

After the recent decision concerning SPR, I met virtually with Cllr Hicks and Cllr Rout. They are aware that there may be a judicial review and but are more importantly aware and know how important it is that SCC work closely with the developers and all communities to ensure that all dots are dotted, and t's are crossed going forward from this point. Once, again, thanks go to all that submitted views, time, and representations.

Sea Link

Some people have received an email invitation on behalf National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET) inviting to attend an overview webinar on Sea Link, the proposed high voltage undersea electricity link between Suffolk and Kent.

We began introducing Sea Link to key stakeholders in the Suffolk and Kent regions in January. Leading on from this, we are hosting two webinars in mid-April, one focussed on the proposal in the Richborough area of Kent, and the other focusing on the proposal in the Sizewell area in Suffolk:

Monday 11th April 2022 from 6pm – 7pm: Richborough area

Wednesday 13th April 2022 from 6pm – 7pm: Sizewell area

The webinars will provide background to and next steps for the project as we head towards non-statutory consultation this summer. We would be grateful if you can share the details the sessions with your local network.

Please register for the webinars on the project website: <https://www.nationalgrid.com/electricity-transmission/network-and-infrastructure/sealink>

The publication of the Government's British Energy Security Strategy. The strategy sets out how Great Britain will accelerate the deployment of wind, new nuclear, solar and hydrogen, with the aim of seeing 95% of electricity by 2030 being low carbon.

You can find the Government's press release here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/major-acceleration-of-homegrown-power-in-britains-plan-for-greater-energy-independence>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/british-energy-security-strategy>

It is important to note that a Development Consent Order (DCO) to build the Sizewell C Project is still being considered following the examination of the planning application last year, despite what some are already saying on the media. We anticipate that decision will be announced in late May and we will of course notify all interested parties as soon as we hear the outcome. Should the DCO be granted, we will continue to work with local communities, councils, businesses, and all stakeholders.

Highways.

There is never a good time, especially during the busy Easter Holidays but sometimes work must continue. For your information, There are plans to carry out footway repairs along B1069 Leiston Road and Snape Road and U2329 Mill Road and School Road, Knodishall (as detailed below). The works are programmed to

take place between 11 and 17 April 2022. The roads will be closed for the duration to ensure that we can carry out our works safely.

Phase 1 - B1069 Leiston Road (from the junction with B1353 to Snape Road) and B1069 Snape Road, Knodishall (from Leiston Road to the junction with Sloe Lane).

Diversion - B1353, B1122, A1094, B1069 and vice versa.

Phase 2 - U2329 Mill Road and U2329 School Road, Knodishall (from the junction with Leiston Road to the 30mph speed sign at the end of houses).

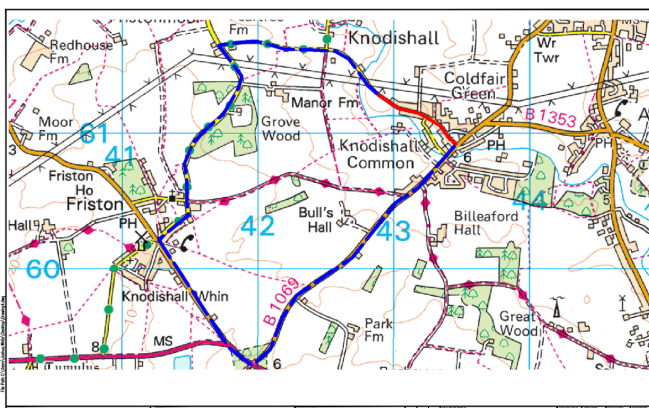
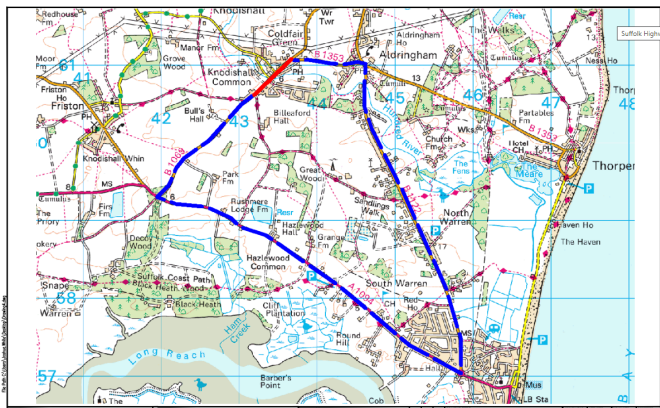
Diversion - B1069, A1094, B1121, Grove Road, School Road and vice versa.

As roadworks are planned in advance, they schedule extra days to allow for bad weather or other delays beyond our control. If we need to make major changes to our work dates, we will update the information signs on site.

