

# November 2024 Report Councillor Letitia Smith East Suffolk Council

## **Funding boost for biodiversity in East Suffolk**

**A popular small grants scheme, aimed at grass roots projects in East Suffolk that help promote and enhance biodiversity, is being relaunched.**

The East Suffolk Greenprint Forum first launched its Nature First small grant scheme, thanks to funding from East Suffolk Council, in 2021.

During the two years of the original scheme, the Greenprint Forum awarded grants totalling £19,727.19 to 26 projects across the district.

Examples of projects that received funding previously included:

- Pathways Care Farm created raised beds and ran a course to teach pupils, parents and staff at Beccles Primary Academy about growing and harvesting vegetables organically and sustainably.
- Saxmundham Green Team purchased tools to enable the ongoing conservation work in the town of Saxmundham.
- Waveney Bird Club constructed an eight-metre-tall swift tower to provide nesting opportunities for swifts at the Eels Foot in Theberton.
- Aldeburgh's Amazing Swifts installed double swift boxes, cameras, call system and air quality sensor to Thomas Miles High School in Framingham to enable students to learn more about swifts.
- Landguard Bird Observatory purchased new nets to aid the safe trapping of migratory birds to enable the ongoing robust contribution by the observatory to national data bases.
- Greener Waldringfield delivered workshops for a cluster of neighbouring parishes to evolve strategies for nature recovery at the parish level.

The aim of the scheme is to support the Council's environmental vision, stated in its strategic plan, Our Direction, delivering positive impacts for nature by funding projects that contribute to the enhancement of local biodiversity and/or its understanding and appreciation by the local community.

## **Local company awarded contract for Marina Centre works**

**Local company P.J Spillings has been awarded the contract to deliver the construction works for part of the Battery Green development in Lowestoft.**

The work will see the demolition of the northern wing of East Suffolk Council's former Marina Customer Services Centre and internal alterations to the remainder of the building to create a repurposed space for the creative sector.

The Battery Green development is a multi-million-pound redevelopment and is one of five transformational regeneration projects which received £24.9m from the Government's Towns Fund in 2022.

Designed by Norwich-based architects Chaplin Farrant, the Battery Green development will provide a new cultural and community hub with studio space for creative businesses together with a leisure complex and restaurant.

## **Contract awarded to deliver Lowestoft seafront works**

**East Suffolk Council are pleased to announce that Blakedown Landscapes will deliver the works to the Lowestoft Seafront Vision project, subject to the signing of contracts.**

The project will focus on the regeneration of Royal Plain, Royal Green and South Quay Wharf with improvements to these three key areas funded through Lowestoft's £24.9m allocation from the Government's Towns Fund.

Among the work which will get underway this month, there will be new fountains at Royal Plain, a new pocket park at South Quay Wharf and a range of improvements to Royal Green including the installation of a Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) and boulder climbing.

The regeneration of this area of Lowestoft supports the wider Towns Fund programme and complements plans to build a two-storey restaurant and café complex at Jubilee Parade. The contract to deliver these works was recently awarded to PJ Spillings and the construction is expected to coincide with the timing of Blakedown Landscapes work.

We have been asked to distribute the below information to you all, on behalf of Connecting Communities:

## Launch of 2024 rural transport survey

I am pleased to launch our 2024 rural transport survey. The survey is open until 30 November. Your feedback will help us shape the requirements for future rural transport services.

### Online [2024 rural transport survey](#)

### Rural transport engagement events



If you would like to talk with our team about rural transport, come along to one of our drop-in events. These are scheduled around the county during October and November.

### Event dates and venues [Rural transport engagement events](#)

## Free parking for Remembrance events

**Free parking will be available across East Suffolk to support those attending Remembrance events in their local communities.**

East Suffolk Council has agreed with town and parish councils to offer free parking in council-owned car parks on Remembrance Sunday (Sunday 10 November) in the following towns:

- Aldeburgh (8am – 1pm)
- Beccles (1pm - 6pm)
- Bungay (1pm - 6pm)
- Felixstowe (8am – 1pm)
- Framlingham (8am – 1pm)
- Halesworth (1pm - 6pm)
- Leiston (8am – 1pm)
- Lowestoft (8am – 1pm)
- Oulton Broad (8am - 1pm)
- Saxmundham (1pm - 6pm)

- Southwold (8am – 1pm)
- Wickham Market (8am – 1pm)
- Woodbridge (8am – 1pm)

## **Opportunity to become a youth councillor still open to local young people**

**Since its launch last month, many young people from across East Suffolk have expressed an interest in standing for election to a new youth council, and there's still time to get involved!**

A new East Suffolk Youth Council will be formed, comprising at least two representatives from every secondary educational institution in East Suffolk, as well as the homeschooled. The Youth Council will influence decisions and drive real change across the district. Youth councillors will work closely with East Suffolk Council to ensure young peoples' voices are heard loud and clear in council decisions.

The Youth Council will be apolitical, with its own special rules of procedure designed to promote open discussion. There will be three Youth Council meetings each year – one in-person and two online – with plenty of opportunities between meetings to get together and get things done.

Each Youth Councillor will be elected for a two-year term, or until they leave education or turn 19 years of age. They will be able to set their own priorities, bring forward their own motions, and make suggestions to the district council on key issues of importance not just to young people, but to our communities as a whole.

If you're a young person aged 11 to 19, and you are interested and would like to run for the Youth Council, visit [www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/youthcouncil](http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/youthcouncil). Alternatively, please email [civic.secretary@eastsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:civic.secretary@eastsuffolk.gov.uk)

Kind regards

Letitia

