

East Suffolk Planning Alliance Newsflash ⚡

November 2024

Distribution to ESPA Affiliates across East Suffolk 😊

Dear ESPA Affiliates, **ESPA Latest News!**

The East Suffolk Planning Alliance goes from strength to strength. It now has 56 affiliated town/parish councils and residents groups. We anticipate more sign-ups as the new government's plans for mass development become clearer. An ESPA steering committee member was recently interviewed by Nick Robinson on BBC Radio 4's Today programme. Though edited, it got ESPA's name out there, another step in the right direction. Simply put, the CEG enables ESPA to meet with, identify, share and discuss important planning issues with local governmental officials. It all sounds rather bureaucratic, but ESPA is seeking to demystify and make more transparent the ongoing planning processes, so that our informed voices are not just heard, but listened to! There is a perception that once a developer has received outline planning permission, they can often proceed with impunity, e.g. removing ancient hedgerows; changing the number of promised affordable homes in the scheme and ignoring designated routes on to the construction site. One of the major questions is: will ESC Planning enforcement be strengthened to better oversee and ensure best practice and adherence to agreed planning conditions with developers? Let's hope, with the help of ESPA, the answer is "Yes".

Agreement to establish Community Engagement Group with East Suffolk Council



We are delighted to announce that the Chief Executive of East Suffolk Council, Chris Bally met with some of the ESPA Steering Group members at 9 am on Thursday, 5th November 2024, to sign the terms of reference establishing a Community Engagement Group. The inaugural CEG meeting took place on the 5th October 2024. This signing on the 5th November was to officiate the agreement. ESPA is proposing the second CEG meeting with the council, towards the end of January, early Feb. 2025. **Before this we are arranging an ESPA / Affiliates second anniversary meeting, to which you will all be invited at Castle Community Rooms, Framlingham on 24th Jan 2025 (15:30-17:45) to further discuss our progress to date and ways forward! Watch this space.**

CEG Signed Terms of Reference Document

East Suffolk Council & East Suffolk Planning Alliance Community Engagement Group (CEG) Terms of Reference

1.0 This document refers to the relationship between East Suffolk Council (ESC) and the East Suffolk Planning Alliance (ESPA) participating in a Community Engagement Group (CEG).

MISSION: To build transparent bridges of communication between East Suffolk Council and district residents, especially as it relates to National Planning legislation and frameworks and its implementation within East Suffolk.

This relates particularly to the relationship between East Suffolk Council Planning (ESCP), Planning and Building Control, statutory partners and ESPA and affiliates. To be more aware of, and understand planning policies, decisions taken and implementation actions.

1.1 In the CEG ESPA will:

- through its steering committee members, represent its Affiliates in the CEG forum
- collect and collate ESPA Affiliates questions, and also wider community planning questions, for submission, discussion, escalation, resolution within the CEG forum
- aim to represent the full geography of the East Suffolk District as much as possible
- provide a forum for our Affiliates to both question and express their views on ESC planning processes, interpretation and implementation of strategic planning policy
- support the five-year review of the Suffolk Coastal and Waveney Local Plans for an East Suffolk Local Plan which is scheduled to begin in January 2025 (subject to plan making reforms)

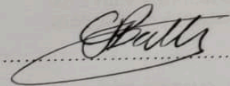
1.2 In the CEG ESCP will:

- update ESPA / CEG forum attendees on latest planning policy, its interpretation and ongoing implementation
- present the ongoing review of the Local Plans for discussion within the forum
- provide feedback against the pre-submitted questions raised by ESPA and its Affiliates

1.3 The CEG will:

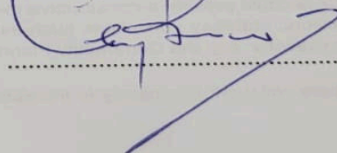
- initially meet tri-annually and be hosted at ESC offices
- have a pre-agreed meeting agenda
- have minutes taken and a draft agreed with ESC / ESPA, before sign-off and wider distribution
- from time-to-time host guest speakers to the CEG, including Technical Experts and other relevant Agencies
- agree future CEG meeting dates beforehand, as documented in the ongoing minutes
- be chaired by an ESC councillor
- not replace or be used in place of other forms of established and necessary engagement, such as Town and Parish Forums and statutory consultations
- consider this Terms of Reference as work in progress and updated as necessary by mutual agreement.

Agreed for East Suffolk Council



Date:

Agreed for East Suffolk Planning Alliance



Date: