

**Minutes of the Meeting of
YOXFORD PARISH COUNCIL**

held on

March 7th 2024

at 7pm

Yoxford Village Hall

AGENDA

1. Attendance and apologies

Attendees:

Cllr. Janet Gardner
Cllr. Laura Greenberg
Cllr. Nicol McCallum
Cllr. Russell Pearce
Cllr. Deborah Thompson
Cllr. David Tower
Cllr. Jason Vincent
Cllr. Hazel Wheeler

Apologies accepted for absence:

Cllr. David Childs
Cllr. Anna Noakes
Cllr. Ian Patterson
District Cllr. Julia Ewart

In attendance:

County Cllr. Richard Smith

6 members of the public
Trudy Charles - Clerk/RFO

2. To receive declarations of interest and to consider requests for dispensations: none

3. Public Forum

a) Members of the public may address the Council on any agenda item:

- i. Two members of the public asked a number of questions regarding the three planning applications that were discussed at the Parish Council's Extraordinary Meeting of January 22nd 2024 which were concerning: the time frame for the processing of said applications; the possible impact of the proposed lakes upon potential flooding; the village's overall view of the applications and their potential impact on the conservation area.
- ii. In response to these questions, the Clerk shared that, following contact with District Cllr. Julia Ewart, the applications would be presented to a full Planning Committee meeting once all relevant documents had been collated. This was not likely to happen until "later in the spring." The Clerk also advised that any queries re procedural matters be referred to District Cllr. Ewart. Cllr. Pearce summarised, what he believed to be, the mixed views of the village to the plans.
- iii. With the Project Director of Wilderness/Cockfield Hall in attendance, Cllr. Pearce invited him to provide answers and updates to the remaining questions. These answers are as follows:
- iv. It was outlined that further modelling of the River Yox was close to being completed, which would ascertain the river's flow and how the lower lakes are likely to affect it. The lakes are designed to provide further flood storage but the Project Director acknowledged the village's concerns, given the impact of recent incidents of flooding. As a result, a further village meeting was offered and attended by some of the Estate's consultants to facilitate further liaison and discussion. In addition, following the community involvement sessions held in 2023, the resulting Statement of Community Involvement had been submitted within the planning applications.

ACTION: Clerk and Cllr. Pearce to liaise with the Project Director at Wilderness/Cockfield Estates regarding the scheduling of a further village meeting.

- v. Further information was given by the Estates' Project Director concerning the plans for the renovation of The Griffin public house. These have been delayed slightly by the additional need for submission of a Listed Building Consent Order which covers the gates and piers to Cockfield Hall.
- b) **To receive a report from County Cllr. Richard Smith:**
- i. Cllr. Smith confirmed that the Council's budget for 2024/5 had been approved at a full council meeting and that Council Tax would increase by 4.99%. He outlined that cost areas remain unpredictable.
 - ii. Concerns were shared about the early works by the Sizewell C project.
 - iii. An outline was given about the clearing works that are due to be completed by Suffolk County Council of the gully/ditch at the entrance to the village from the south. Due to be completed in a working week starting March 11th 2024.

- iv. Cllr. Smith also informed the meeting that the S19 flood investigations had begun with priority being given to the areas most affected by the floods. He anticipated that it would be “some considerable time” before the investigation begins for Yoxford.
- c) **To receive a report from District Cllr. Julia Ewart:** this report was forwarded to Councillors by email and is attached as an appendix to these minutes.

4. Minutes

- a) Cllr. McCallum proposed, Cllr. Tower seconded and all present agreed to approve as accurate the minutes of the meeting held on 1st February 2024.
- b) **Matters arising from these meetings:**
 - i. Further to last month’s meeting, Cllr. McCallum shared that he had spoken with Martin Trimby at Yoxford Cricket Club regarding the bonfire, who hadn’t been aware of it happening but who’d reassured Cllr. McCallum that contractors would be reminded that bonfires are not permitted.
 - ii. A letter to householders on Brook St/A12 regarding the cutting back of boundary Leylandii was still pending.
 - iii. Following contact with ESC, the Clerk had been informed that it was aware that Yoxford needed a “reactive (road) sweep” and that this was “on the radar.”

5. Councillors’ and Clerk’s Reports

- a) **Yoxwood including the consideration of a funding request:** the request for funding sent by the Acting Chair of Yoxwood was discussed at great length. It was agreed that Yoxwood is a great resource run by a committed team of volunteers but that to receive further funding would require more formal processes from the team. It was proposed by Cllr. Tower, seconded by Cllr. McCallum and approved by all present, that in order to qualify for further funding, the following would be required:
 - i. The appointment of a Treasurer/Secretary
 - ii. The keeping of accounting records
 - iii. Monthly financial report to Yoxford Parish Council
 - iv. Drawing up of a business plan for the wood
 - v. In addition, the Yoxwood Team would be invited to attend the next meeting to discuss the matter further but asked to submit written response in readiness for attendance.

ACTION: Clerk to email the Yoxwood Team with Council’s requirements.

- b) Church: no report
- c) Police: no report. Cllr. Pearce proposed that this be removed as a standing item.
- d) ESC Community Partnership: no report.
- e) Cemetery: the Clerk reported that she was exploring the location of a grave and would be visiting Suffolk Archives to attempt to triangulate information.
- f) Work Party: next volunteering days March 16th and 17th. Further dates were discussed with April 20th and 21st identified as the next dates.

ACTION: Clerk to contact Volunteers and share next dates.

- g) Children and Young People: no report

6. Strategic Objectives 2023-2024

- a) **To receive an update on the legal transfer of Yoxwood View play area (Priority 1.2):** the Clerk reported that attempts had failed to contact a former link at Flagship and so Council’s solicitor at Birkett’s had been asked to liaise with their counterpart for Flagship.
- b) **To receive an update on the 20 mph speed limit proposal (Priority 3.1) and agree next steps in other traffic related matters in the village:** no further action as yet regarding the 20 mph campaign. The Clerk summarised the application that had been submitted to ESC following Cllr. Ewart’s offer to contribute to the funding of traffic measure for the Old High Rd. In addition, Cllr. Tower proposed siting a fourth post on the Old High Rd to enable the speed monitor to be used. This would give four locations in the village. Cllr. Wheeler seconded this proposal and all present agreed.

ACTION: Cllrs. Tower and Pearce to liaise regarding the sourcing and siting of a post.

- c) **To receive an update on the proposal to regenerate Mulberry Park (Priority 1.2):** Cllr. McCallum shared that, what was Garden Antiques had now closed, locks had been changed and that the Townland Trust was seeking tenders for the demolition of the portacabin. Boarding on the windows would go up and it was wondered whether local school children would be interested in decorating the boards. Cllr. Pearce disclosed that he had been asked to submit a tender. It was discussed if, once submitted, whether the tenders could be shared with the Parish Council with a view to discussing further whether to contribute funds. It was also suggested that Cockfield Hall could be contacted for a contribution. Overall, a collaboration of all parties for the benefit of the village was agreed as a good thing. For further discussion. The maintenance of Mulberry Park is minuted under 7c).

ACTION: Cllr. Greenberg to contact Yoxford Primary School regarding the decoration of the shop boards. Cllrs. McCallum and Pearce to liaise with the Townland Trust.

- d) **To consider any information for communicating (Priority 2.1):** with the significant works being undertaken within the Sizewell C Project, it was agreed that this needed a separate area on the village website to facilitate easy access. In addition, matters relating to Sizewell C will be covered in the monthly newsletter. Cllr. Greenberg also shared a notice from Peasenhall Scouts for inclusion.
- e) **To receive an update on the second phase of the thermal imaging camera project (Priority 6.3):** Cllrs. Thompson and Vincent summarised their work. The Clerk outlined next steps to collate findings and send over review document to ESC. With 13 households surveyed, it was agreed that the project has been more successful than the last round.

ACTION: Clerk to collate review document and send over to ESC which concludes the project.

7 Parish Matters

- a) **To receive an update on the proposal to site an additional dog waste bin on the lane just past Yoxford Antiques at the footpath on the left just beyond the bridge crossing the River Yox:** agreement, in principle, received from the Project Director of Wilderness.

