

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

held on

April 4th 2024

at 7pm

Yoxford Village Hall

1. Attendance and apologies

Attendees:

Cllr. David Childs
Cllr. Janet Gardner
Cllr. Nicol McCallum
Cllr. Anna Noakes
Cllr. Ian Patterson
Cllr. Russell Pearce
Cllr. Deborah Thompson
Cllr. David Tower
Cllr. Jason Vincent

Apologies accepted for absence:

Cllr. Laura Greenberg
Cllr. Hazel Wheeler

In attendance:

District Cllr. Julia Ewart
County Cllr. Richard Smith

7 members of the public
Trudy Charles - Clerk/RFO

2. To receive declarations of interest and to consider requests for dispensations: in relation to Agenda item 7c., declarations of interest were received from Cllrs. Gardner, McCallum and Pearce.

3. Public Forum

- a) **Members of the public may address the Council on any agenda item:** a member of the public enquired about any further updates on the speed signs on the A1120 shortly before the cemetery, which had fallen/been knocked down. The Clerk confirmed that the matter had been reported via Suffolk County Council's public Reporting Tool but that after inspection, the Council informed her that there was no planned maintenance or re-siting of these two posts. County Cllr. Smith explained that street lights denoted a 30mph limit and so the signs were not required. The Clerk explained that traffic/speed management was an item on the agenda and so this would be discussed further.
- b) **To receive a report from County Cllr. Richard Smith:**
- i. As part of Sizewell C's duties under the Deed of Obligation, resurfacing work of sections of the B1122 is underway. The Annual Community Forum is scheduled for April 9th 2024 at Trinity Park, Ipswich and Cllr. Smith will be attending.
 - ii. Cllr. Smith noted that the work had been completed to clear the gully alongside the A12 at the boundary of the village and thanked Cllr. Pearce for his efforts in ensuring this key work was completed.
- c) **To receive a report from District Cllr. Julia Ewart:**
- i. Cllr. Ewart summarised that during the most recent Community Partnership meeting, work with Cyds would happen again this year to support children and young people attend the First Light Festival in Lowestoft. In addition, the group would be exploring ways of supporting parishes/wards working together more successfully.
 - ii. Within ESC's Enabling Communities Budget, Yoxford's application for assistance with funding its traffic management plans has been successful. In addition, the village's History Group will also receive funding for a new cupboard. Cllr Pearce thanked Cllr. Ewart for her help and support.
 - iii. As Vice Chair of the Planning Committee, Cllr. Ewart was able to confirm that the three planning applications relating to Cockfield Hall (discussed at the Parish Council meeting of January 22nd 2024) were likely to be considered by ESC in June 2024.
 - iv. Cllr. Ewart shared that she had received a number of emails regarding concern about the impact of the works on the B1122.
 - v. Following the recent road sweep in the village, Cllr. Ewart shared that she was following up regarding consistency of the delivery of the service.
 - vi. Cllr. Ewart shared that, following October 2023's floods, she had attended the County's Scrutiny Committee and urged that those affected be listened to. There are many who are still not able to return to their properties.

- vii. Cllr's written report, which contains further information, will be included 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 March 7th 2024.
- b) **Matters arising from the meeting of March 7th, not included under this meeting's agenda. The Clerk reported that:**
 - i. Feedback has been submitted regarding ESC's Thermal Imaging Project which concludes the project.
 - ii. In line with decision at the meeting, payment has been submitted in support of St Peter's Church Parent and Toddler group.
 - iii. The updated/revised Financial Regulations and Internal Controls Statement have been uploaded to the village website.
 - iv. Cllr. Tower and the Clerk are scheduled to attend an information session regarding .gov.uk websites on April 15th and will feedback at next month's meeting.
 - v. Letters have been written which request two households on Brook St. to trim their Leylandii hedging. These will delivered after the meeting.

5. Councillors' and Clerk's Reports

- a) **Yoxwood including discussion of the team's additional submission in support of its request for funding:**
 - i. the Chairperson invited the attending Yoxwood volunteers to contribute to this item
 - ii. the emails, sent by the Acting Chair of the group were discussed.
 - iii. after initial support from the Clerk, it was agreed that a more formal monthly financial report was achievable.
 - iv. Cllr. McCallum explained that in the event of bad weather, the Parish Council required contact from the Yoxwood Team and that the Village Hall would be a suitable alternative venue.
 - v. In light of the discussions and assurances from the Yoxwood Team, Cllr. Tower proposed that the funding request of £500 towards the Yoxwood annual Music Day be granted. Cllr. Thompson seconded the proposal and all voted in favour.
 - vi. Cllr. Childs reported that over 30 children took part in the annual Easter Egg Hunt, which was a great success. He was thanked by all for his support of the event.

