



ALDEBURGH TOWN COUNCIL

MOOT HALL, MARKET CROSS PLACE
ALDEBURGH, SUFFOLK, IP15 5DS

Tel: 01728 452158 Email: townclerk@aldeburghtowncouncil.co.uk

To members of the Town Council

Cllr Bond
Cllr Fellowes
Cllr Fox

Cllr Haworth
Cllr Haworth-Culf
Cllr Howard-Dobson

Cllr Jones
Cllr Lumpkin
Cllr Langley

Cllr Webster

You are hereby summoned to **attend the Meeting of the Town Council** to be held at the **Moot Hall on Monday 12th February 2024 at 7pm.**

Kim Puttock
Town Clerk
7 February 2024

THE PUBLIC AND PRESS ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND

AGENDA

65. Apologies

66. Declarations of interest

To receive any declarations of interest and to consider requests for dispensations from Members on matters in which they have a disclosable pecuniary interest, other registerable or non-registerable interest.

67. Suffolk County Council (SCC) Councillors Report and Correspondence

68. East Suffolk Council (ESC) Councillors Report and Correspondence

69. Public Forum (15 minutes)

For the public to ask questions of the Council or raise issues for consideration at a future meeting of the Council.

70. To approve the draft minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 8th January 2024.

71. Property and Finance Committee:

71.1. To approve the draft minutes of the Property and Finance Committee meeting held on 22nd January 2024.

71.2. Report from the Chair of the Property and Finance Committee.

71.3. To approve the Income list for January 2024 and the Payments list for February 2024.

71.4. To discuss and agree the funding needed to instruct solicitors to renew the lease related to the Town Marshes.

71.5. **RESOLUTION to APPROVE** the appointment of the recommended contractor for the architectural works required for the Rugby Club Pavilion Changing Facilities.

72. Services Committee

72.1. To approve the draft minutes of the Services Committee meeting held on 22nd January 2024.

72.2. Report from the Chair of the Services Committee.

73. Planning Committee

73.1. To approve the draft minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 22nd January 2024.

73.2. To approve the draft minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 31st January 2024.

73.3. Report from the Chair of the Planning Committee.

74. Grants and Requests Committee

74.1. To approve the draft minutes of the Grants and Requests Committee held on 22nd January 2024.

74.2. To discuss and agree the date for Mayors Sunday.

74.3. To discuss and agree the date for the Annual Town Meeting.

74.4. **RESOLUTION to APPROVE** the purchase of two 'Lamp of Light Beacons'.

74.5. **RESOLUTION to APPROVE** the D-Day Lighting of the Beacon to be held on Thursday 6th June 2024.

74.6. **RESOLUTION to APPROVE** the Spring/Summer Funday to be held on Saturday 15th June 2024.

74.7. **RESOLUTION to APPROVE** the Fireworks annual event to be held on Sunday 3rd November 2024.

75. Reports from Members appointed to Outside Bodies

Members appointed to represent the Town Council on outside bodies to provide an update for their respective areas of responsibility.

76. Report from the Town Clerk

77. Mayor's Report

78. Closure

Suffolk County Council Councillors Report - February 2024

A reminder that the Northern Transport meeting takes place tomorrow evening at Darsham Village Hall. I have not received any written questions to put forward on anyone's behalf, however, the offer will remain in place for all the local forums going forward. There is an increase in HGV's using a designated local quiet road, I expect is the shortest route on their sat navs, I have asked the cabinet member and officers to look into navigations systems being updated and to ensure that designated roads are clearly marked and that signage is also looked into re any improvements that may be required. Another update attached to this report.

After an update webinar held on 31st January regarding the Five Estuaries application, there were a few areas to highlight that might be useful going forward:

- 1 Though the developer is now working in conjunction with the North Falls developer in many areas, unlike North Falls, Five Estuaries is solely committed to the current on-shore infrastructure and build. The developer confirmed that it would take National Policy changes at Government level to alter this position. Later, under further information, they stated that in order to make the deadlines currently in place, were they to offer an off-shore connection this aspect would be absent from their current plans, and would present considerable delays in development. The understanding is that by default this would require extensions to their current licence as the project had been commenced considerably prior to the identification of the off-shore hub potential.
- 2 They were keen to highlight the 'Critical' in CNSIP that has been added by govt. for energy projects.
- 3 They were content that the gull mitigation package offering in place (Orford) was more than sufficient.
- 4 While the Community Benefit Package was referred to, it appeared this is very early days. There were thoughts they would use a similar package to that offered by Scottish Power and Vattenfall, (they are already planning on utilising their physical fence specifications for the Orford and some of the other workings) however there were no further plans as yet.

Within this report there is an item about a fake university, last week a local resident received a telephone call which looked exactly like a local Aldeburgh number. Please always be vigilant and do report any suspicious calls and emails. I always forward emails onto report@phishing.gov.uk as it does help.

As I write this report, amongst other items I am also preparing for my many fostering panel meetings and this leads onto this item about fostering:

Could you be a parent and child foster carer?

It's a lesser known but incredibly impactful type of fostering and we need more people to consider if they could become parent and child foster carers.

Parent and child fostering involves offering support and guidance to young parents, often mothers, who are facing challenges in caring for their children. This unique form of fostering aims to create a safe environment for both the parent and child, facilitating learning, growth, and the development of essential parenting skills.

