

PARISH REPORT NOVEMBER 2025

ORWELL & VILLAGES

Government consultation of Local Government reorganisation now open

The Government has launched its statutory consultation on the future of local government in Norfolk and Suffolk.

As you will be aware, there are two proposals being considered for Suffolk:

- Three Councils for Suffolk: proposed by district and borough councils. This would replace the current six councils with three unitary councils, each responsible for all local services.
- One Suffolk: proposed by Suffolk County Council, creating a single unitary authority.

The district and borough councils will continue to make the case, strongly, for the 'three councils' proposal, with a media release issued shortly (presented below) and additional activities which seek to explain why the councils believe this is the best option for the county's communities - while also encouraging participation in the consultation process.

The consultation is open now, and your views matter. Take this opportunity to have your say by visiting [Local government reorganisation in Norfolk and Suffolk - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/local-government-reorganisation-in-norfolk-and-suffolk).

The consultation period will close on 11 January 2026.

The Secretary of State is expected to make his decision on new structures in March 2026, with new councils in place from April 2028.

We would urge all parishes to review the two proposals and respond. As you will be aware both of us had sought to keep the two-unitary option on the table which we believe would better address the original guidelines set out by the Government and maintain the link between unitary councillors and their local parishes which may be in danger of being lost if the One Suffolk proposal is accepted. Individual residents are also able to respond to the consultation.

Government set to block local councils refusing planning applications over 150 homes

The Government is about to introduce legislation which will prevent local councils from refusing planning permission for any development over 150 houses. If planning committees are minded to refuse permission, they will be obliged to refer the matter to the government who will appoint planning inspectors to review the plans and then recommend the application to the Minister for approval.

This is another example of powers being removed from elected local councillors and transferred to central government. As the Local Government Association has confirmed, 90% of planning applications are already approved by councils. In East Suffolk we already have several thousand homes already approved where building has yet to commence.

Advice on waste disposal at Christmas

The festive season brings lots of celebrations, which can create a lot of waste. Here's some tips to make sure you get recycling right!

- Cardboard, food packaging, aluminium cans and plastic bottles can all go in your blue bin at home – just make sure you enjoy their contents and remove any non-recyclable elements before placing them in the bin.
- Christmas cards without glitter or foil effects can also be recycled at home, most wrapping paper too – just try the scrunch test before throwing it away and make sure you remove any non-recyclable tape, bows or ribbons before.
- Glass should be taken to your [nearest bottle bank or recycling centre](#).

Got a real Christmas tree?

If you're purchasing a real Christmas tree this year, make sure you have a plan for disposal. It can go in your garden waste bin but must be cut into pieces smaller than 6cm to fit. Alternatively, you can take it to your [nearest recycling centre](#) to dispose of, or even try [composting it at home](#).

Local charities also offer a collection services for a fee, why not get rid of your tree easily, whilst also giving back this festive season?

St Elizabeth Hospice and East Anglia's Children's Hospice collect trees from many areas in East Suffolk, including Kesgrave, Felixstowe, Nacton, Woodbridge, Aldeburgh, Leiston, Saxmundham and Southwold. [Check if you're eligible for collection](#).

Choose any amount to donate, trees will be collected on either Thursday 8 January or Friday 9 January 2026, just leave your tree at the front of your house by 9am on the designated collection dates and their volunteers will be along to pick it up.

Bank Holiday bin collections

Over Christmas and New Years, there will be some changes to our usual bin collection schedule, and we apologise for any inconvenience during this period. Here's the updated version:

Usual collection date	New collection date	Change
Monday 22 Dec	Saturday 20 Dec	2 days EARLY
Tuesday 23 Dec	Monday 22 Dec	1 day EARLY

Wednesday 24 Dec	Tuesday 23 Dec	1 day EARLY
Thursday 25 Dec	Wednesday 24 Dec	1 day EARLY
Friday 26 Dec	Saturday 27 Dec	1 day late
Monday 29 Dec	Monday 29 Dec	NO CHANGE
Tuesday 30 Dec	Tuesday 30 Dec	NO CHANGE
Wednesday 31 Dec	Wednesday 31 Dec	NO CHANGE
Thursday 1 Jan	Friday 2 Jan	1 day late
Friday 2 Jan	Saturday 3 Jan	1 day late

Remember to leave your bin out by 6am on collection day. Use our [bin collection dates finder](#) to double check.

ECB Funding

Each District councillor is allocated £ 7,500 Enabling Communities Budget (ECB) to assist funding for projects within their ward or of wider benefit. As we approach the end of another year, we would like to share the projects we have assisted so far this year. Since we were elected, we have endeavoured to fund improvements to the infrastructure in our parishes or signposted to other sources of funding, such as District CIL funding where eligible.

ECB Funding has been approved for next year 2026-2027 but it is uncertain whether it will continue in 2027-2028 – the final year of East Suffolk Council. If there are projects you have in mind for the remainder of this financial year or after next April then please let us know.

£ 3,000 for Trimley St Mary picnic benches

£ 3,000 for Bucklesham Village Hall solar panels

£ 800 for Emmaus Wellbeing Hub

£ 750 for Mind, Body and Sea- water based wellbeing

£ 350 for Stennets Community Café work with Level 2

£ 282 for bike racks at Trimley St Martin Memorial Hall

£ 220 for Felixstowe & District Sports council – first aid training

£ 100 for Grove Surgery medical wrist bands

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

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We would like to take this opportunity to thank all parish clerks and councillors for the work that you do for your communities and the welcome that we have had. We endeavour to get to as many parish council meetings as we can but each month there are diary clashes especially in the first week of the month.

Best wishes for a merry Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Cllrs Lee Reeves and Mike Ninnmey