

Report from District Cllr. Sally Noble

Dear Clerks and Councillors,

Please find below the latest Parish Report. I have included all the official council reports as they are relevant to the whole ward.

As promised, now that most of work on the flooding has eased off, I will be able to provide a better picture of what other things I have been doing since my last report.

I have had a fascinating tour of Adastral Park. It was hard to fathom just how many different things were going on behind those closed gates. The work is truly incredible. There are lots of opportunities for local businesses and degree courses for young people aspiring to join the growing world of technology. We even had a guided tour to see the work they are doing with drones; and of course, there is research into Artificial Intelligence happening there too. I must admit that I worry about the short and long-term effects of such technology.

Another interesting tour I was invited on was to the George Pub in Wickham Market. When it is finished, this will be a real asset to the local community and surrounding area. As well as the pub on the ground floor, the space upstairs will focus on health and wellbeing with a scope for all sorts of groups to be involved. A big thank you to all those involved in making this tour possible.

On a different note, on the 6th February, I am hoping to launch 'Wild About Wickham'. The aim is to get individuals to engage with the biodiversity crisis by doing whatever they can in their own patch to encourage and provide a home for nature and to brighten up the village. This could be anything as small as a bee friendly flowerpot, to planting trees or making a pond. Of course, Campsea Ashe have already had great success with the WAC (Wild About Campsea) and I am hoping that we can roll this idea out across the whole ward eventually. Any ideas you may have, or if you wish to join in, please come along to our initial event – details to be confirmed.

I look forward to seeing you all sometime soon.

Sally

November 2023 Parish Report East Suffolk Council GLI Group – Councillor Update

Festive Free Parking

Christmas shoppers and visitors to festive events across East Suffolk can enjoy free parking in council-owned car parks on selected dates.

To coincide with Christmas lights ‘switch ons’ and other festive events across the district over the coming weeks, East Suffolk Council is offering free parking in council-owned car parks from 3pm on the following dates:

- Woodbridge – Thursday 30 November
- Saxmundham – Friday 1 December
- Wickham Market – Saturday 2 December
- Lowestoft – Saturday 2 December
- Felixstowe – Saturday 2 December
- Framlingham – Friday 8 December
- Leiston – Saturday 9 December
- Oulton Broad – Sunday 10 December

Free parking will also be available from noon to 6pm on Saturday 16 December across the district.

Have Your Say on Polling Stations

To ensure they remain suitable for voters, polling stations and polling districts in East Suffolk are currently being reviewed and residents are invited to comment.

The ‘Polling Districts and Polling Places’ review aims to ensure that the current polling districts, polling places and polling stations in East Suffolk are suitable and convenient for electors, and to assess feedback from voters or other interested parties.

Comments can be submitted by email to elections@eastsuffolk.gov.uk or by post to Electoral Services, East Suffolk Council, Riverside, 4 Canning Road, Lowestoft NR33 0EQ.

The deadline for making representations in response to the review is Thursday 30 November.

www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/features/polling-stations-review-consultation/

East Suffolk Council says ‘no’ to oil and gas

East Suffolk Council has responded to the Government’s decision to create more oil and gas licences by confirming that it will no longer accept new tenancies from companies committed to its production.

As part of the King’s Speech on Tuesday 7 November, it was confirmed that hundreds of new oil and gas licences will be granted in the UK by the Government.

However, the Council, which owns considerable commercial land in the North Sea port town of Lowestoft as well as business parks in Beccles and Leiston, has stated that green companies will now be “at the front of the queue” for tenancies.

East Suffolk Council has today welcomed leading renewable energy service company RMI Renewables to their flagship PowerPark development in the port of Lowestoft, and GLI Cllr Toby Hammond, who is Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Transport as part of the Green, Liberal Democrat and Independent (GLI) administration, hopes there will be many more.

He said: "This is a hugely retrograde step from the Prime Minister and a Government which is clearly only paying lip service to environmental concerns. We are in the midst of a climate emergency and things must change. We already have a thriving renewable energy sector in East Suffolk, and we are simply not going to allow the Government to take us backwards.

"We see huge potential for more high-quality jobs and prosperity especially servicing offshore wind. We are totally focused on clean, green industry to drive the winds of change in East Suffolk and companies which reflect our own priorities and ambitions will be at the front of the queue for future tenancies."

RMI Renewables, whose parent company started out in 2005 servicing oil and gas industry within the North Sea, have now almost fully transitioned to working with offshore wind, rail infrastructure and other clean energy businesses.

Scott McMillan, RMI Renewables Director, said:

"Being part of the PowerPark allows RMI Renewables to work collaboratively with our clients, supply chain, colleges as well as the Council to develop infrastructure, which will create new job opportunities in the area. This is a great opportunity to attract the best companies and skilled resources, which in turn will provide greater opportunities to the younger generation who are looking for a long-term career and cleaner future."

This decisive move by East Suffolk Council also follows recent decisions by Prime Minister Rishi Sunak to delay targets on decarbonisation.

Councillors at East Suffolk have written to Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero, Rt Hon Claire Coutinho MP stating their opposition to any new oil and gas licenses. Cllr Rachel Smith-Lyte, Cabinet Member for the Environment said:

"Opening up new oil and gas is an entirely reckless thing to do in the face of the climate emergency and our net zero commitments. The people of this country deserve so much better."

Grants for Winter Support - Now Live

Voluntary organisations, community groups and faith networks can now access grant funding for projects that help ease cost of living pressures around food and heating this winter – but applications need to be in soon.

The East Suffolk Cost of Living Winter Grant Fund, made possible with funding from the Suffolk Collaborative Communities Board, is offering grants for projects that help East Suffolk residents to stay warm and fed during the colder months.

Organisations can apply for up to £2,500 for a wide range of projects – as long as they support individuals and families to stay warm and/or to access healthy nutritious food,

particularly between the end of December and end of March. The closing date for applications is 9am on Wednesday 6 December.

GLI Councillor Sarah Whitelock, East Suffolk Council cabinet member for Communities, Leisure and Tourism, said: “We know that lots of our residents are struggling with the ever-increasing cost of living, so I am really pleased to be able to launch the winter 2023/24 cost of living grants, thanks to funding from the Suffolk Collaborative Communities Board.

“We are particularly looking for applications from small community groups and voluntary organisations who want to support residents this winter, for example by offering hot breakfasts, lunches and/or dinners, somewhere warm to catch up with friends, cooking classes, energy advice and much more.

“We want to hear from you if you have a great idea – big or small – to help your community this winter.”

The Grant Panel will meet on December 13, so projects will find out whether they have been successful just before Christmas.

Apply now at: www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/news/east-suffolk-cost-of-living-winter-grant-launch/

For the most up to date information regarding East Suffolk Council, please visit: www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk