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## **Annual Summary Report on 2021/2022**

Tony Fryatt  
Ward Councillor

### **Environmental Activities.**

East Suffolk have been very active to plan what we could be doing for the drive to zero carbon emissions during the COP26 activities.

The four headline actions are as follows :-

#### **Lead by example**

We have pledged to become a carbon neutral council by 2030, which means we will look for environmental benefit in everything we do – this includes radical changes to our vehicle fleets and mileage usage, council buildings and new build housing stock to ensure they contribute to our carbon neutral aims. We will work with communities to establish opportunities for biodiversity and will promote digital solutions to minimise our carbon footprint.

**Minimise waste, reuse materials, increase recycling** We will minimise waste generated throughout the district, encourage the reuse of materials and increase our recycling rates.

#### **Renewable energy**

We will explore new ways of encouraging and investing in the use of renewable energy, both in terms of our own consumption as a council and the ways we can offer support to our residents and businesses as part of addressing climate change.

#### **Protection, education and influence**

We will use our influence at all levels, our regulatory functions and appropriate enforcement to protect our natural environment including our outstanding coastline. This includes working through our community and business partnerships to achieve environmental gain and establishing a network of environmental champions throughout the district.

### **Surveys and consultations**

There have been several very valuable surveys undertaken during the year

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### **East Suffolk survey**

We asked people who live and work in East Suffolk to take part in a short survey to help us shape East Suffolk. After such a difficult period, we wanted to know what they think, what matters most to them and where we should be spending our money.

### **The Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document**

Consultation on draft document which provided guidance on the implementation of our affordable housing planning policies.

### **The Sustainable Construction Supplementary Planning Document**

Consultation on draft document to provide guidance on our planning policies on sustainable construction, including guidance on a range of topics relating to the construction of environmentally sustainable buildings.

### **The draft East Suffolk Cycling and Walking Strategy**

Consultation on draft document which provides a district-wide shortlist of cycling and walking infrastructure opportunities. The strategy aims to encourage greater use of sustainable forms of transport, reduce contributions to climate change, support the growth of the tourism industry, and to improve the health and wellbeing of residents by ensuring more trips to work, school, leisure, day-to-day errands, or public transport hubs, such as train stations or park and ride sites, are accessible by bike or on foot.

## **Draft East Suffolk Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Charging Schedule.**

The Planning Policy Team have issued the following statement:

The council have prepared a single East Suffolk CIL Charging Schedule (to replace the two separate CIL Charging Schedules in places for the former Suffolk Coastal and former Waveney areas). As part of the process an East Suffolk CIL Instalments Policy has been prepared, which allows the payment of CIL in instalments (as with the CIL Charging Schedules, there are currently two separate Instalment Policies, one for the former Waveney area, and one for the former Suffolk Coastal area).

## **Community Partnerships**

Following the Community Partnership meeting in early October they have presented an outline plan for funding proposals for the rest of the financial year.

The organiser of the partnership writes:

There was approximately £15,000 remaining in our budget for 21/22 which concentrated on addressing our current priority – Road and Traffic Safety.

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We have also held meetings of the East Suffolk Community Partnership which is majoring on roads and road safety in our area. These have been well attended by local Parish members.

### **Free Health and Wellbeing Courses for the over 60s in the Carlford/Fynn Valley villages**

After four successful courses in Kesgrave and Martlesham, SPOT Wellbeing brought their free Health and Wellbeing Courses to Grundisburgh New Village Hall in February with support from East Suffolk Council's Community Partnership

### **Kesgrave, Martlesham, Rushmere St Andrew and villages Road Safety Forum**

Parish Councils were invited to send a representative to the Forum held on 17 February 2022. The prime objective was to Focus on road and traffic safety issues across the entire geographical area of the Forum.

### **Grundisburgh the Chapel Field Application**

After considerable effort and objections from Grundisburgh Parish Council, and almost the whole village, the Appeal Inspector has made his report. He has found in favour of the proposed development.

### **Supplementary Planning Document.**

The Planning Policy and Delivery Team, alongside Development Management, are in the process of preparing a new Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) to provide further guidance on the application of two policies in the Local Plans. The review will cover: -

- SCLP5.4 (Housing in Clusters in the Countryside) and
- WLP8.7 (Small Scale Residential Development in the Countryside.)

These have been the cause of several disagreements since the changes were introduced and this is an opportunity to make the changes we need.

### **East Suffolk Council budget approved**

The Council's budget for the 2022/23 financial year has been approved, and as part of our commitment to improve the lives and outcomes of local people, finance has been approved for a range of different areas, including £3.35m for economic development and regeneration, £2.46m supporting and enabling communities and £2.39m for our housing services.

The budget also includes a further £428,000 to support our green agenda, as part of our pledge to be carbon neutral by 2030.

### **Surveys and consultations**

The Local Planning Authority is currently undertaking a review of its Local Validation List, which currently comprises guidance on the factors to be considered when assessing a planning application.

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The content and requirements of any revised / new Local Validation List will need to be in accordance with Town and Planning Act 1990 and the relevant Regulations. It will also seek to reflect local policy requirements.

There will also be an aim to revise and potentially restructure the document to make it easier to understand which documents are required when submitting applications.

### **East Suffolk Council distributes oak trees for 'Treebilee' celebrations**

Two hundred oak trees have been distributed to communities across East Suffolk to plant in commemoration of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee.

The 'Treebilee' scheme was launched by HRH The Prince of Wales to encourage the planting of trees during a year of celebrations to mark The Queen's 70-year reign.

As part of its involvement in the project, officially known as the Queen's Green Canopy, East Suffolk Council purchased 200 English oak trees which have been donated to every town and parish council in the district – as a way of marking the occasion while helping to tackle climate change and promoting environmentally sustainable communities.