ACTION: Cllr. Pearce to liaise with the Wilderness' Project Director regarding the exact location.

- b) **To share any updates following the October and Winter floods and SCC's Section 19 investigation:** as per Cllr. Smith's report, the gully opposite Mill Cottages on the A12 is due for clearance. Five days work from March 11th. All present agreed that this could only be a help in reducing risk of flooding. There was further discussion about the water coursing from the field behind the small orchard off the A1120 and flooding the area at the end of The Lane. Ownership of the land is uncertain but the Project Director from the Wilderness offered to survey this with Cllr. Pearce, who would then feedback.

ACTION: Cllr. Pearce to liaise with Wilderness' Project Director to survey the land and ascertain whether this is part of the Hunt estate.

- c) **To discuss the tenders for the grass cutting, additional maintenance of village green areas and appoint the contractor for 2023/4:** the two tenders were discussed at length, differences in cost noted and Cllr. Thompson summarised her and Cllr. Patterson's views as they had liaised with both contractors. It was agreed that the contract would need to be more closely managed and that it is important that the village's green spaces are as attractive as possible so that they are welcoming and used. This includes Mulberry Park's external features: Dr Marriot's bench and the railings. Cllr. Thompson shared that she and Cllr. Patterson felt that they had already established decent dialogue with both contractors. Cllr. Thompson proposed, Cllr. McCallum seconded and all present were in agreement that the contract be awarded to SCL Landscaping for both grass cutting and the additional works (information attached as an appendix). Discussion was also had about the oak tree next to the thatched jubilee seat and it was agreed that this tree required survey.

ACTION: Clerk to inform both contractors of the Council's decision, ascertain a start date for SCL and collate paperwork. Cllr. Thompson to liaise with SCL Landscapers regarding tree survey.

- d) **To receive and discuss relevant updates regarding Sizewell C including:**
- i. **the noting of the receipt of a consolidated executed copy of the Deed of Covenant with Sizewell C Co. :** this was noted.
 - ii. **feedback from the first Northern Transport Forum of February 6th 2024:** in Cllr. Patterson's absence, who'd attended this meeting, the Clerk summarised his initial thoughts and also shared that draft minutes had been forwarded earlier that day.

- iii. **Noise Mitigation Scheme and Resurfacing works on B1122:** the Clerk summarised information gained from a meeting she'd attended about these works. Due to begin from March 18th, the Sizewell C Communications Team shared key information regarding the 3.5km of works within a 7km stretch of the B1122: 200m before the west side of the level crossing and 3.3km of Mill St./Middleton. Diversion will be in place from 7pm to 6am. Access for residents and business will be provided with an escort. Before the work begins, two letters will be sent out to all residents affected by the work. The Clerk shared the SZC Works Tracker and will upload a link to this on the village website. Letters regarding the Noise Mitigation Scheme have also been sent by Sizewell C to those households in the village whose homes, as per noise assessments, fall within the agreed noise levels. Applications will require completion for mitigation measures to be awarded. The Clerk advised that it would be useful to offer residents support to complete these applications.

ACTION: Clerk to liaise with Cllr. Tower regarding the design of a website page for information relating to Sizewell C.

- iv. Cllr. Patterson has volunteered to take a lead on matters relating to Sizewell. The Clerk advised that this be shared with a small team and so asked for Council members to consider their availability. Discussion was had about drafting in another's input/interest/expertise to work with Council. As Council has no seats, co-option is not possible.

ACTION: Clerk to seek advice on how/if Council can use volunteers in Council business.

- e) **To discuss additional information within the request from St Peter's church regarding a contribution to the funding of a new parent/carer toddler group:** the additional information sent by the Lead Staff of the new group, was discussed. It was felt that this gave sufficient detail to reassure Council that appropriate due process was being followed and that it could become an asset to the village. Cllr. McCallum proposed and Cllr. Thompson seconded that the group be given a one off donation of £200 to contribute towards the group's start-up costs. In return, Council would need a detailed report of budgeting plans and decisions to evidence how this was being allocated. The Clerk advised that this donation could fall under s.137 expenditure.

