

## June 2023 report for the Martlesham Division

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### Suffolk Fire Service to bring control room back to the County

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Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service has announced plans to create a new fire control centre here in Suffolk.

Since October 2011, Suffolk has shared a control room with Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Fire and Rescue Service in Huntingdon. The joint project has worked well, saving both fire services money and enabling greater cross-border resource sharing.

However, the company behind a project to deliver a new IT system, initiated in 2019, has run into technical and financial problems, causing a significant delay. This, in addition to advancements in technology, has led to the decision to bring fire control back into the county by the end of 2024.

A new, Suffolk-based control room, with its own market, tried and tested fire engine mobilisation software, will mean modernised IT systems and improved public and firefighter safety in Suffolk.

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### Help for Suffolk Pre-payment Meter customers

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A package of support has been created for pre-payment meter customers in Suffolk who are struggling with their energy bills.

Warm Homes Suffolk is a Suffolk-wide Council partnership service, delivering energy efficiency support to low-income households affected by cost-of-living pressures.

Supported by Suffolk's Collaborative Communities Board and funding from Public Health Suffolk's Contain Outbreak Management Fund (COMF), the service is now able to offer specific help for households struggling to pay their energy bills via a pre-payment meter, in addition to its existing support.

The support covers the whole of Suffolk and is available for all residents, whether they are in social housing, council tenants, owner occupiers or private renters.

The Warm Homes Suffolk Service can check eligibility and support applications for grants to increase household energy efficiency, with measures such as loft and wall insulation to air source heat pumps, draught-proofing and more.

It is estimated that more than 24,000 people in Suffolk are pre-payment meter customers.

The service will work with each individual to understand the pressures on their finances and the impact this is having on their lives. The service can carry out a home visit, as well as providing advice over the phone and by email.

The COMF funding of £180,000 will enable this project to run for 12 months to provide the following:

- Income maximisation (through grants and benefits)
- Budgeting advice

- Help understanding bills and heating systems
- Support to reduce energy expenditure (By promoting social tariffs and support to switch suppliers)
- Improving household energy efficiency (By installing insulation, draught proofing, heating systems and solar panels)
- Facilitating switch away from prepaid meters if appropriate

Pre-payment meter customers who would like support can contact [prepay@eastsoffolk.gov.uk](mailto:prepay@eastsoffolk.gov.uk) to find out more, or call: **Prepay West at 07769 365796**, or **Prepay East at 07769 366229**.

Referrals can be made directly from households, the voluntary sector and professionals to find prepay households who can benefit from an independent look at their bills.

Warm Homes Suffolk also offers support and advice for residents who are not pre-payment meter customers. To find out more about the support on offer, visit: <https://www.warmhomessuffolk.org/>

### New public project celebrating migration to Suffolk receives grant from The National Lottery Heritage Fund

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Suffolk Archives has been awarded a grant of £126,523 to deliver the community-based project 'Arrivals'.

This project will celebrate and explore historical and contemporary stories of migration to Suffolk.

**Arrivals: Celebrating Migration To Suffolk** will collect and preserve the histories of ethnic minorities, underrepresented and marginalised groups and individuals, who have travelled to Suffolk from overseas to make it their home.

The project will be delivered by Suffolk Archives, Suffolk County Council's Archives Service, and provides an opportunity to meaningfully engage with diverse local communities, strengthening connections and putting recent migration into a longer historical context of people settling in Suffolk.

Made possible by National Lottery players, this exciting project begins with the recruitment of volunteers, the launch of a community forum and a range of community-based activities which will collect stories and build relationships with communities from across the county.

The programme of supporting activities will include engagement with local schools, in addition to free workshops for community groups that will offer training in identifying, organising, and preserving their archives and the opportunity to co-create activities that will share these stories with the wider community.

The project will also include the cataloguing and selective digitisation of relevant records already in our collection to make them easier for the public to use. We will also be using the project as an opportunity to add the records for more ethnically diverse groups to our archive collections.

The project will inform the contents of a free exhibition taking place at The Hold on Ipswich Waterfront from November 2023 to April 2024. Research and community curation for the exhibition will take place throughout the summer and autumn.

## Ancestry appointed to digitise Suffolk's popular family and local history sources

More than 400 years of fascinating historical documents held at Suffolk Archives are to be digitised and made available online, thanks to an agreement between Suffolk County Council and Ancestry.

Suffolk Archives will work alongside the family history website Ancestry to create high-quality, full-colour digital images of millions of baptism, marriage and burial records from parishes within the Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich.

The earliest records being digitised date back to 1538 and include events in the lives of notable historical figures, such as the 1776 baptism of landscape artist John Constable, and the 1846 burial of Thomas Clarkson who devoted his life to the abolition of slavery.

It is hoped that Suffolk's main parish records will be published online in early 2025 with other collections of local interest to follow. Public access will be free of charge in Suffolk Archives branches or at any Suffolk Library. Anyone with an Ancestry subscription will also be able to access the records as part of their research from their own computer or device.

**Gary Peverley, Acting Diocesan Secretary, Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich, said:**

“Suffolk Archives is the official record office for the diocese, and they store a huge amount of material. This is an exciting project to digitise Suffolk's parish registers and transcripts with Ancestry. Going forward it will make it easier to draw on the archives and offer improved preservation of the original registers ensuring they are readily available to everyone in the future”.

Further details about the project can be found on the [Suffolk Archives website](#).