District Councillors Report to Grundisburgh Parish Council

For November 2026

Carlford and Fynn Valley Ward.

Rushmere Village, Great Bealings, Little Bealings, Playford, Bredfield, Grundisburgh & Culpho, Witnesham and Swilland, Westerfield, Hasketon, Clopton, Charsfield, Dallinghoo, Tuddenham, Boulge, Burgh, Debach, Otley.

From District Councillor

Cllr Colin Hedgley

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Bin Collections

As you are all aware Bin Collections since the start of the new system have been somewhere between erratic and shambolic. However, the latest news is they are getting somewhere between average and good. The word is if you are still having, or start having problems to report it on the Missed Bin Reporting system on the Council website.

However here is the latest information -:

A similar picture to last week in terms of collections. Overall this week, a 98.64% collection rate for the week.

Breakdown as follows:

		Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
	Waste Stream	27 Oct 26	28 Oct 26	29 Oct 26	30 Oct 26
Collection Performance	Food	96.21%	95.98%	100.00%	96.49%
	Garden	99.69%	99.88%	100.00%	99.49%
	Mixed Recycling	99.88%	99.91%	100.00%	99.97%
	Paper/Card	99.82%	99.97%	100.00%	99.45%
	Residual	98.84%	100.00%	100.00%	99.99%
Planned Collections	Food	24793	27009	33145	33789
	Garden	5719	6780	7486	8059
	Mixed Recycling	9431	9583	11308	11532
	Paper/Card	7832	9827	10921	11837
	Residual	7913	7306	11812	11232
Uncollected	Food	940	1085	0	1185
	Garden	18	8	0	41
	Mixed Recycling	11	9	0	3
	Paper/Card	14	3	0	65
	Residual	92	0	0	1
All	All Performace	98.07%	98.17%	100.00%	98.31%
	All Planned	55688	60505	74672	76449
	All Uncollected	1075	1105	0	1295

Any u**ncollected bins** or **missed bins** (i.e. genuinely missed by the crew) will be collected by close of play on Monday.

In general, it appears that the service has been able to stabilise, suggesting a sustained return to normal service. But - we continue to work closely with ESSL to monitor daily performance so that we can sustain this trend.

There are still issues to resolve - in particular some long routes on Mondays and Tuesdays (which are the cause of the 'uncollected' numbers on those days). The impact of this can be seen in the food and garden waste numbers - where despite a real push each week, some rounds struggle to complete.

To resolve this, we are undertaking a review of these routes, and will be revising them. It is important, however, that we do this in the right way, and will be taking the time to jointly plan this activity with ESSL. In the meantime, we are working to ensure that we are achieving this level of collection, or better, each week.

Question to the Council

At the last Full Council meeting held in Lowestoft, I did ask the Cabinet Member for the Environment and Waste if she would apologise to the people of East Suffolk for the shambles of the new system. (I did originally accuse her of incompetence but I was told I could not use that sort of language towards a Councillor). So, I changed it to "a constituent of mine had mentioned the word incompetent." Anyway, she did apologise and said things were improving all the time. So there.

Local Government Reorganisation

Again we are not in very satisfactory position. But herewith the latest from the minister which I have kept as short as possible.

From the Ministry of Housing and Local Government

I am writing to update you on the Government's review of the Local Government Reorganisation programme and next steps for your area. I want to begin by acknowledging the significant commitment that your council has shown throughout this process, and to thank you for your continued engagement. Since the invitation to submit proposals, councils have devoted substantial time, effort and resources to developing options, engaging locally, supporting decision making and preparing for implementation. I know the announcement of the review has had a significant impact on local councils, councillors and staff across the country, and I am grateful for the patience you have shown. I recognise that the review period has not been easy, and I do not take for granted your continued commitment to the long-term work needed to fix the foundations and put local government in the best possible position.