A plan showing the diversion route for these works is attached to this email. When we close the road and put a diversion in place, the route needs to be accessible to vehicles of all shapes and sizes. We make our diversions as clear as possible by placing appropriate signing along the route. The latest updates on our works can be found on our website at "[Temporary road closures for Suffolk Highways roadworks](#)" and on [One.Network](#) website.

There may be times that essential emergency works are required to take place on the highway network without advanced notice – you can follow [Suffolk Highways on Twitter](#) for the latest emergency roadwork update

There are also plans to upgrade some the streetlighting to LED, Knodishall, Thorpeness, Aldringham and Aldeburgh



Please do use the reporting tool and keep UpToDate on the one network page.

'Just say hello, just listen, just reach out.'

A new film featuring various partners from across Suffolk has been released which aims to prevent suicide.

The 'Just Say Hello' campaign aims to raise awareness of how a simple 'hello' can make the difference to a person's mental wellbeing, whether it be a loved one or a stranger.

With evidence suggesting that 75% of people who die by suicide have no contact with mental health services, or even their GP within the 12 months preceding their death, it is important that everyone knows they can play their part. Simply reaching out and starting a conversation can be enough to help someone or by interrupting their thought process and encouraging them to get further help.

Featured in the film is Terry Waite who used to work as a hostage negotiator in some of the most dangerous parts of the world and unfortunately was captured and spent almost five years in strict solitary confinement. He says, "Each year in Suffolk alone, 65 people die this way. And those figures are frankly tragic and unacceptable."

This video highlights suicide being the biggest killer for men under the age of 45, with 3 in 4 deaths by suicide being men.

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

"The video shows the importance of suicide prevention and how it can affect anyone. Everyone needs to know that suicide is not the only option. We want to help people in Suffolk to feel better prepared to help a person who may be in need. By just saying "hello", anyone could potentially save someone's life by making that all important connection with them."

If you would like to learn more about helping someone who may be in need, useful resources are available, and you don't need special skills to speak to someone. Free online training is available from the Zero Suicide Alliance that provides the knowledge and the confidence to talk to someone who might be at risk of or thinking about suicide.

Alongside this, the Samaritans website provides more advice on becoming a better listener to support loved ones who may be struggling to cope or to open up about how they are feeling. Everyone in Suffolk can play their part by talking openly about their mental health and knowing that help is available.

More 'Just Say Hello' campaign films will be available over the next coming weeks including bereavement by suicide liaison workers Annabelle Bennett and Chelsea Thorpe speaking on the new service available throughout Suffolk and Northeast Essex.

If you or someone you know is in mental health crisis and requires serious or life-threatening emergency mental or physical care, dial 999 immediately.

Watch the video <https://www.healthysuffolk.org.uk/projects/suicideprevention/just-say-hello>

Take the training here https://zsa.frank-cdn.uk/scorm/full-training/story.html?utm_source=Relias&utm_campaign=Training-Landing-Page

School places

Over 98.5% of pupils receive a place at one of their preferred Secondary Schools on National Offer Day

It was announced on March 1st that 98.51% of pupils received a place at one of their Preferred Secondary Schools in Suffolk on National Offer Day.

This year, Suffolk County Council (SCC) received 7768 applications from parents indicating at which secondary school they would prefer their child to be educated from September 2022. 7339 pupils received offers for their first preference school and 7652 pupils received an offer for one of their three preferred schools. Families who applied online are able to log on to the Admissions Portal to see their child's offer. They will also receive an email to confirm this offer. Letters were also sent to parents who made a paper application by second class post today

If a family does not receive a place at their preferred school, their child's name will automatically be added to the waiting list for that school. Parents will also be advised on how to log an appeal should they wish to do so.

Help to reduce the environmental impact of your home

"Low Impact Living in Suffolk" is a new campaign making it easier for Suffolk residents to improve the energy efficiency and lower energy use of their homes.

Our homes are responsible for generating 20% of all UK carbon emissions, primarily through the heating and energy they use. There are many ways to reduce these emissions, with Low Impact Living in Suffolk sharing steps through the www.greensuffolk.org website.

Information is available to demystify the products, technology and grants that help reduce the impact of our homes on the environment and save money on increasing energy bills. Residents can find out their carbon footprint, look for green energy tariffs and compare new, more sustainable heating systems including ground and air source heat pumps, biomass boilers, heat recovery, hydro and wind electricity.

Detailed information on solar panels, including buying schemes, water heating and electricity sits alongside up to date advice on recycling. Options for improving or replacing windows across properties that vary in age, materials, location, and style are also available.

Campaign urges households to recycle glass properly

Residents across Suffolk are being encouraged to get behind a campaign calling for people to recycle glass properly.

Suffolk Waste Partnership (SWP) is launching 'Glass – It's Better in The Bank', a 12-week campaign aimed at getting people to stop putting glass in their household recycling bins and to use a bottle bank instead.

