

## October 2024 report for the Martlesham Division

### Suffolk residents encouraged to share views on new Local Transport Plan

Suffolk's communities helped shape a new draft of the Suffolk Local Transport Plan by sharing their views back in February of this year and the county council is now seeking feedback on the final proposed document.

The plan which details activity between 2025-2040 sets out a long-term vision for transport in Suffolk and covers themes such as decarbonisation of transport, strengthening the local economy, promoting health, wellbeing and social inclusion, and creating better-connected places that encourage a range of transport choices.

Alongside this county-wide plan, the county council has produced fifteen 'Area Transport Plans' and a 'Suffolk Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan' which are the funded implementation plans for the wider Suffolk Local Transport Plan. These plans outline how the Local Transport Plan's vision and objectives will be delivered in key locations across the county.

The consultation is available via [www.suffolk.gov.uk/LTP](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/LTP) and the consultation will close on Monday 25 November 2024. The Local Transport Plan and its associated plans will then be presented to Suffolk County Council's Cabinet in 2025.

### Rendlesham Revealed inspires classroom archaeology activities

Suffolk County Council's successful Rendlesham Revealed archaeology project is expanding its legacy to primary schools across the county.

*Rendlesham Revealed* was a four-year, community archaeology project which made significant new discoveries about life in Suffolk and Anglo-Saxon England.

It uncovered the remains of a large timber Royal Hall, confirming the location as a royal settlement of the East Anglian Kings. At the same site, a rare, possible pre-Christian temple from the same period was also discovered.

Among the volunteers were over 287 schoolchildren from five local schools, who were actively involved in excavating the site near Sutton Hoo, and helped clean and sort the finds that were dug up during the *Rendlesham Revealed* project.

Following on from the project's success, an educational outreach officer will be going into primary schools to deliver hands-on archaeological activities with real artefacts excavated from Suffolk.

Schools can find out more about this opportunity by contacting [archaeology.education@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:archaeology.education@suffolk.gov.uk) or visiting <https://heritage.suffolk.gov.uk/archaeology-education>. There will be a charge to schools for the service.

## Suffolk County Council set on major investment to further protect Suffolk from flooding as it calls on Government to ‘step up’

Suffolk County Council has announced its intention to invest another £1.5 million to carry out important flooding prevention work.

Council set to agree £1.5 million to deliver first phase of works identified in initial flood investigation reports

Authority calls on Government to recognise ongoing impact of Storm Babet and fund £20 million of further prevention work urgently needed

Extensive work already completed since Storm Babet including more than 111,000 drains cleared and significant road repairs.

The commitment comes as initial flood investigation reports have identified that a further £20 million is needed to complete the work – a figure that the county council can’t afford. The council has therefore written to the Flooding Minister, Emma Hardy MP, and demanded the government step up and plug the funding gap.

[Read the council's letter to DEFRA](#)

Examples of the kind of projects that could be delivered include:

1. Creating flood water retention ponds in land above villages and green spaces within communities to capture water and slow the flow into residential areas.
2. Installing flood doors and non-return valves on drains to stop water entering properties that are particularly at risk of flooding.
3. Help landowners with advice and guidance, especially those within responsibilities to maintain ditches and streams on their properties (known as ‘riparian ownership’).
4. Bolstering Suffolk Highways’ resources to deliver planned and reactive maintenance on the county’s roads and footpaths.

Storm Babet struck between October 18 and 21 last year and caused substantial flooding and disruption across Suffolk. A month’s worth of rain fell in 24 hours, flooding more than 900 homes and businesses. The impact of the storm was exceptional and demanded an urgent multiagency response.

So far, Suffolk County Council has committed more than £13.75 million for work to aid recovery from Storm Babet.

Suffolk County Council has made several achievements as part of our continued commitment to reduce flood risk.

The council has already committed £12.25 million, including:

£1 million on bringing in additional flood investigation specialists

£1.25 million for repairs to Suffolk’s highways following the flood damage

£10 million funding, which was committed in 2021, to address long-standing drainage issues over three years. This complements £2 million a year invested in drainage repairs and improvements funded from the Department for Transport maintenance grant.

