

Parish Report September 2023

Councillor

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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

Pylon plan not supported by SCC

Suffolk County Council is not supporting the latest proposals by the National Grid to install 114 miles of electricity pylons across the county as part of the “Norwich to Tilbury” project. A number of objections have been raised about the 33 mile stretch of the new works which would run through Suffolk, which includes installing a stretch of cabling under the Dedham Vale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The council is pressing for an offshore solution to be fully researched and considered.

Onshore facility proposal for Suffolk Coast

Suffolk County Council was disappointed to learn that the LionLink interconnector project from National Grid Ventures has identified an alternative landfall at Walberswick, with cable routing making its way to the north of Southwold.

The Lionlink project aims to connect multiple offshore wind farms in the North Sea, instead of individual wind farms connecting one by one to the shore. The project is a joint venture between the UK and the Netherlands, supplying energy to both countries. The Council will study the details of the new proposals, and will prepare its response to the National Grid’s second public consultation, which opens on 8 September.

Tour of Britain Cycle Race

The world’s best cyclists will be taking to the roads of Suffolk on 7 September, including Tour de France champions. This fifth stage of the national race will start in Felixstowe at 10.45am and go through Kesgrave, Ipswich, Hadleigh, Needham Market, Stowmarket, Framlingham, Leiston and Woodbridge before finishing back in Felixstowe at around 3.30pm. For details of the route and timings, please see the plans for Stage Five on the Tour of Britain website: <https://www.tourofbritain.co.uk/stages/stage-five/>

Social Worker of the Year Awards 2023

Suffolk County Council’s social workers and social care teams have been shortlisted for six awards at the annual Social Worker of the Year Awards. This is the only major national awards event for social work in England, attracting hundreds of entries every year and reaching millions of people with positive stories of outstanding social work.

We are really proud of our social workers, who work so hard to help people in often challenging circumstances. The winners will be announced at the awards ceremony in November this year.

New Fire and Rescue Service Training Centre

The Suffolk Fire and Rescue Training Centre at Wattisham has had a £1.3m upgrade and was formally opened on 24 August. This includes a new tactical firefighting facility to simulate incidents firefighters may be faced with and help them prepare for the dangerous work they undertake in the community.

Support for Ukrainian Refugees moving to private rented accommodation

In May, Suffolk County Council announced a one-off £2,000 support grant for Ukrainian refugees moving on from their host into their own accommodation.

The Independent Living Payment is available to any Ukrainian refugees moving into private rented accommodation after 1 April 2023. Guests must have been living in Suffolk for a minimum of two months and be registered on the Suffolk Homes for Ukraine scheme to be eligible for the payment. This funding can be used for any associated housing costs, including furniture, moving costs or travel to work. The support can be used towards accommodation which is furnished or unfurnished, and accommodation can be in Suffolk or out of county.

Ukrainian guests can apply for the Independent Living Payment and completing the application form on the Suffolk County Council website:

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/community-and-safety/communities/community-engagement/support-for-refugees/support-for-ukraine/ukraine-information-for-guests>

Ambling African Women break down barriers to accessing Suffolk Countryside

Suffolk County Council celebrated the launch of 'Ambling African Women' a new partnership with PHOEBE, the Ipswich-based charity advocating for black and ethnic minority women and children.

The new partnership aims to support PHOEBE members to access the countryside for its health and well-being benefits and is part of the wider work by the Green Access and Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) teams to address inequalities in countryside access.

Founded by Zimbabwean women social workers in 2008, P.H.O.E.B.E (Promotion of Health, Opportunity, Equality, Benevolence and Empowerment) offers specialist domestic abuse advice, information, casework, advocacy and support and counselling services to black and ethnic minoritised women and children in Suffolk.

The Council worked with PHOEBE in 2022 to identify specific cultural barriers to countryside access. The partnership which has been developed will help inform future interventions that will be offered to other community groups facing similar barriers to visiting the countryside.

At the launch event on Tuesday 29 August, Suffolk County Council and its partners hosted a guided walk for around 30-40 women from the PHOEBE centre, who are part of the centre's new Ambling African Women walking group.

There were women of all ages and fitness levels taking part, from babies in pushchairs, up to retirement age women, with plenty of chatting and socialising along the way. The walk took place at Snape Maltings, which is in the Coast & Heaths Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, with a guided walk along the Sailors Path from Snape Maltings along the river to Snape Warren and back, followed by lunch and traditional African music.

To keep up to date with what 'Ambling African Women' are up to, you can follow them on Twitter, here: <https://twitter.com/AmblingAfricans>.

Suffolk's Archive Service Achieves Full National Accreditation

Following a recent Archive Service Accreditation Panel, Suffolk Archives, a Suffolk County Council service has achieved Full Accreditation. The service achieved Provisional Accreditation in March 2019 and today the UK Archive Service Accreditation Committee has moved Suffolk Archives from provisional to full accreditation status.

Accreditation is the UK quality standard which recognises good performance in all areas of archive service delivery. Achieving accredited status demonstrates that Suffolk Archives has met clearly defined national standards relating to management and resourcing; the care of its unique collections and the service it offers to a broad range of users.

Archive Service Accreditation is supported by a partnership of the Archives and Records Association (UK), Archives and Records Council Wales, National Records of Scotland, Public Record Office of Northern Ireland, Scottish Council on Archives, The National Archives; and the Welsh Government through its Museums, Archives and Libraries Wales division.

The Accreditation Panels are composed of Committee members nominated by the seven Accreditation partners and openly recruited from the archives sector.

Video salutes work of Suffolk's Junior Road Safety Officers

The hard work of Suffolk's Junior Road Safety Officers is recognised with awards and an official video. Suffolk schools taking part in a scheme to promote road safety have been recognised in a special video recording their efforts.

The video celebrates the work in their schools and communities of Suffolk's Junior Road Safety Officers (JRSOs). JRSOs are pupils from Year 4 and above who promote road safety through Suffolk Roadsafe, the partnership made up of Suffolk County Council, the emergency services, the Police and Crime Commissioner and National Highways.

Roadsafe brings together the main agencies involved in road safety with the aim of reducing casualties in the county.

The JRSO awards saw gold, silver and bronze awards made to 36 schools from across Suffolk; gold awards were made to 21 schools, silver to 13 and bronze to two.

Schools and their JRSOs organise events throughout the year to promote the theme, with the awards recognising innovation in getting the message out there.

Ideas ranged from information leaflets, safety signs and bake sales to striking a deal with a local garden centre for parents to park and walk their children the rest of the way to the school.

One school, Brampton Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School from Brampton, near Beccles, was even awarded a Blue Peter badge for writing to the popular long-running BBC children's TV programme to explain what they were doing.

All the activities were recorded in special scrapbooks.

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