ACTION: Clerk to contact the group's Lead and inform of Council's decision.

8. Planning Matters

- a) **To consider the following full planning application 1no. Holm oak (T001 on plan) - Overall crown reduction by up to 4 metres Oakwood Park Yoxford IP17 3JU:** the application was discussed fully. Concern was raised about the extent of the proposed reduction and that this could result in killing the tree. It was also suggested that the reduction would need to be completed at the right time of year to minimise damage to the tree's processes. Cllr. Thompson proposed that these concerns be submitted as the consultee comment. This was seconded by Cllr. Pearce and all were in favour.

ACTION: Clerk to submit consultee comments as per Council's discussions.

9. Administration and Finance

- a) **To review and renew the Allotments Tenancy Agreement:** this was reviewed. No changes necessary. Cllr. Thompson proposed, Cllr. Wheeler seconded and all present agreed, that the agreement be renewed.

ACTION: Clerk to submit reviewed tenancy agreement for signing by both parties and invoice the Allotment Association's Treasurer.

- b) **To conduct the annual review of the Financial Regulations:** Cllr. Tower proposed, Cllr. McCallum seconded and all present voted in favour to approve the submitted document.

ACTION: Clerk to finalise and publish the reviewed document.

- c) **To conduct the annual review and approval of the Asset Register:** this was discussed at some length with figures scrutinised and interrogated. In particular, the thatched jubilee seat was discussed in terms of value and insurance value.

ACTION: Clerk to ascertain accounting values for key item and update the register in line with received guidance.

- d) **To conduct the annual review and approval of the Internal Controls Statement:** this was discussed. Cllr. Greenberg proposed, Cllr. Garner seconded and all present voted in favour to approve the statement.

ACTION: Clerk to finalise and publish document.

- e) **In light of the government's set of the Parish Council Domain Helper Service, to consider the recommendation for the setup of a .gov.uk Parish Council website and Councillor email addresses:** following a thorough discussion about the benefits of having separate email addresses and a .gov.uk website, Cllr. Pearce proposed and Cllr. Tower seconded that steps be taken to explore the setting up of both website and email addresses.

ACTION: Clerk to investigate processes in order to set up .gov.uk website and email addresses.

- f) **To note the latest financial position:** this was noted and the Clerk shared that the Internal Audit had been scheduled for April 22nd to 26th 2024.
- g) **To review budget against actual for Q3: this was discussed and reviewed.** It was noted that actual spend would be greater than budget. Two factors were behind this: the increase in insurance premium and an increase in the Clerk's hourly rate.
- h) **To note the s.137 expenditure limit of £9.93 per elector for the financial year 2023-2024 and £10.81 per elector for the financial year 2024-25:** s.137 was explained by the Clerk, discussed and noted.
- i) **To receive an update on current arrangements for banking mandates:** the Clerk shared that all mandates were now up to date for all accounts held by the Parish Council.
- j) Cllr. Tower proposed, Cllr. Greenberg seconded, and all those present, voted in favour of authorising the following payments:

Details	Payee	Net	VAT	Total	Power
Expense claim: Stationery	Clerk	£63.06	-	£63.06	LGA 1972 s.111
Salary March 2024 (including 3.5 additional hours in February)	Clerk	£922.69	-	£922.69	LGA 1972 s.112

10. Correspondence

To review correspondence received from January 26th to March 1st 2024 and to take action as appropriate:

- i. Following contact from the database company that manages defibrillators, training on how to use the Defibrillator was discussed. This led to a fuller discussion about how Council could support training for wider health, wellbeing/welfare. Ideas were discussed. As a first step in exploring how such a package might look, free first aid training was discussed.

ACTION: Clerk to contact St John's Ambulance regarding their training offers.

- ii. The Clerk summarised contact received from Post Office Ltd. and other parishes affected by the planned reduction in outreach provision. These were discussed at length. Cllr. Pearce proposed and Cllr. Tower seconded that a letter be written to the local MP, Dr Therese Coffey and Minister responsible for the Post Office, Kevin Hollinrake.

ACTION: Clerk to draft a letter to both MPs, publish on village website.