The council has completed seven location-based flood investigations, with an estimated 50 to complete. This compares to an average of three or four investigations in an average year. These reports provide a detailed account of events for each flooding location and recommendations for other organisations, landowners, businesses and residents.

Carried out extensive works on Suffolk's highways. Specifically:

- Cleared 96% of highway drainage gullies across Suffolk, more than 111,000. This involves lifting the iron grates and sucking up the debris that has washed off the roads

Attended more than 3,500 emergency call outs for flooding related incidents – an unprecedented number. This includes pumping an estimated 2.5million litres of water from the roads, removing 53 tonnes of debris and clearing 121 fallen trees

Rolled out the [DEFRA-funded Recovery Scheme](#) which meant that flooded property owners could apply for up to £5,000 to make their homes and businesses more resilient to future flooding. Suffolk County Council is administering the scheme on behalf of government. [Applications are open until April 2025.](#)

### [HRH The Princess Royal to open Lowestoft's Gull Wing Bridge](#)

Her Royal Highness, The Princess Royal will officially open The Gull Wing Bridge in Lowestoft on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> November.

The new multi-million-pound bridge, which opened to pedestrians, cyclists, and vehicles in September, represents a significant step forward for Lowestoft and is already benefitting the town according to local businesses and residents.

Built on behalf of Suffolk County Council by leading civil engineering contractor Farrans, The Gull Wing Bridge has provided a long-awaited third crossing over Lake Lothing, which has significantly eased traffic congestion in the town centre, shortened journey times, and improved journey reliability.

By streamlining logistics and transportation in the town, the bridge is also expected to act as a catalyst for economic growth, attracting new investment and positioning Lowestoft as a dynamic and forward-looking commercial centre and community.

Timings and event details will be provided closer to the time.

### [Suffolk Highways unveils new gritting fleet named by county's young people](#)

With winter approaching, Suffolk Highways has welcomed 38 new gritters to replace its existing fleet, including Kieran McSpreader, Albert Brinestein and Morgan Freezeman.

The new gritters have a digital operating system with the latest route map planning software, ensuring they are winter ready to keep Suffolk's roads safe and moving in the event of ice or snow.

A competition to name the gritters was launched at this year's Suffolk Show, with winning entries including Salty, Gritty McGrit Face and Grit Britain, being unveiled during a recent ceremony in Ipswich.

There are also multiple Suffolk-related names in the fleet, such as Spread Sheeran, Lizzie Gritzzini and Grit Rhys Jones in recognition of some of the county's famous residents.

They are not the only celebrities to be honoured, as Gritney Houston, Spready Mercury, Keanu Freeze, Lewis Caploughdie, and David Attenbrrrrrr are set to grace Suffolk's roads in the coming weeks and months.

Whilst the weather has been warmer in recent weeks, Suffolk residents may get a glimpse of the new gritting fleet when they carry out their test grit runs in the coming days.

Further information on winter maintenance carried out by Suffolk Highways, including which roads are gritted, can be found at [www.suffolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/highway-maintenance/check-which-roads-are-gritted](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/highway-maintenance/check-which-roads-are-gritted).

### Suffolk residents urged to share their views on local pharmaceutical services

Suffolk County Council is calling on residents to share their views on local pharmaceutical services as part of a regular review to ensure that these services continue to meet the evolving needs of the community.

The Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA), which is undertaken every three years in line with statutory requirements, is a comprehensive report designed to assess current pharmaceutical services and identify any gaps or areas for improvement.

Feedback gathered through this survey will help the Suffolk Health and Wellbeing Board, NHS England, and Integrated Care Boards make informed decisions about future service provisions, including any potential new pharmacy openings.

Pharmaceutical services in Suffolk are delivered through community pharmacies—sometimes referred to as chemists—which include those located in supermarkets, online pharmacies, and specialist medical appliance contractors. These pharmacies not only dispense medicines but also offer essential healthcare advice and support, often serving as the first point of contact for health concerns.

Residents can complete the survey online by visiting <https://bit.ly/4f4PUYC>. The deadline for submissions is 8<sup>th</sup> November 2024.

By contributing to this important review, residents can help ensure that pharmaceutical services in Suffolk remain fit for purpose and responsive to the needs of the community.