Suffolk Waste Partnership comprises the county, district and borough councils working together to improve waste management services.

The SWP campaign runs until 31 May and will feature in adverts on buses, at supermarket billboards and on a van touring part of the county, plus on social media and on radio.

District and borough councils, which collect our rubbish, will be applying bin tags and stickers to recycling bins containing glass.

Crews will have a prompt in the cab to remind them to be on the look-out and recycling bins may not be emptied if they are found to contain glass. There will be a dedicated web page about the campaign on the Suffolk Recycling webpage with a set of FAQs and an information leaflet to distribute at events.

Glass is not accepted in household recycling bins as the Materials Recycling Facility at Great Blakenham near Ipswich, where the bins are taken for sorting, is unable to separate glass from other materials.

Glass mistakenly placed in household recycling bins costs the SWP around £500,000 a year. It will not be recycled and can spoil other good recycling, especially card and paper.

Glass represents about half of all the wrong material in household recycling bins – other bad eggs include black rubbish sacks, food, nappies, textiles, and cartons – and rejection levels are currently running at around 20%.

Suffolk County Council votes to condemn Putin's invasion of Ukraine and pledges its support for refugees

***This is changing daily regarding approval etc.**

At a meeting of the County Council held on March 24th, councillors from across the political divide voted in favour of a motion condemning the war in Ukraine.

Suffolk County Council is pledging their full backing for the Ukrainian people and committing to support refugees arriving in Suffolk. The cross party motion described the invasion of Ukraine as "immoral and reprehensible", and praised the "enduring bravery" of the Ukrainian people against Russian aggression. The motion also stated that the council in no way associated the actions of the Russian government with individuals of Russian heritage living in Suffolk. On the issue of refugees the council made clear its willingness to help settle individuals and families fleeing the conflict. Committing itself to support the people of Ukraine and pledged to work with District and Borough Councils along with the Suffolk Resilience Forum, the Voluntary Sector, Suffolk Refugee Support and MPs to ensure all efforts are made to welcome Displaced People coming from Ukraine to Suffolk. The motion went on to praise the Government's economic response to the conflict, but stressed the need for easier and faster routes for refugees wanting to come to this country. Councillor Matthew Hicks, Leader of Suffolk County Council and the proposer of the motion said:

"I am pleased that this motion passed today. At times like these it is absolutely right that we lay down our party political differences and come together as one democratically elected chamber to stand in solidarity with Ukraine and its people. By doing so we send a strong message; that the power of democracy and the innate human desire for freedom will never be silenced by the brutal murder of innocent people by the use of force. We are clear that the people of Ukraine have our full support, and that as a county we will do all we can to help those fleeing this war."

The Homes for Ukraine Scheme Homes for Ukraine – Homes for Ukraine – Local Sponsorship Scheme for Ukraine (campaign.gov.uk) was launched on Monday 14 March to allow individuals, charities, community groups and businesses in the UK to bring Ukrainians to safety – including those with no family ties to the UK.

*What we know so far about the Homes for Ukraine Scheme:

- There will be no limit on the number of Ukrainian refugees who can come to the UK for up to three years
- Refugees will be able to work, claim benefits, and access health and education provisions
- The portal for host households to offer accommodation either in their own homes or separate properties is now live and can be accessed at Homes for Ukraine: register your interest - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
- Arrivals will be split into two waves, with the first being host households who have already linked in with Ukrainian refugees and will submit a joint application, and the second consisting of refugees who have been matched to host households by charities and community groups
- Host households must commit to offering accommodation for a minimum of six months and will be entitled to claim £350 per month as a 'thank you payment' for up to one year
- Safeguarding checks will need to be carried out on adults in the host households
- Any accommodation offered will be assessed for suitability
- Once a host household stops accommodating the refugees, there will be an expectation for local authorities to help the refugees find alternative accommodation

We are still awaiting further detail on:

- How many refugees will be coming to Suffolk or where they will be living
- How the DBS, or enhanced DBS for any households where there will be children or vulnerable adults will operate
- What the criteria is for suitable accommodation to enable Suffolk's local authorities to undertake the required assessments

We are working with partners to put necessary provisions in place for the above and will update you once we have more information about this.

We are conscious of the plight of Ukrainian refugees and want to do all we can to ensure that their arrival into Suffolk goes as smoothly as possible. To assist with this, we are already considering how best to meet the refugees' health and wellbeing needs, what assistance can be provided with school admissions, and how we can offer support to help with integration and ESOL (English for speakers of other languages), particularly if there are lots of people arriving in dispersed, rural locations.

