

Our wonderful county always has so much it can be proud off not just on Suffolk Day

Suffolk Day, the longest day of the year become the day we celebrate everything that is great about our county.

We have so much to be proud of in our community and in Suffolk, and after two very different Suffolk Days in 2020 and 2021, we joined together again and celebrate all that makes Suffolk great. This year Suffolk Day was also part of the Festival of Suffolk, to mark The Queen's Platinum Jubilee, and it was fantastic to see so many people hosting street parties and other community events to recognise this historic event.

The proclamation of Suffolk Day was read outside Framlingham Castle, where many of our county's mayors gathered outside the famous Castle on the Hill.

Mark Murphy was inspired in 2016 to set up an annual event to recognise everything that makes Suffolk great. Since then, Suffolk County Council has supported Suffolk Day. One of the ways we continue to do this is by looking after www.suffolkday.co.uk, we were able to launch a new version of the website in time for this year's celebration.

Suffolk Day is not just about our wonderful places, but also our incredible people, including those who work tirelessly to protect our county's residents.

.... Many of these people have and continue to work hard regarding the energy projects and outcomes. It is not long until we hear the decision regarding Sizewell C and as you know Council objects to Norwich to Tilbury pylon proposals. We must continue to work together regarding the projects, consultations and do what we can so that our parts of Suffolk remain great for many future Suffolk Days and generations that follow....

Suffolk County Council has confirmed its intention to object to the proposals for National Grid's East Anglia GREEN pylon run.

A new network is needed to deliver electricity between Norwich, Bramford and Tilbury, to cope with the increasing amounts of renewable and low carbon electricity being generated around East Anglia.

This is National Grid's East Anglia GREEN proposal, which would see many pylons installed across the county, affecting the Suffolk countryside and its communities.

But the council does not support this proposal as it stands. It believes that there are better ways to manage the project, for example involving an undersea network which has not been fully investigated.

The council has been campaigning for government ministers and officials to introduce a more co-ordinated off-shore approach to meet the demands of all the energy projects in the region.

Councillor Richard Rout, Suffolk County Council's Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance & Environment, has written to the Minister of State for Business, Energy and Clean Growth:

"The council absolutely supports ambitions for renewable energy and the government's commitment to meet the target of Net Zero by 2050. We recognise the benefits that can come from this project, and we continue to work with the government to develop coordinated off-shore transmission.

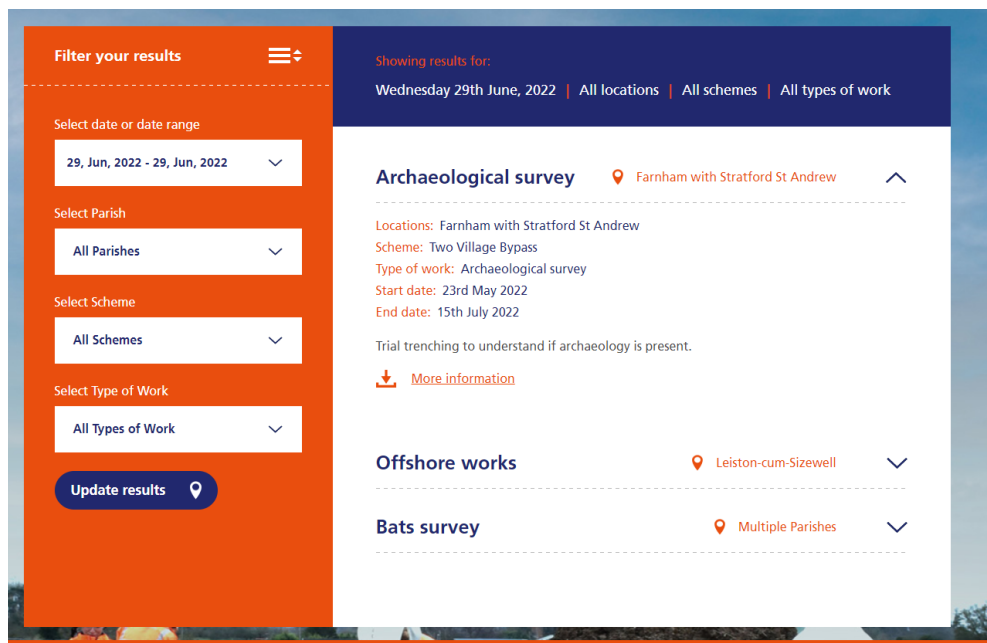
"However, the council objects to the proposal for National Grid's East Anglia GREEN as it stands. I am determined that Suffolk will not suffer unnecessarily as a consequence, we will continue to protect our communities, residents and natural environment.

