

**IKEN ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**  
**SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT 2021-2022**

In setting out its 2021 business plan for the next few years, the council's priorities are to:

- promote and support the health and wellbeing of all people in Suffolk
- strengthen the local economy
- protect and enhance the environment
- provide value for money for the Suffolk taxpayer.

The following are just some key highlights of the county council's work over the past year.

**March 2021** - 100,000 trees planted in just five months, since Suffolk County Council committed £228,000 to protect biodiversity. In January this year the council committed to planting a further 100,000 trees in 2022.

**March 2021** - work on Lowestoft's Gull Wing Bridge started. In March 2022 the first major steel section arrived. Substantively funded by the county council with support from the government, the project is on time for completion in late 2023. Once opened it will provide a massive boost to the local economy.

**May 2021** – trials started of demand-led electric bus services running from Framlingham via Wickham Market to the station at Campsea Ashe. In December 2021, a further route was added from Campsea Ashe through to Snape village and the Maltings

**September 2021** - four locations were announced by Suffolk County Council as "healing woods and spaces". They will offer people better access to nature and provide a positive legacy to the pandemic.

**November 2021** - two Suffolk schemes received Government funding totalling more than £940,000. Enabling Self-Employment in Suffolk and the Suffolk Road to Net Zero business support programme are among 477 schemes across the country to receive backing from the Community Renewal Fund.

**November 2021** – the council announced that properties within its estate, including fire stations and libraries, will receive £12.8m investment to reduce carbon emission as the council continues to drive its ambition to be Net Zero by 2030.

**December 2021** – SCC Cabinet committed an extra £20 million over the next three years into further improving Suffolk's highway drainage systems and footpaths.

**December 2021** - the council endorsed far-reaching recommendations to improve Suffolk people's mental health and wellbeing, including the creation of a dedicated fund of £2.5m and the development of a cross-system group to support community wellbeing in Suffolk.

**January 2022** - the Council has agreed to join forces with construction firm Lovell Partnerships to form a property development alliance to build nearly 3,000 much-needed homes.

**February 2022** – it was announced Suffolk's LED replacement programme reached a new milestone, with over 20,000 streetlights upgraded with new, sustainable LEDs and counting as part of the project to replace all 43,400 county council streetlights. This upgrade supports Suffolk County Council's ambitions for becoming Net Zero by 2030.

**February 2022** - the budget for 2022/23 was approved. The focus remains on children's services, adult care and the environment. The council's budget has risen from £598.2m to £625.4m, with the additional money generated by a 1.99% increase in council tax, a further 1.00% from the Adult Care Precept, and an increase in grants received from the Government.

**March 2022** - the county council approved the business case for the proposed Freeport East now submitted to the Government for endorsement. Should the business case be approved £25m in seed-corn funding will be made available, an estimated 13,500 jobs will be created along with retained business rates of between £307M and £442M over 25 years.

**Andrew Reid**  
**9<sup>th</sup> May 2022**