Below, we are shining a light on Sam and Matt's personal journey with parent and child fostering, the challenges, the triumphs and why they would encourage others to become foster carers.

In 2009, Sam and Matt, parents of five, decided to start their fostering journey as they wanted to provide a loving home for children in need. A friend introduced them to fostering and they began doing short break placements, but their path eventually led them to parent and child fostering.

Sam, inspired by her own struggles as a young mother at 17, sought to extend a helping hand to those in similar situations. The lack of support during her early parenting years fuelled her desire to help parents that don't have anyone else.

Sam and Matt started by caring for a 16-year-old mum and her baby. Despite the hurdles, including an unsafe relationship, the mum thrived under their guidance. She became a part of the family and they have stayed in touch with her even though she has now moved on to live independently.

Over the years, Sam and Matt have navigated many more diverse placements, from supporting a mum with learning disabilities to guiding a dad struggling with his parenting skills. Each placement presented unique challenges, which is the diverse nature of parent and child fostering.

Despite the challenges, Sam and Matt say that fostering has brought great experiences and invaluable life lessons to their family. As a family they have formed genuine relationships with young parents and children from different backgrounds which has taught them and their children empathy, compassion, and the importance of supporting others through difficult times. The challenges posed by fostering has brought the family closer together and made them more resilient.

Sam and Matt would wholeheartedly recommend parent and child foster care to others due to the difference you can make to both the young parents and the children involved. Despite difficult times, witnessing small successes and progress in the families they've supported has been immensely rewarding for Sam and Matt.

They feel that by providing guidance and empathy you have the potential to create a lasting influence on both the lives of the parents and the children whilst breaking generational patterns.

We need more people to come forward to become parent and child foster carers.

Foster carers must possess a blend of parenting knowledge, life experience, empathy, and strength. They must set boundaries, have honest communication, and a commitment to the parents and children in their care.

Training courses, staying updated on guidelines, and access to peer support are provided to our carers. This helps foster carers through the fostering process, ensuring that foster parents are well-prepared to provide a safe and nurturing environment for both parent and child.

If you are interested in becoming a foster carer, please visit www.fosterandadopt.suffolk.gov.uk or call us on 01473 264800.

Suffolk children's services leadership overhaul

Suffolk County Council announced last week that further changes to the leadership of services for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

Three senior councillors - Rachel Hood, James Reeder and Chris Chambers - have resigned from their posts as cabinet and deputy cabinet members. It follows the departure of the county council's executive director of people services and director of children and young people late last year.

Councillor Matthew Hicks, Suffolk County Council's leader, said:

I would like to thank Rachel, James and Chris for their personal commitment and hard work over the past two and half years. They have shown huge dedication to improving SEND services. I would like to wish them well in their future work and reiterate Suffolk County Council's absolute commitment to ensuring more young people and their families receive the support they need and deserve.

Following an inspection by OFSTED and the Care Quality Commission, published on 30 January, the council and health partners are also setting up a new SEND Improvement Board with an independent chair – charged with helping to deliver faster improvements to SEND provision in Suffolk.

Resigning from their posts in a letter to the leader of the council, the councillors said:

“Over the course of this week, it has become apparent that our positions have become a distraction from the vital work of this council in improving outcomes for children and families within the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) service in Suffolk— work which we have focussed on since our appointments 2 ½ years ago in 2021.

“The recent Ofsted report is extraordinarily disappointing, despite Ofsted and the DfE's recognition of improvements in the service and we are determined that the Council will go further and faster in providing SEND children and their families with the outcomes, and positive experience, they need and deserve.

“We remain clear that under our leadership the service has been successfully restructured, all the reforms spelt out in the Independent Report have been accomplished and significant improvements have been made. Amongst other significant matters, staff senior leadership team is being refreshed; over £60 million pounds has been invested in funding well over 1200 new SEND places; our proposed 2024/25 budget includes £4.4 million of additional investment in SEND services; and additional Educational Psychologists have been recruited and are being trained.

“We are proud of the work we have done over the last two and a half years, particularly during and following the Covid-19 pandemic, to reform, restructure and improve many aspects of Children’s Services, particularly in the face of dramatic increases in demand. We are clear that we have put the directorate on a firm footing to continue to achieve the changes we all want to see and which are already happening.

“It has been a pleasure to serve in your administration and we now believe that to ensure the focus is where we all wish it to be – on improving the lives of children and families in Suffolk, collectively, we wish to step aside to avoid further distractions and so are tendering our resignations from our respective appointed roles. We are most grateful to have had the opportunity to serve the children and residents of Suffolk on behalf of the County Council.”

A restructure of senior officer leadership in children’s services is already underway, with the imminent recruitment of a new executive director of children and young people services.

Speaking about the changes, the council’s chief executive, Nicola Beach, said:

Given the known challenges facing our children and young people (CYP) services, both in Suffolk and nationally, I am taking this opportunity to restructure the senior leadership within the service so that we can best meet those challenges. It is time for a new leadership structure in CYP and, therefore, two roles have been removed and will be replaced with a new senior management structure.

New funding for arts, but difficult decisions remain

The next couple of weeks are an incredibly busy and important time at Suffolk County Council, and will impact everyone in Suffolk.