"Suffolk County Council has been lobbying government for 11 years on the issue of better coordination for off-shore transmission. We are demanding that a more collaborative solution is found to manage the different network connection requirements coming into Suffolk and East Anglia, and that all network options are fully explored.

“Alongside other regional councillors and MPs, through our OffSET group (the Off-Shore Electricity Grid Task Force), we regularly speak with government ministers and officials to express our concerns about the impact of these projects on Suffolk, and East Anglia. I wrote directly to the Minister, to continue to represent Suffolk’s communities and residents, to re-emphasise the recent points made by OffSET.”

For those that are not aware (I don’t expect any of you aren’t) there is the Sizewell C tracker website which is useful to keep updated <https://www.szcworkstracker.co.uk/>

Presently:



The screenshot shows the Sizewell C tracker website interface. On the left is an orange sidebar with filter options: 'Filter your results' (with a menu icon), 'Select date or date range' (set to '29, Jun, 2022 - 29, Jun, 2022'), 'Select Parish' (set to 'All Parishes'), 'Select Scheme' (set to 'All Schemes'), and 'Select Type of Work' (set to 'All Types of Work'). Below these is a blue 'Update results' button with a location pin icon. The main content area has a dark blue header 'Showing results for:' followed by filters: 'Wednesday 29th June, 2022', 'All locations', 'All schemes', and 'All types of work'. Below this, three results are listed: 'Archaeological survey' (location: Farnham with Stratford St Andrew), 'Offshore works' (location: Leiston-cum-Sizewell), and 'Bats survey' (location: Multiple Parishes). The 'Archaeological survey' result is expanded, showing details: 'Locations: Farnham with Stratford St Andrew', 'Scheme: Two Village Bypass', 'Type of work: Archaeological survey', 'Start date: 23rd May 2022', 'End date: 15th July 2022', and a description 'Trial trenching to understand if archaeology is present.' with a 'More information' link.

Fire service seeks riders for upcoming charity cycle

Suffolk residents can show their support for firefighters by signing up to this year’s Fire Ride cycling challenge, taking place on Sunday 10 July.



The event is in its 9th year, having been started by Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service in 2013 in aid of The Fire Fighters Charity, with a minimum of £17 from each entrance fee – which is £20 in advance or £30 on the day – going directly to the charity to enable them to continue to be there for fire service staff in their hour of need.

A choice of rides is available, as participants can select from either a 50 or 100km route, making it perfect for new cyclists, those looking to get back into the saddle or seasoned pros.

Riders will set off from Ipswich East Fire Station at Ransomes Europark before taking in Suffolk’s stunning scenery as they travel through Brightwell, Earl Soham, Framlingham, Wickham Market, Woodbridge, Newbourne and Levington.

Jon Lacey, Chief Fire Officer for Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service, said:

“It’s fantastic news that the Fire Ride is back again, and I hope that we can make this year’s cycle bigger and better than ever. As well as being a really fun event, it’s also set to raise some vital funds for The Fire Fighters Charity, who offer personalised support to both former and serving fire staff, and their

loved ones, to help with their physical and mental health, as well as any other difficulties that they may face. If you'd like to show your thanks to the fire service for doing all it can to protect you, signing up to take part in the ride is a brilliant way to lend your support and will be much appreciated by me and my colleagues."

On completion of the cycle, limited edition finishers medals will be awarded, and refreshments will be served by the Salvation Army. The friends and families of participants are also invited to stay for a drink and take a behind the scenes tour of Ipswich East Fire Station – making it a great day out for both cyclists and spectators.

