

Report recognises Council's climate change efforts

An independent report has recognised the actions East Suffolk Council has taken to reduce its carbon emissions by almost 23% over the last three years.

Members of East Suffolk Council's new Environment Task Group, set up in response to the Council's declaration of a climate emergency, met for the first time this week to review a report from Groundwork Suffolk following an independent review of the Council's performance on reducing its carbon emissions.

The report recognises the steps the Council has already taken to reduce carbon emission by just under 23% over the last three years, including moving to its new energy efficient buildings in Lowestoft, which benefits from solar PV and Melton, which is heated by air-sourced heat pumps, and installing solar PV at the recently refurbished Deben Leisure Centre and Leiston Leisure Centre.

The report goes on to identify areas that East Suffolk Council will need to focus on to achieve its ambitious target of becoming carbon neutral by 2030.

The Task Group were pleased to receive this comprehensive independent report at our first meeting, which highlights the progress we have already made and sets out the challenges that lies ahead. There is a lot of work to be done to bring our carbon emissions down to meet this ambitious target and we recognise the size and urgency of the challenge. We all need to take responsibility for lowering our carbon footprint, so as well as improving the Council's performance, I would also encourage residents and businesses to look at how they can do their bit to reduce their carbon emissions.

Small changes can make a big difference and the Council recently published a guide to help residents and businesses take steps to reduce their carbon emissions. [View the guide.](https://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/environment/climate-change/)

Free audits are also available for businesses in East Suffolk from Business Energy Efficiency Anglia to help them become more energy efficient. [See more information.](https://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/housing/energy-efficiency-and-warm-homes/warm-homes-healthy-people/)

As part of the East Suffolk Business Festival, the Council is also hosting a 'Going Green to Benefit Business' session on Friday 8 November 2019 between 10am – 12pm, where businesses can hear more about opportunities to access energy efficiency advisory services and green funding initiatives. [See more information and book your place.](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/going-green-to-benefit-business-tickets-73411526853)

Community projects receive funding boost

Community projects across East Suffolk have received a funding boost to support their activities which benefit local residents.

Following successful applications to East Suffolk Council's Enabling Communities 'Exemplar Grant Programme' earlier this year, 17 community projects have been chosen to receive funding. The projects will each receive a share of £147,378 to help deliver projects and activities which will benefit East Suffolk residents.

The selected projects include the refurbishment of local village halls and play areas, the construction of a Heritage Hut, theatre workshops to help disadvantaged groups engage with the arts and the delivery of a programme tackling eating disorders in local schools.

A spokesperson for East Suffolk Council said: We are delighted to award these local projects with funding through the Exemplar Grants Programme. We were extremely impressed by the quality of this year's applications and the range of innovative and impactful activities being supported by volunteers and groups across the district. We want to help local organisations deliver a wide range of community activities which improve and enhance the lives of our residents. Funding for smaller projects is still available through our Enabling Communities Budgets and we would encourage any group to apply to support their activities.

The 17 projects to receive funding through the 'Exemplar Grant Programme' are:

- Refurbishment of the Angela Cobbold Hall, Little Bealings - £8,500 – Cllr Hedgley
- Construction of a heritage hut by the Thorpeness & Aldringham Heritage Group - £9,933 – Cllr Haworth-Culf
- Refurbishment to the kitchen at the Woodbridge Rugby Club - £9,056 – Cllr Mallinder
- Replace the existing play equipment at Hollesley recreation ground (Hollesley Parish Council) - £10,000 – Cllr Mallinder
- Funding towards a new pitched roof on Hollesley Village Hall - £10,000 – Cllr Mallinder
- Providing theatre courses within Lowestoft schools (The Seagull Theatre) - £9,850 – Cllr Gooch
- The installation of running water in the Bealings Community Hub - £8,350 – Cllr Hedgley
- Employment of a Programme Coordinator at the Marina Theatre, running events aimed at 50+ age group to combat isolation/loneliness - £10,000 – Cllr Craig
- Production of postnatal packs for parents leaving hospital (Suffolk Babies) - £3,614 – Cllr Rudd
- To help refurbish, upgrade and reline the main pool at Beccles Lido - £10,000 – Cllr Brambley-Crawshaw, Cllr Elliott & Cllr Topping
- Funding towards a MUGA (Tunstall Parish Council) - £10,000 – Cllr Herring
- To replace existing and provide new play equipment at the Theberton & Eastbridge playing field (Theberton & Eastbridge Parish Council) - £8,725 – Cllr Haworth-Culf, Cllr Cooper & Cllr Bond

- To establish Lowestoft Movers – dance and movement classes for over 55s (DanceEast) - £10,000 – Cllr Rudd
- To deliver a programme of courses in schools about eating disorders (Wednesday's Child) - £9,750 – Cllr Rudd
- To purchase moveable floodlights for the Framlingham Flyers - £4,600 – Cllr Cook
- To replace an ageing oil-fired boiler in Otley Village Hall with a modern energy efficient system (Otley Community Council) - £5,000 – Cllr Fryatt
- To purchase a mini-bus for the Allsorts Support Services group to provide services to their users -£10,000 – Cllr Byatt

The Exemplar Grants Programme enables community groups to deliver large 'flagship' projects, with funding of up to £10,000.