On 15 February at the full council meeting, councillors will debate our proposals for how we spend the council’s budget from April onwards.

The meeting will determine how much council tax you and I will have to pay, and how much money is spent on the services that many people rely on – particularly to help support those adults and children who need it most.

It’s a process we’re very familiar with, it happens every year. However, this year feels very different. I’ve said on many occasions that this is the most difficult budget the council has had to work on.

We've all been feeling the inflationary pressures driven first by Covid and then the war in Ukraine. Whether it's filling your shopping basket or running your business, many of us are having to make sacrifices and prioritise what we can and can't spend money on. I know for many it's also highlighted the importance of having some money put away for a rainy day.

Suffolk County Council is in the same position – although a large organisation, we don't have an endless supply of money. We are also having to make really difficult decisions about what we can and can't spend money on, and we really value those 'rainy day savings' – the reserves we've built up over the years. The council can draw down on these reserves, but they can only be used once.

The need for our key services is increasing at such a rate, that our funding isn't keeping pace. Over the last year alone, what we need to spend on children's services has increased by 28% and on adult care by 14%. Without additional funding, this means difficult decisions have to be made, so we can prioritise these services.

We continue to lobby the government for more funding and last week it recognised the pressures that local authorities were under and announced a further £600m to share across the country's councils. Of course, any additional funding is good news – and we absolutely welcome it. I have no doubt this wouldn't have been possible without our efforts to lobby government, alongside Suffolk's MPs and county councils around the country.

As a result of this, we plan to suggest providing a new £500,000 fund for our arts and heritage organisations around the county.

We've always stated our support for the arts in Suffolk and pledged to take up any opportunity to continue that support. We understand the value of the sector's work, and how it helps support the council's ambition of looking after the health and wellbeing of Suffolk's residents.

We still propose to end the £528,000 core funding to nine organisations at the end of March 2025, at which point the new fund will start. But importantly, this new fund will be open to all arts and heritage organisations, ending the funding disparity that favoured some towns and organisations over others. We'll work with the sector to ensure this new pot is straightforward to apply for and that the funded projects meets the council's priorities.

However, I'm afraid this positive result cannot mask the significant financial pressures that the council continues to face. The funding we receive from government still does not solve the situation that many councils around the country, like Suffolk, find themselves in.

Over the next two years, we must put £74 million towards caring for adults and children who need support. We need to make savings of £65 million, which includes £11 million of staff savings. And even after the further funding from the government, we will still need to take many millions from our reserves to help balance our budgets. This is not sustainable and fundamental reform of how children's services and adult social care is funded is needed to ensure councils like us remain on a secure financial footing.

To support those most in need, we are proposing to ask you to contribute more this year through your council tax. We don't do this lightly. 77p in every £1 of this will go to supporting those who need it most in Suffolk. If that's not you, or anyone in your family, there is someone out there who absolutely needs that support. The remaining 23p of every pound that you contribute will go towards everything else that we do, from running the Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service to maintaining our roads and footpaths.

Suffolk local area partnership commits to urgent improvements to SEND services and apologises to families

The partnership responsible for overseeing and delivering services for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) in Suffolk have apologised to families and commits to urgent action to strengthen and accelerate improvement plans following an inspection by Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission.

Published: 30 Jan 2024

- Ofsted and CQC Inspection Report finds significant concerns with SEND services
- The Local Area Partnership promise urgent action to accelerate and strengthen improvement plans
- Senior leaders offer joint apology to Suffolk families

The inspection, which took place in November, highlighted that 'there are widespread and/or systemic failings leading to significant concerns' about the experiences and outcomes of children and young people with SEND. The report can be read [here](#).

The local area partnership which delivers SEND services is made up of Suffolk County Council, the NHS Suffolk and North East Essex Integrated Care Board (ICB) and NHS Norfolk and Waveney ICB.

The inspection report, published January 30, identifies two priority actions as follows:

1. The partnership should work more collaboratively and effectively to improve strategic planning. This needs to deliver systems with measurable impact that will create better experiences and outcomes for children and young people with SEND.
2. Leaders should cooperate to take urgent action to improve the timeliness and quality of the statutory Education Health Care plan process, Education Health Care plan needs assessments and Education Health Care plans and annual reviews. This should ensure that plans meaningfully capture the views and aspirations of children and young people with SEND and their families, so that they get the right support at the right time.

The local area partnership is now implementing a number of urgent actions. These include the proposed investment of £4.4 million into SEND services next year by Suffolk County Council (subject to Full Council agreement on February 15), and the establishment of a Suffolk SEND Improvement Board, which will be chaired by an Independent Chair, to oversee the improvement plan and actions needed. A new SEND Strategy is also in the process of being co-produced with parents and carers to set the strategic direction.

Nicola Beach, Chief Executive of Suffolk County Council, said:

“We accept that our improvement work has not yet had the positive impact on the experience of children and young people with SEND and their families in Suffolk.

“This is not good enough and I apologise to children and young people and their families.

“We accept the findings of the report and we must now go further and faster as a partnership to deliver the urgent improvements needed.

“Our SEND staff work with passion and conviction every day to make children's lives better and it is important to recognise this and thank them for their ongoing hard work and commitment. I understand the challenges that colleagues face and that is why I will continue to work with senior leaders from the NHS to strengthen changes to make a difference.”