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

"Cycling is a wonderful way to keep fit and supports our council's ambition to look after the health and wellbeing of the people of Suffolk. Our county was fortunate enough to host the Women's Tour recently, which I hope will have inspired people to take up their own challenge and give this year's Fire Ride a go. It doesn't matter whether you're just starting out, or are a champion cyclist, please do get on your bike in aid of a very worthy cause. I know that a lot of work has gone on to stage this event and I'd like to thank everyone from Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service involved in its organisation."

Find out more at [Suffolk Fire Ride](https://www.suffolkfireride.co.uk/). <https://www.suffolkfireride.co.uk/>

Suffolk launches £150,000 Match Funder scheme for community action on the climate emergency

A £150,000 fund has been opened to applications from not-for-profit organisations looking to deliver community-based carbon reduction projects in Suffolk.



The Suffolk Climate Action Community Match Fund will be provided by the Suffolk Public Sector Leaders group as part of its work to address the climate emergency.

The new fund is available to charities, community interest companies, parish councils, voluntary groups and other not-for-profit organisations whose projects contribute to Suffolk's Climate Emergency Plan and support our vision for Suffolk to become carbon neutral by 2030.

The projects funded could include improving the energy efficiency of buildings, promoting walking and cycling, using sustainable/recycled materials, or raising awareness of climate change through events, among others.

The fund will support up to 50% of costs (up to a maximum of £10,000) for projects that can demonstrate support from others in the community in the form of contributions from multiple other sponsors for the remaining project costs.

Community fundraising platforms online can be a great way of promoting a project and drawing in donations from sponsors; once sufficient community sponsorship has been raised, a full application to the Match Funder scheme can then be submitted.

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

"I'm thrilled that with the launch of the Suffolk Climate Action Community Match Fund we can support local projects seeking to address the climate emergency in Suffolk. Collective action is needed if we are to achieve carbon neutrality in Suffolk by 2030. That is why it's vital that we not only pursue net zero strategies within our own organisations but also empower local people and groups to take environmental action within their own communities."

To register an initial expression of interest for your project, to check that your project is eligible for the Match Funder scheme, or if you are developing an idea and need some advice, please contact David Walton by email at david.walton@suffolk.gov.uk

[Read more about the fund on the Green Suffolk website](#)

Suffolk company pleads guilty to fire risk offences

A Beccles-based business has pleaded guilty to failing to comply with a Prohibition Notice issued by Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service last year.

Mallard Enterprises Ltd is responsible for managing the use of Worlingham Hall, a Grade I listed heritage property of historical importance in Suffolk, used as a wedding and events venue and for holiday lets.

Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) issued the company with a Prohibition Notice in April 2021 to prevent sleeping at the premises as the fire safety measures were not considered adequate.

Officers from SFRS's Protection team attended Worlingham Hall last September to check compliance of the Prohibition Notice, to find that Mallard Enterprises Ltd were in breach of the notice as a wedding was taking place. This was allowed to go ahead following additional measures being put in place at the request of the fire service, including a waking watch for guests staying at the property overnight.

Mallard Enterprises Ltd admitted to three recorded breaches of the notice during 2021, along with four other fire safety offences, which included failing to:

- undertake a risk assessment
- make arrangements for the effective planning, organisation and monitoring of preventive/protective measures in event of fire
- equip premises with appropriate fire-fighting equipment, detectors, and alarms
- comply with requirements to safeguard in event of fire

Jon Lacey, Chief Fire Officer for Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service, commented:

“Our Protection team remains committed to working with businesses across Suffolk to ensure that they meet fire regulations and are looking after the safety of their customers. Mallard Enterprises Ltd could not demonstrate that they were doing so, leading to the issue of the Prohibition Notice and an opportunity for them to rectify our serious concerns about fire safety. Unfortunately, the company had no regard to the risk of death or serious injury posed to the public, leaving us with no option but to seek a prosecution, which I'm pleased was successful.”

When given the opportunity to come clean about any further offences, Mallard Enterprises Ltd asked for an additional 11 breaches of the Prohibition Notice to be taken into consideration. The company has since completed the necessary fire safety work at Worlingham Hall to enable the premises to be used for sleeping.

