



County Councillor Town and Parish Newsletter May 2023



To promote and support the health and wellbeing of all people in Suffolk



To strengthen our local economy



To provide value for money for the Suffolk taxpayer



To protect and enhance our environment





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Local road surfaces in villages and residential areas in Suffolk should be blitzed as part of a new £10 million programme, Suffolk County Council has announced today (25th May). The extra funding will nearly double Suffolk Highways' £11 million annual roads maintenance budget, but be targeted at smaller residential streets which are typically maintained less frequently than busier A and B roads.

Cllr Hicks also reiterated the council's commitment to improving services for children with special educational needs and disabilities, including £55 million to create 1,275 new SEND school places by 2025.

Page 19 - Suffolk residents offered chance to name new fire engines

Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service will launch its 'Name the Fire Engine' competition at next week's Suffolk Show, enabling the public to name a fleet of new life-saving vehicles.



Support for Ukrainian refugees moving to private rented accommodation

Suffolk County Council has announced a one-off £2,000 support grant for Ukrainian refugees moving on from their host into their own accommodation.

The Independent Living Payment will be available to Ukrainian Refugees, who are moving into private rented accommodation after 1st April 2023. Guests must have been living in Suffolk for a minimum of two months and be registered on the Suffolk Homes for Ukraine scheme to be eligible for the payment.

The funding can be used for any associated housing costs, including furniture, moving costs or travel to work. The support can be used towards accommodation which is furnished or unfurnished, and accommodation can be in Suffolk or out of county as long as a copy of the new tenancy agreement is provided.

Ukrainian guests can apply for the Independent Living Payment by visiting www.suffolk.gov.uk/ukraine and completing the application form. Application forms can also be requested by emailing refugeesupport@suffolk.gov.uk

Cllr Bobby Bennett, Cabinet Member for Equality and Communities said:

We are grateful to all the hosts who have welcomed Ukrainian guests into our county and supported them to thrive in our local communities. This support will assist our Ukrainian guests to move on from their hosts and live independently in Suffolk.


Suffolk Refugee Support can provide general advice and support for any Ukrainian Refugees looking to live independently in Suffolk, such as help with education, employment, access to immigration advice, housing, utilities, welfare benefits and more. Visit <https://suffolkrefugee.org.uk/> for more information.

Suffolk continues to be in need of new sponsors to support Ukrainian families who are not yet ready to leave sponsorship. If you think you can help, or know of anybody who could, please get in touch. You can register with Suffolk County Council at www.suffolk.gov.uk/ukraine.

Revised policy agreed to protect Suffolk's water supplies

Suffolk County Council Cabinet has today (16th May) agreed to a revised infrastructure policy to support water security in the region.

As part of its focus on adapting to a changing climate, Cabinet members agreed a revision to the Energy Infrastructure Policy to cover future projects needed to protect and maintain water resources, including reservoirs, pipelines, and water recycling plants.



This new policy addition lays out how future water infrastructure projects will be managed and the council's role with stakeholders, such as the water companies, Ofwat and the Environment Agency. It also sets out how the council will recover the money it has to spend in the planning process for infrastructure projects.

Richard Rout, Cabinet member for Cabinet Member for Finance and Environment, at Suffolk County Council, said:

“In order to adapt to the changing climate, Suffolk will need to host new infrastructure that is critical to safeguard our water supplies.

“Sufficient water supply is critical to so much of what we do here in Suffolk. It is something we take for granted – we all expect to turn on a tap and see water come out, but to secure that supply for the future, new infrastructure on a substantial scale will be essential.

“East Anglia has a huge role in delivering food security to our nation, and, for agriculture to be sustainable in our region, our farming community needs a guarantee that sufficient water supplies will be available.

“This supply is important for not only residential, business, and agricultural use, but also to protect and enhance the environment of Suffolk by supporting river levels and groundwater.

“The existing energy policy has been very successful in shaping the council's response to new energy infrastructure and in guiding our engagement with applicants, regulators and government. This new addition will greatly enhance this policy and once again, shows how protecting and enhancing our environment is priority for Suffolk County Council.”


To reflect the changes, the policy has been renamed the Energy and Climate Adaptive Infrastructure Policy.

In February 2021, the Cabinet of Suffolk County Council adopted an Energy Infrastructure Policy, that set out the Council's approach to major infrastructure projects for energy generation and transmission, with a particular focus on those consented under the Planning Act 2008, known as Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects.

As part of that decision, it was agreed that the policy would be revised after two years.

Library services protected as Suffolk County Council approves additional funding

Suffolk County Council has today (16th May) underlined its commitment to library services in Suffolk.



Suffolk County Council has underlined its commitment to library services in Suffolk, as it approved plans to increase its funding to Suffolk Libraries, to enable the service to continue operating at its current level, until the end of the contract in July 2024.

Suffolk Libraries currently receives £5.9m per year from Suffolk County Council, however the service is forecasting a deficit of £60k per month from April 2023. The service has cited increases in service costs, a reduction in income opportunities following the Coronavirus Pandemic and rising inflation, as causes of the deficit.

This means it is no longer possible for the service to continue operating at its current level of service, within its current contract value.

At Suffolk County Council's Cabinet meeting, the council has approved plans to absorb this cost pressure, funding Suffolk Libraries an additional £720k per year, through to the end of the current contract in July 2024. This additional funding will support Suffolk Libraries to continue delivering its highly valued services to Suffolk Residents.

CLlr Bobby Bennett, Cabinet Member for Equality and Communities, said:

“We recognise the important role that Libraries play in the community, they offer so much more than just books; providing community spaces which bring people together, to learn, socialise, read, and take part in activities.

“We are proud of the work Suffolk libraries do, which is recognised nationally, and we are committed to supporting the service to maintain this high standard.

“This is why Suffolk County Council is increasing its funding to Suffolk Libraries, to support them to continue delivering the outstanding service they provide for our residents.”

The council has previously made a commitment to continue to support Suffolk Libraries. At Suffolk County Council's full council meeting in February, the council agreed to fund an additional £250k in the first quarter of the 2023/24 financial year to help with the increased costs Highlighted by Suffolk Libraries. This £250k for the first quarter of the year is included within the overall figure agreed by Cabinet, of an additional £720k for the 2023/24 financial year.

The council also supported Suffolk Libraries with £155,000 for initiatives to support residents with Cost of Living and support for Digital Inclusion in the 2022/23 financial year.

In addition, the Council continues to successfully access Section 106 funding to support ongoing building developments required to ensure buildings are fit for purpose and support service delivery.

Bruce Leeke, CEO of Suffolk Libraries, said:

“We are delighted that Suffolk County Council has agreed to provide us with additional funding for the remainder of our current contract. Our direct library costs have significantly increased over the last few years and the pandemic impacted our ongoing fundraising and income generation initiatives. This has combined to create a budget deficit which would have made it difficult to maintain the same comprehensive service for the people of Suffolk without additional support.

“Since 2012, we have been nationally recognised for delivering innovative and forward-thinking services which reduce inequality and improve community wellbeing, whilst saving a significant amounts of public money.

“We have a very positive and supportive relationship with the county council and this decision shows that councillors appreciate the responsiveness, skill and passion of our colleagues working at the heart of every major community in Suffolk.”

Competition to create virtual reality films for people with dementia

Suffolk County Council is supporting Dementia Action Week with a competition to produce virtual reality films for people living with the condition.

The competition is part of a nationwide initiative called VR Challenge UK and will be launched at a virtual event in the Metaverse on Thursday.


It is being run by Suffolk County Council in conjunction with Spark Emerging Technologies Ltd as part of the council’s recently awarded contract to develop a new, bespoke virtual reality (VR) app to deliver therapeutic experiences to people living with dementia across all Suffolk care settings.

Young people and adults from across the UK will be invited to get involved with this opportunity to create meaningful and stimulating VR films for people living with dementia.

The competition is open to amateurs and professionals, as well as students from further and higher education, carers, and people living with dementia themselves.

It is hoped nursing and residential homes, day centres, as well as Further Education Colleges, universities, and charitable organisations from across the UK will grab this opportunity to make a real difference in the lives of people with dementia.

Cllr Beccy Hopfensperger, Suffolk County Council Cabinet Member for Adult Care, said:



“Ten years of clinical research has shown that virtual reality experiences can provide people living with dementia with a fuller and more satisfying quality of life, and lead to improvements in well-being, cognition, and communication – but there are still relatively few care settings in which these experiences are available.