Ed Garratt, Chief Executive of NHS Suffolk & East Essex ICB, said:

“Children in Suffolk with special educational needs and disabilities deserve the very best support available, and it is deeply disappointing that as a system we have still not been able to deliver this for them.

“Despite the very great challenges around demand and funding, the ICB is absolutely committed to working with its system partners to ensure the required improvements to services are achieved as speedily as possible.

“We have already identified ways we can reduce the current long waiting times for autism spectrum disorder (ASD) assessment and diagnoses and a recovery plan is being implemented and has been shared with the Ofsted and CQC inspectors.

“The ICB has also invested £700,000 in recurring funding in the voluntary and community sector to provide support for families waiting for these diagnoses, as well as co-producing a new parent resource pack as part of the Suffolk Local Offer. This is in addition to £1.2m invested recently in our Childrens Mental Health Services.

“The inspectors provided positive feedback about our crisis mental health support and peripatetic service, which is an excellent collaboration with our voluntary and community sector partners.”

Tracey Bleakley, Chief Executive, NHS Norfolk and Waveney ICB, said:

“We recognise that special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) services in the Waveney area of Suffolk have not met the high standards which our children and young people need and deserve.

“We acknowledge that waits to access some support are still too long and the ICB is committed to working with system partners including families to continue to listen and respond to feedback with respect to the need to reduce waits and meet needs earlier.

“We have invested in a number of significant transformation programmes of work, including implementation of a successful keyworker service, known locally as Care Navigators for children and young people with learning disabilities and/or autism, and improved speech and language provision for children with education, health and care plans in Waveney, reducing wait times from two years to eight months.

“We have also delivered a waiting list initiative for Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)/ Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) assessments in response to increased pathway waits, to be expanded in 2024/25, and improved the support offer for children and young people with eating disorders and disordered eating.

“By working collaboratively with partners we are confident that we can make the necessary improvements to SEND services to ensure that children, young people and their families and carers can access the support they need, when they need it.”

Before her resignation: Rachel Hood, Cabinet Member for Education, SEND and Skills, at Suffolk County Council said:

“We are sorry that experiences and outcomes of some children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities are not as good as they should be, and as we want them to be.

“The report has confirmed that we already know where our problems are and we will continue with our programme of significant investment and reform so that improvements are felt by all.

“There are more than 21,000 children and young people identified in Suffolk schools as having SEND. This number has increased by 30% since 2019. We are aware we have struggled to keep up with this demand.

“Sadly, we are not alone in the challenges we face and, alongside our Suffolk MPs, we continue to lobby Government for greater support. Nationally, the Government accepts that SEND provision is not working well and published its improvement plan in March 2023, which promises widespread reform and help for local partners.”In the meantime, we will continue to bolster and increase the pace of our improvement.”

Alongside key priorities, the report identifies a number of areas where the partnership is working well. These include:

- In some areas, the local area partnership has worked successfully to improve services
- Strong levels of capital investment have increased the availability of special school places
- Initiatives to equip professionals in schools, such as the online tool to support schools, Valuing SEND or VSEND, are showing early signs of impact
- Several health teams support families sensitively and successfully, including the neonatal physiotherapy service

- Social care teams are effective. Social work assessments and reviews are comprehensive and helpful.
- Many providers, such as schools and colleges, praise their relationship with the local area partnership

As a result of this inspection, a monitoring inspection will be carried out within approximately 18 months. The local area partnership is now required to prepare and submit a priority action plan to address the identified areas for priority action.

The Ofsted and CQC report follows two years of significant investment into the way SEND services are delivered in Suffolk. Reform progress has been monitored by the Department for Education, who reported in March 2023, that progress was 'reassuring' and noted 'the leadership's commitment to improvement in a wide range of areas'.

Significant pieces of reform include:

- Investment of more than £55 million to create more than 1,250 additional places in specialist and mainstream schools
- Creation of specialist SEND support teams and training for all Suffolk schools to support them to meet the additional needs of children in mainstream schools
- Proposed investment of £4.4m in 2024/25 and £3.4m in 2025/26 to expand our statutory SEND teams and secure sufficient educational psychology resource to improve the quality and timeliness of Education Health and Care assessments and reviews
- The ICB has invested £700,000 in recurring funding in the voluntary and community sector to provide support for families waiting for these diagnoses, as well as co-producing a new parent resource pack as part of the Suffolk Local Offer

How Suffolk can reuse and repair to boost items' lifespans

Are you looking to live more sustainably and save some money in 2024?

You may find some inspiration in a new campaign from the charity Keep Britain Tidy this January called Buy Nothing New Month. The campaign challenges us to avoid new clothing, electronics, furniture, and other items that contribute to the cycle of production, consumption, and disposal.

Of course, there are some caveats to this challenge. We all have some essential purchases we must make, such as food and medicines, so we may not be able to abstain completely from buying new items. Equally, we must not discount the excellent and innovative efforts by many Suffolk businesses to operate sustainably, to reduce waste and to source materials responsibly. These businesses will always deserve our support.

However, the campaign does encourage us to be mindful of how we consume – to make intentional purchases. It is a chance to reflect on your purchasing habits and to think about

the benefits of buying pre-loved items, borrowing and swapping, and reusing or repairing products that we already own.

