

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT – AUGUST 2023



Cllr Stephen Burroughes - Framlingham Division

• **SCC SETS OUT CONCERNS AS PUBLIC CONSULTATION OPENS FOR NORWICH TO TILBURY PROPOSALS**

National Grid has opened its consultation to anyone wishing to comment on its Norwich to Tilbury proposal, previously known as East Anglia Green. This is an eight-week non-statutory consultation period which closes on 21 August 2023. The project will see a new 400kV electricity transmission line built between Norwich and Tilbury, running a distance of 111 miles. It will be made up mostly of overhead lines and pylons, along with some underground cables and a new substation. The new consultation reveals the route for the pylons, passing through Norfolk, Suffolk, and Essex. It shows the line will run underground through the Dedham Vale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty on the Essex-Suffolk border.

The consultation is open to residents, landowners, businesses and any individuals or groups that may be interested in commenting on the revised proposals. Consultees can participate online or via face-to-face events. Essex County Council, Norfolk County Council and Suffolk County Council are also being consulted on the proposals as statutory consultees. All three councils have already raised concerns to the initial consultation undertaken last year.

You can read more about the Norwich to Tilbury project and view a calendar of consultation events on the [National Grid website](#). You can also comment on the proposals by:

- completing National Grid's [online feedback form](#) sending a completed paper feedback form to Freepost N TO T (no stamp or further address needed)
- completing a paper feedback form at one of the [consultation events](#)
- emailing your comments to contact@n-t.nationalgrid.com

• **NORFOLK & SUFFOLK COUNCILS GETS FUNDING TO HELP NATURE'S RECOVERY**

Suffolk and Norfolk County Councils have been formally appointed by Government as responsible authorities for preparing a Local Nature Recovery Strategy for their respective counties. This means that they will be working together to help improve wildlife habitats and reverse the decline of biodiversity across the region, working with local communities to develop a tailored nature recovery strategy for their areas.

They will also work with other local planning authorities, the Broads Authority, Natural England, and a wide range of stakeholders and partners, including farming and landowner groups.

This is all part of Government's ambition to further drive nature recovery, with 48 individual local authorities across the country receiving allocations from a £14 million funding pot. Norfolk and Suffolk County Councils will receive £333,000 and £282,000 respectively over two years to fund this work. With the best ways to support nature recovery depending on local character and geography, Local Nature Recovery Strategies will help communities map out the action needed in their area to restore nature.

The Norfolk and Suffolk councils have already been working closely with each other, jointly hosting the Norfolk and Suffolk Nature Recovery Partnership, and a host of other stakeholders and interested parties to prepare for this moment. The two authorities have pooled resources and expertise and to ensure that strategies effectively join up across the two counties to the wider benefit of nature and people.

The Strategies will focus on how to improve habitats and protect the natural environment across the region, with local approaches tailored to the specific circumstances of each area. Norfolk and Suffolk are home to a variety of beautiful and unique landscapes, from the chalk streams of the Norfolk Coast to the Stour estuary

at the southeast of Suffolk and across many habitats in between, and specific policies will be drawn up to best protect and nurture each location.

Future plans will include working closely with other neighbouring counties, to identify and support opportunities for nature recovery at sufficient scale to really benefit wildlife.

- **WASTE TRANSFER STATION FIRE SPARKS FRESH WARNING OVER DISPOSING OF SAFE BATTERY DISPOSAL**

People are being reminded of the importance of disposing of waste batteries properly following a fire at a Suffolk waste transfer station. Operations were briefly disrupted at Haverhill waste transfer station in Homefield Road after fire broke out amongst 50 tonnes of rubbish on June 16. Waste batteries should be disposed of properly and never thrown away with household rubbish. The waste transfer station takes refuse material collected locally and bulks it for onward reprocessing.

The precise cause of the fire has not been determined but FCC Environment, which manages the 11 recycling centres and four transfer stations around the county on behalf of Suffolk County Council, said that when a fire starts in piles of waste it is usually caused by a battery that has managed to spark. This can happen if there is friction, such as when a waste pile is moved or crushed.

In June 2022 a fire at the Materials Recycling Facility in Great Blakenham, near Ipswich, which recycles waste from across Suffolk, is suspected to have been started by a battery dumped with household recycling. Lithium batteries are a particular problem but standard household batteries are also culprits, as well as vapes and small electricals plus items that do not look like they have a battery such as Christmas jumpers and light toys. All batteries should be disposed of either at recycling centres or in collection points at most large stores where they are sold.

Work began in May to build a new recycling centre for Haverhill within the waste transfer station. The new centre, which should be completed in early 2024, will replace the current facility in Chalkstone Way. Fire and Rescue Services attend around 300 significant fires at waste sites per year in the UK. There are many other smaller fires that are dealt with before they become significant.

More information on hidden batteries can be found at the [Suffolk Recycling](#) website. Details on how to find your nearest electrical recycling point can also be found at the [Suffolk Recycling](#) website.

- **FREE EXHIBITION ‘WOLSEY’S IPSWICH’ THIS SUMMER AS PART OF WOLSEY 550 CELEBRATIONS**

Suffolk Archives’ free summer exhibition ‘Wolsey’s Ipswich’ opens on Friday 14 July at The Hold on Ipswich Waterfront and will explore the legacy of Cardinal Thomas Wolsey thanks to funding from The National Lottery Heritage Fund. The exhibition forms a key part of the Thomas Wolsey 550 project, a programme of events and activities planned to celebrate the 550th anniversary of Wolsey’s birth across Ipswich.

Curated by the team at Suffolk Archives, a Suffolk County Council service, the exhibition includes items from Suffolk’s own archive collections, as well as items on loan from organisations across the country.

Made possible by The National Lottery Heritage Fund, Ipswich Central and Ipswich Borough Council, the exhibition will explore the legacy of Thomas Wolsey, reconnecting him with his hometown and examining his position on the world stage. Born and raised in Ipswich, Wolsey rose from humble beginnings to become the most powerful man in England, working alongside King Henry VIII. The ‘*Wolsey’s Ipswich*’ exhibition will unearth a story of ambition, aspiration, determination, and the possibility for anyone to succeed.

The exhibition features archive treasures from Suffolk’s collections dating from the 16th century to the present day, as well as some significant loaned exhibits, including Wolsey’s original Cardinal hat, on loan from Christ Church College, Oxford. Having finally been made a Cardinal by the Pope in 1515 following a long campaign,

Wolsey was made to wait three years to receive this badge of honour from Rome and arranged a grand procession for it through the streets of London. The exhibition will also include an original copy of Shakespeare's first folio, on loan from Trinity College Cambridge and coinciding with Folio 400 which marks 400 years since the first printed collection of Shakespeare's work. The exhibition will look at how Wolsey has been depicted throughout history including within Shakespeare's play Henry VIII which covers part of Henry's reign and depicts elements of Wolsey's rise and fall.

The final section of the exhibition will be dedicated to building a sense of aspiration for local young people, taking Wolsey's experiences as a starting point. Suitable for all ages, the exhibition offers a unique opportunity to come and explore the complex and inspiring story of Ipswich's most famous son.

The events accompanying the exhibition are ticketed and can be booked by visiting: www.suffolkarchives.co.uk. The Café at The Hold is also open daily for visitors to drop in for refreshments.

• **WOMAN SENTENCED FOLLOWING SOCIAL CARE PAYMENT FRAUD**

Hannah Colley, of Fiddlers Folley, Colchester, pleaded guilty on the 5th of June 2023 to one count of failing to disclose information that she was under a legal duty to disclose, between 2018 and 2022. She was claiming care payments in Suffolk and submitted a later claim for social care direct payments from Essex County Council. A social care review in the summer of 2022 raised concerns that Colley was not providing evidence of how her direct payment had been spent, she had been avoiding meeting with her Social Worker face-to-face and it was found that she was registered to a GP Practice in Colchester.

The concerns were referred to the Council's Counter Fraud Service who found that Colley moved from Ipswich to Colchester in June 2018, meaning she would no longer be eligible for funding from Suffolk County Council and that she had been claiming a second direct payment from Essex County Council since June 2020. During this period, she received £27,643.68 in direct payments from Suffolk County Council.

Colley was sentenced today to 26 weeks' custody suspended for 2 years, with conditions that she complete a rehabilitation activity requirement for 10 days and abide by a curfew. This curfew will require her to stay indoors nightly, for 26 weeks, between 8pm and 8am. The court also ordered her to pay compensation of £27,643.68, legal, and investigatory costs of £6,100 and a victim surcharge of £154. The Court stated that they found 'limited mitigation' in the case and made direct reference to the falsehoods that Colley had told Suffolk County Council over many years.

• **SUFFOLK RECEIVES £1.49M FUNDING FOR WALKING AND CYCLING PILOT**

Suffolk County Council has received more than £1 million from the government to fund participation in a national pilot scheme to promote cycling and walking as part of a more active lifestyle. The county is receiving £1,495,506 over three years as one of 11 local authorities taking part in the £13.9 million Active Travel England social prescribing scheme. Social prescribing is a national pilot scheme to promote cycling and walking as part of a more active lifestyle. The project, launched in August 2022, is helping councils run trials to evaluate the impact of active travel on an individual's physical and mental health, such as through reduced demand for healthcare appointments and reliance on medication due to more physical activity.

This also includes allowing doctors and health workers to prescribe walking and cycling to improve patients' physical and mental health. As the scheme progresses, GP surgeries in the pilot areas of Ipswich and Lowestoft will be invited to take part. Work is already underway with Suffolk and North East Essex Integrated Care Board and Suffolk Information Partnership to link some referral systems.

Suffolk will use its funding for projects that will see patients in parts of Ipswich and Lowestoft offered free access to guided walks, cycle training and bike loans. Introductory walk and cycle groups are taking place now

on Friday mornings in Ipswich at Murray Park and Holywells Park. In Lowestoft, they are operating from Normanston Park.

These will be available through August, with participants offered 1-1 journey planning, 1-1 buddy walking, or cycling and bike maintenance training. From September, walking and cycling groups will take place across Ipswich at Whitton, Chantry, Gainsborough, Wherstead and Central Ipswich.

In Lowestoft they will be taking place at the Seafront, Normanston Park, Nicholas Everett Park and Sparrows Nest. Other venues will develop as the pilot progresses. There will be varying levels of activity depending on health needs, with each activity lasting up to 90 minutes with a rest break and free drink in a local café.

There will be plenty of rest stops based on the needs of the participants. Equipment can be provided to include walking aids, bicycles, or e-bikes. All activities are led by experienced and qualified cycle and walk leaders.

Later in the year other activities are planned in the form of community events, themed walks, or cycle rides, cycling courses and a digital walking app featuring challenges and treasure hunts focused on the areas of Ipswich and Lowestoft.

Participants within the target areas can be referred through a GP or voluntary group or a self-referral by contacting thewaytogosuffolk@suffolk.gov.uk or calling 01473 260060. For more details about the scheme go the [Way To Go Suffolk](#) website.

Suffolk County Council has also received £545,528 over three years from the Government's Capability Fund to develop and invest in cycling initiatives. This includes setting up an accessible cycling scheme in Stowmarket for those unable to use a bicycle and working with a selection of organisations offering their staff a free six-week e-bike trial - [launched with Associated British Ports at Port of Ipswich last November](#) - and which now has almost 30 bikes on trial around the county.

• **SUFFOLK'S ARCHIVE SERVICE ACHIEVES FULL NATIONAL ACCREDITATION**

The service achieved Provisional Accreditation in March 2019 and today the UK Archive Service Accreditation Committee has moved Suffolk Archives from provisional to full accreditation status. Accreditation is the UK quality standard which recognises good performance in all areas of archive service delivery. Achieving accredited status demonstrates that Suffolk Archives has met clearly defined national standards relating to management and resourcing; the care of its unique collections and the service it offers to a broad range of users.

Archive Service Accreditation is supported by a partnership of the Archives and Records Association (UK), Archives and Records Council Wales, National Records of Scotland, Public Record Office of Northern Ireland, Scottish Council on Archives, The National Archives, and the Welsh Government through its Museums, Archives and Libraries Wales division.

The Accreditation Panels are composed of Committee members nominated by the seven Accreditation partners and openly recruited from the archives sector. The Archive Service Accreditation Panel "supported the move to full accreditation following the successful move to new premises at Ipswich. The Panel commended the determined efforts made by Suffolk Archives in developing and delivering community engagement across the county."

For further information from my report or questions please contact me at:

stephen.burroughes@suffolk.gov.uk

CLlr Stephen Burroughes

County Councillor for the Framlingham Division

Deputy Cabinet Member for Children & Young Peoples Services
Twitter @CllrStephenB