ACTION: Clerk to contact the Treasurer of Yoxwood to arrange a session to design a simple accounting cashbook. Clerk to set up payment of £500 to Yoxwood.

- b) Church: no report
- c) Police: no report.
- d) ESC Community Partnership: in light of the most recent meeting, Cllr. Thompson, who has attended on the Council's behalf, requested that dates be published in advance.

ACTION: Clerk to contact ESC's Community Partnership.

- e) Cemetery: Cllr. Thompson reported that the grass has now been cut and that the bulbs that were planted by the Volunteer Group are in full bloom.
- f) Volunteers Work Party: to set up schedule of works and rota of Cllr. leads/participants:
 - i. this was discussed and it was agreed that it would be appropriate to have four weekends per year scheduled for the group's work. The next dates are April 20th and 21st and Cllrs. McCallum and Pearce will attend and lead the work. Tasks could include: tree maintenance (ivy cutting) at Bowling Club Corner; clearing debris in, and painting the railings at the front of Mulberry Park and clearing/tidying behind the Village Hall.
 - ii. Suffolk County Council's Community Self-Help Scheme was discussed. Cllr. Thompson proposed and Cllr. Tower seconded that the Council make use of this scheme and submit an application for Ranger training. Cllrs. Noakes and Pearce volunteered to complete this training. All were in favour.

- iii. At this point, Cllr. Thompson shared a summary of her meeting with Wayne Saunders of Suffolk County Council Highways Team during which they had inspected and discussed the historic oak tree behind the Jubilee Seat. There is general consensus that the tree is at risk and needs remedial attention. Cllr. Ewart offered to look into protocol.

ACTION: Clerk to update the Volunteer Group and submit an application to the Community Self-Help Scheme. Clerk to contact Wayne Saunders and SCC regarding the instigation of a tree inspection.

- g) Children and Young People: no report except that it was noted that children and young people have not attended the Youth Club since before Christmas 2023.

6. Strategic Objectives 2023-2024

- a) **To receive an update on the legal transfer of Yoxwood View play area (Priority 1.2):** the Clerk summarised contact from former Councillor, Stephen Siddall who'd informed her that he'd been able to speak with a named employee, Carla Rideway, at Flagship Housing and that once he'd confirmed that the form of transfer is actually agreed, he would confirm with Flagship that Yoxford Parish Council is ready and willing to complete. Ms Rideway will then give the necessary instructions to Birketts to proceed to completion.

ACTION: Clerk to liaise with Stephen Siddall.

- b) **To receive an update on the 20 mph speed limit proposal (Priority 3.1), note the successful grant application to ESC's Enabling Communities Budget Scheme funding towards traffic management measure, agree appropriate signage for Old High Road and approve next steps:**
- iv. Cllr. Pearce proposed that, given the lack of progress on the 20mph speed limit proposal, that this be removed from the agenda. To be discussed further.
 - v. Cllr. Pearce thanked Cllr. Ewart for her support for Yoxford Parish Council's successful application under the Enabling Communities Budget. £1250 had been awarded, which was 50% of the approximate costs of signage for the Old High Road. Lengthy discussion was had about the most effective ways to raise drivers' awareness of the busyness of the section of the road where the Cricket Club, Village Hall and Bowling Club intersect. Cllr. Pearce proposed that four road painted 30mph roundels be applied for: two on the incline of Old High Road and two on the incline approaching Yoxford Cemetery on the A1120. Cllr. Childs seconded this and all present voted in favour.

ACTION: Clerk to contact Wayne Alexander and request a quotation for these works.

- c) **To receive an update on the proposal to regenerate Mulberry Park (Priority 1.2):** As husband of the Treasurer to Townland Trust, Cllr. McCallum offered a summary of the Trust's thinking. It has met and recognises that it has work to do to upgrade the two properties (one currently rented by the business, 'Snips' and the other formerly 'Garden Antiques', now empty) and the land known as 'Donkey Meadow'. The trust is exploring other options, such as selling the properties and wishes to liaise with Yoxford Parish Council for the benefit of the village.
- d) **To consider any information for communicating (Priority 2.1):** matters relating to the Cockfield Hall planning applications to ensure the village is kept up to date; Sizewell updates; Voluntary Group's work; Dr. Marriot's Seat.

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:** Cllr. Pearce reported that he had met on site with Matt Bostock of the Wilderness/Cockfield Hall Estates and agreed location for the siting of a green dog waste bin.

