

PARISH REPORT MAY 2024

ORWELL & VILLAGES

Foxburrow Farm Container Storage Decision

Although we had requested that the matter be heard by the Planning Committee in light of the substantial public interest in this application (at least seven parish councils objecting), this did not prove necessary as the Planning Officers recommendation to refuse was in accord with the objections submitted by the parish councils. Therefore, it was an officer decision by the two interim Heads of Planning to refuse which was made on 29th May.

We would caution that the applicant may appeal or submit a new application with changes. As you will be aware the applicant has made numerous applications for different schemes in different places. Sadly, we feel we need to remain alert and work with all the local parishes to counter any similar subsequent applications which may harm our area.

Felixstowe North Garden Neighbourhood

This project remains under consultation. There has been a great deal of distortion of the facts on recent social media which is unfortunately being stoked up by certain individuals for their own party-political purposes. There is absolutely no truth in the rumour that The Grove will be chopped down to make way for housing. The Grove is a protected ancient woodland. No decisions have yet been made as to the location of the proposed new leisure centre/ community facilities on the overall site nor the number, type, and location of housing. These aspects are part of the continuing consultation process.

Resilience Fund

A new fund has been established to provide immediate, short-term financial support to East Suffolk communities affected by future emergency events.

In February, as part of the 2024-25 Budget setting process, East Suffolk Council created a Resilience Reserve in response to the severe disruption caused by Storm Babet last October. Now, Cabinet members have agreed how this £500,000 pot will be managed, through a newly established Resilience and Emergency Response Fund (RERF).

The RERF is designed to ensure East Suffolk Council can be more flexible and responsive to cover reasonable additional costs incurred by town and parish councils during an emergency event.

In the aftermath of Storm Babet, East Suffolk Council established the East Suffolk Flood Recovery Group, that provided a physical presence in Framlingham and Wickham Market to assist and deal with affected residents enquiries and clean up in the aftermath.

Although longer-term grants were available under central Government's flood recovery framework, a gap was identified to support the immediate and urgent needs of residents and communities; for example, provision of skips through East Suffolk Services to remove damaged household items and costs (food, bedding, clothing) for displaced people using the emergency centre set up in Framlingham's Community Hall.

GLI Cabinet member for Resources and Value for Money, Cllr Vince Langdon-Morris said:

“The severe disruption and flooding caused by Storm Babet last October has had a significant and ongoing impact on the lives and livelihoods of many East Suffolk residents. In our district alone, 320 properties were directly impacted by the storm. Winter storms are predicted to increase in frequency and severity as we come to terms with the effects and impacts of ongoing climate change.

“As much as we cannot sit back and allow climate change to irreversibly worsen, we must try and support communities affected by its ongoing impacts, including flooding from rising sea levels, prolonged rainfall and intense storms.

“This fund can bring significant relief for our residents at a time of need and empower our district council to act quickly. But, importantly, the RERF is a short-term resource and is in no way a replacement for central government support.”

Examples of support that could be provided by the fund include temporary accommodation costs for up to 48 hours, disposal costs for damaged furniture, carpets or flooring, and support for voluntary groups to assist and co-ordinate recovery activities. In addition to the RERF, a dedicated council officer will be appointed, to build upon our existing emergency response capacity, providing a communication, co-ordinating and enabling role for our town and parish councils, communities and residents before, during and after future emergency events.

East Suffolk's Amazing

East Suffolk Council Leader Caroline Topping is asking local people to take pride in where they live with the launch of a brand-new campaign: “East Suffolk’s Amazing – Let’s Keep It That Way!”

A cross-party working group of councillors is looking at different ways that we can all work together to maintain the beauty of East Suffolk, and this includes encouraging more residents to take active pride in their local area. This includes reducing fly-tipping, recycling properly and even, where possible, looking after the spaces outside residents’ own property.

There is already an incredible network of volunteers who help keep our district beautiful, with regular litter-picks, planting, and an all-round effort to keep their local area clean. East Suffolk Council is encouraging more people to get involved and to really do their bit to keep East Suffolk Amazing.

The Council will support local communities and groups by lending out equipment for litter pick events, including hi-viz vests, litter pickers, bags and bag hoops. With

this in mind, a range of information about how communities can get involved in schemes, as well as a range of tips and advice, can be now found online. For more information, visit: www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/waste/litter/amazing/

Ease the Squeeze on Cost of Living

Are you, or someone you know, worried about the increasing cost of living? We understand the pressures faced by many people today and we are working closely with key partners to ensure support is available to help ease the squeeze for households in East Suffolk.

To make it as easy as possible for you to access the services and support available, locally and nationally, we have gathered information about them in one place:

www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/community/squeeze/

If parish councillors need to contact either of us, please feel free to do so.

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