

February 2022

As you all know the plans to build a new nuclear plant on the Suffolk coast took a significant step last week with the awarding of £100million in new financial support even though we are waiting to hear the outcome of the planning application. This funding would aim to continue development of the project and attract further financing from private investors and if the final go ahead for Sizewell C is given, the government will have the £100m reimbursed with a financial return in cash or an equity stake in the project. The RAB model has also been highlighted and brings some concern and uncertainty to many especially to those already struggling to pay their rising energy costs. As you also know while we continue to wait for decisions to come through, that in the coming months/years we may have to deal with even more additional NSIP applications and examinations to the County which is a massive challenge to all, especially for the areas concerned with even more consultations and pressures on resources.

The Register Your Appliance week prompted me to think about and register my own appliances, I'd urge you do think about doing this as well to help minimise the risk of fire posed by dangerous or faulty products that may have been recalled, more within the report.

Dentaid will be visiting Leiston on Wednesday (2nd February) 10-4pm at the Waterloo Centre, Leiston. It was a pleasure to put some funding into their visit. If you have a project that you would like me to consider then please do send me an email, outlining the details. I have a few to process now but am always keen and happy to help.

Best wishes,
TJ (31.01.22)

Applications welcome for street parties to mark Platinum Jubilee Big Jubilee Lunch – 5th June 2022

To mark such a prestigious achievement for Her Majesty the Queen and to help Jubilee celebrations get underway, we will be waiving fees for events which take place on Sunday 5 June, allowing communities to come together across Suffolk, whether it be a small gathering in a local street, or a larger event, organised by town or parish councils.

On Sunday 6 February 2022, Her Majesty the Queen will celebrate her Platinum Jubilee, marking an incredible 70 years of service. To celebrate this milestone, events will be taking place across the Country, particularly over the four-day Bank Holiday weekend, between 2 and 5 June 2022. This bank holiday gives communities throughout the UK the opportunity to come together and celebrate.

No doubt you will be looking forward to the easing of social distancing measures as we make our way out of the pandemic, and the Jubilee looks set to be the perfect opportunity for you and your neighbours to come together and celebrate after many months of being apart.

For all events on Sunday 5 June 2022, which is being referred to nationally as the 'Big Jubilee Lunch', Suffolk County Council will not be charging fees normally associated with road closures.

As part of the main criteria for a road to be closed, the road must be residential with no through traffic, such as a cul-de-sac, and for only resident traffic will be affected. To be allocated traffic management to assist with an event, all applications must be received before **11pm on Sunday 27 March 2022**. When we refer to 'Traffic management', this consists of five traffic cones, one road closure sign and one advance warning sign, which may be delivered to the chosen drop off point up to Thursday 2 June 2022.

If any applications are received after 11pm on Sunday 27 March 2022, these may still be processed, however Suffolk County Council won't be able to provide traffic management and this will need to be sourced yourself.

To make the process in applying for a closure as easy as possible, we have set up a website with all of the relevant information you need. Whether you're wanting to organise a street party as a group of residents, or as a local authority or for event in a large public space, such as a park. The webpage also includes; street party event criteria, information on insurance and licences, please ensure you visit the page to find out more: **[Apply for a Queen's Platinum Jubilee street party or other public event | Suffolk County Council](#)**.

If anyone has any queries, please contact Suffolk County Council's Customer Services team on 0345 606 6171 or email **customer.services@suffolk.gov.uk**

Time capsule competition encourages Suffolk schools to look back in time for Queen's Platinum Jubilee

Suffolk primary schools have been encouraged to look back over the past seven decades with a new competition to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.



A primary school classroom in Newmarket pre 1974: Suffolk Archives KPF94/25

Suffolk's Key Stage Two classes have been tasked with creating a time capsule to show how their school, students, teachers and community have changed over the Queen's reign.

The winning school will win a visit to The Hold to research and learn about their local area in the archives, and their time capsule will be stored in The Hold's archives for future generations to see.

The finalists will also be showcased at the School Farm and Country Fair, and at the Suffolk Show's "Suffolk - The Platinum Years" display area, which will also feature a recreation of a 1952 classroom.

The entries will be judged by The Lord Lieutenant of Suffolk, Clare, Countess of Euston, Kate Chantry – Strategic Manager of Suffolk Archives, and David Barker, MBE, current Suffolk Agricultural Association's President. The competition is also part of the Festival of Suffolk to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

We want local schools to help us to celebrate education in Suffolk during the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations at the Suffolk Show. This competition is a great opportunity to get pupils to engage with their local history, and have the results of their research preserved in The Hold for the future. Schools' visits and resources are an important part of the service that Suffolk Archives offers to help support learning and bring history to life.

