



District Councillors Report to Playford Parish Council

For July 2026

Carlford and Fynn Valley Ward.

Rushmere Village, Great Bealings, Little Bealings, Playford, Bredfield, Grundisburgh & Culpho, Witnesham and Swilland, Westerfield, Hasketon, Clopton, Charsfield, Dallinghoo, Tuddenham, Boulge, Burgh, Debach, Otley.

From District Councillor

Cllr Colin Hedgley

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The New Bin Collection System

I have received dozens of complaints regarding the new bin collection system., this has been ongoing for a well over a month now. I always forward complaints to those at the top running the show plus the Chief Exec. It's all been a bit of a disaster. Bins missed, sometimes 2 or 3 times and the Bin Missed reporting system not working effectively.

However, some good news.

At long last the shortcomings have been recognised.

I think and hope that the consistent e mailing of the top people at ESC has brought results.

An e mail from the Head of the Waste collection system amounts to a *mia culpa* in all but name.

They now admit that vast swathes of caddy collection was missed continually. So, when they said everything was fine, it was not, but we knew that.

They now admit they are short staffed. They now admit that staff are going sick because it is all too much for them.

I cannot at present show you the whole e mail from those in charge, but the important thing is they recognise the "shambles" as one constituent called it, and have now come up with a plan including week end working. (My bin was missed on Friday 26th June. It was collected at 0925 on Saturday 27th June.)

Part of the plan is as follows. Discussion at a daily meeting of all parties will discuss:-

- All data from the previous week (ie bins missed and where).
- A look ahead at operational issues that might impact the service.
- Staffing resilience.
- Vehicle and fleet issues (and there are some!).
- Traffic & Routes – in particular, where issues may present themselves in the week ahead, and what the plan is to mitigate this
- New rounds and new processes – including identifying where the reality of routes is departing from the detailed modelling they did when preparing for Better Recycling
- Communications – what they we saying to residents and members about collections.



Also, when bins are reported missed the bin men will return asap to collect and not wait until the next month.

It's a start and recognises all that's gone wrong.

As I say, I have not produced the whole e mail here, suffice to say the constant lobbying and complaining to the people at the top has produced results so pats on the back all round, (Just a for instance, when we were told that the caddy collection was doing fine, in fact figures showed that it was only a 59% success!)

It's not perfect, but it is a change of heart from "nothing's wrong--- to -this is what we are going to do to put it right."

So please pass on the better news but if they backslide or your bin gets missed---then more e mails to the Chief Exec . Chris.Bally@eastsoffolk.gov.uk

National recognition for East Suffolk beaches

East Suffolk Council is celebrating seeing four of its beaches named among the best in the country as environmental charity Keep Britain Tidy announces winners of the Blue Flag and Seaside Awards for 2026.

Four beaches have been recognised for being clean and safe, meeting the highest environmental standards with both Felixstowe (Felixstowe South and Pier) and Southwold (Southwold Pier) once again receiving combined Seaside Awards and Blue Flags, and Lowestoft South of Claremont Pier (bathing / resort) and Kessingland (non-bathing) receiving Seaside Awards for 2026.

Keep Britain Tidy's Chief Executive, Allison Ogden-Newton OBE, said: "England is fortunate to boast some of the world's finest beaches, and it's encouraging to see this reflected in the awards to four of East Suffolk's beaches, signalling its high standards to all who visit or live nearby.

"Everybody involved in these achievements should feel proud of their ongoing work to care for and enhance these important local blue spaces."

The Blue Flag and Seaside Awards are designed to raise standards across England's coastline and inland waters, while shining a spotlight on the country's top beaches. These awards are the only way for the public to be assured that beaches are delivering a safe, clean and well-managed space for them to enjoy.

Blue Flag is an environmental education programme managed by Keep Britain Tidy on behalf of the Foundation for Environmental Education.

Among the criteria beaches are assessed against are:



- Safety and services such as first aid, and lifeguards where necessary
- Environmental information, including displaying details about local ecosystems
- Environmental management, including litter and waste
- Water quality – Blue Flag beaches must meet the 'excellent' water quality standard as set out in the EU bathing water directive and Seaside Award (designated bathing waters) winners must meet, as a minimum, the 'sufficient' standard.

Core funding scheme launched to help secure future for arts organisations

A new grant funding scheme has been launched by East Suffolk Council as part of efforts to increase cultural engagement and boost growth in the creative sector.

The Arts Core Fund will provide vital core funding to established, registered charities and registered not-for-profit cultural organisations for 2026-2027.

Unlike traditional project-based grants, the new fund targets foundational operational costs – providing crucial security for organisations to continue making a positive economic and social impact in East Suffolk.

With more than 400 creative businesses in the district, the cultural sector forms a significant part of the visitor economy. In 2024 alone, 2.61million visits to East Suffolk were attributable to culture.

More than 2,000 related jobs are supported by the industry, which brings in £43m to the local economy every year.

However, many established organisations face a constant challenge of meeting core costs – impeding the potential for expansion and wider socio-economic benefits.

The new targeted investment fund aims to broaden the impact of key cultural hubs, directly benefiting the wider creative network and tackling local inequalities, in alignment with the Council's Our Direction 2028 strategic vision and East Suffolk's Cultural Strategy.

Voluntary sector, not-for-profit registered arts organisations can apply for grants ranging from £10,000 to a maximum of £30,000.