“This competition is an opportunity to help us develop a cutting-edge application which will allow more people with dementia in Suffolk to access these experiences.”

In the first round of the competition, entrants will simply be invited to submit a brief storyboard of their proposed film for one of the following six categories:

- Suffolk
- Nostalgia
- Nature
- Leisure
- Computer Generated Imagery (CGI)
- Carer content

The deadline for the submission of storyboards will be Friday 30th June. Shortlisted candidates will then proceed to the second round of the competition where they will receive exclusive support from Spark to go on and plan, film and produce their proposed films by the deadline of Thursday 31st August.

The final VR films will be evaluated by people living with dementia before being judged by a specialist panel. The winning films will be showcased at an awards ceremony in mid-October.


Winners in each tier of the competition will have the opportunity of choosing from three prizes: a brand new Insta360 X3 360 camera kit; a top of the range Oculus Meta Quest 2 VR Headset; or to gift a year’s subscription to the new VR app with all the required hardware to a care setting of their choice.

More details can be found on the competition website at <https://vrchallengeuk.co.uk>

Suffolk County Council welcomes £7.9 million active travel funding

A £7.9 million government funding package for Suffolk to promote active travel schemes has been welcomed by Suffolk County Council.

The money has come from Active Travel England (ATE) and will be spent on seven projects encouraging cycling and walking through measures such as cycle lanes, shared-use paths, and improved crossing points on roads.



It forms part of a £200 million package for England announced today (19th May), and first unveiled in March this year.

The £7.9m for Suffolk is the fifth highest in England and the most for a county council.

The full list of schemes is:

- Woodbridge (Town Centre) - £4,005,000
- Grange Road Felixstowe- £1,318,000
- Ipswich Hospital to University of Suffolk - £ 1,227,950
- Woodbridge (South) - £1,125,000
- Ipswich - £105,149 to be spent on developing 12 schemes including the east-west Ipswich town centre route, Crown Street to Ipswich Waterfront and general travel to school in the borough
- Developing Bury St Edmunds East/West Route - £105,149
- Developing Capel St Mary to Copdock route - £46, 967

Some of the schemes, such as Ipswich Hospital to the University, have previously had improvements made under previous ATE funding rounds but this new money will link up and enhance that previous work.

Councillor Alexander Nicoll, Suffolk County Council Deputy Cabinet Member for Transport Strategy, said:

“We welcome this funding as it will enable us to continue to build on the hard work that has taken place so far in developing and enhancing active travel projects.


“These schemes make a real difference because they enable people to get around without having to rely on the car.

“By doing so we reduce congestion and free up road space for the traffic that really does need to be there, while also protecting and enhancing our environment by reducing emissions.”

The council will now launch public engagement schemes throughout 2023 with a view to starting work on all schemes in 2024.

Suffolk residents urged to #ShakeItOut when recycling

A new campaign by Suffolk Waste Partnership is encouraging people to empty plastic bags and not throw them in recycling.



The #ShakeltOut campaign has been launched by the Suffolk Waste Partnership to encourage households in Suffolk to help improve recycling rates across the county by making sure black bin bags and other plastic sacks are not thrown in with recyclable materials.

#ShakeltOut is encouraging people to shake out plastic bags and keep recycling clean, dry, and loose.

The Partnership, which comprises Babergh District Council, East Suffolk Council, Ipswich Borough Council, Mid Suffolk District Council, Suffolk County Council, and West Suffolk Council, says more than a quarter (26%) of the materials in Suffolk's recycling bins in 2022/23 were not able to be processed as they were spoiled.

Items that contributed to spoiled recycling collections included:

- Materials that were not clean and dry, or contained food and drink residue
- Rubbish sacks or plastic bags containing recycling
- Non-recyclable items, such as nappies and food waste

Plastic bags and rubbish sacks are a particular problem – recycling handlers can't see what's inside them and they are often full of rubbish or other non-recyclable items.

This means bags are removed during the sorting process to avoid spoiling other good recycling. Any removed bags are then sent for disposal.

Rob Cole, of Suffolk Waste Partnership, said:

"We know from previous research that 73% of Suffolk residents are concerned about the environment and most people want to get their recycling right*.

"Our Shake It Out campaign aims to help residents better understand their recycling services and ensure items are clean, dry and loose when they are placed in their recycling bins.