Since 2016, 68 community projects have benefited from the Exemplar Grants Programme, receiving funding totalling £544,014.36. £160,000 was allocated for 2019/2020 programme from the New Homes Bonus.

Whilst applications for this round of the Exemplar Grants Programme are now closed, local groups and organisations can still apply for funding to support their activities via the Council's 'Enabling Community Budgets'.

A total of £412,500 has been allocated for 2019/20 from the New Homes Bonus, funding generated through new houses built in the district.

Distributed equally amongst each of the Council's 55 members, each ward councillor has a £7,500 Enabling Community Budget to spend on community projects or to develop new projects which tackle community needs in their area.

Previous projects which have benefitted from Enabling Community Budget funding include play areas, village hall refurbishments and equipment, community events, projects supporting people with disabilities and the purchase of defibrillators.

To apply for funding through the Enabling Communities Budget scheme, please visit: www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/enabling-communities-budgets

Another reminder – if you have not already registered to attend the Community Partnership workshop as detailed in the earlier reports, please do so without delay, we don't want your community missing out! Community Partnerships - 28th November - venue Saxmundham

Other news

The record-breaking Surviving Winter appeal will be joined by a sister campaign in Suffolk for the first time this year - because more people than ever need support.

Hundreds of people in the county donated their government winter fuel payment last year to support Surviving Winter.

The campaign asks those who can afford it to give up the payment so it can go to someone in greater need.

It raised more than £125,000 - a record for the appeal, run by the Suffolk Community Foundation - and helped pay heating bills for more than 800 homes of vulnerable older people.

How you can help Surviving Winter or the Winter Crisis Appeal

As this year's appeal is launched, a second 'Winter Crisis Appeal' is also unveiled. This will help vulnerable people of all ages.

Tim Holder, from the Suffolk Community Foundation, explained: "This year, with over 83,000 people of all ages living in deprivation in Suffolk we'd ask everyone to please continue to help older people by giving to the Surviving Winter Appeal.

"But with almost 20,000 children living in poverty in Suffolk we've also set up a new appeal for everyone to support - the Winter Crisis Appeal.

"All donations to this appeal will be directed to support people of all ages to stay warm this winter."

Organisers encourage anyone who needs the winter fuel payment to keep hold of it this winter.

However, if you are able to donate it, or are one of the growing number of people of all ages who wish to make a donation to the appeal, they will be happy to receive your support.

The appeal, in partnership with the East Anglian Daily Times, Citizens Advice, Warm Homes Healthy People, Rural Coffee Caravan, Meet Up Mondays, Ipswich Building Society, Flagship Group and Age UK Suffolk, launches today.

To donate call 01473 602602 or visit www.suffolkcf.org.uk. You can also donate at any branch of Ipswich Building Society.

Items to discuss:

Plans have been announced to let grass in older sections of churchyards grow longer in a Suffolk district, as part of measures to let wildlife flourish.

The plan would be enacted with the agreement of individual communities and in sections of cemeteries where graves were around 100 years old and visited rarely as allowing the older sections of churchyards to grow long grass in the summer months would encourage wildlife and improve biodiversity. Cemeteries can quickly attract beetles, caterpillars of various moths, butterflies and grasshoppers - they all benefit, and so then do birds, bats, hedgehogs and other creatures.

With many of our natural areas under threat, the older less frequently used and traditional sections of our cemeteries - those areas where the graves are around a century old - have become ever more important sanctuaries for wildlife.

Local Plan Adoptions / Examination

The Examination of the Suffolk Coastal Local Plan is still ongoing, although the hearings finished in September. At the tail end of Oct, ES was still responding to the last of the queries raised by the Inspector during the hearings.

The next step will then be for him to write to ES and advise how he wishes to proceed e.g. whether he requires additional information from ES or would like to move swiftly forward with 6 weeks of public consultation on Main Modifications to the Local Plan. Hopefully it will be the latter.

All going well it is anticipated this consultation will start in early new year. Following that consultation, the Inspector will consider, based on feedback, whether he needs to hold an additional day/s of hearings to explore any issues further. Usually Inspectors just consider the written representations, as they have the same weight as evidence given at hearings. Assuming the Inspector is happy, he will then write his report and send it to ES. It is hoped he will find the plan 'sound' but this would likely be subject to ES making a number of Main Modifications to the Plan, some of which ES is already aware of. The Examination ends once ES receives the Inspectors Report. The Plan, as amended, can then be presented to Full Council for adoption.

It is hope that this would be completed and the Plan adopted by late Spring at the latest.

SPR, EDF etc - It appears in recent correspondence that there is agreement to a full review of the scale of environmental damage that would be caused by the current

plans for onshore sites for substations and that the Government needs to reassess the offshore solutions including Ring Mains.

CIL - Have an outline guidance paper on how this may be spent if interested.

Planning - As ward members we are asked to comment on applications – so please be in contact if you feel we have anything to add.