

PARISH REPORT MARCH 2026

ORWELL & VILLAGES

Local Government Reorganisation approved

The Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government has confirmed that three unitary councils will be created in Suffolk replacing the current system made up of Suffolk County Council and the five district and borough councils: Babergh, East Suffolk, Ipswich, Mid Suffolk and West Suffolk.

Under the new arrangements, the new councils will come into operation in April 2028, with elections scheduled for next year to establish the shadow authorities responsible for shaping and overseeing the transition.

The six existing councils have already started the preparatory work, but will now begin detailed planning on the transition, with further information to be shared once plans are confirmed.

Felixstowe and our villages will now be included in a new unitary authority understood to be Ipswich and South Suffolk with Ipswich, Babergh and part of Mid Suffolk. As you will be aware we had both pushed unsuccessfully for a two unitary option to be submitted to Government.

Call for Sites submissions

Early preparation has begun on a new East Suffolk Local Plan. This will set out how and where development, including new homes, employment land and infrastructure, should take place up until at least 2044. The new plan will replace the existing Suffolk Coastal and Waveney Local Plans. The new Local Plan is anticipated to be adopted in 2029.

A Call for Sites was held between Monday 20 October 2025 and Friday 9 January 2026 and invited submissions of sites for consideration for inclusion in the new Local Plan. This is the earliest stage of the Local Plan process and it purely helps us to know what land is available for our consideration.

A total of 503 sites were put forward across the whole district and these have now been mapped. The map can be viewed on the following link [A new Local Plan for East Suffolk | East Suffolk Council](#). The published map displays the sites' location and the use proposed by the submitter (for example housing or employment).

At this stage the map has been published for information purposes only and ESC are not inviting comments, however there will be opportunity to comment on these sites when they consult communities later in the process.

It is important to note that:

- No assessments have been undertaken, and no decision has been made on which sites will be included in any future Local Plan, this map simply displays the submitted sites.
- The new Local Plan, including any future allocations, will be informed by a range of evidence, assessments and the outcomes of public consultations.

- **The sites have no planning status** (other than sites which are already allocated or permitted, in which case a submission does not alter this status).
- Sites have not necessarily been submitted by the landowner – submissions were invited from anyone who wished to submit a site.
- Existing allocations and permissions are not shown on this map. This map shows sites submitted during the Call for Sites only, further sites may come forward through the Local Plan process.
- We recognise that communities may wish to express their comments on sites, however we will not be formally inviting or considering any comments received at this time. Submission of comments should be reserved until future consultations.

Place Shaping Consultation

East Suffolk Council is encouraging people to get involved in a new project designed to capture local opinions about the district.

The new East Suffolk Place Shaping project aims to enhance the quality of places in the district by creating new or improving existing planning policy.

An interactive map is available on the project website, allowing participants to pinpoint places in East Suffolk they like, dislike, or believe should be improved. Participants are also invited to complete a short survey to provide further detail about their views.

You can share your views through the project website by:

 Adding pins to the [interactive map](#) to highlight places you like, places that could improve, or opportunities for the future.

 Completing the [online East Suffolk Place Shaping survey](#) to share your views on placemaking priorities in East Suffolk. Anyone who lives, works or visits East Suffolk is invited to participate in the project, which will help to inform planning guidance throughout the district.

The consultation is open until Friday 24 April, and an insights report will be published once all responses have been gathered. As the interactive map allows residents to pinpoint those areas where they feel unsafe and suggest improvements, the findings will be shared with the Community Safety team to take action.

Thriving Places Fund

The commencement of this new fund for smaller communities has been delayed until May due to the purdah period for the County Council elections.

The link for full details is [Thriving Places briefing paper PW.docx](#)

We would urge our smaller parishes to seek funding from this should they be unable to access CIL funding.

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/

As always if parish councillors need to contact either of us, please feel free to do so.

Cllr Mike Ninnmey: Home tel no 01394 277610 Mobile: 07823 372503

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

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

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