"We appreciate that some households may collect their recycling in plastic bags, to make it easy to carry out. This great work can be wasted if recycling is then added to your wheelie bin in a plastic bag.

The Suffolk Waste Partnership has also released a new animation as part of the wider campaign to promote the #ShakeltOut message.

The animation aims to remind households across the country of the simple measures they can take to help improve recycling: <https://youtu.be/iBKOUFWxXdQ>

To find out more about the #ShakeltOut campaign and for more information on recycling in Suffolk, visit www.suffolkrecycling.org.uk/shake-it-out



Imports Surveillance team intercepts thousands of unsafe e-scooters

Suffolk Trading Standards is warning of the dangers of e-scooters following an increase in these being detained or refused entry due to safety concerns.

Although e-scooters can be purchased privately, it is illegal for them to be used on public roads, cycle lanes or pavements. But this has not stopped their popularity, or rogue traders trying to capitalise on this by producing substandard versions of the vehicles.

In the past two years, the Imports Surveillance team, based at the Port of Felixstowe, has detained over 13,000 e-scooters and e-bikes which did not meet safety testing standards.

Officers found that batteries and chargers for the vehicles posed a serious risk of fire or electric shock, putting unwitting consumers in danger of being injured or even killed.

A further 9,000 e-scooters were also refused entry into the country following to the involvement of Suffolk Trading Standards after failing to meet the requirements for marking, instructions, and essential safety documentation.

Councillor Andrew Reid, Cabinet Member for Public Health and Public Protection, added:

“Fire services nationally are seeing an increase in incidents caused by e-scooters and e-bikes, with there sadly being a fatality following a fire in London at the beginning of the year believed to have been started by a faulty e-bike battery which burst into flames.

“Care should be taken even when using legitimate batteries and chargers; batteries should be allowed time to cool down before being charged and chargers should be unplugged immediately after use to help reduce the risk of fire.

“E-scooter and e-bike users should also avoid charging the vehicles in residential buildings overnight as this is when the majority of fires have happened due to people being asleep and unaware of chargers starting to overheat before igniting.”

To help further combat the problem of dangerous e-scooters, the Imports Surveillance team has produced [guidance for importers](#), which is also available in simplified Chinese in recognition that most product consignments entering the UK originate from China.

Anyone who suspects they may have purchased a dangerous e-scooter or e-bike should stop using it immediately and contact Citizens Advice on 0808 223 1133.



Grateful to be sharing Aki's story about what fostering meant to him

Councillor Stephen Burroughes, Deputy Cabinet Member for Children & Young Peoples Services with responsibility for Fostering and Adoption, in celebration of Fostering Fortnight, hands over the column to Aki. He will be sharing his experiences of being fostered in Suffolk.

Fostering plays a crucial role in our society, providing children who are unable to live with their birth families with a safe and nurturing environment. It is a lifeline for many children who have had a difficult start in life. It offers stability, love, and support to children who need it the most, and can change the trajectory of their lives.

Aki's story is an inspiration, and I am grateful to him for sharing his journey with us. He offers a unique perspective into the life of a fostered child and highlights the importance of this essential service. So, let's hear from Aki and learn more about his experiences;

How did it feel for being cared by Tracey?

The feeling of being cared for by Tracey is irreplaceable, since the first time I came to the house, she welcomed me into the family and treated me like one of her own sons. If it wasn't for this wonderful woman, I wouldn't be where I am today. Tracey is the reason why I got into college, she is the reason why I didn't get permanently excluded from my school and she is the real reason why I took the right path in life. Throughout my whole journey with Tracey, she has made me feel safe, at ease and wanted.


How do you describe your experience of being fostered?

My experience being fostered is very hard to describe, there have been ups and there have been downs. The best advice I have is, be grateful for what you have and stay strong.

What was the best part of being cared for by Tracey?

There is no best part of being cared for by Tracey because every moment I'm with her is the best. Even when I'm at university, she checks up on me daily and makes sure I'm okay. Knowing that I'm always part of the family, wanted and being cared for will always be the best.

How were you welcomed into the family?



When I first came to Tracey, even though I was very difficult to handle, we always knew I'd be here for a long time. She introduced me to her family in the most comfortable way, she told me where everything I needed was, she explained the house rules and she even let me pick which room I wanted. Still to this day if I meet her new friends, she introduces me as her son. Next year will be a decade that I have been with her so there's a lot to remember.

