

## November 2024 Parish Report East Suffolk Council GLI Group – Councillor Update

In November I attended three parish council meetings and undertook quite a lot of casework to do with roads and flooding – despite this being a County matter it seems that the District Council gets heard more effectively when we complain!

I have been very busy with the setting of the budget for next year as well as undertaking a review of one element of my portfolio, which is parking fees and charges. The council faces higher budget pressure next year than it has ever faced, and the Labour building proposals are of great concern to us – as well as the council reorganisation proposals – and these have kept us busy with figuring out how to resist overbearing national legislation.

If I don't see you in the next ten days have a very merry holiday season and I wish you all a prosperous 2025!

Tim x

*'Tis the season to reduce, reuse and recycle*

### **Regift unwanted items**

Regifting can also include homemade crafts or upcycled items. Need some craft inspiration? [Check out these ideas.](#)

### **Gift experiences, not things**

Instead of physical gifts, consider giving experiences!

Find more inspiration with [The Suffolk Coast.](#)

### **Buy pre-loved**

One of the best ways to support the circular economy is by buying pre-loved gifts.

East Suffolk has many fantastic charity shops for you to explore. [Find your nearest ones.](#) And don't forget to check out local [car boot sales](#)

### **Shop local**

Whether searching for the perfect gift or stocking up on festive treats, shopping locally helps reduce the carbon footprint of your purchases.

Find more information about [shopping in East Suffolk.](#) Also, don't miss the [markets](#) taking place across East Suffolk every week.

### **Upcycle decorations**

Instead of buying new Christmas decorations, why not get creative with what you already have? [Here's some great ideas.](#)



East Suffolk has several local repair cafes and groups, so if you need something fixed but aren't sure how to do it, this could be your answer! [Find your nearest one.](#)

### **Wrap sustainably**

Many wrapping papers aren't recyclable due to glitter or foil.

[Here's some ideas](#) to make your gifts stand out while supporting sustainability.

### **Recycle festive waste**

Recycling is essential, but it is important to do it right

Find out [what can and cannot be recycled in your blue bin](#) at home. There's also plenty of [recycling options](#) for items like glass and textiles.

### **Reduce food waste**

The festive season often leads to excess food waste, but there are some simple steps we can all take to reduce this waste:

Local tip: Turn your Christmas leftovers into magic with these delicious recipes from [Food Savvy Suffolk](#).

### ***Introducing the first ever East Suffolk Youth Council!***

A new council entirely comprising young people from across East Suffolk has now officially formed, ensuring the voices and concerns of younger residents are heard.

Thirty-two young people from up and down East Suffolk have been elected to the new East Suffolk Youth Council, an innovative initiative designed to engage young people in politics and enable them to influence decisions affecting their lives and communities.

Youth from every secondary educational community in East Suffolk, as well as the homeschooled were invited to stand for election earlier this year. These elections took place ahead of an induction day held at East Suffolk House in Melton on Monday 18 November, where the thirty-two members of the Youth Council were 'sworn in'.

GLI Cllr Anthony Specca, Chair of East Suffolk Council said: "The East Suffolk Youth Council is a centrepiece of my Chairship. I'm incredibly proud of our new Youth Councillors, who had the courage to stand for election, and the passion to represent their peers and communities. I'm excited for the ideas and energy they'll bring to our local democracy, and I'm looking forward to working with and alongside them."

The Youth Council is apolitical, with its own special rules of procedure designed to promote open discussion. There will be three Youth Council meetings each year – one in-person and two online – with plenty of opportunities between meetings to get together and get things done.

The Youth Council is supported directly by the Chair, as well as other East Suffolk councillors and officers.

### ***Victory in East Suffolk as National Grid Ventures' Nautilus interconnector project set to leave***

East Suffolk Council has welcomed the news from Ofgem that National Grid Ventures' proposed Nautilus project will no longer be connecting within East Suffolk, favouring a connection at the Isle of Grain, Kent.

Having made it clear that Ofgem's wish to bring such a project back to East Suffolk, overlooked the significant social and environmental costs, GLI Cllr Tom Daly (Cabinet Member for Energy and Climate Change), is delighted with this development.

He said: "We have been calling on Ofgem to reverse such a decision and allow Nautilus to proceed to the Isle of Grain, rather than putting short term cost advantages before all else - including exploring possible future economies in coordinating multiple projects at a brownfield site rather than peppering our heritage coast with unplanned-for industrial development. The change of heart is welcome news for East Suffolk Council and the local communities it represents.

"The political leadership and technical expertise within East Suffolk Council has enabled Ofgem to see sense and listen to the concerns of local people within the communities set to be impacted by such a project. It has been a long road, however it is moments like today which make it all worthwhile."

### ***Ease the Squeeze on Cost of Living***

Are you, or someone you know, worried about the increasing cost of living? We understand the pressures faced by many people today and we are working closely with key partners to ensure support is available to help ease the squeeze for households in East Suffolk.

To make it as easy as possible for you to access the services and support available, locally and nationally, we have gathered information about them in one place:

**[www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/community/squeeze/](http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/community/squeeze/)**

For the most up to date information regarding East Suffolk Council, please visit:

**[www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk](http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk)**