

Suffolk councils supporting Afghan refugees

On Wednesday 18 August, the Government announced its new resettlement scheme for Afghan refugees. Whilst the full details are yet to be confirmed, it is crystal clear that the Government needs local authorities everywhere to step up and support this national effort.

All councils in Suffolk are committed to this cause. We have already helped a small number of Afghan interpreters and their families to resettle in Suffolk, in addition to ongoing work to support unaccompanied asylum seeking children and other refugees entering the UK. In the coming days and weeks, the district, borough and county councils will continue working with the Government to do what we can to provide assistance to vulnerable refugees.

Times like this call for acts of humanity. Suffolk will play its part.

In East Suffolk, accommodation is being offered under the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP), supporting interpreters who have worked with the British Armed Forces and those who have worked in the British Embassy.

Under this scheme, three people moved into their accommodation in mid-August and are being supported by the Anglia Care Trust to help them integrate into the community and find employment. Further accommodation, both council and privately owned, is being sourced to help as many people as possible.

Community Partnership

The theme set for the coming year is Road and Traffic safety specifically in the area covered by our group (Carlford and Fynn Valley, Kesgrave and Martlesham) Our Community Partnership are about to start looking at practical ways to tackle road and traffic safety in our neck of the woods. A note was sent to all Parishes asking for cooperation. Many initiatives have been tried and are being tried. The objective of this drive is to bring together all the local communities to agree a strategy which can then be addressed with all your combined weight behind it. We'd like to hear about 'hotspots' or issues in the local area of which we may not be aware.

All our PCs have been asked to submit their views.

The idea is to formulate a combined view of the problematic aspects and a possible list of solutions.

Andy Jolliffe ESD leader of the Partnerships reports

We have plenty of data, but local knowledge is just as important! The survey below takes a matter of minutes and will draw attention to the right places for us to take action. <https://eu.surveymonkey.com/r/B8YV8C3>

Please note that we already have significant levels of data on the most commonly reported sites – Foxhall Road/Bell Lane, A12 junctions, Otley College, etc. We're keen to check that we haven't missed something glaring, considering the size of the road network.

SzC

After several years of trying to get our concerns addressed there is now a glimmer of light. My main worry is the likely repercussions on our already problematic local road system that could result from the vast increase expected in car movements. We have to face up to 2000 extra car journeys per day resulting from the proposed park and ride scheme planned for Hatcheston. Each time I raised the issue it prompted yet another review of the HGV traffic on the A12. There has now been a paper addressing this issue but it falls way short of what is needed.

However, I managed to arrange a ten minute presentation to the Government Inspector which was very valuable (I was listened to!).

I then attended to SALC discussion meeting and was able to put my points to Tom McGarry SzC CEO and their Transport Manager, Richard Bull.

The outcome was that Richard will now participate in our Community Partnership and respond to the local problems.

Tony Fryatt,
Ward Member
8 September 2021