As Cabinet Member for Waste at Suffolk County Council, I know only too well the common, linear lifecycle of things – they are made, used, and then discarded. Yes, it is good that many of the things we use can be recycled, but better still is to extend the lifespan of existing products. What if we reused and regenerated products and materials rather than making something new? This would support a circular economy in which items do not become waste when we're finished with them.

The further good news is that, not only does reducing the number of items we buy new reduce our environmental impact, but it is also usually easier on our wallets!

So, what are the alternatives to buying new?

The first and easiest thing you can do is to use what you already own. Have a look in your cupboards and loft. You may be surprised at the useful things you find that could be repurposed. For example, rather than shopping the January sales for new outfits, could you “shop your wardrobe” and revive items of clothing you haven't worn for a while?

You may find that some items need some repair. Fortunately, there are tutorials online for how to repair all kinds of things – but for those occasions when you need a helping hand, there are a number of Repair Café events happening around Suffolk this January and throughout the year. These community-run groups are free to attend and a great way to meet people who can help you fix your broken items. Visit suffolkrecycling.org.uk to learn where to find your nearest Repair Café.

You can also visit the Re-use Shops at Foxhall and Bury St Edmunds Recycling Centres and give a product a new lease of life. A range of items are available for purchase, including small furniture, toys, garden equipment, power tools, electronics, bicycles, bric-a-brac and homewares. You can also donate your own reusable items. The added benefit is that the Re-use Shops raise funds for The Benjamin Foundation, a charity that works with young people and families in need of support across Suffolk. And, of course, there are also local charity shops on our high streets offering many second-hand items for sale.

You can also arrange to swap or borrow items with friends and neighbours. Perhaps you need something to complete a DIY job around the house. Rather than buying a new tool or piece of equipment, could you borrow it from someone in your community? There are also apps, such as OLIO, which help you find things available to borrow locally.

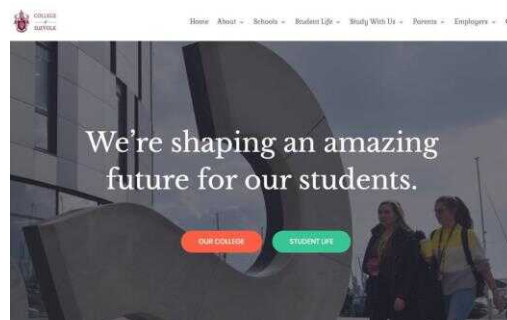
So, while it may not be a one-size-fits-all resolution, campaigns such as this are helpful in challenging us to think about whether we need to buy an item new and what value we place on the things we own already.

Fake university website shut down by Suffolk Trading Standards

A bogus website for a non-existent college in Suffolk offering fake courses costing thousands of pounds is closed down by Trading Standards.

Calling itself the College of Suffolk, the website claimed the university had been founded in 1990 and was located on Queen Street in Ipswich.

The bogus website used images of the real University of Suffolk in Ipswich. Quoting yearly fees ranging from £3,500 to £8,900, it claimed to offer courses in acting, musical theatre, dance and performance.



The site used images of the real University of Suffolk and even had a page promoting the county, saying how it was home to its own breed of horses, breweries and famous celebrities such as singer Ed Sheeran.

A foreword by college 'President' Dr Stephen Spinks talked of how it provides "exciting learning opportunities in business, human resources, accountancy, finance, musician (sic) and art – all critical areas for the world of work."

It is the second time such a fake college has been foiled by Trading Standards – an identical scam using the same name and information was closed down in 2019.

The website was being run from Hong Kong and while Suffolk Trading Standards have had no reports of victims in the UK there may be some overseas.

How much do I have to pay?

New Students

- MA Professional Performance Practice (subject to validation) – £5950
- BA (Hons) Acting for Live & Recorded Media– £8900
- BA (Hons) Musical Theatre– £8900
- BA (Hons) Dance and Performance– £8900
- BA (Hons) Theatre and Performance– £8900
- BA (Hons) Make-Up Artistry/BA (Hons) Special Effects Make Up Artistry– £7500
- FdA Make Up Artistry/FdA Special Effects Make Up Artistry– £7500
- BA (Hons) Film and TV Production (subject to validation)– £8500
- FdA Film and TV Production– £8500
- FdA Contemporary Photographic Practice– £7500
- All other Full-Time Foundation Degrees and Honours degrees – £7000
- All other Top-up Degrees* – £5950
- Higher National Diploma (HND) (2 year course) – £7000
- Higher National Diploma (HND) (1 year Top Up from HNC) – £5950
- Higher National Certificate (HNC) (1 Year course) – £7000
- University Preparatory Year Extended degrees – £3500

Many of the courses the fake website offered cost thousands of pounds.

Graham Crisp, Head of Suffolk Trading Standards, said:

“Websites like this can be used to attract students, collect personal information and course fees. They can also be used to sell fake degree certificates.

“It is trying to exploit overseas students unfamiliar with academic establishments and the enrolment process in the UK, something our officers have now thwarted.”

Councillor Andrew Reid, Suffolk County Council Cabinet Member for Public Health, Public Protection, & Communities, said:

“A degree from a British college or university is an enticing prospect for an overseas student and those behind this scam were trying to exploit that.