How were you supported while living with Tracey?

While I was living with Tracey I was supported in every single way. She always supported my education, making sure I was up to date with my work and was attending lessons. She made sure I had everything a normal kid would have like paying for my phone bill and taking me and my friends out for fun activities. She has always supported my feelings, asking if I'm okay checking up on me and respecting my space. She supported me financially, she has supported my dreams, and she has supported my health, making sure I'm up to date with dentists and eye appointments etc

How does it feel to be at university?

It feels like a great achievement to be at university, but it does not stop there, the journey continues.

What would you say to someone who is worried about being fostered?

Coming from a man that has been in the foster system since a toddler, I would always say "be proud of who you are, even if you are different to other children, it's good to be different, it is what makes you stand out to other people. There will be ups and downs, but people still care for you.

To find out more about Fostering with Suffolk:


visit www.suffolk.gov.uk/fostering

call us on: 01473 264800

or email fosterandadopt@suffolk.gov.uk to register your interest.

Landscape gardener has fraudulent activity nipped in the bud

A landscape gardener has pleaded guilty to a string of offences, including defrauding his victims out of thousands of pounds, after Suffolk Trading Standards pursued a conviction against him.



Darren Moore, 42, of Old Warren Farm, Wimbledon, traded as Darren Moore Garden Landscaping & DIY and operated across Suffolk. He first came to the attention of Trading Standards after a consumer complained of his poor work in April 2022.

An investigation was subsequently launched into Moore, during which statements were taken from eight witnesses who alleged that he had acted dishonestly by taking payment for his services but failing to complete the work. Collectively the witnesses paid over £10,800 to Moore, £2,900 of which was refunded to three of the customers, leaving the rest out of pocket by almost £8,000.

Concerns were also raised about the quality of work carried out by Moore, with an independent chartered surveyor concluding that these “fell well below an acceptable standard” and that “the amount paid by consumers for his work was completely excessive”.

In addition, Suffolk Trading Standards uncovered that Moore had failed to return all monies owed to creditors and acted dishonestly in his communications with customers.

At a hearing at Ipswich Magistrates Court yesterday (Monday, 22nd May) Darren Moore pleaded guilty to carrying out garden landscaping work for a fraudulent purpose, contrary to Section 9 of the Fraud Act 2006, and will be sentenced in July.

Councillor Andrew Reid, Suffolk County Council’s cabinet member for Public Health and Public Protection, added:


“I welcome yesterday’s outcome, which reflects the continued work of our Trading Standards team to help protect customers who are on the receiving end of unsatisfactory services or products.

“We are fortunate to have many legitimate traders in our county who don’t deserve to lose out on business to crooks such as Moore; and I hope that him reaping what he sows following his guilty plea will ensure a fairer playing field for Suffolk’s gardening industry. “Consumers can also fight back against fraudulent traders by carrying out their research and reading trusted reviews before paying for any services.”

Anyone who believes they may have been the victim of a fraudulent or substandard trader should contact the Citizens Advice Consumer Service on 0808 223 1133.

Spotlight on improving air quality as county-wide strategy launched

Suffolk County Council has set out its plan for improving air quality in Suffolk following results from a recent air quality survey, as its county-wide Air Quality Strategy is published.



Air quality continues to be an important public health issue and a driver of health inequalities which disproportionately affects some of our most vulnerable residents in Suffolk.

The county council recently engaged with Suffolk's residents about their thoughts on the impact poor air quality has on their quality of life. The survey received 338 responses and had a particular focus on Ipswich residents, because Ipswich makes up four of Suffolk's eight Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA's). AQMA's are areas where national target levels of Nitrogen Dioxide are being exceeded.

Some of the results of the survey showed that there is a need to increase awareness about how residents can reduce pollution by reducing indoor burning of wood and coal, encouraging businesses to replace their fleet with low-emission or electric vehicles, reducing short journeys by car and considering more sustainable forms of transport such as walking, bike or bus. Vehicle idling when stationary is also a contributor to high levels of air pollution, an area the strategy will focus on going forward.

Councillor Paul West, Suffolk County Council's Cabinet Member for Ipswich, Operational Highways and Flooding, said:

"It is vital to ensure we are doing everything we can to tackle the problem of poor air quality across our county. The responses to our survey have given us a good starting point so that we can pinpoint particular issues to focus our efforts, however we want to continue this conversation with residents across Suffolk, especially those who live and work within the Air Quality Management Areas, or those who are particularly vulnerable to the effects of air pollution.