Registered charities and not-for-profit arts organisations whose primary mission is to deliver creative activities, such as visual arts, music, dance or theatre for the East Suffolk public are invited to apply.

Full eligibility criteria and application details are available on the East Suffolk Council website. The deadline for expressions of interest is Monday 13 July.

[Arts Core Fund](#)

Be Fire Aware

Wildlife Wise, a partnership project dedicated to protecting the Suffolk Coast's wildlife habitats, is spearheading a new fire awareness campaign supported by Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS).



Launched in May to coincide with Wildfire Awareness Month, the Wildfire Free Suffolk campaign aims to protect wildlife in coastal, heathland and woodland habitats by raising awareness of how fires in the open start and how they can be prevented.

Across Suffolk last year, from January to mid-November, Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service attended 310 fires in the open at varying levels of severity - an increase of 105 incidents compared to the previous year.

In response, the campaign will install impactful signage in high fire-risk areas along key tourist routes. Displaying the Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service crest, these signs will be placed on roads, in car parks and along footpaths at wildlife sites across the county.

The signage warns of the dangers of lighting disposable barbecues and campfires outside designated areas, reinforcing key fire safety messages developed in partnership with the Fire Service. Additional messaging urges visitors to take all litter home, including cigarettes and e-cigarettes, which can contribute to wildfires during hot, dry weather.

During hot weather, the public is urged to:

- Avoid lighting barbecues and campfires near vegetation such as grass, heathland or woodland - only use them in designated safe areas
- Leave no trace - take all litter home or dispose of it in bins provided
- Ensure cigarettes and smoking materials are fully extinguished and disposed of responsibly - vapes should be taken to dedicated recycling points
- Douse disposable barbecues with water, allow them to cool completely, then dispose of them in household (black) bins - never in public bins

Sam Kench, Wildlife Wise Delivery Manager, said: "As the weather gets warmer – with a heatwave, we want people to enjoy spending time outdoors, but we are asking visitors not to bring sources of fire to our wildlife sites. Dry grass and vegetation can ignite very quickly, and fires in the open can spread rapid, killing wildlife and destroying important habitats."

He added: "While many people are aware that cigarettes are a common cause of outdoor fires, fewer realise they also contribute to plastic pollution, posing a dual risk to wildlife. Similarly, disposable vapes - which are becoming increasingly common - can ignite if exposed to extreme temperatures. That's why they should only ever be disposed of at dedicated recycling points. We have already lost many hectares of habitat across Suffolk to fires in the open in recent years, and the risk continues to rise as temperatures increase. This is why we've launched this campaign."

Alex Smith, Tactical Wildfire Advisor at Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service, said: "Campfires and disposable barbecues should only be used in designated areas, which are carefully selected to be well away from anything that could catch fire, such as dry grass, shrubs, trees or wooden structures."



“It only takes a small spark to start an outdoor fire, which can spread rapidly - especially during prolonged dry conditions.

“By preventing fires before they start, we can protect our communities, preserve natural habitats and wildlife, and reduce pressure on the Service, supporting our wider prevention work across the county.”

If you see a fire outdoors:

- Get to a safe place
- Note the exact location - use what3words if possible (<https://what3words.com>)
- Call 999 and ask for the Fire and Rescue Service
- Provide as much information as possible
- If requested, meet fire crews at the nearest access point.

Council launches Community Energy Programme

East Suffolk Council is delighted to announce the launch of a new community energy programme.

East Suffolk's Community Energy Programme will support delivery of community-owned and led renewable energy projects – empowering communities to take control of their energy future and contribute to a more sustainable energy system, alongside offering local benefits.

Following a competitive bidding process, a consortium led by the [Centre for Sustainable Energy](#) has been chosen to deliver the project alongside [Community Energy England](#) and [Ashden](#) climate change charity.

As well as bringing experience in the community energy space, the three organisations include locally-based partners with a number of connections to existing groups across the district.

The Centre for Sustainable Energy consortium will support existing community groups in East Suffolk, as well as identifying and encouraging new groups through its ‘Future Energy Landscapes’ and ‘Community Energy Go’ pathways. These will help progress projects through the technical feasibility stage to submitting grant bids and ultimately installing community-owned energy assets.

East Suffolk Council will be working with the Centre for Sustainable Energy, Community Energy England and Ashden on the next steps for the programme, starting with engaging the existing groups. These will be triaged and provided with tailored support to allow the community energy projects to move forward.

East Suffolk Council is looking forward to working with the consortium to deliver community energy projects across the district and is encouraging any community organisations in East Suffolk which may be interested in locally-owned and managed energy installations to get in touch via climate.sustainability@eastsuffolk.gov.uk.



Neil Best, Senior Planner at the Centre for Sustainable Energy, said: “Future Energy Landscapes works because it gives communities genuine agency; the time and space to decide what renewable energy should look like in their area, rather than reacting to plans made for them.

Westerfield Quarry (SCC/0093/25SC)

We are still awaiting a decision.

Clarkson-Friend of Slaves

Just a reminder that an International and National hero used to live in Playford, at Playford Hall. The National monument is in Playford churchyard and he is also buried there.

The annual Clarkson service will take place at 1100 on Sunday 5th July followed by a light lunch and refreshments. All and everyone are welcome. That's believers, non-believers, atheists any religion no religion any sex and no sex, tall, short, whatever. Just come along. Try it.