

August 2025

Parish Report

Cllr Annette Dunning, Halesworth

Tel: 07955 434408 or email annette.dunning@suffolk.gov.uk

Guidance and information on 20mph speed limits

As you may remember from last month's report, my group tabled a motion at July's council meeting to make it easier for communities to obtain a 20mph limit where there is clear local support for it. We argued that the current process with SCC Highways is lengthy and unnecessarily complex at a time when 20mph limits have increasing public support. This motion was rejected by the Conservative administration on the grounds that they were already planning a review of this process. 20's Plenty, a UK organisation that promotes lower speed limits, has some helpful guidance and a draft motion for parish and town councils who are considering a 20mph speed limit, with lots of supporting information including data from the 20mph trial in Wales which showed that lower speed limits significantly reduced accidents, deaths and serious injuries with no impact on journey times. Please see link below if this is something you may be interested in pursuing:

https://www.20splenty.org/parish_council_motion

Review of Suffolk Transport Infrastructure

Following the passing of a motion at July's council meeting which acknowledged that intervention was necessary to reduce the reliance on the Orwell Bridge, the council's administration have announced a review of transport infrastructure for Suffolk and requested funding from the government to make improvements. The review will examine what is needed and where, examining areas such as the Orwell Bridge and the A14 corridor, Port of Felixstowe, the Sizewell power stations, and the need to upgrade the Ely/Haughley rail junction, which the government recently announced there would be no money for. The review will also take into account housing needs and the role of the future Mayor for Norfolk and Suffolk, who will have responsibility for strategic transport. The council has sent an open letter to the Transport Secretary, Heidi Alexander MP, calling for talks about the need for strategic investment in Suffolk's transport infrastructure, which you can read here:

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/asset-library/SCC-response-to-Heidi-Alexander-MP-1.pdf>

New Environmental Charity for Suffolk

A new environmental charity jointly established by Sizewell C, East Suffolk Council and Suffolk County Council has pledged to spend at least £78m on boosting biodiversity in Suffolk. The charity, named East Suffolk Trust (EaST), will distribute funds to local organizations through a grants scheme to improve biodiversity and protect natural landscapes. Governed by a Board of independent Trustees, the new charity could help to set out how future major infrastructure projects can help deliver local nature recovery across the country. Sizewell C has pledged at least £78m over the next 70 years, and in addition, the charity will seek funding from other local businesses and organisations to invest in nature. Trustees of the charity include Julian Roughton, former CEO of Suffolk Wildlife Trust, Heather Broughton MBE, former trustee of the National Lottery Heritage Fund and James Alexander MBE, former trustee of RSPB and former Chair of trustees at Suffolk Wildlife Trust.

All Suffolk Food Waste to be Processed in the County

As part of the new 'Simpler Recycling' laws brought in by the previous Conservative government, councils will have to collect and deal with food waste from all Suffolk households from 2026. The council has set up a four-year contract with Bio Capital to process this food waste locally at a recently approved anaerobic digestion plant at the Adnams Distribution Centre in Reydon near Southwold. Around 31,000 tonnes of household food waste could be sent to the new facility each year, which will be processed to generate green fuel (biomethane), and turned into soil fertiliser, which means Suffolk's food waste will be put to good use.

Awards for Suffolk's Junior Road Safety Officers

The council recently played host to pupils and school staff at the first in-person Junior Road Safety Officer (JRSO) Awards event since before the COVID-19 pandemic. The awards ceremony is to recognise the dedication and creativity shown by schools and pupils in promoting road safety and encouraging active travel within their communities. The Junior Road Safety Officer (JRSO) scheme has been running for more than 20 years and gives pupils in Years 4 to 6 (ages 9–11) the opportunity to get involved in road safety work at their schools, delivering sessions to peers and taking on initiatives in their wider communities. The scheme is an excellent way to engage with children, parents and carers and expand the reach of the council's road safety education team, with 61 participating schools over the last 12 months.

For more information about the Junior Road Safety Officer scheme, see the Suffolk County Council website: <https://suffolkroadsafe.com/education-home/junior-road-safety-officer/>

Update on Homes for Ukraine Scheme

As of 31 March 2025, Suffolk has welcomed 1,747 Ukrainian refugees under the government's Homes for Ukraine scheme, supported by a special team in the Public Health & Communities directorate. The government has introduced the Ukraine Permission Extension Scheme (UPES), which allows people currently living in the UK under an existing Ukraine Visa scheme to apply to extend their stay in the UK for a further 18 months when their valid Ukrainian visa expires. Here is some guidance below for hosts and guests.

- It is important that guests actively apply to extend their visa - the visas will NOT be extended automatically
- Guests should submit an application when they have 28 days or less left on their current permission. If they apply too early, their application may be rejected and they would then need to re-apply later
- If the guest doesn't know the date when their current leave to remain ends, they can sign into their UKVI account (www.gov.uk/evisa/update-ukvi-account) to find out, or they can refer to their permission letter which will detail their visa's expiry date
- Applications can only be submitted while the guests are physically present in the UK

To get more information about how to apply for an extension, follow the instructions provided on the official UK government website:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/applying-to-the-ukraine-permission-extension-scheme>

The government pays Homes for Ukraine hosts a 'thank you' payment of £350 per month, and in Suffolk this is supplemented by an additional £25 per month by the council. You can find further information about the scheme here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/becoming-a-sponsor-homes-for-ukraine>

Finally, Suffolk County Council is offering a one-off Independent Living Payment (ILP) of £2,000 to Homes for Ukraine guests who are leaving their host accommodation and moving into their own home. To issue this payment certain criteria must be met, and Suffolk County Council will ask to see a copy of a valid, signed and dated (by both parties) legal tenancy agreement in the guest's name. The funding can be used for purchasing

items to support the move to independent accommodation. The new accommodation can be either furnished or unfurnished and can be situated outside of Suffolk.

Guest(s) can apply for the Independent Living Payment by downloading a form from the council's website, which is available in English, Ukrainian and Russian. To access this form and details of other support for Ukrainian guests in Suffolk, please use this link to the council website:

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/community-and-safety/communities/community-engagement/support-for-refugees/support-for-ukraine/ukraine-information-for-guests>

Social Media and Helpful Links

Follow us on:

Twitter - [Suffolk Green, Lib Dem & Independent Group \(@SuffolkGLI\) / Twitter](#)

Instagram – https://www.instagram.com/suffolkgli_group/

Facebook - [Suffolk GLI - Green, Liberal Democrat & Independent Group | Facebook](#)

Website - [Suffolk Green, Liberal Democrat and Independent Group – The GLI Group at Suffolk County Council \(suffolkgli.wordpress.com\)](#)

Cost of Living help and advice:

<https://infolink.suffolk.gov.uk/kb5/suffolk/infolink/family.page?familychannel=6> Benefits

advice and support:

<https://infolink.suffolk.gov.uk/kb5/suffolk/infolink/adult.page?adultchannel=0>

Flood preparation advice: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/suffolk-fire-and-rescue-service/fire-and-rescue-safety-advice-in-the-community/what-to-do-in-a-flood>

<https://suffolkprepared.co.uk/get-prepared/risk-advice/flooding/>

Flood recovery advice and support: <http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/about/flood-recovery-information-for-suffolk>