11. Questions to the Chair

12. Items for the next Agenda

13. Next Meeting

- a) It was confirmed that the date and time of the next meeting of the Parish Council is scheduled for Thursday 4th April 2024 at 7:00 pm.

The meeting closed at 9.25pm

YPC Financial Position – Mar 2024

Payments UT Current Account - February 2023

Expense claim: stationery	Clerk	£	14.00
Salary	Clerk	£	890.56
MUTs lunch 27.02.24	Caterer	£	144.00
		£	1,048.56

Total Funds: Bank/Cashbook Balances

Unity Trust Current Account as of 25 January 2024	£	5,601.11
Unity Trust Savings Account as of 25 January 2024	£	41,157.37
United Trust Bank Business Bond as of 21 February 2024	£	7,611.05
United Trust Bank Business Bond as of 21 February 2024	£	5,668.09
	£	60,037.62

Earmarked Reserves:

Strickland Manor Hill Play Area	£	1,170.85
Mulberry Park	£	4,425.00
Youth Club	£	4,124.41
CIL 2020-2021	£	5,293.43
CIL 2021-2022	£	17,090.94
CIL 2022-2023	£	3,732.47
CIL 2023-2024	£	3,619.51
Meet Up Tuesday Grant	£	1,937.60
Teenagers' Shelter Grant	£	603.54
	£	41,997.75

General Reserves (=Total Funds – Earmarked Reserves)

£	18,039.87
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Appendix B: Correspondence – Jan 28th to March 1st 2024

Sending Organisation	Date(s) received	Details	Date forwarded
Suffolk Association of Local Councils	08/12	News & Vacancy Bulletins	various
	08/02/24	Palace Garden Party	08/02/24
East Suffolk Council:	26/01/24	Planning updates re Sizewell C	01/02/24
	22/02/24	Planning: DC/24/0611/TCA	22/02/24
Police	05/02/24	Police Connect : High value bike thefts from Eye	06/02/24
	05/02/24	Police Connect: #ItsNotOk - Suffolk police support Sexual Abuse and Sexual Violence Awareness Week	06/02/24
	08/02/24	Police Connect: Have Your Say Survey	09/02/24
	13/02/24	Police Connect: Burglary in Wissett	13/02/24
	13/02/24	Police Connect: Brampton- appeal following burglary	13/02/24
	23/02/24	Yoxford – appeal for witnesses to serious road traffic collision	27/02/24
	22/02/24	Suffolk Constabulary shares improvements to its call handling performance	27/02/24
Others:			
Yoxwood	01/03/24	Funding request	02/03/24
HMRC	13/02/24	Employer Bulletin	15/02/24
Middleton Parish Council	08/02/24	Info. re. SZC noise mitigation scheme	08/02/24
SZC Community Relations	09/02/24	Info re. SZC Noise Mitigation Scheme for Yoxford	13/02/24
Herbert Smith Freehills LLP	22/02/24	Email attaching a consolidated executed copy of the Deed of Covenant with Sizewell C Co	28/02/24
AEPA	15/02/24	Notification of meeting 07.03.24	17/02/24

Appendix C: **Kelsale & Yoxford Ward East Suffolk Council GLI Group – Councillor Update**

Local Matters For The Ward

Rural Post Office Services To Change

The Post Office outreach facility is being withdrawn in many villages or is being switched to a van. Whilst the MP has taken this up nationally with the Minister responsible for Post Offices, there seems to be no positive response. I have put to them that no attention has been paid to the Consumer Duty Act which puts the Post Office (and Barclays Bank, our other current rural closure challenge) in the same category of remiss behaviour with respect to supporting our rural communities. Please say if there is anything more that should be known.

Floods Across The Villages

We remain on the front foot in this regard in trying to keep our location within the eye of all of the agencies. It is noted there's been a great deal of work carried out on the A12 and more booked for March. On 12/3/2024 the scrutiny committee at SCC are looking at the Flood Procedure. This can be attended by the public and I have recommended that some local residents who were highly impacted put forward questions in the public period of the meeting. The residents hold the key to how the flood process does or does not work locally and it is hope that by doing this our ward may be asked to help bolster the intelligence of how best to run the pre, during and post support package, and similarly on the ground, who is responsible for which aspect of the waterways. Having an emergency plan for every village for the future is very important.

