

PARISH REPORT AUGUST 2025

ORWELL & VILLAGES

Local Government reorganisation

At the full council meeting held on 16th July East Suffolk Council passed a motion *“to further develop the case which presents a preferred option for a three unitary model. This will enable decision-making to remain close to communities and offer genuine value for money.”*

“to consult further with KPMG to present the detail which establishes that a three unitary model provides high quality, sustainable public services whilst delivering efficiencies.”

“to prioritise the needs of our residents throughout the process of Local Government Reorganisation by engaging with them throughout”

The council had rejected a proposed amendment which would have maintained the option of two unitary authorities (West Suffolk and East Suffolk including Ipswich). There was no supporting initial report from KPMG, no proposed boundaries had been provided to councillors, and the motion was largely based upon a survey of 1,500 residents across Suffolk (representing around 0.002% of Suffolk residents) which found that residents wanted decisions to be taken close to their location and by people who know the area.

A few days later a proposed map for the three unitaries was provided showing Felixstowe, Martlesham Kesgrave and surrounding villages joining a much larger Ipswich which takes in about half of the Babergh District council area as far as Hadleigh and spreads to the north of Ipswich. The proposed area would have around 255,000 residents which may still be considered too small for the Government.

Work is now taking place between the five district councils to put forward a detailed case including the required amendments to ward boundaries which must be presented to the Government by 26th September. A final decision will be made by the Minister in January.

New Trimley St Mary playground

We were both delighted to attend the official opening of the new playground in Faulkeners Way on 5th August. Planned by the parish council for several years and part funded from the East Suffolk Council district CIL fund for play equipment, this state-of-the art facility cost more than £85,000. There was a great turn out from local families with entertainment arranged and even free food and drink from local businesses. Hopefully this facility will provide a safe play space for future generations.

Please remember that funding may also be available for your parish for play equipment or improvements to community buildings from the District CIL funds. If you have any schemes for consideration, please feel free to contact us.

Trimley St Mary Water Tower update

The owners of the Water Tower have advised ESC that they have appointed a specialist company who are now drawing up a plan of action to carry out remedial works to prevent further deterioration of the concrete cladding.

Corporate Fraud Service

More than £2.8million of public funding was protected because of work by East Suffolk Council's Corporate Fraud Service in 2024/25.

The team uncovered more than 103 cases of irregularity between the beginning of April 2024 and the end of March 2025.

An annual Corporate Fraud report, presented to the Council's Audit and Governance Committee last month, showed that officers helped to detect £2,844,032 of irregularity during the last financial year.

Intervention included the cancellation of nine Right to Buy applications following due diligence activities, providing £1,724,500 of prevented losses by retaining these properties within council housing stock and continuing to yield monthly rental income and be available for social housing needs.

Meanwhile, tenancy fraud investigations resulted in the recovery of 10 social housing properties, saving an estimated £930,000 and enabling genuinely eligible families to become tenants. The Corporate Fraud Service Team is professionally resourced and skilled in investigating any potentially fraudulent activity relating to the organisation, its partnerships, and direct contractors.

Missed bin collections

There has been a recent spate of missed waste bin collections in Newbourne, Trimley St Martin and Waldringfield. Most of these have been caused by roadworks which have left insufficient room for bin lorries to get by whilst others have been due to mechanical breakdown.

Any failure to collect bins should be reported to operations@eastsuffolk.gov.uk. Efforts are normally made to collect bins as quickly as possible once a failure is reported (especially when multiple properties are affected) so the advice is to leave out your waste bins pending collection.

Local Police contacts

Following the appointment of Inspector Colin Clack as the South East Community Policing Team leader, he has now provided a list of the local community teams covering our area. The addresses for each officer will be their first name. surname followed by @suffolk.police.uk

Nacton: Sgt Mario Daines & Sgt Rocky Hussain

PCs Matthew Flack & Dave Goodwin

Trimleys & Villages: Sgt Nick Kitchen

PC Arlene Ell

Felixstowe: Sgt Nick Kitchen

PCs Mark Hurrell , Nicola Burnham-Slipper and Chris Payne

Inspector Clack advises that if you encounter difficulty contacting individual officers, please contact him directly colin.clack@suffolk.police.uk

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

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

Cllr Mike Ninnmey: Home tel no 01394 677210 Mobile: 07823 372503

E-mail: mike.ninnmey@eastsuffolk.gov.uk

Cllr Lee Reeves: Home tel no 01394 284506 (preferred) Mobile 07823 372501

E-mail: lee.reeves@eastsuffolk.gov.uk