Cllr Andrew Reid, Cabinet Member for Public Health and Public Protection, said:

“This prosecution demonstrates the consequences of ignoring safety legislation, which I hope will serve as a warning to any business who has not made adequate arrangements to protect their customers from fire. Thanks to the tireless work of our Protection team, the dangerous actions of a popular wedding and events venue have come to light and been stopped, potentially saving hundreds of lives. I am immensely grateful to our fire service for securing a guilty plea, and for their continued efforts to look after the health and wellbeing of Suffolk's residents.”

Sentencing of Mallard Enterprises Ltd will take place at Ipswich Magistrates Court at a later date.

Suffolk leading the way in UK's water conservation

New scheme based in Felixstowe reuses over 800,000 tonnes of water.



Since its launch in February 2021 a unique scheme to the UK, based in Felixstowe, has saved over 800,000 tonnes of water being lost to the North Sea - and reused it to grow Suffolk crops.

Drainage water has traditionally been pumped away to the River Deben and North Sea, damaging saltmarsh along the way. Instead, it is now pumped back inland, conserving the saltmarsh and refilling 14 reservoirs, which six local farms are using to irrigate their crops.

Last week (9-10 June 2022) local landowners and national organisations were invited to visit the site, to hear first-hand from the scheme's operators, Felixstowe Hydrocycle, and from farmers who are benefitting from the scheme.

Organised by Suffolk County Council, working with the Environment Agency and University of East Anglia as key partners of the project, the event aimed to inspire more schemes to be trialled around Suffolk, the UK and Europe.

One of the local beneficiaries of the project is Home Farm Nacton's Director, Andrew Williams:

"The attraction of this project was affordable and sustainable water. All the landowners are of a similar mindset, they understand that we've all got to get our share of this water. It's a project for the future, but even last year when water was pumped into us as our reservoirs went down, it gives you the confidence that you can get through the season and give the crops everything they need – it's already been extremely beneficial."

Councillor Steve Wiles, County Councillor for Felixstowe Coastal and Suffolk County Council's Deputy Cabinet Member for Highways, said:

"I'm extremely proud that Suffolk and the council is a national leader with projects like this. I'm grateful for the vision and commitment shown by all the partners and landowners who are making this a success.

"Our region is a dry place and already faces challenges with its water supply – it's estimated that by 2050 we'll need to double our supply if we continue to use water at the current rate. Any way that we can conserve water is crucial and if we can do this whilst supporting our farmers and landowners, then it reaffirms Suffolk's importance to providing for the UK.

"This project epitomises the council's ambition to protect and enhance our environment. It also complements our aim for the authority, and Suffolk, to be Net Zero by 2030. Sustainable projects like this really do confirm how Suffolk can be the greenest county."



The Felixstowe scheme is one of only four being trialled across Europe, overseen by FRESH4Cs, a cooperation project between 10 UK, Belgian and Dutch partners. FRESH4Cs has received funding from the Interreg 2 Seas programme 2014-2020 co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund.

The drainage water is sourced from the Kingsfleet near Felixstowe and travels along a 12km pipeline to local farms where it is stored in existing reservoirs ready for irrigation. The pipeline route has been carefully plotted to avoid areas of conservation and archaeological sites.

Bastiaan Notebaert, water innovator at the Belgian organisation, Vlakwa, and FRESH4Cs lead partner, said:

“This project has the potential to change the way we use our freshwater supplies and will particularly benefit farmers and their communities. We aim to provide sustainable freshwater supplies to coastal areas across Europe by trialling schemes, such as this one in Felixstowe. I’d like to thank all the partners in Suffolk for embracing this innovation and being part of something ground-breaking for our natural environment and for future generations.”

Extra funding agreed by Cabinet to fund new SEND places

Funding for second phase of £45 million five year project agreed by Cabinet.

Suffolk County Council’s Cabinet has agreed an additional £15.9million to complete the funding for the creation of at least 879 specialist places for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities.

This money marks the second phase of a £45million five-year project to deliver specialist provision for SEND students in Suffolk. These places include units attached to mainstream schools and three new special schools.

