

## District Councillor's Report – 14<sup>th</sup> October 2024

There is an extraordinary West Suffolk council meeting on Tuesday 15th October to agree the how West Suffolk council will introduce the new recycling collection service and there will be a communication plan put in place.

New electric vehicle (EV) chargers are due to be fitted at The Guineas Shopping Centre car park in Newmarket and Parkway car park in Bury St Edmunds over October.

Work is due to start at The Guineas Shopping Centre car park from 14 October 2024 and Parkway car park in Bury St Edmunds from 21 October 2024.

This new infrastructure is part of a district-wide effort to meet the Council's strategic priority of supporting sustainable growth and a resilient environment and is funded by West Suffolk Council and the Office for Zero Emission Vehicles (OZEV). Through this project, residents living near the chargers who do not have access to off street parking have a solution to charging their EVs. The chargers can also be used by the council's fleet vehicles when working in communities and towns, for example car park patrol vehicles.

The Guineas Shopping Centre car park in Newmarket will have a total of four dedicated EV charging bays located near to the car park entrance, two of which replace those removed earlier in the year from the multi-storey car park.

Parkway in Bury St Edmunds will also have four dedicated parking bays with EV chargers located on the surface car park behind Cineworld. Residents on Chalk Road South will be contacted by UK Power Networks (UKPN) before work starts outlining any roadside disruption. Any disruption is anticipated to be minimal and the road will remain open.

Drivers are being advised to follow the signage on site to alternative spaces within both car parks. We are managing the works so that we can keep the car parks open throughout and disruption to a minimum.

This work complements the launch of West Suffolk Council's new fleet of electric vans and sweepers, alongside the installation of electric vehicle chargers at West Suffolk Operational Hub and Haverhill House Good Morning

Applications for West Suffolk Council's new capital fund for communities are opening today.

This funding is part of the Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF) provided by Defra to local authorities and West Suffolk Council has created a Communities Capital Grant Fund using its REPF allocation to support activities that specifically address the particular challenges faced in rural areas. The fund is available to our rural communities (in line with Defra guidance).

The application process opens today and will close on Friday 29th November 2024 at 5.00pm. Grants of between £500 and £5000 are available for capital projects. If you are aware of any community groups within your ward that are seeking capital funding then please do send the guidance and application form to them. We have also sent details, guidance and the application form to all parish and town councils today.

If you or any community group would like further information or a discussion about the fund then please do not hesitate to contact the Families and Communities Team: [families.communities@westsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:families.communities@westsuffolk.gov.uk)

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