First Light

We are looking to take a group of young rural residents to First Light, the festival that is held in Lowestoft in June. Funded in part by the ESC it is a wonderful free experience for everyone to share. Getting there from Kelsale & Yoxford ward is the issue and so with Sam Kenward our community liaison officer I am looking to get this underway. If you have youngsters from 13 to 18 that would like to attend, please get in touch.

(julia.ewart@eastsoffolk.gov)

Sizewell C Contingencies

Would all villages take up the opportunities offered to them to attend and gain updates. We must ensure that boundaries of what takes place are as robust as we were lead to believe. I have attended the traffic meetings for North and South to date and feel summarily disappointed at the attention to detail given by EDF following the many meetings we had in the past. The DCO was signed off a long time ago, and is possibly not as granular in its detail as one would have expected.

Yoxford and Kelsale, which will both absorb a sizeable junction have strong representation, but we must ensure every possible opportunity is taken to support the area. I would like to thank Cllr Weaver (Kelsale) for her exceptional diligence and support.

There is all round concern that Suffolk County Council are not ahead with the road builds compared to the activity and influx of large vehicles. To learn that Sizewell as a hamlet doesn't have a road plan I think exemplifies that intrinsic concern.

Council hosts first-ever 'Model District Council' for schools

More than 50 young delegates from seven East Suffolk schools took over the Council Chamber as youth 'councillors' for the day.

Pupils from schools from across the district were invited to take their seats for a first-ever simulation of East Suffolk Council, and to debate a motion on intergenerational political equality in East Suffolk.

The Chair of Council, Cllr Dr Anthony Specca, developed and oversaw the 'Model District Council' event as a centrepiece of his Chairship. He was joined on the day by Vice-Chair Cllr John Fisher, Leader of the Council Cllr Caroline Topping, and Leader of the Labour Group Cllr Peter Byatt.

A total of 52 pupils from Benjamin Britten Academy, Bungay High School, Castle EAST School, East Coast College, Pakefield High School, The Ashley School and Thomas Mills High School took part in the Model District Council, which was an all-day educational event.

Pupils were each assigned a ward and political party, and they were offered an experience that mirrored the real Council as closely as possible. Supported by officers from Democratic Services and Communities teams, they first met in their political groups to consider the issue of how best to ensure that the youth voice is heard in East Suffolk. They then came together for a formal 'Full Council' meeting, with the Green, Liberal Democrat and Independent (GLI) group proposing a substantive motion, just like in the real Council.

Following robust debate and well-considered amendments from pupils in all the political groups, the youth 'councillors' then unanimously approved a motion to establish a permanent East Suffolk Youth Council.

Cllr Dr Speca said:

"As Chair of Council, and as an educator, I believe it's vital to engage youth in politics.

"The better future that we're trying to help shape here at East Suffolk Council belongs especially to the youth of our District. It's only fair that we listen to them, and our democracy will be stronger for it. It's now up to us to respond to the call for a permanent East Suffolk Youth Council, and I for one am keen to get to work on it."

The Model District Council also included a keynote speech by Rhammel Afflick BEM, Head of Advocacy and Communications for the British Youth Council, public-speaking tips from Beth Derks, founder of the 'Future Leaders' programme at the University of East Anglia, a 'marketplace' event featuring information about careers and apprenticeships with East Suffolk Council, and an 'Any Questions?'-style Q&A session with Group Leaders Cllrs Topping and Byatt.

Local Council Leaders warn of 'catastrophic effect' of Suffolk County Council Budget plans

The Leaders of Suffolk's district and borough councils have warned of "a catastrophic effect on hundreds of Suffolk's most vulnerable residents" should proposals contained within Suffolk County Council's Budget for 2024/25 be agreed.