“Thankfully the vigilance of Suffolk Trading Standards has prevented this website from trying to pick up where it would appear to have previously left off and will not be conning people into paying for non-existent courses.”

Trading Standards says anyone considering applying for a college course can beat degree fraud through the Higher Education Degree Datacheck (HEDD) website <https://hedd.ac.uk/> where people can:

- Check whether a university or college is an official degree awarding body by using the look-up service
- Download free toolkits allowing employers, universities and colleges to tackle degree fraud
- Check original degree certificates with the issuing university

Degree fraud can be reported to the HEDD fraud team on 020 8148 2400.

If you have concerns about a website, please report it to Trading Standards via 0808 223 1133.

Visitor attractions invited to join ‘Good Journey’ scheme

Visitor attractions in Suffolk are invited to sign up for a new scheme promoting car-free days out in the county.

Suffolk Growth Partnership and Suffolk County Council have teamed up with national organisation ‘Good Journey’ – the UK experts in car-free leisure – in a push to cut carbon emissions and widen access to our leisure, culture and nature for more people.

The initiative, launching in March 2024, supports Suffolk’s Greenest County journey towards a carbon net zero visitor economy and will welcome car-free visitors to an array of attractions across Suffolk.

Around 25 local tourism and visitor attractions are now invited to join the Suffolk Good Journey scheme offering residents and visitors discounts and incentives to leave the car at

home and explore more of the county on foot, by bike or using public transport. Suffolk visitor attractions participating will be supported and feature on goodjourney.org.uk – providing easy travel information and discounts to domestic and international visitors.

Visitor attractions participating in the Suffolk Good Journey scheme will also form part of a marketing campaign showcasing sustainable tourism visits to Suffolk, offering adventures by train, bus, bike and foot to suit all ages and tastes – from exploring the towns, coast and countryside, and local food and drink delicacies to discovering the cultural and heritage attractions and film locations.

Visitor attractions and venues interested in joining Suffolk Good Journey county can find out more details by contacting Loretta Jones at Good Journey on loretta@goodjourney.org.uk or info@suffolkgrowth.co.uk

Clr Alexander Nicoll, Deputy Cabinet Member for Transport Strategy at Suffolk County Council, said:

“Being without a car should not preclude access to Suffolk’s nature, culture and heritage, which is why Suffolk County Council is pleased to be working with our partners to develop sustainable, car-free tourism in our county. The benefits of this scheme are obvious. By creating easier access to local attractions by foot, bicycle and public transport, we are strengthening our local visitor economy, supporting residents to live independent and healthy lives, and helping Suffolk on its journey to creating the Greenest County.”

Richard Hunt, Strategic Lead for the Visitor Economy at Suffolk Growth, said:

“Car travel emissions are the largest part of Suffolk’s visitor economy footprint and we want to demonstrate to visitors and businesses that there are sustainable car free travel opportunities that can enhance a visit and experience. Car free travellers also tend to spend more on their visits so ‘Suffolk – Good Journey County’ can support business and develop Suffolk’s sustainable tourism ambition. Working with our visitor attractions and transport network we know we can develop some really attractive experiences”.

Very best wishes

TJ

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL COUNCILLORS REPORT - NATIONALLY SIGNIFICANT INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS IN SUFFOLK UPDATE

Scottish Power Renewables East Anglia TWO and ONE North Offshore Wind Farms

- Proposed connections to a new substation at Friston via HVAC undersea and underground cables.
- SCC can confirm that it is continuing to deal with the discharge of the requirements (together with colleagues at ESC etc.) and that SCC will continue to inform Friston PC of when this is happening. There are currently a number of Discharges of Requirement submissions concerning:
 - Pre-commencement archaeology;
 - Pre-Commencement Archaeology Execution Plan (PCAEP);
 - Hydrogeological risk Assessment (as an appendix to the PCAEP);
 - Archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation;
 - Ecological Management Plan; and
 - Public Rights of Way Management Plan
- SCC are pleased to see that SPR have taken steps to improve communication via their website.
- SCC are also aware of the legal challenges to the Development Order Consents by SASES and SEAS.
- SCC understands that these projects were not submitted to the most recent Contracts for Difference subsidy round but are likely to be to the next round in 2024

Scottish Power Renewables East Anglia ONE and THREE Offshore Wind Farms

- EA1 is already operational and connects to a new substation at Bramford via HVAC undersea and underground cables
- EA3 is currently under construction and will connect to a new Converter Station at Bramford via HVDC undersea and underground cables
- SCC are working with colleagues at ESC and BMSDC for the Discharge of the Requirements upon EA3, as SCC does not have discharging authority for this project
- Recent poor weather has made construction more difficult in terms of highways access in the Bramford area

National Grid Electricity Transmission SeaLink High Voltage Direct Current undersea link with Kent

- Proposed to connection to a new substation at Friston

- The Statutory Consultation stage has been announced publicly by National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET) and took place between 24th October – 18th December 2023
- Public information events were held at the Old Generator Station, Aldeburgh on 7th and 8th November and on 24th and 25th at Market Hall, Saxmundham
- NGET is currently undertaking further survey work and has been in contact with local landowners
- SCC is urging SeaLink to coordinate with other UK projects including LionLink and took a Report to the next Cabinet meeting on the 12th December

