

PARISH REPORT AUGUST 2024

ORWELL & VILLAGES

WARM WELCOMES FUNDING

Despite the season, East Suffolk Council is asking people to think ahead to winter – and how their communities could provide support for residents who need it during the colder months.

Community groups, voluntary organisations, and town and parish councils are being invited to apply for funding available through two winter grant schemes being launched on Monday 9 September.

Depending on the size of the community, grants of up to £3,000 will again be available for 'Warm Welcomes' to provide somewhere safe, warm and welcoming for people who may be struggling to meet the cost of living.

Part-funded through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF), the scheme aims to provide a network of venues for people to keep warm, socialise, connect with others, and access additional information, advice and support from local partners.

East Suffolk Council would ideally like to hear from groups and organisations capable of operating a venue for at least eight hours a week, offering something additional to their community this winter, such as support around the cost of living and inequalities, access to free or reduced-cost food, activities to reduce social isolation, improved wellbeing and a warm community welcome.

Information about the Warm Welcomes will be available on the [Warm Welcomes](#) grant page of the East Suffolk Council website from early September.

Meanwhile, the Cost of Living (COL) grant scheme, funded by Suffolk County Council through the Suffolk Collaborative Communities Board, will offer grants of up to £2,000 to support a wider range of smaller projects, also focussed on keeping people warm, well, fed and connected to others in the community this winter, but not only on bringing people together in a physical meeting space.

During the previous two years of the scheme, more than 50 projects have been supported by COL grants for activities such as 'Healthy Bites on a Budget' cooking classes for families, smaller scale Warm Welcomes open for an afternoon each fortnight, [Community Pantry](#) top-ups and more.

Information about the COL grant scheme will be available on the [Community grants and funding](#) page of the East Suffolk Council website, also from early September.

For more information about the Warm Welcomes and Cost of Living grant schemes, email communities@eastsuffolk.gov.uk.

The closing date for applications is Monday 30 September – allowing all projects to be considered by a grant panel in time for launching by November.

WASTE & RECYCLING COLLECTIONS UPDATE

East Suffolk Council will consider proposals to radically increase the range and volume of products which can be presented for household recycling at a meeting of its Cabinet next week.

Working together in response to Government legislation, Suffolk's district and borough authorities - Babergh, East Suffolk, Ipswich, Mid Suffolk and West Suffolk Councils - are all reviewing their waste and recycling services to meet new nationwide 'Simpler Recycling' requirements by 31 March 2026.

With this in mind, East Suffolk's Cabinet will discuss plans to vary the existing 'dry' recycling collection service by including glass and cartons; with plastic film to be incorporated the following year. This will be in addition to a brand-new weekly food waste collection, which is to be introduced across the county in the Spring of 2026.

As part of this refreshed recycling approach, East Suffolk will consider the adoption of 'twin stream' collections, where all households would be supplied with an additional wheelie bin or other container to separate paper and card, from plastics, metal, cartons (including Tetra Pak) and glass bottles or jars.

Twin stream recycling would reduce the amount of processing required at the Material Recycling Facility (MRF) keeping paper and card away from the glass and moisture in the recycling, making these materials easier to recycle while retaining a higher resale value. Splitting the recycling into two separate containers is also shown to reduce overall contamination of the recycling compared with co-mingled collections.

Through this approach, Suffolk has the potential to divert over 58% of waste from rubbish bins to other recycling and organic waste collections. On this basis, and to encourage improved recycling habits, the report which councillors will also consider proposes to reduce the collection of non-recyclable waste from fortnightly to once every three weeks.

East Suffolk's Cabinet will sit on 3 September, with Suffolk's other district and borough councils considering their own proposals in due course, reflecting the necessity to meet Government legislation requirements and improve recycling figures.

NORTH FELIXSTOWE GARDEN NEIGHBOURHOOD PROJECT UPDATE

Around 900 residents attended the recent consultation held at the Brackenbury Sports Centre in August as the latest part of the extensive consultation on the controversial scheme to build a new leisure centre for the Felixstowe peninsula and upto 1,400 new homes. As part of the Brackenbury event a survey looking for feedback from the attendees was available and the responses will be reviewed in the next stage of the consultation before a decision is made by full council towards the end of the year.

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

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