"The county council has identified the importance of this issue and as such has ensured the close working of those working in health and those in highways and other related services. It is essential that we work together to tackle the issue of poor air quality in busy and built-up areas across our county.

"We are continuing to study the impact that traffic in urban areas is having on the air quality, and with this strategy will look to progress actions to ensure the quality of the environment is improved in years to come."

A key element of the Air Quality Strategy is a public engagement plan which is being developed to increase public awareness of the health impacts of air quality in Suffolk, enabling individuals to make choices that protect both their health and the health of others from the harmful effects of pollution.

The delivery of the strategy will be closely monitored by the council to ensure it is accomplishing what it has set out to do. The strategy will also feed into the collective work of the Health and Wellbeing Board.

Fire service's charity cycling challenge celebrates 10th anniversary

Entries for this year's Fire Ride are now open, enabling Suffolk residents to show their support for firefighters past and present by taking part in the event on Sunday, July 9th.

Novice cyclists, seasoned pros, or those just looking to get back into the saddle are invited to sign up for the charity cycle ride in aid of The Fire Fighters Charity.

Riders will set off from Haverhill Fire Station before enjoying stunning scenery as they travel through west Suffolk's countryside, with participants able to choose from a 35 or 75-mile route.

On completion of the cycle, limited edition finishers medals will be awarded, and the Salvation Army will serve refreshments. The friends and families of participants can also stay for a drink and take a behind-the-scenes tour of Haverhill Fire Station – making it a great day out for both cyclists and spectators.

Of the £25 entrance fee, no less than 85% will go to [The Fire Fighters Charity](#) and, whilst fundraising isn't compulsory, any rider who raises £150 or more for The Fire Fighters Charity will receive a red jersey as a thank you.

Councillor Andrew Reid, Cabinet Member for Public Health and Public Protection, commented:

“Cycling is a great way for people to start their journey on to fitness and, like other exercise such as parkrun, supports Suffolk County Council's ongoing ambition to look after the health and wellbeing of our residents.

“Suffolk is fortunate enough to host stage five of this year's Tour of Britain, which I hope will inspire people to take up their own challenge and give this year's Fire Ride a go in aid of a very worthy cause.

“I would like to thank Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service for staging the Fire Ride since 2013, the success of which has been a testament to staff's willingness to help others, despite having incredibly demanding day jobs.”

Anyone wishing to join the Fire Ride should visit www.suffolkrideride.co.uk/ for further information and to book their place.



Work begins on new Haverhill Recycling Centre

Construction of a new £2 million recycling centre for Haverhill has begun.

DXI Regeneration LTD has been awarded the construction contract to build the new site on behalf of Suffolk County Council and working in partnership with FCC Environment after landowner negotiations were successfully concluded.

The new centre, which should be completed in early 2024, will be built within the current Waste Transfer Station in Homefield Road and will replace the current facility in Chalkstone Way.

The Waste Transfer Station is operated by FCC Environment, the council's partner which manages all of Suffolk's 11 recycling centres.

The new centre will feature:

- A raised platform giving visitors an elevated position from which to safely dispose of waste - removing the need for steps
- An easy-to-use layout allowing customers to access clearly marked recycling bays
- No need to close the facility to replace full containers
- Improved accessibility and increased capacity
- Greater separation between public vehicles and larger vehicles
- Queuing capacity within the site and better access from the public highway compared to the Chalkstone Way site.

The replacement recycling centre will meet the needs created by forecasted housing growth in the area and address growing demand at Chalkstone Way


The waste transfer station – which takes waste collected locally and bulks it for onward reprocessing – will continue to operate at Homefield Road alongside the new recycling centre.

Councillor Richard Smith, Suffolk County Council Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Transport Strategy and Waste, said:

“This is excellent news and I am very happy that work can now begin on this much-needed new recycling centre for Haverhill and the surrounding area.

“Giving people the right facilities to help them dispose of waste properly and to recycle has never been more important and this facility will be key in helping them do that.

“Haverhill residents can now look forward to having a new site with much better facilities and access and which will serve their needs for many years to come.”