The Association, who organise the Suffolk Show, has long been involved in educating school aged children about food, farming and environment and it is only too fitting that we support a project where Suffolk pupils research and understand the county's history and present it in a fun way for future generations to discover and explore.

The competition is partly funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, as part of Suffolk Archives' engagement projects with communities across Suffolk.



All the details of how to enter can be found at: www.suffolkarchives.co.uk/education/time-capsule/. If schools have any queries they can contact Hannah Woods, Show and Education Projects Lead, by emailing: hannah.woods@suffolkshow.co.uk.

Schools need to express an interest in taking part by 11 February 2022, but have until 25 March 2022 to deliver their entries. Winners will be announced by 1 April 2022.

Warm Homes Suffolk Fund to heat up cold homes this winter

Residents can cut energy costs and reduce their carbon

Suffolk residents who are struggling to keep their homes warm, can contact a new project which offers funding and free advice at www.warmhomessuffolk.org.

Suffolk's councils have joined together to establish Warm Homes Suffolk, which launches today. The team will be on hand to offer expert advice on reducing energy bills, energy usage and identify benefits that residents may be entitled to, to help keep their homes warm.

The work of Warm Homes Suffolk will also help the county towards its target of Net Zero by 2030, as the project aims to better insulate homes and provide more efficient heating, meaning less carbon is released into the atmosphere.

A successful bid was made to the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS) for £2.7 million pounds of funding to run Warm Homes Suffolk - The Warm Feeling Fund. This is part of the Government's (Local Authority Delivery phase two) LAD2 Scheme, designed to improve the energy efficiency of Britain's homes.

The bid was led by Suffolk County Council, on behalf of all councils in the county.

Councillor Andy Drummond, Chair of the Suffolk Environment Cabinet Members group, said:

“With an imminent spike in energy costs for all households, Suffolk’s authorities have joined together to offer valuable support and advice to residents. We want to assure people that help is out there, so that you don’t have to live in a cold house, or become unwell, by worrying about your energy bills.

“If you, or anyone you know is having difficulty heating their home, or is concerned about their energy bills, please get in touch with Warm Homes Suffolk.”

For eligible residents, the scheme can offer a range of home upgrades, including cavity, loft and external insulation, installation of solar photovoltaic systems and switching central heating to more efficient low carbon heat pumps.

The scheme is available to homeowners, those renting and landlords. There are some conditions to meet before being able to access funding, which is aimed at residents who are:

- earning under £30,000 per annum
- currently receiving benefits (or think you may be eligible)
- living in homes with a low energy rating

If you are a landlord with tenants and property that meet the above criteria, then you could receive a subsidy of up to two-thirds for work which improves the energy efficiency of your property, up to the value of £5,000.

More details and further information about eligibility can be found in the on the Warm Home Suffolk website www.warmhomessuffolk.org, or by calling **03456 037 686**. Lines are open Monday to Friday between 9am and 4pm.

Suffolk places co-production at the heart of its strategy of support for adults with learning disabilities

The Suffolk Learning Disability Partnership has co-produced a refresh of the Suffolk Joint Learning Disability Strategy.

The Suffolk Learning Disability Partnership, an independent group of self-advocates, family carers, health and social care commissioners, police, Healthwatch Suffolk, voluntary organisations and housing providers, has co-produced a refresh of the Suffolk Joint Learning Disability Strategy. The strategy aims to ensure that people with learning disabilities live good lives as part of their community with the right support, at the right time, from the right people. The original strategy was launched in

2015 and has helped to identify and explore specific needs, and given people and their families a voice in the development and commissioning of new services.

The refresh has placed the concept of co-production at its heart. Co-production means people, carers and professionals working together as equal partners to: design, develop, commission, deliver and review services, information and advice. This strategy reinforces the belief that services designed with input from the people they seek to support, are better suited to deliver upon their needs. Beyond more opportunities for co-production in the development of new services, the strategy also acknowledges the opportunities for people with learning disabilities and autism to make use of new technologies and digital solutions to enhance accessibility to services, as well as improving and increasing information and communication and providing good advocacy and support.

Mark a Self-Advocate from Ace Anglia said:

"Being part of the Strategy enables me to feed in My Voice and my personal experiences and speak up about issues that are important to me. The Learning Disability Strategy gives me a place where I can work in co-production and am treated as an equal where my views and opinions are respected and listened to."

Joel, another Self-Advocate from Ace Anglia said:

"It is really important for people with Learning Disabilities to understand and be part of the future moving forward in Suffolk. My Voice is very important, and we must encourage other people with learning disabilities to come on board and be part of the future."

