

PARISH REPORT – MARCH 2025

ORWELL & VILLAGES

Local Government re-organisation

As advised last month East Suffolk Council wrote to the Government just before the deadline of 21 March putting forward the preference of a multi- unitary authority for Suffolk rather than a single authority as proposed by Suffolk County Council.

The Government has now confirmed that they will respond to our proposals by 21st April, and it is anticipated they will set out the methods of public consultation required to form the final proposals from ESC which need to be submitted by September. It all seems so rushed considering that the merger of Waveney and Suffolk Coastal to form East Suffolk council took years of planning.

Easter holiday activities for children

Theatre, sports and filmmaking are some of the free activities available during the Easter holidays as part of the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme. Bookings are now open!

Various organisations in the district will offer fun activities and meals for children and young people from Monday 7 April to Sunday 20 April. Over 35 programmes with over 4,000 places are available.

Funded by the UK Government for another year, HAF focuses on children and young people, especially those receiving free school meals. Suffolk County Council oversees it, coordinated locally by East Suffolk Council.

Holiday activities provide opportunities to learn new skills like teamwork and problem-solving, and include physical and social activities. Each funded activity also offers a free meal.

In Suffolk, the programme is aimed at children eligible for benefits-related free school meals, vulnerable children, or those with additional needs who could benefit from it.

Book your place now at: <https://eequ.org/suffolkhaf>

For any queries, please contact: HAF@eastsuffolk.gov.uk

Working together for sustainable farming

A group of key farming and food sector stakeholders met with East Suffolk Council to discuss shared ambitions for producers and consumers.

Hosted by East Suffolk Council at Trinity Park – home of the county's agricultural association – the roundtable meeting highlighted both the challenges and 'win-win' growth opportunities for resilience, sustainability and biodiversity through local food production and consumption.

The event was organised to recognise and promote the crucial role of farmers in East Suffolk, encourage the growth of local food businesses, and inform policymakers – sharing ideas on finding balanced solutions that support the local economy and supply chains while preserving and enhancing the environment and food security.

Responses collected from the event will help inform future policies and actions at East Suffolk Council. Environmental Impact and a Thriving Economy are two pillars of the Green, Liberal Democrat and Independent administration's strategic plan. Chaired by NFU Suffolk's Glenn Buckingham, attendees also included local farmers and representatives of Suffolk Agricultural Association, Country Land and Business Association (CLA), Fram Farmers, Sizewell C, Hydrogen East, Suffolk Chamber of Commerce, and local businesses, including Wakelyns agroforestry hub.

As well as local food production and consumption, topics for discussion at the meeting included future potential for Hydrogen use in agricultural vehicles, and East Suffolk Council's ambitious Tree and Hedgerow Strategy, which includes working with local landowners to help identify land which could be used for tree planting or making improvements for nature.

Youth Provision in East Suffolk

This is a new booklet produced by Community Action Suffolk intended for young people seeking information on what is available for them to attend in East Suffolk and signposting groups and organisations who may be able to assist with mental health issues, relationships, careers, employment and volunteering.

An on-line readable version is available at [Booklet-Final-version-Feb25.pdf](#) . It should shortly be available in booklet format from council offices and libraries.

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