Cllr John Ward (Babergh), Cllr Caroline Topping (East Suffolk), Cllr Neil MacDonald (Ipswich), Cllr Andrew Mellen (Mid Suffolk) and Cllr Cliff Waterman (West Suffolk) have written to the County Council, expressing their grave concern with the proposed changes to Housing Related Support (HRS); a temporary housing scheme which assists people in the care of Suffolk's Social and Children's Services. HRS is a model which helps individuals learn the skills needed to live independently prior to rehousing by district and borough councils, and it is a vital part of the pathway to prevent or relieve homelessness. However, Suffolk County Council now intends to remove all funding, and decommission the scheme by March 2025, having signed a five-year contract with support providers only just over a year ago.

[In the letter sent to Suffolk County Council](#), the Leaders have urged the authority to work with district and boroughs, and to reverse this decision, which they believe does not consider the longer-term impacts - not just on the county's most vulnerable people, but on the budgets that this approach will supposedly relieve. They wrote:

"The Housing Related Support service provides over 700 accommodation places, delivered through multiple specialist providers. These specialist providers, many of whom are charities, provide support to tenants to help them live independently. This service is not available via any other route, and we understand that there is a waiting list of around 400 people. "The client groups for Housing Related Support are amongst the most vulnerable in Suffolk. They include 16- and 17-year-olds who have no family with whom to live, 18-year-old care-leavers and unaccompanied asylum-seeking children.

They also include young people who are also parents. Without your supported accommodation, many of these children and young people will add further pressure to your Children and Young People Services budget.

“Clients also include adults with mental health conditions or learning disabilities, a history of drug or alcohol dependency, or those being released from prison. It’s likely that the lack of supported housing for these individuals will place additional pressure on your other Adult and Community Services budgets.

“If people who previously qualified for Housing Related Support, are left without accommodation then rough sleeping will increase. We know that this will impact on these vulnerable people’s health, that they are more likely to begin or continue substance misuse, and to suffer from mental health issues. The impact of this will increase demand on other County Council services which are already stretched.

“We recognise that times are tough and that difficult decisions need to be made. But we believe that a decision to end Housing Related Support is short-sighted and will haunt Suffolk County Council in years to come as the implications come to fruition.”

Statement on proposals for Suffolk arts and heritage funding

A statement from Cllr Sarah Whitelock and Cllr Katie Graham; East Suffolk's cabinet member and deputy cabinet member for Communities, Leisure and Tourism, regarding Suffolk County Council's proposals for arts and heritage funding in the county.

“At East Suffolk Council, we remain alarmed by the regressive proposals for arts and heritage funding at Suffolk County Council, affecting much-loved arts organisations and residents in our district.

“Following a public and media outcry over a proposed total cut to the arts and heritage sector, providing a savings of only 0.58% to the council’s finances, a further announcement of additional government funding led to suggestions that the council could now make a U-turn. On closer inspection, however, there is no U-turn but a renewed commitment from the council to remove core funding of arts and heritage from its budget. A smaller pot of money, as yet for 2025-2026 only, has now been allocated to the sector for which organisations need to compete against each other for individual projects that ‘meet the council’s priorities.’ “This is not a good situation for our museums and arts organisations which contribute so much to our residents. As many have attested, the financial security that the council’s core funding provides is essential to their operation. To remove this funding is to remove a financial security that allows them to plan ahead, and in many cases, means they are at risk of scaling back on projects that offer enormous value to those within our community.

“The council’s statement that this model opens up the funding stream to organisations that might otherwise have been overlooked is one that communicates a lack of confidence in the organisations that were already being supported. A further pot of money to attract fledgling initiatives would be a sound investment; removing existing funding to do this is only damaging.

“Art and culture play a vital role in our communities, especially when times are hard. We believe it is the responsibility of any government to uphold their value not just in words but actions. We appeal to the county council to consider not only the practical harm brought about by this removal of core funding, but the broader and longer-term damage that such a lack of commitment communicates to our residents.”

Ease the Squeeze on cost of living

Are you, or someone you know, worried about the increasing cost of living?

We understand the pressures faced by many people today and we are working closely with key partners to ensure support is available to help ease the squeeze for households in East Suffolk.

To make it as easy as possible for you to access the services and support available, locally and nationally, we have gathered information about them in one place:

www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/community/squeeze/

For the most up to date information regarding East Suffolk Council, please visit: **www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk**