

PARISH REPORT APRIL 2025

ORWELL & VILLAGES

Litter Clearance on A14

At the end of April, clearance of litter from the verges of the A14 between the Dock Spur roundabout and Seven Hills was undertaken by Highways Assurance contracted by East Suffolk Council. This necessitated several overnight lane closures for the safety of workers. The overall cost for this project was over £ 28,000.

It is hoped that following a safety review it will be possible for East Suffolk Services Ltd to undertake twice- yearly litter picks along this stretch of the A14 together with a regular programme of emptying of bins and clearance of lay-bys. This new approach will maintain a litter-free network of laybys and help reduce the risk of littering in future.

The easiest way to reduce the need for costly litter-picking and lane closures is for people to dispose of their litter properly when travelling on our roads, by using one of the many roadside litter bins or taking their rubbish home with them.

To report any concerns over roadside litter, or any matters relating to refuse or cleansing please contact our Customer Services team on 0333 016 2000 or customerservices@eastsuffolk.gov.uk

Trimley Water Tower

The water tower in Spriteshall Lane Trimley St Mary was built in 1934 and is the tallest surviving tower of its type in the UK at 210ft. It ceased to be used as a water tower many years ago and since 2005 has been owned by a management company in London and is used to host telecommunications equipment.

There have been recent reports of concrete falling from the structure into gardens below. We have contacted Environmental Protection at ESC and subsequently Building Control who are now taking up the matter with the owners. Whilst this issue is not new the netting which had been previously fitted by the owners has perished and needs replacement and for some remedial work to parts of the tower to ensure the safety of residents at the base of the tower and to preserve this iconic landmark.

Local Government Re-organisation

ESC has now heard back from the Government following the submissions made to them by the District & Borough councils of Suffolk for multiple unitary authorities. They have not provided any guidance as to whether a three unitary authority comprising around 270,000 each would be accepted against the indicated target of 500,000 residents per unitary.

Councils have been advised that all transition costs (currently estimated to be between £12 and £ 20 million) would need to be met from existing council budgets pending the anticipated “savings” that would be made.

We had a briefing from the leader of Westmoreland and Furness unitary authority which was one of two unitary authorities created in Cumbria in 2023. Like Suffolk it is a largely rural

area with several major towns. The transition took them more than three years to achieve and a full bedding in of services is not expected for several years with no real savings yet.

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/

For the most up to date information regarding East Suffolk Council, please visit:

www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk

View the Well Minds East Suffolk booklet <https://eastsuffolk.co/wellminds>

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

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