Work currently underway includes:

- A specific multi-agency task group to collaborate on support delivery
- Comms to the public, including regularly updated information on Suffolk County Council's website [Supporting Afghan and Ukrainian refugees | Suffolk County Council](#)
- A dedicated email address (refugeesupport@suffolk.gov.uk) to facilitate information sharing with the public and community groups

- Liaison with government and regional partners

At the moment, we do not have any specific requirements for donated items here in Suffolk. If anyone wishes to do something practical, they could fundraise to raise contributions for charities working to support the refugee response. Details of some of those charities are below:

- To help meet the needs of the Ukraine refugees, you may wish to support national and international charities such as The Red Cross Ukraine Crisis Appeal Ukraine Crisis Appeal | British Red Cross
- Suffolk Refugee Support are our local refugee charity, you can find out about their response to the Ukraine situation on their website Update on Ukrainian refugee situation – Suffolk Refugee Support
- Further information on how to help can be found on the Disasters emergency committee website DEC Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal | Disasters Emergency Committee

We are grateful for your support so far, and our regular updates will include further information on how you and your communities can get involved, as we continue to work together as a county to do all we can to help those fleeing the conflict in Ukraine

Easter activities see youngsters thrive

As the school holidays approach this Easter, there's even more reason for the county's children to have a spring in their step.

Over the next fortnight, more than 5,500 places will be available in Suffolk, via the Government funded Holiday Activities and Food Programme to encourage young people to benefit from a wide range of physical and cultural activities, combined with the offer of a healthy and nutritious meal.

Free activities will be provided for those who are in receipt of free school meals, bringing a wide range of opportunities to learn new skills, develop friendships and get active. In Suffolk, placements are also available for children with additional needs, as well as payable places for other young people wanting to experience the variety of sessions on offer locally.

These opportunities are vital in supporting our young people after a difficult two years. We know that young people were affected significantly by the pandemic, with increased reports of poor mental health, reduction in social development and noticeable reductions in physical activity. This programme is a great way for children from Reception to Year 11 to re-engage with a wide range of fun, positive experiences again after the disruption of lockdowns.

Suffolk was involved in the national pilot for the scheme from 2019, helping shape what the scheme looks like today as it is rolled out across the country. With more than £200m being invested nationally to provide holiday clubs across the Easter, Summer and Christmas periods until the end of 2024, even more children are benefitting from the popular scheme.

Working in partnership with District and Borough Councils, the scheme has seen an increase of providers delivering sessions this Easter, with over 100 organisations

and charities now taking part, creating diverse activities such as outdoor adventure, cooking and swimming right across the county.

The local programme is due to launch in Suffolk from Monday 11 April 2022. Eligible children will have received details through their schools on how to book their places, but more information on the scheme is available at: <https://HAFSuffolk.suffolk.gov.uk>

Violence Against Women and Girls funding announced

Suffolk County Council has today announced £350,000 of funding to support the ambitions set out in the Suffolk Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy 2022.

This fund has been provided by Suffolk County Council to support the work of the strategy in preventing violence, supporting victims, pursuing perpetrators and strengthening the system.

Organisations will be able to apply for this funding to support initiatives that are synonymous with the objectives of the strategy and aim to stop violence against women and girls.

This funding cements our continued commitment to protecting our communities. Our focus for these projects is women and girls, due to the gendered nature of the crimes, but there is also scope to include projects to support men and boys as well as those that are transgender, non-binary, and gender non-conforming. This is a real opportunity to boost funding across Suffolk to harness creativity and innovation to help tackle this very important issue."

The fund is to be launched in partnership with Suffolk Community Foundation. Any organisations wishing to make an application can do so by visiting [Suffolk Community Foundation](https://SuffolkCommunityFoundation.org.uk) or contacting them on grants@suffolkcf.org.uk or 01473 602602.

Organisations can make an application for funding for up to £5,000 for pilot projects or up to £50,000 for projects which have already been piloted. These grants are available for up to 3 years.

Suffolk has launched its 3-year strategy for Violence Against Women and Girls, in line with the Government's plan to reduce and prevent this type of crime, improve collaboration between services and ensure perpetrators are brought to justice. The strategy has been prepared collaboratively by the Safer Stronger Communities Board (SSCB) – consisting of representatives from Suffolk County Council, district and borough councils, Suffolk Constabulary, Suffolk's Police & Crime Commissioner, community safety partnerships, health and probation services, the Norfolk & Suffolk Criminal Justice Board and Suffolk Safeguarding Partnership.

The SSCB have a shared commitment to tackle the incredibly important issue of Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) which includes, but is not limited to, domestic abuse, sexual violence, stalking, coercive and controlling behaviour, and revenge porn – all of which have a devastating impact on victim-survivors, families, and communities.

The Strategy is available to view online at: [Suffolk VAWG Strategy 2022-25](https://SuffolkVAWGStrategy2022-25.org.uk)

Suffolk County Council - Parishes Briefing Note 04/04/22 attached.

Wishing you all a safe and Happy Easter time.

TJ