National Grid Ventures LionLink Multi-Purpose Interconnector with Holland

- Includes a proposed link to Dutch Offshore Wind Farm
- Proposed connection to a new substation at Friston
- A second Non-Statutory Consultation stage, which included two additional options for landfall at Southwold and Walberswick closed on 3rd November.
- SCC is urging LionLink to coordinate with other projects including Sealink to minimise the impact of onshore infrastructure

National Grid Ventures Nautilus Multi-Purpose Interconnector with Belgium

- Includes proposed link to Belgium Offshore Windfarm.
- Following the non-statutory consultation stage focus has shifted to connecting to the Isle of Grain in Kent instead of a new substation at Friston
- SCC is continuing to monitor the project

Five Estuaries Offshore Wind Farm

- Located off the Suffolk Coast.
- Proposed to connect to a new substation at Lawford in Essex
- Statutory Consultation recently ended and the County Council made representations including in respect of the Seascape, Landscape and Visual impacts of the wind turbines including with reference to in particular the Suffolk Coast and Heaths Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
- Whether or not Five Estuaries will coordinate with other projects offshore is still not known.
- If Five Estuaries and North Falls linked with Sealink offshore then potentially an additional line of pylons would be required between Sizewell and Bramford

North Falls Offshore Wind Farm

- Located off the Suffolk Coast.
- Proposed to connect at a new substation at Lawford in Essex

- Statutory Consultation recently ended, and the County Council made representations including in respect of the Seascape, Landscape and Visual impacts of the wind turbines including with reference to in particular the Suffolk Coast and Heaths Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
- As a result of the responses received from the Statutory Consultation, the developer has removed the northern section of the proposals which has moved the project further from the shore from 22km to 42km, also reducing the scheme in size from 150km³ to 95km³.
- The amendments to the scheme will considerably reduce what will be visible from the shore, particularly from the Suffolk Coast.
- Whether or not North Falls will coordinate with other projects offshore is still not known.
- If Five Estuaries and North Falls linked with Sealink offshore then potentially an additional line of pylons would be required between Sizewell and Bramford

SZC Nuclear Power Station

- SZC has begun preparations for formal commencement of the project. SCC officers are heavily involved in these discussions as formal commencement will trigger many of the mitigations and obligations required by the Development Consent Order (DCO) and the Deed of Obligation.
- SZC also continue its pre-commencement activities in relation to site preparation, ecological mitigation and preparing for highways improvements.
- In respect of SZC the County Council can confirm that they are continuing to deal with the discharge of the requirements (together with colleagues at ESC etc.)
- The County Council are also aware of the legal challenge to the Development Order Consent by TASC.
- The project officially commenced today (15 Jan 2024) and the local reaction is mixed between welcoming the economic stimulus and contribution to providing low carbon electricity and others voicing concern over more localised environmental impacts etc

Bramford to Twinstead 400kV Grid Reinforcement

- This would connect Bramford Substation to Twinstead Tee in Essex and will include a new Grid supply point at Wickham St Paul.
- The Examination in Public began on the 13 September and is due to end on the 12 March 2024.
- SCC are attending alongside other local authorities including B&MSDCs.
- Whilst the principle of the proposals are accepted by SCC, the implementation arrangements require further refinement in respect of mitigation, the submitted management plans and requirements
- SCC are also seeking to secure Community Benefits in accordance with the latest Government Guidance

Norwich to Tilbury 400Kv Grid Reinforcement

- This would connect Norwich and Tilbury substations via Bramford substation and a new substation at Lawford.
- Would potentially provide connections for North Falls and Five Estuaries Offshore Wind Farms.
- The project has recently undergone a second round of Non-Statutory Consultation
- SCC's preference is for a coordinated offshore grid but continues to engage with the existing proposals in order to ensure the best outcomes should the current proposals be consented

Sunnica Solar Farm

- This project straddles the border with Cambridgeshire.
- The Secretary of States decision has been delayed again until the 7 March

Suffolk County Council Gull Wing Bridge

- This project is currently under construction
- All sections of the deck excluding the central bascule are now in place and are undergoing completion as is the control tower
- The central bascule will be arriving within the next couple of months
- The bridge is expected to be open on the first half of 2024

Progress Power Gas Fired Peaking Plant

- This project is currently under construction after acquisition by Drax
- The project has attracted some attention recently in the local media in respect of the Abnormal Indivisible Loads of in excess of 300 tonnes consisting of transformers which made their way to the site at the former Eye Airfield from the Port of Ipswich

Further Solar Farms

- SCC has been made aware of a number of potential solar farm projects within the B&MSDC area.

February 2024 Parish Report

East Suffolk Council GLI Group further to Leader's monthly bulletin

- Emergency Response
- Statement on Suffolk arts and heritage funding
- Commencement of construction of Sizewell C
- Jubilee Shelter now complete

Emergency Response

Recent storms and floods demonstrate the need for a community to work together and know where each piece of the jigsaw fits is vital for a quick and effective response for a Town or Parish. Here's the link:-

<https://suffolkprepared.co.uk/get-prepared/prepare-your-community/>

Statement on proposals for Suffolk arts and heritage funding

9 February 2024

A statement from Cllr Sarah Whitelock and Cllr Katie Graham; East Suffolk's cabinet member and deputy cabinet member for Communities, Leisure and Tourism, regarding Suffolk County Council's proposals for arts and heritage funding in the county.

