

MAY2025

# Parish Report

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**MEETING WITH THURSTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE;** which I am meeting the head teacher on 6<sup>th</sup> May so will update you if anything to report.

**ROADS; A14;** at the briefing from national highways I made sure they were well aware of all the road closures around Thurston and Beyton and that they must keep in contact with SCC. It is obvious that many will NOT be using the official diversion and Drikstone may again suffer.

**BEYTON ROAD;** we have asked that the signs are correctly in place and that any damage to drive ways is repaired.

**LIBRARIES;** work continues to transfer staff to scc and to finalise details of how friends group and parish council money will be dealt with.

**DEVOLUTION SCC** has appointed a previous head of highways ; Mark Ash as director for the work on devolution.

**LOCALITY FUND;** all outstanding requests should now be paid to you

## **Increasing School Places for SEND Students**

On Tuesday 1 April, Cabinet voted to increase the number of school places in the county for children and young people with special education needs and disabilities (SEND), using £18.6m of available capital funding. The plans agreed include opening specialist units within existing mainstream schools, which would create around 100 new places for SEND students. The second proposal agreed was to allocate up to £12m to create satellite provisions of the existing special schools in Suffolk. The possibility of the council opening its own independent school was also discussed, and may be explored in the future.

## **Adult skills training**

The Department for Education has allocated Suffolk County Council up to £4m to be spent delivering free skills training to an extra 1,345 adults across Norfolk and Suffolk this year. The money will be used to support the council's 'Skills Bootcamps', which help residents gain the specific skills they need to gain well-paid jobs with local employers. Courses last up to 16 weeks and offer a combination of online and in-person learning to suit a variety of schedules. Those interested in taking part in the Skills Bootcamps

can find more information here: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/business/supporting-employers-training-your-workforce/skills-bootcamps>

## **6,000 Public EV Charge points Planned**

Suffolk County Council will be installing around 6,000 new public electric vehicle (EV) charge points across the county. From the summer, thousands of charging points will be installed on residential streets, with many locations suggested by local residents following the survey which was undertaken last year, or by liaison with communities and district/borough councils. The majority of installations will be bollard-style units at the kerbside, suitable for long-stay or overnight charging, when drivers will be able to benefit from an overnight off-peak tariff, and there will also be a dedicated resident's tariff which features discounted charging at all times. Public car parks will also see a number of rapid and ultra-rapid charge point installations, for quicker charging. This project has been made possible due to a successful £5.3 million bid by SCC to the government's Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) fund. This summer's roll-out will use a proportion of this funding, with a further £16 million of funding provided by the charge point operator, *Believe*.

## **Local Nature Recovery Strategy**

Suffolk County Council has drafted a new strategy to help restore and enhance nature across Suffolk, and has launched a consultation so residents can share their views.. The plan is to create a national 'nature network', proposing actions such as the creation of new habitats, planting of trees and hedgerows, and more sustainable management of existing woodlands and other habitats like grasslands.

The consultation on the Suffolk Local Nature Recovery Strategy is open to everyone in Suffolk - residents, landowners, land managers, farmers, businesses and the wider community. There is also the opportunity to view and respond to maps of local areas, where specific measures to help nature could be taken. Both opportunities to provide feedback will close on 11 June 2025, and can be found at [www.suffolk.gov.uk/consultations](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/consultations)

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## **Social Media and Helpful Links**

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**Instagram** – [https://www.instagram.com/suffolkgli\\_group/](https://www.instagram.com/suffolkgli_group/)

**Facebook** - [Suffolk GLI - Green, Liberal Democrat & Independent Group | Facebook](#)

**Website** - [Suffolk Green, Liberal Democrat and Independent Group – The GLI Group at Suffolk County Council \(suffolkgli.wordpress.com\)](#)

Cost of Living help and advice:

<https://infolink.suffolk.gov.uk/kb5/suffolk/infolink/family.page?familychannel=6>

Benefits advice and support:

<https://infolink.suffolk.gov.uk/kb5/suffolk/infolink/adult.page?adultchannel=0>

Flood preparation advice: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/suffolk-fire-and-rescue-service/fire-and-rescue-safety-advice-in-the-community/what-to-do-in-a-flood>

<https://suffolkprepared.co.uk/get-prepared/risk-advice/flooding/>

Flood recovery advice and support: <http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/about/flood-recovery-information-for-suffolk>