

## **WEST SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCILLOR SUSAN GLOSSOP**

### **LACKFORD PARISH COUNCIL**

#### **Annual report 2022**

##### **Committees on which I serve**

Development control  
Cabinet member for Economic growth

##### **Outside bodies**

Newmarket BID  
Bury and Beyond Destination Management Organisation  
West Stow Anglo Saxon Village Trust  
East West Rail Consortium growth  
One Haverhill Partnership Board

100% Attendance record for Council meetings all meetings Council tax update from April 2022

##### **Council tax April 2022 - 2023**

Council tax band D

West Suffolk	£187.11
Police and crime commissioner	£247.68
Suffolk County council	£1438.92

##### **Locality budget spend from April 2021– April 2022**

Lackford PCC Remove dead trees to allow use for a community space	£500
Risby benches for quiet space Queens Jubilee	£450
Flempton cum Hengrave Community Christmas carols on the Green	£500
Risby Queens Jubilee celebrations	£450
River Lark Catchment water environment project	£1400

##### **Planning Applications**

On a much smaller scale, but possibly of more importance to residents of Lackford several individual planning applications have been made. The majority of the applications have been approved enabling people to build extensions or make alterations to their property. Not all applications go smoothly however, and I would strongly advise people wanting to put in an application to talk to the Parish Council who make comments pertinent to each application. It is worth having some pre-application advice from Planning Officers. I am also readily available to discuss any individual plans with anyone in the village and I frequently act as a go-between between resident and Planning Officer to try to resolve any problems on an informal basis.

There has been an increase in work carried out on trees without prior approval from the tree officer

### **Garden Waste Collection**

The cost of a brown bin £45 per year for 2022

link for signing up on line: [www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/gardenwaste](http://www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/gardenwaste)

### **Work on the next local plan for 2024 – 2040**

The next public consultation will commence on the 26<sup>th</sup> May for eight weeks on the preferred issues and options. Lackford is designated as countryside in the new West Suffolk settlement hierarchy and therefore there is no planned growth.

However there is to be consideration given to changing policy DM27 as this states there can only be growth where there are a cluster of 10 houses close to a main road this policy need to be more flexible with each application dealt with on a case by case basis.

### **Issues raised by the Community in Lackford**

Many of the issues have been highway issues which the Suffolk County Councillor addresses.

- There has been much concern about the speeding of the traffic and the very large lorries using the roads through the villages and not the directions diversion routes when the A14 has been having refurbishing work carried out overnight.
- Fly tipping
- Speeding traffic through the villages
- Maintenance of public rights of way
- Dog fouling
- Flooding has been a big issue
- Public footpaths overgrown with weeds
- Motor bicycles and 4x4 using byways as racing tracks

### **Highlights from West Suffolk 2021-2022**

Please note the annual report will be available by the end of May and I will send a link to the online version.

9 million investment to West Suffolk council zero carbon ambitions by 2030, this to include income generation, greener vehicles and buildings as well as extending its solar rent and roof schemes for business.

1.3 million investment will be made into parks and heritage assets such as Moyes's Hall and West Stow and maintaining areas like Brandon country park.

Delivered a strong response to COVID-19 meaning quality services were still delivered, the most vulnerable helped and many of our businesses given access to funding and support. We were one of the top councils in the country in this respect helping West Suffolk businesses access around £120 million in grants and business rate relief. Reduced homelessness and the risk of homelessness thanks to a holistic approach that helps people move on, and forward (as well as engendering public support for our approach).

Continued to deliver our successful growth agenda by investing in an incubator building for the manufacturing and engineering sector centre in Bury St Edmunds – only made possible by our forethought, investing in infrastructure and forging partnerships to develop business parks linked to the skills agenda. The EpiCentre in Haverhill celebrated its first birthday in November with more than 20 companies and all its laboratory space taken.

## **Town Centre**

Work has continued on the plans with a £8.4 million scheme to redevelop the Post office building with the redevelopment providing retaining the historic Victorian façade and the rear of the building developed into retail with 12 apartments above and the link between marketplace and the Arc being widened with new shop fronts onto St Andrews Street. This work is due for completion August 2022 with the apartments being currently marketed

## **Bury St Edmunds Railway Station**

### **New Entrance and Ticket Gate line**

Following the development of the new car park on the north side of the station, Greater Anglia will be creating a new entrance on the north side of the station near the existing car wash waiting area. This new entrance will be funded by the DfT following the successful award of Access for All funding, which the team played a key role in.

Work has in now underway to create the new station entrance.



The latest programme estimates work on site ending in June 2022. This project also includes a reconfigured station lobby with a ticket gateline and two new retail spaces inside the station. During the building works the ticket office has been relocated to the station forecourt. Greater Anglia will also be installing up to 75 additional cycle parking places at Bury Station as part of a successful Cycle Rail funding scheme, which is also supported by Suffolk County Council.

In addition to the above Greater Anglia are also planning maintenance works to the north wall of the station, with works estimated to take place March 2022 to February 2023. Reduced homelessness and the risk of homelessness thanks to a holistic approach that helps people move on, and forward (as well as engendering public support for our approach).

Continued to lead a countywide project to help children and their families access various events where youngsters could have fun while gaining skills (for example, around cooking and access to food).

Barley Homes successfully building out its first two developments with one now already all sold out and housing new residents.

Maintained our wonderful and important parks which have again received the nationally prestigious green flag awards.

Reduced homelessness and the risk of homelessness thanks to a holistic approach that helps people move on, and forward (as well as engendering public support for our approach)options for them.

## **Skills**

### **National Apprenticeship Week 2022 (NAW)**

Working closely with HR and Communications colleagues, there have been a number of activities and support provided to celebrate NAW. In addition to activities for our own apprentices, our apprentices have been recorded sharing their experiences in a number of videos, which has been shared with Careers Leads at West Suffolk schools, in addition to being uploaded to the EELGA website. We have also shared our apprenticeships brochure and poster with schools and feedback from schools has been positive.

### **Kickstart**

Unfilled Kickstart job vacancies continue to be filled until March this year. The Suffolk Gateway Partnership, of which WSC is a partner, has developed a legacy project. Guidance documents have been produced for businesses on how to support their Kickstarters with their next steps once their placement ends, and for Kickstart participants on what they can do to progress their career.

### **Pathways 50+**

Pathways 50+ is a new project funded by the European Social Fund and delivered by Futures in partnership with Norfolk and Suffolk County Council. The project focusses on supporting people aged 50+ back into work through work placements and employability support. Futures are working with SME businesses from Norfolk or Suffolk to create the placements, which will help recruit committed experienced staff who may not respond to traditional recruitment techniques. Officers are working closely with Futures to promote this initiative in West Suffolk.

## **Visitor Economy Network Initiative (VENI)**

VENI is an industry collaboration project to help develop skills for the visitor economy and supporting businesses in the sector so that they can better make use of skills provision in the region. VENI will bring educators and SMEs closer together and at the same time create opportunities for young people to develop work-ready skills and participate in, and learn more about, their local visitor economy. It aims to tackle skills deficits in East Anglia and will provide people in, and out of, work with the skills needed to progress in employment in the visitor economy. The project is part-funded by the European Social Fund. It is a really important time in the recovery and renewal of the visitor economy. So to help inform our colleges and training providers to support a future work-ready workforce, the VENI project is conducting a short survey about recruitment and workplace skills (survey link here: <https://destinationresearch.typeform.com/to/RuEOJ2MS>)

## **Sport and Physical Activity sector skills plan**

Active Suffolk are in the process of completing and signing off a Sector Skills Plan for the Sport and Physical Activity Sector to help address skills shortages in the Suffolk Sport and Leisure market. Key local issues have been identified, including:

- lack of applicants for apprenticeships that are being offered;
- acute shortage of candidates for all entry-level positions; and
- significant recruitment issues for swimming instructors, swimming assistants, lifeguards, gym instructors, group exercise instructors and entry-level managers.

## **Work Well Suffolk (WWS)**

This is a three-year project that is funded by the European Structural Fund (ESF) and managed by Suffolk County Council. We sit on both the Steering Group and the Impact Working Group. The WWS Team have engaged with over 1,350 participants across the county which is 86% of the target to date, this is an excellent number considering the restrictions encountered. There have been 98 Participants that have secured employment through Steadfast Training; 37 have started self-employment/started their own business with the support of Menta; and there are 315 active participants being supported by the coaching service at Realise Futures. Drop-in sessions are now regularly run from Suffolk Libraries and a number of Job Centres across the county, which is proving impactful in these communities.

## **Apprenticeships Suffolk (AS)**

Apprenticeships Suffolk have recruited 299 participants to the project, supported 84 SMEs and achieved 35 SME completions to date. This is 100%+ of targets, which is an excellent achievement for a team that started in lockdown. The team are currently promoting the service across the county during national Apprenticeship Week.

### **The Youth Pledge for Employer Project (YPfE)**

This is an ESF project which started in June 2021 and aims to create opportunities for 16-24 year olds by engaging with employers to facilitate a spectrum of opportunities. Over 100 businesses are registered to date. The Virtual Careers Fayre held in December 2021 was a great success and students were linked in across a variety of schools and colleges. The project has engaged with 137 SME's and placed 25 young people into opportunities.

### **Virtual Work Inspiration Suffolk (VWIS)**

The 'VWIS Discover Your Future' pilot programme proved to be very successful. The project was delivered by Suffolk County Council, the New Anglia Careers Hub, Enterprise Adviser Network and the Network for East Anglian Collaborative Outreach (NEACO). West Suffolk Council supported delivery by providing a number of members of staff at various sessions. The support of WSC was lauded in a recent article promoted by the East of England Local Government Association.

### **Local Skills Report**

NALEP has published its latest Local Skills Report, which identifies the need for skills to be able to meet demand in the growth sectors in Norfolk and Suffolk, which include clean energy, agri-food and ICT/digital. Officers are involved in a number of initiatives mentioned in this report. The report can be accessed here: <https://newanglia.co.uk/skills-advisory-panel>

### **Contact details for your District Councillor**

#### **Cllr Susan Glossop West Suffolk Council**

Tel: 01284 728377    mobile    07473041394

email [susan.glossop@westsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:susan.glossop@westsuffolk.gov.uk)