Kate and Phil, both family carers for people with learning disabilities said:

"Working together to support people to live good lives – caring is what makes the Suffolk Learning Disability Strategy powerful for parents, families and carers, and being listened to. The commitment of everyone to the strategy vision and test is the essential reassurance that our family members are cared for and cared about and are living their lives fully, independently and as part of our families."

Councillor Beccy Hopfensperger, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, said:

"I would like to thank all those people, carers, organisations and others who have worked together to help refresh this important strategy for Suffolk, especially given the recent challenges of the pandemic. I agree entirely with the vision, that people with learning disabilities should be able to live good lives within communities with the right support. I hope this strategy will help us continue to work together to develop services which further support this vision."

Wendy Scott, Head of Quality: Mental Health, Learning Disability and Autism at both West Suffolk and Ipswich and East Suffolk Clinical Commissioning Groups said:

"It's great to be part of, and to have the Suffolk Learning Disability Strategy. Our values for coproduction as equal partners support the Suffolk system to reduce inequalities, improving health and wellbeing"

Council's Net Zero ambitions aim high with first-ever full carbon budget and biodiversity commitment

Suffolk County Council has published proposals for its first-ever full carbon budget, as it strives to be a Net Zero organisation by 2030.

- Inaugural full carbon budget to be presented alongside financial budget
- Policy to enhance biodiversity across 30% of Suffolk County Council's estate

The Net Zero Carbon Budget will allow the council to measure its carbon emissions, and monitor and evaluate the impact of decisions it makes. This will mean it can report each year on its progress, tracking its ambitions towards Net Zero.

There are many activities which the council will monitor, from the energy used powering its buildings to the miles travelled by council workers, from the waste it disposes to the fuel used to run buses and gritters.

Councillor Richard Rout, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Environment at Suffolk County Council, said:

“This is an historic budget – the first full budget of its kind that the council has ever produced. Becoming a Net Zero organisation by 2030 is incredibly ambitious, but I’m committed to doing everything we can to realise that vision.

“It’s incredibly challenging to have an exact figure for every last gram of CO2 that the council emits. But our officers have worked incredibly hard to collate data so far, giving us a baseline against which we can measure our future emissions. We’ll continue to improve how we gather this data so that we can see our progress to Net Zero by 2030.

“The pandemic has also changed many of our routines, not least around travel and working from home. During 2021/22 we estimate that council workers saw a reduction of about 1.5 million miles commuting in their own vehicles, and around 1,800 working weeks of driving. We will continue to learn as we look to new ways of working at the council.”

Suffolk County Council recently announced a £12.8 million investment to begin decarbonising the buildings that it owns, reducing emissions and making them cheaper to run. We have a history of providing dedicated investment to improve the energy efficiency of our buildings and services. This has led to reductions in carbon emissions in recent years, through projects such as replacing fossil fuel boilers with bio-mass units, installing solar panels and solar hot water systems, rainwater harvesting, updating lighting and improving insulation.

Growing Suffolk’s Biodiversity

Proposals have also been published which would see Suffolk County Council enhance the biodiversity value of at least 30% of its land and assets by 2030.

It would also see the council working with partners, communities and landowners to help substantially reverse the decline of biodiversity across Suffolk.

The proposed policy is a result of the work undertaken by the Policy Development Panel (PDP) which was set up in July 2021.

Councillor Rout said:

“We want to grow Suffolk’s biodiversity, using our role as a significant landowner and as the highway authority to help wildlife to thrive and to support nature’s recovery. We want to extend the great work already going on through our protected landscapes and projects, such as our Roadside Nature Reserves, to increase habitats and species across the county.

“We will ensure we manage our highway verges for biodiversity wherever we can and support our county farm tenants to enhance biodiversity across our farm estate, as we have done through planting around twenty kilometres of mixed species hedgerows over the last two years. We will also deliver twice the biodiversity net gain required through our housing programme and work with our partners and local communities to enhance biodiversity on our properties.

“There is a clear link with our Net Zero ambitions for the county, with Suffolk’s nature being an integral part of the carbon cycle. I want to ensure that the council is doing everything it can to support nature in the fight to slow climate change, and to show leadership in Suffolk in the way that we look after our natural environment.”

The policy proposal includes ambitions which stretch across the whole organisation, from looking at how it manages highway trees to the impact of street lighting, from how it procures goods and services to the potential nature-based flood management solutions.

The Net Zero Carbon Budget proposal will be presented at the Cabinet meeting on 1 February 2022 and discussed at the Full Council meeting on 17 February 2022. The Biodiversity PDP proposal will be presented at the Cabinet meeting on 1 February 2022 and can be immediately implemented if agreed.

Keeping Suffolk safe from scams

As we find ourselves saying goodbye to what seems like a forever January, many of us will be having varying degrees of success with sticking to our New Year’s resolutions, be these moving more, learning a new language or giving healthy eating a go.

Of course, one of the most important resolutions that we should all hold is to stay savvy about scams throughout 2022 and beyond.

These are, unfortunately, on the rise. Action Fraud received 413,553 reports of fraud in the UK between April 2020 and March 2021; an increase of 33% from the previous year. More than £2.3 billion was lost by victims as a result, although this is likely to just be the tip of the iceberg, as many will have felt too scared or ashamed to report and others will be completely unaware that they have been duped.

Some of the rise in cases of fraud can be directly attributed to scammers capitalising on Covid, with new cons cropping up even now, almost two years into the pandemic.

Scams include texts, emails, or phone calls supposedly from the NHS or your GP, requesting payment for the Covid-19 vaccination or the Covid-19 Pass. Although these can often appear genuine, the NHS will never ask you to pay for the vaccine or Pass, or to provide your bank account or card details.

Our Trading Standards team have also received reports of fraudsters selling face coverings or hand sanitiser online which either never arrives or, worse still, doesn’t comply with safety standards. Whilst internet shopping has been a lifeline for many during the pandemic, care should be taken when making any purchases online.

Beat the cyber crooks by only shopping at reputable retailers and doing your research first; try to make sure that they’re legitimate if you haven’t purchased anything online from them previously. This can be done by using independent review websites such as Trust Pilot: [uk.trustpilot.com](https://www.trustpilot.com) to search for customer feedback on a retailer before buying anything from them.

Paying for items using a credit card is another great way to help you shop safely, as any individual item costing over £100 and up to £30,000 will be covered by section 75 of the Consumer Credit Act. This means that the credit card company has equal responsibility (or 'liability') with the seller if there's a problem with your purchase or the company you've bought it from fails.

It's also worth remembering that if a deal looks too good to be true, it probably is. Whilst I appreciate that everyone loves a bargain, no discount is ever worth the dangerous consequences of items which haven't been adequately tested.

We are not immune to this in Suffolk. Since April last year, our Imports Surveillance team, working at the port of Felixstowe, have discovered over 15,000 unsafe and non-compliant e-scooters trying to make their way into the country.

Many of these were refused entry into the UK or destroyed at the border, to ensure the safety of consumers, after a high quantity had no labelling or technical documentation to show they complied with the relevant UK safety standards.

With dodgy electrical items like these, it's not just money that you risk losing, but your life as they can, in severe cases, cause fire or serious injury.

Only buying genuine products from trusted retailers, rather than third-party selling sites, will really help to protect you and your family. I'd also urge you to reduce the risk of fires in the home further by registering your electrical appliances to enable the manufacturer to contact you in the event of a product safety recall.

Our council is proud to support Register My Appliance Week, which began yesterday, with more information on this available at www.suffolk.gov.uk/news.

You can also keep up to date on all dangerous product recalls, including those for food and toys, by visiting www.suffolk.gov.uk/jointhefight and signing up to receive a free weekly email alert on this and scams, as a Trading Standards Consumer Champion.

Further advice on scams currently being seen in Suffolk is available on Trading Standards' Facebook page (www.facebook.com/SuffolkTradingStandards) and Twitter account (twitter.com/SuffolkTS) so if you're not already doing so, give them a follow, as this could prevent you from falling victim to fraudsters.

If you want to stop others from being scammed, sign up to become a Friend Against Scams at: www.friendsagainstscams.org.uk/. This will empower you to spot the signs of scams and take a stand against these. It doesn't require much of your time and will help to protect not just you and your loved ones, but also the wider community – making it the perfect way to give something back this year.

Although scams may be on the rise, if we all work together, we can stop fraudsters in their tracks and ensure that Suffolk continues to be a safe place that everyone is proud to call home.

Suffolk proudly supported “Register My Appliance Week”

Residents urged to make their homes safer by registering their appliances

We all rely hugely on our fridges, washing machines and microwaves for keeping our busy lives on track, but would your appliance manufacturer know which machines you have and where to find you if a fault came to light with your model?

The answer is 'no' for some 100 million appliances, according to recent research. But this could all be remedied by people taking a few minutes to register their much-loved items.

The "Register My Appliance Week" – took place in January – but Suffolk County Council continue to urge the public to register their many treasured appliances that, unlike our cars, are still off the radar if a free safety repair is ever needed.

This is more important than ever, as it's estimated that we are now running over 212 million essential appliances to cook, wash clothes and dishes, clean floors and store our food.

While the recent increase in online purchasing (reportedly soaring as high as 70%) and the advent of smart appliances will all help to improve traceability, research found that 49% of us have never registered a product, leaving millions of large and mid-sized older machines totally untraceable.

As part of the Fire Kills Campaign, Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service, along with Suffolk Trading Standards, is encouraging people to make their homes safer by registering machines at registermyappliance.org.uk.

We all aim to keep our appliances running efficiently for many years, benefitting both our wallets and the environment. This places an important emphasis on the maintenance and registration of machines – helping them to last longer, whilst also ensuring the safety of users. Registering an appliance can be easily done regardless of whether this was already in situ at a property when you moved in, bought second-hand, or installed many years ago, as you don't need to have a receipt or know exactly when the item was first purchased.

Register My Appliance is a web portal developed by the Association of Manufacturers of Domestic Appliances (AMDEA) to improve ownership data by making it quicker and easier for householders to register old and new appliances.

Offering access to over 60 of the nation's leading brands, the vast majority of manufacturers on the site welcome registration of products up to 12 years old or even older.

Handy tips guide the user through how to find the important model details, meaning all the user needs to supply is their name and address. This data then goes directly to the manufacturer for use exclusively in case of a recall.

To increase safety and the life of appliances the Register My Appliance portal also offers:

- A listing of appliance safety repairs and recalls
- Hints and tips on household safety
- Recommendations for appliance care

Council prepares budgets for its finances and the environment

(Published online and newspapers 12 Jan 2022 RR)

For the first time in its history, Suffolk County Council will be presented with TWO budgets at its Full Council meeting in February.

One of these budgets is the Financial Budget, which has been a regular feature of Full Council meetings ahead of the new financial year. This is where Cllr Rout presents how we propose to generate and spend money to provide the best possible services for everyone in Suffolk.

But this year, for the first time, a detailed Carbon Budget will also be presented. This is an important step, as it will allow the Council to monitor its progress against our ambitious target of being a Net Zero organisation by 2030.

More about the Carbon Budget shortly, but first, the Financial Budget – what the last year has been like, what pressures the council is under, and how you will play a key role to enable the council to provide and invest in the services that many residents need to access.

It has been a very difficult budget to consider, especially with Covid continuing to make life challenging on every level, both professionally and personally. This is true of the council's finances too - we also continue to face rising costs. In addition, the demands on our services have hugely increased, particularly for our adult care and children's services.

The pandemic continues to have a big impact on our aim to help everyone stay active, healthy and lead independent lives – as well as supporting those with more complex needs, by providing social care, through our amazing team of care workers.

Covid has brought challenges to the services we provide to children and families, from childcare to supporting young children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). Thanks our teams that have worked tirelessly to ensure children and families have been supported during this time.

For example, we propose to increase our family services budget by £1.1m from next year, to specifically address the recommendations made by the recent independent SEND review – this is in addition to our previous commitment of £45m to develop SEND provision.

In the public consultation we ran at the end of 2021, you told us that highways and the environment were your top priorities, after children's services and adult care.

We plan to invest in these areas, for example an additional £1m over the next four years, to be spent on things like road signs and responsible verge cutting. Over the next 3 years, we have also committed to £10m to specifically deliver an increasing number of drainage schemes, and £10m to improve footpath quality and access. There will also be a £12.8m investment to decarbonise the buildings that we own.

To maintain the services we provide, and to invest further, we will be asking you for an extra 1.99% in Council Tax and an additional 1% in Adult Social Care Precept. We did have the option of asking for another 1% on top of these increases but decided against this as we believe that the lower amount will be sufficient to provide a balanced budget, with no need to reduce any of our services.

If you live in a Band B property – the most common type of property in Suffolk – this works out an additional £0.62 per week, compared to your bill last year.

In our public consultation, there were more people who agreed that council tax would need to go up, compared to those that didn't. This was especially true for funding

adult care. By paying this extra each week, we are all helping the council to provide its key services and supporting those who need it most.

As mentioned, on 17th February we will also be presenting Suffolk County Council's first ever Carbon Budget. We want to be a Net Zero organisation by 2030 -this means reducing our impact on climate change where we can. We do this by reducing our carbon emissions as much as possible, for example making our buildings more efficient, procuring goods and services from suppliers who have a similar Net Zero ambition, moving our vehicles over to electric, and investing in our environment.

A Net Zero Carbon Budget for the council enables us to evaluate the impact of decisions we take. It provides a baseline for measurement every year, against which we can track our progress.

The budget etc goes to Cabinet tomorrow afternoon, the link for that meeting and others are on the website.