"At East Suffolk Council, we remain alarmed by the regressive proposals for arts and heritage funding at Suffolk County Council, affecting much-loved arts organisations and residents in our district.

"Following a public and media outcry over a proposed total cut to the arts and heritage sector, providing a savings of only 0.58% to the council's finances, a further announcement of additional government funding led to suggestions that the council could now make a U-turn.

"On closer inspection, however, there is no U-turn but a renewed commitment from the council to remove core funding of arts and heritage from its budget.

"A smaller pot of money, as yet for 2025-2026 only, has now been allocated to the sector for which organisations need to compete against each other for individual projects that 'meet the council's priorities.'

"This is not a good situation for our museums and arts organisations which contribute so much to our residents. As many have attested, the financial security that the council's core funding provides is essential to their operation. To remove this funding is to remove a financial security that allows them to plan ahead, and in many cases, means they are at risk of scaling back on projects that offer enormous value to those within our community.

"The council's statement that this model opens up the funding stream to organisations that might otherwise have been overlooked is one that communicates a lack of confidence in the organisations that were already being supported. A further pot of money to attract fledgling initiatives would be a sound investment; removing existing funding to do this is only damaging.

“As for ‘meeting the council’s priorities’ it is very clear that every one of these organisations has already been doing that. In our district, here are some examples of how some of the affected bodies have relied on this funding till now.

“At the Long Shop Museum, a cultural touchstone for Leiston, this funding has covered their insurance, and been used to subsidise school visits to the museum, for children to learn about their inspiring heritage and to enjoy a different kind of education for a day.

“At Suffolk Art Link, it has enabled them to offer imaginative and engaging projects across the county directed towards improving the lives of children at risk and vulnerable adults, as well as those with learning disabilities. [Last year they carried out 344 projects to 2,500 participants.]

“For First Light Festival in Lowestoft, it presents a security to a festival that has played an integral part in the regeneration of the town and been a huge source of pride for its residents, attracting a new source of tourism to a new part of the district. First Light has been an exemplar of what ‘levelling up’ achieved through the arts can be.

“From outside the district, Dance East, Eastern Angles and New Wolsey Theatre have regularly brought their work into 20 schools and 20 rural villages across East Suffolk, providing memorable experiences for many who may not otherwise have such opportunities. This additional engagement outside their core practice is now at risk of scaling back.

“These are just a few of the affected organisations operating within our district, they are all acting on the same priorities that both East Suffolk Council and Suffolk County Council share: addressing record levels of poor mental health, social isolation and providing opportunities for young people.

“When the bridging Covid recovery money runs out, and when some projects have been funded over others with the £500,000 funding pot, this prized sector of our economy and our communities is left to fend for itself in a very challenging economic environment.

"Art and culture play a vital role in our communities, especially when times are hard. We believe it is the responsibility of any government to uphold their value not just in words but actions.

“We appeal to the county council to consider not only the practical harm brought about by this removal of core funding, but the broader and longer-term damage that such a lack of commitment communicates to our residents.”

Statement following commencement of construction for Sizewell C

16 January 2024

A statement from Cllr Tom Daly, Cabinet Member for Energy and Climate Change, following the commencement of construction for the Sizewell C new nuclear power station:

Sizewell C Ltd confirmed that the construction of Sizewell C new nuclear power station commenced on Monday. The development will be built in accordance with the Development Consent Order (DCO) which was granted in July 2022 by the Secretary of State and the [Deed of Obligation](#), a legal agreement between East Suffolk Council, Suffolk County Council and Sizewell C.

East Suffolk Council will ensure that Sizewell C adheres to the commitments and obligations made within the Development Consent Order and Deed of Obligation to make certain that, where possible, the adverse impacts are appropriately mitigated.

This includes a commitment by Sizewell C, secured by and for East Suffolk Council, to provide £30 million in investment for Housing, Economic Development and Tourism schemes, as well as a £23 million community fund and £12 million towards the natural environment in partnership with Suffolk County Council.

We will work closely with Sizewell C Ltd and our technical advisors to ensure East Suffolk Council discharge our DCO responsibilities, and use the funding secured in the Deed of Obligation to benefit local residents by securing the necessary mitigation.

In addition, East Suffolk Council will have two nominated Trustees on a Charitable Trust created by the promoters of the new nuclear plant, to be known as The East Suffolk Trust.

This will promote, for the benefit of the public, the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment, including the protection and enhancement of Natural Beauty and the advancement of the education of the public in the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment in and around East Suffolk for the next 70 + years.

Whilst the Council remains of the view that truly renewable energy, such as offshore and onshore wind and solar provides a better long-term answer to the energy security and carbon reduction future of the UK the development of Sizewell C has been consented by the government and it is now under construction.

This money could have been more effectively spent on retrofitting homes with insulation and the real renewables that would reduce energy bills and our energy climate footprint now. Nevertheless the residents and communities of East Suffolk should be satisfied that the Council will work with Sizewell C Ltd to get the best development possible, and lobby government further to ensure a coordinated and strategic approach to energy policy which protects the well-being of this district.

Restoration of Jubilee Shelter now complete



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