The project sees FCC Environment and Suffolk County Council working as part of the Suffolk Waste Partnership with West Suffolk Council.

£10 million new funding to fix residential roads

Local road surfaces in villages and residential areas in Suffolk should be blitzed as part of a new £10 million programme, Suffolk County Council has announced today (25th May).

The extra funding will nearly double Suffolk Highways' £11 million annual roads maintenance budget, but be targeted at smaller residential streets which are typically maintained less frequently than busier A and B roads.

The announcement was made by Suffolk County Council's leader, Cllr Matthew Hicks, at the authority's annual general meeting.

Speaking about the funding, Cllr Hicks said:

"Let me be clear, the state of some of our roads is not good enough. That is why today I am announcing a major investment to improve roads across the county where people live. Those smaller roads often in estates or off the beaten track in our villages that are rutted and in need of some love and attention. To do this we will set aside a further £10 million to be spent over the next 20 months reaching these locations across our county and I look forward to this being delivered with our new partner Milestone."

The funding is subject to a formal Cabinet decision which will follow later this year.

At the same time, Cllr Hicks also reiterated the council's commitment to improving services for children with special educational needs and disabilities, including £55 million to create 1,275 new SEND school places by 2025.

Cllr Hicks said:

"We are seeing improvements, but the pace of change is not fast enough and it is not being felt by families. This is a hugely emotional issue, and it is deeply upsetting. Yes, it is part of a national struggle - but we cannot and must not hide behind that. Suffolk must continue to step up regardless of the situation nationally."

Highways and SEND will be areas of particular focus for Suffolk County Council over the next two years. There was also reaffirmed commitments to deliver:

- The Gull Wing bridge in Lowestoft
- New homes on SCC land

- Further help for Ukrainian refugees
- A new highways contractor Milestone
- Hundreds more EV charging points
- A £20 million flood prevention and footpath improvement programme.

To coincide with the annual general meeting, Suffolk County Council has published a list of its top 50 achievements since 2021, including:

- Our Cassius Digital Care work and innovation is going from strength to strength
- An extra £2.5m for mental health services
- 300 miles of road now designated as quiet lanes
- New household waste sites in Ipswich and Haverhill
- £13 million in funding secured for active travel
- 3,000 environmentally friendly homes being delivered on SCC land
- 250,000 trees planted
- Over 100 new EV charging points
- A new Highways Contract with Milestone starting in October
- 43,400 streetlights converted to LED.

Suffolk residents offered chance to name new fire engines


Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service will launch its 'Name the Fire Engine' competition at next week's Suffolk Show, enabling the public to name a fleet of new life-saving vehicles.

Nine new fire engines are set to be ready for use by the end of 2023, following Suffolk County Council allocating over £5.3m in its 2023/24 budget to replace some of Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service's current vehicle fleet with state-of-the-art alternatives.

To help celebrate the service's 75th anniversary this year, Suffolk residents are invited to play an important part in shaping its future by naming the new engines in a competition due to officially launch at the Suffolk Show next week, on 31st May and 1st June.

Entry forms will be available at Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service's stand within the Emergency Services Zone of the event held at Trinity Park, Ipswich, and people can also enter online by visiting the service's Twitter and Facebook pages.

After the competition closes on Friday, June 30th, a judging panel consisting of Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service's senior fire staff and Suffolk County Council's Cabinet



Member for Public Health and Public Protection, Councillor Andrew Reid, will decide on the winning names.

Councillor Andrew Reid, Cabinet Member for Public Health and Public Protection, added:

“I am delighted that Suffolk County Council has committed to investing over £5.3 million in our fire service, supporting our continued ambition to look after the health and wellbeing of our county’s residents.

“Their new vehicle fleet will also come with a host of cutting-edge technology and environmental benefits; as we work towards becoming a Net Zero authority by 2030.”

An official naming ceremony will take place at Ipswich East Fire Station next spring, allowing competition winners to see their suggested name on one of the new fire engines before these are used across Suffolk in response to fires, road traffic accidents and other emergency incidents.

Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service donated two of its former fire engines to Ukraine in March 2022 to help their counterparts in the war-torn country, with six staff from the service travelling over 1,000 miles across Europe to deliver the vehicles, which remain in service in Ukraine.

A decommissioned fire engine was also given to Ipswich Transport Museum last year to support their efforts to preserve local history for future generations to enjoy.