So far, 500 new places have opened across the county, with another 325 due to open between September 2022 and September 2024 under phase 1. The additional money will enable the completion of phase 2 of the project, and the creation of between 54 to 72 new places, depending on design and planning.

The new SEND places support the growing number of children and young people in Suffolk who need specialist help at school. Between September 2021 and May 2022 there have been 1,333 referrals for specialist placements for children currently in mainstream schools.

Rachel Hood, Cabinet member for education, SEND and skills at Suffolk County Council, said:

“I have had the privilege of visiting some of these new units and seeing first-hand the significant difference they make to children and young people and their families. It is vital that we continue to increase not only the numbers of places we offer, but also the mix of help and support we offer so we can continue to meet the varied need of lots of young people. This significant investment shows our ongoing commitment to improving our SEND provision and making sure all children and young people in Suffolk have the best education to suit their needs.”

Plans for new SEND places under phase 3 will come before Cabinet from September. The newly-approved £15.9million includes £6million to complete phase 2, £4.6million to cover overspend and a grant from the Department for Education of £5.3million.

The special schools include Castle EAST, a new communication and interaction school in north Suffolk; a new social, emotional and mental health school in west Suffolk named Sir Peter Hall; and a communication and interaction school in south Suffolk, Woodbridge Road Academy.

Successful communities awarded £6.4m to ‘Reclaim the Rain’ and tackle flooding

Norfolk and Suffolk County Council’s joint Reclaim the Rain project, which aims to implement innovative and sustainable water management projects, progresses.



The Norfolk and Suffolk County Council's joint Reclaim the Rain project, which aims to implement innovative and sustainable water management projects progresses as six communities are selected across both counties.

The project team received 37 formal applications from communities keen to be involved in Reclaim the Rain. These applications were carefully considered and whittled down to three communities in Suffolk and three in Norfolk.

The three chosen communities in Suffolk are:

- Boxford – this community displayed a strong interest in sustainable water management and ways in which the community could be more involved with water management.
- **Friston** – who are exploring innovative ways of resolving long-standing hard-to-resolve flood issues.
- Little Blakenham – they identified some excellent opportunities to work with upstream landowners, allowing them to have a more proactive approach in managing flood water running off their land.

The selection process was based on various factors, including each community's vulnerability to surface water flooding, water resource needs, rurality and the likelihood of attracting funding outside of our project.

In the coming months, Reclaim the Rain will be working closely with these communities to develop projects which maximise the opportunities to manage risks from both flooding and droughts. The overall project objective is to identify new ways of working that can be learnt from and evidenced to inform and influence future policy, approaches to, and investments in how flood risk is managed nationally in the coming years.

Norfolk and Suffolk both face considerable surface water flood risk, while also being the driest region in the UK. The project will aim to store flood water and make it available for use by agriculture, industry, communities, and the environment.

The project will involve both partner organisations and the community in the development of suitable flood water reuse schemes. The schemes will address the community's needs in terms of flood risk and water resource requirements, and could result in provision of:

- Habitat creation and restoration;
- Irrigation reservoir recharge
- Rainwater Capture and Reuse for community, agriculture or business use;
- Retrofitted SuDS;
- Smart Leaky Water Butts
- Rain Gardens and more

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

“Flooding is a very real and challenging issue across many areas in Suffolk and there is much we are doing to minimise the risk for our residents. This project will take our efforts to the next level by working with six case study communities to capture that excess water and put it to good use. We live in the driest part of the UK, so every drop that falls on it is precious – any way that we can find a more sustainable use for this water will benefit us now and in years to come.

I am excited by the announcement of Boxford, Little Blakenham and Friston as Suffolk's chosen communities, and congratulate officers and selected communities across the two counties, in what will no doubt be a fascinating and innovative 6-year programme."

Mary Shipman, Friston Parish Councillor, said:

"Friston is excited and honoured to be working with Reclaim the Rain on a project that could change the way we look at rainwater. In future, instead of worrying about where the water will end up, we'll be looking forward to the next deluge so we can put it to good use in the village!"

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Please note that I am on annual leave, I have not received notice of the next energy briefing but will take a form of communication away with me in case notifications are received.

Very best wishes and many thanks

TJ