Outcome of the programme review *Following the announcement to Parliament on 7 September 2026, the Secretary of State and I have worked with officials to interrogate the key pillars and framework underpinning the Local Government Reorganisation programme, including asking whether the existing unweighted criteria set in February 2025 and the programme's objectives continue to support the policy priorities of the new Government. We have concluded that the basis of the programme is robust and that the existing criteria against which proposals have been submitted were correct on their own terms and continue to support the Government's policy agenda. Following this initial phase of the review, we can therefore confirm that the Government remains committed to delivering Local Government Reorganisation*

and that we will continue to move forward with the programme based on the existing criteria, which we hope gives confidence as the programme progresses.

***Decisions**. Separately from the programme-level review, together with the Secretary of State, I have been carefully considering all the proposals received, the merits of these proposals, and all relevant evidence and views against the existing criteria. I can confirm that we will issue a number of minded to decisions, with a programme of further decision-making, which I outline in further detail below. We can confirm that no new decisions have been taken in your areas so far. We have concluded that further time is required to undertake further consideration in the next phase of the review for your areas. This is not a reflection of the quality of the proposals submitted by councils in your area, but rather the need to give each decision of such significance the careful consideration it deserves. I want to be clear that the review remains ongoing, and we will thoroughly consider all the evidence and analysis available to us, before coming to a view on next steps for your area.*

***Next steps.** Ministers and officials will remain in regular contact with councils while further consideration continues, providing updates as decisions are taken. I have also set out further detail in the Written Ministerial Statement on important elements such as city status and ceremonial matters and the transition away from the Committee system. My officials are available to discuss any questions you have on those. I am copying this letter to your Chief Executives, MPs, and relevant Commissioners and Combined Authority officials. Thank you again for your continued commitment, leadership and dedication to serving your residents and communities.*

Yours sincerely, JIM MCMAHON OBE MP
Minister for Local Government, Devolution and Regional Growth
As I have stated this is a very abridged version of the letter sent to each of the councils involved. I will endeavour to keep you informed as more information becomes available.

Other News

Suffolk's healthy living service marks three years of helping Suffolk to feel good!

This October marks three years since the launch of Feel Good Suffolk.

Feel Good Suffolk is the healthy lifestyles service which provides free support to help people stop smoking, to manage their weight and become more physically active.

Feel Good Suffolk is run through a partnership of Suffolk County Council's public health team, Babergh District Council, East Suffolk Council, Ipswich Borough Council, Mid Suffolk District Council, West Suffolk Council and Abbeycroft Leisure.

Since launching in October 2023, Feel Good Suffolk has supported over 3,800 people to stop smoking. New data released this month shows the service has played a key role in helping to further reduce smoking rates in Suffolk to 8.5% of the adult population. This has reduced from 10.5% the previous year and means Suffolk smoking rates are now below the national average.

Through its unique partnership, Feel Good Suffolk has been able to make a huge impact on the health of Suffolk residents. People can refer themselves for support or many people also get referred by GPs and other health professionals.

It's not just smoking where the service is making a difference. Over the past three years Feel Good Suffolk has also helped 1,901 people to achieve a clinically meaningful weight loss (at least 3% of their body weight). 2,721 people have also accessed support to increase their physical activity and Feel Good Suffolk wellbeing walks run in partnership with The Ramblers have seen 32,200 attendances over the past three years.

More information about Feel Good Suffolk services

Smoking: Feel Good Suffolk has a team of dedicated expert advisors across the county who support anyone wanting to quit and offer a range of options. This includes one-to-one support, stop smoking groups, vaping, medication, free apps and free access to the highly acclaimed Allen Carr seminars.

Weight management: There is a 12-week healthy weight programme to help you make lasting changes to eating and activity habits. This can be delivered in person or online. Feel Good Suffolk also offers personalised support and there is a self-guided option for anyone who prefers to work at their own pace and make healthy changes in their own time. Feel Good Suffolk also offers free access to the Five Dinners online personalised meal planning service to everyone in Suffolk.

Increasing activity: Support from Feel Good Suffolk includes a 12-week exercise referral programme at local leisure centres for people with health conditions and funded activity sessions at leisure centres. There is also a programme of wellbeing walks run in partnership with The Ramblers with over 90 regular walks available across the county and over 3,200 walks have taken place since October 2023. There are walks to suit different ages, abilities and fitness levels so there's something for everyone. The walks are not only great for encouraging people to be more active but are great opportunities to meet new people and explore the Suffolk's green spaces.

For more information about Feel Good Suffolk visit: https://feelgoodsuffolk.co.uk

New play area unveiled in Woodbridge

A new play area has opened at Newnham Avenue in Woodbridge, providing children and families with a modern and safe space to play and have fun.

Children aged 3 to 12 can explore 30 new play features including a 25-metre zip wire, a large multiplay tower and elements that have been inspired by the market town's history and connection to the River Deben. The play area, officially opened by East Suffolk Council, also provides inclusive equipment such as a wheelchair-accessible jumper, communication panel and accessible seating to ensure children of all abilities can play together.

Strengthening the fight against hare coursing and rural crime

East Suffolk Council is renewing its support for the efforts of rural police to crack down on hare coursing and related criminal activity.

The Council's backing comes in anticipation of the main season for hare coursing and as part of an ongoing campaign to help better protect the species. Hare coursing is the illegal pursuit of hares by longdogs or other sighthounds. Frequently tied to organised crime and high-stakes illegal gambling, it primarily takes place after crops have been harvested – peaking between late summer and the start of spring.

The cruel practice not only harms hares but can cause damage to crops and farm property when trespassing is involved – with landowners sometimes facing intimidation and violence.

Hare coursing can involve significant amounts of money illegally changing hands, with the most lucrative events sometimes even livestreamed online to viewers in other countries.
Before 2021, the offence could only be dealt with in a magistrates' court and carried a maximum sentence of a relatively small fine. But, since a change in the law, perpetrators can face an unlimited fine, with police now empowered to seize the dogs involved and recoup any kennelling costs.
The Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act also created two new offences of 'trespassing in pursuit of hares' and 'going equipped to hare course', making it simpler to secure a successful prosecution.

Public invited to join winter wader events

The Wildlife Wise team is inviting people to join them for a series of free winter wader events and discover the migratory birds that arrive on the Suffolk and Essex coastline during the colder months.
Running until February, the events feature guided walks and pit stops to help people of all ages to spot and learn about the birds visiting our rivers and estuaries.

Led by Wildlife Wise rangers, the events give people a chance to learn more about the wildlife that thrives in these beautiful habitats and to experience it up close with the help of spotting scopes, binoculars and a parabolic microphone to amplify the sounds of bird calls and other wildlife.
Join the team at the following events:

- Saturday 28 November – Snape, Iken, Snape Warren and Hazelwood Marshes
- Saturday 5 December – Aldeburgh, local marshes and Slaughden
- Saturday 19 December - Lower Holbrook and Harkstead
- Saturday 9 January - Levington Creek
- Saturday 23 January - Orwell Country Park
- Saturday 6 February - Martlesham Wilds
- Saturday 20 February - Dingle Marshes and Walberswick

The events are free to attend and there is no need to book – just turn up.
Dogs are welcome but please keep them on a short lead.
To find out more information visit https://wildlifewise.co.uk/events

Funding provided to help older people to keep on moving

Two East Suffolk councillors have given funding to an independent charity to help it run an exercise programme for older people living in Felixstowe.
Councillors Mike Deacon, ward councillor for Western Felixstowe and Mark Jepson, ward councillor for Eastern Felixstowe have together provided £2,000 in funding from their Enabling Communities Budgets to support ActivLives in running their Keep on Moving programme in the town.
The sessions which happen four times a week on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, help people aged 55 and over to maintain strength, balance, coordination and flexibility, supporting people to continue doing everyday tasks and the things they enjoy doing. Incorporating the evidence-based programme called OTAGO, the exercise programme is designed to keep people mobile, active and independent.