



# PRESS RELEASE

## **East Suffolk Planning Alliance (ESPA) forms Strategic Alliance with the national Community Planning Alliance (CPA).**

**National campaign group the Community Planning Alliance (CPA) and Suffolk-based community action group, the East Suffolk Planning Alliance (ESPA), are delighted to announce they will be working together.**

**ESPA, formed in February 2023 as a result of a consensus of opinion and experiences across the region amongst local communities and parish councils, seeks greater community participation in the planning system in East Suffolk. ESPA believes that local communities should be at the heart of planning decisions and be recognised as stakeholders in that decision-making process. ESPA shares many of the core values of the CPA and recognises that a significant synergy exists between the two organisations which strengthen and reinforces their respective aims and objectives.**

**The Community Planning Alliance (CPA) was founded in March 2021 to give local action groups a shared voice. It counts 700 campaigns on its map, with supporters united by their desire to see communities involved in planning rather than having planning done to them, and the need for greater environmental protections in the face of development projects. The CPA seeks the right development in the right places, for example, housing that is affordable to locals ideally on brown-field; solar on rooftops, not best farmland, and public and active transport funding instead of new roads.**

**Spokesperson, Gerry Bremner, from the steering group, for ESPA, said, ".The growth of ESPA since its inception has been remarkable and has demonstrated a resonant consensus with the people of East Suffolk. The recent Local Elections in Suffolk were of historic importance. The significant swing away from the previous administration towards policies looking to engage with local communities over planning issues and the protection of the environment in East Suffolk and across Suffolk is a loud cry for change from the electorate. Local people want and have the right to a meaningful say in what happens to the area they live in and not to have these decisions imposed upon them as a result of a tilted bias towards landowners and developers working with local authorities. ESPA is excited about working with the CPA to create a more democratic approach that empowers parish councils and local communities to work in partnership to do what is right for their region .... local people making the right decisions for the right reasons and in the best interests of the people of East Suffolk"**

**Spokesperson Rosie Pearson, Chairman of the Community Planning Alliance said, "It is really exciting to see ESPA growing at such a pace and galvanising parish councils to work together. Communities need all the help they can get in the face of a planning system which imposes the wrong type of development in the wrong places and rides roughshod over the opinions of residents. Sadly all too often this happens at the hands of local district councils. Instead, a collaborative approach is needed. Planning must be done with people, not to them. Our two organisations are both run by volunteers and both share many aims and we believe that other campaign groups in other regions may be able to learn from ESPA's model. We look forward to working with them "**

**Ends: 23 June 2023**

**Contact : Press Office:**



**Email: ESPA - [eastsuffolkplanningalliance@gmail.com](mailto:eastsuffolkplanningalliance@gmail.com)**



**Email: CPA -[communityplanningalliance@mail.com](mailto:communityplanningalliance@mail.com)**

