence on 20th October. Town and parish councils will be invited to a briefing shortly for the week of 20th October.

Keeping residents warm this winter

Organisations and groups delivering projects which focus on keeping people warm, well-fed and connected to their community are invited to apply for funding to support their efforts.

Applications for the 2025/26 Cost of Living Community Grants are now open, with the scheme returning for a fourth year.

Community groups, voluntary organisations, and town and parish councils are invited to apply for grants of up to £2,000 (minimum £500) to support a range of projects.

Previous projects supported by the scheme include smaller 'Warm Welcomes' providing a warm space, cooking on a budget classes, support for food projects which are likely to see demand rise over the winter months, and many more. This year's scheme can also provide funding for community pantries and uniform banks.

Applications for the scheme close at 9am on Monday 20 October and applications will be considered on a rolling basis, or until all the funds have been allocated. [Application link here.](#)

CoL-Application-Form.docx

Free Parking for Remembrance events

Parking charges will again be lifted for Remembrance Sunday events in communities across East Suffolk.

As in previous years, free parking will be provided in many East Suffolk Council car parks to support commemorations on Sunday 9 November.

Parking charges will be suspended for a period of five hours – either between 8am and 1pm, or 1pm and 6pm – depending on the preference of participating town and parish councils.

- Aldeburgh: 8am-1pm
- Beccles: 1pm-6pm
- Bungay: 1pm-6pm
- Felixstowe: 8am-1pm
- Framlingham: 8am-1pm
- Halesworth: 1pm-6pm
- Leiston: 8am-1pm
- Lowestoft: 8am-1pm
- Oulton Broad: 8am-1pm
- Saxmundham: 1pm-6pm
- Southwold: 8am-1pm
- Wickham Market: 8am-1pm
- Woodbridge: 8am-1pm

Storm Advice

Now we are in the bad weather season here is some advice and handy numbers to report issues.

Strong winds

Here's how you can report common issues:

- Powercut - call 105 or [report to UK Power Networks online](#)
- Damaged power lines – please stay away and call 105. If there is an immediate risk to safety, please also call 999
- Fallen or overhanging trees – if there is an immediate danger, please call Suffolk Highways on 0345 606 6171. [Report non-emergency fallen trees or debris on the road](#) to Suffolk Highways
- Dangerous structure: 01394 444219 or 0800 440 2516 outside of office hours
- Updates on the Orwell Bridge from [National Highways](#) or [National Highways East on X](#)
- **Please make sure any external Christmas lights and decorations are secure**

Flooding

If you need some help with flooding, here's how you can report common issues:

- Flood warnings and alerts - residents and businesses, especially those close to waterways, should [closely follow flood warnings and alerts](#) from the Environment Agency and take action if advised.
- [Report flooding to your property](#)
- [Report other types of flooding](#)
- [Sign up for flood alerts](#)
- [Report a blocked drain](#) to Suffolk County Council. If the drain is blocked by litter or leaves, please contact [our Customer Services team](#).
- If your property has been affected by sewage flooding or there is a sewerage issue, please contact [your waste water provider](#).
- [Information for people and businesses in Suffolk who have been impacted by flooding](#).
- The Suffolk Flood Risk Management Partnership has created a [Flood Risk Management Strategy](#) and [Flood Smart living handbook](#) to help everyone understand and manage flood risk within Suffolk.
- If the water supply to your home has been affected, please contact [your water provider](#).

As always if you need to contact us on any issue please feel free

Cllr Mike Ninnmey: Home tel no 01394 677210 Mobile: 07823 372503

E-mail: mike.ninnmey@eastsoffolk.gov.uk

Cllr Lee Reeves: Home tel no 01394 284506 (preferred) Mobile 07823 372501

E-mail: lee.reeves@eastsoffolk.gov.uk