ACTION: Clerk to contact ESC to make the necessary arrangements for the purchase, siting and emptying of the dog waste bin.

- b) To share any updates following the October and Winter floods and SCC's Section 19 investigation: Cllr. Pearce reported that he had met with Matt Bostock of Wilderness/Cockfield Hall Estates regarding the field running parallel to Little St. to investigate flood water. He confirmed that this area is part of the estate and so he'll be exploring remedial works to minimise future impact of rain/flooding.

- c) **To consider the query from local resident regarding the erection of a substantial gate across part of the track running alongside 1 Cullcott Close and decide any action:**
- i. For this item, Cllr. Pearce ceded the Chair to Cllr. Tower.
 - ii. The matter was discussed.
 - iii. Cllr. Tower explained that the Parish Council has no decision-making power over planning matters or issues with public rights of way.
 - iv. A member of the public shared that its his understanding that changes have been made by the householder to reduce public access.
 - v. Cllr. Tower reiterated the Council's position and signposted issues on public rights of way to the Suffolk County Council's website which provides instructions for how to report a public rights of way issue in Suffolk.
- d) **To receive and discuss relevant updates regarding the Sizewell C project, including:**
- i. **feedback from AEPa meeting of 7th March 2024:** Cllr. Patterson summarised the meeting which, rather than focusing on Sizewell, had the NSIPs of Lion Link and Sealink as its main focus. Minutes have been circulated on these meetings but Cllr. Patterson highlighted that the meeting reported difficulties on gaining straight answers from National Grid.
 - ii. **the organisation of council representation at SZC forums/meetings:** the importance of maintaining a presence at all relevant meetings was agreed. Cllrs. Patterson, Pearce, and Tower and the Clerk volunteered to share representation.
- e) **To receive and discuss any update on the change to outreach services delivered by Post Office Ltd.:** The Council's letter to Therese Coffey and Nick Hollinrake MPs has been sent. Dr. Coffey has replied (this was circulated to Cllrs. and uploaded to the village website). It was felt that no impact would be made to reverse the Post Office's decision to cut outreach services in the village. The service had been confirmed for Wednesdays 9.15-10.15am.
- f) **To discuss the refurbishment of Dr Marriott's seat outside Mulberry Park:** Cllrs. Pearce and Thompson updated Council on the condition of the seat. The consensus is that it requires new slats and arms. Cllr. Pearce volunteered to complete the repairs. Cllr. Patterson proposed and Cllr. Tower seconded that repairs up to the value of £100 be authorised. All were in favour.
- ACTION: Clerk to inform the village via the Newsletter. Cllr. Pearce to remove the bench to his workshop and complete the repairs.**

8. Planning Matters

- a) **To consider the planning application: Hope House, High Street, Yoxford, IP17 3HP Ref. No: DC/24/0849/FUL:** the application was discussed. Cllr. Patterson proposed and Cllr. Childs seconded that no objections be raised. All present were in favour.
- ACTION: Clerk to submit consultee comments via the ESC Planning Portal.**

9. Administration and Finance

- a) The signing of the renewed Tenancy Agreement with Yoxford Allotments Association was noted.
 - b) The change in date for the Internal Audit to 27th to 31st May 2024 was noted.
 - c) The last date of submission of 1st July 2024 of the approved Annual Governance & Accountability Return (AGAR) 2024 was noted.
 - d) **To receive an update on guidance regarding the management of asset registers and then conduct the annual review and approval of the Asset Register:** the Clerk updated Council with guidance regarding asset registers. It was proposed by Cllr. McCallum that, following this year's Internal Audit, that insurance values for substantial items such as the Jubilee Seat be added. Cllr. Pearce seconded this proposal and all present voted in favour.
- ACTION: Clerk to ascertain insurance/replacement values for key assets.**
- e) The latest financial position, including receipt of reclaimed VAT and the bank reconciliations for Q4 and year end were noted. The Clerk shared that £3324.86 VAT had been reclaimed with £2367.86 for the Village Hall and £957 for the Parish Council and that Cllr. Tower had checked and signed both bank reconciliations.

f) Cllr. Tower proposed and Cllr. Pearce seconded, that the payments listed below are authorised. All present voted in favour:

Details	Payee	Net	VAT	Total	Power
Data Protection renewal fee	ICO	£35.00	-	£35.00	LGA 1972 s.111
Payroll Services six months to 31 st March 2024	SALC	£45.00	£9.00	£54.00	LGA 1972 s.111
Domain (Yoxford.org.uk) renewal fee	Zen Internet Ltd.	£11.99	£2.40	£14.39	LGA 1972 s.111
Contribution for Q3 & Q4 2023/4	Yoxford Village Hall	£481.00	-	£481.00	LGA (Misc Prov) 1976 s.19
Expense claim: ESC Green Waste subscription for cemetery & Lebara Mobile sim (March)	Clerk	£54.90	-	£54.90	LGA 1972 s.111
Salary April 2024	Clerk	£840.32	-	£840.32	LGA 1972 s.112
Employer NI Contribution Q4 2023/4	HMRC	£45.24	-	£45.24	LGA 1972 s.112

10. Correspondence

To review correspondence received from March 2nd to 26th 2024 and to take action as appropriate: since the publication of the meeting's Agenda, the invoice for £355.57 for SALC membership 2024/5 had been received. This was considered and authorised for payment following a proposal from Cllr. Thompson, seconding by Cllr. Tower and all being in favour.

11. Questions to the Chair: none

12. Items for the next Agenda: none offered.

13. Next Meeting

a) The date and time of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council was confirmed as Thursday 9th May 2024 at 7:00 pm.

b) To consider arrangements for the APM scheduled for Thursday May 9th 2024: following the increased village participation at the APM of 2023, Cllr. Pearce proposed, Cllr. Thompson seconded and all were in favour that the same format be implemented for 2024.

ACTION: Clerk to make arrangements for the APM.

Meeting closed at 8.45pm

Trudy Charles
Parish Clerk
April 9th 2024

Appendix A: Correspondence – March 1st to 27th 2024

Sending Organisation	Date(s) received	Details	Date forwarded
Suffolk Association of Local Councils	15, 20	News & Vacancy Bulletins, East Forum Notes	various
East Suffolk Council:	14/03/24	Notification of grant application success for signage on Old High Rd	20/03/24
	21/03/24	Planning, Building Control and Coastal Management newsletter	26/03/24
Suffolk Climate Change Partnership/SCC	15/03/24	Invitation/information re Community Food Partnership	21/03/24
Police	19/03/24	Police Connect: Theft from a van in Wenhaston	20/03/24
	19/03/24	Police Connect: Suffolk introduces digital desk to improve accessibility to the public	20/03/24
	19/03/24	Police Connect: New rural and wildlife crime lead for Suffolk	20/03/24
Others:			
AEPA	27/03/24	Minutes of T&PCs meeting 7th March & draft document re East Suffolk Communities Energy partnership for engagement with DESNZ	28/03/24
Rural Services Network	19/03/24	The Rural Bulletin	20/03/24
SZC & Community Relations Team	25/03/24	Project Update	26/03/24
Local resident	16/03/24	Email feedback re. volunteer days	20/03/24

Appendix B: YPC Financial Position – April 2024

Receipts: UT Current Account - March 2024

Reclaimed VAT	HMRC	£	3,324.86
Annual Rent 2024/5	YAA	£	200.00
		£	3,524.86

Payments UT Current Account - March 2024

Transfer of reclaimed VAT	Village Hall	£	2,367.86
Expense claim: sim & printer ink	Clerk	£	63.06
Salary: March	Clerk	£	922.69
MUTs lunch 26.03.24	Caterer	£	167.00
		£	3,520.61

Total Funds: Bank/Cashbook Balances

Unity Trust Current Account as of 28 March 2024	£	5,772.36
Unity Trust Savings Account as of 28 March 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
	£	60,208.87

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	£	1,770.60
Teenagers' Shelter Grant	£	603.54
	£	41,830.75

General Reserves (=Total Funds – Earmarked Reserves)

£	18,378.12
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Appendix C: March 2024 Parish Report Cllr Julia Ewart East Suffolk Council GLI Group

Community Partnership Event – Friday 22 March 2024

Well attended event bringing all the Community Partnership groups together, from all of the wards for an inspirational speech from the leader, Caroline Topping and mixture of guests casing charities, CICs and outreach groups that work in the community.

This same group at a local level hope to work with the youth groups to take young people to the First Light Festival.

Community Enabling Grant

All grant payments are on now secured for those villages benefiting to have a project supported. Please be aware this process starts again shortly and will close at the end of February 2025. Each parish may request a value for a scheme that may benefit the village.

Planning Issues

The large project with associated permissions in Yoxford at Cockfield Hall is now likely to come to the planning committee from June onwards and not May as was first thought.

The Yoxford round about for Sizewell C is starting to be a concern, and the relaying of the road on the B1122 had proved a challenge for many residents. Work from the Deed of Obligation is on going and particular attention is going to be made to ensuring contractors work within the enforced code of Considerate Practice. The works tracker is to be found on www.szcworkstracker.co.uk

East Suffolk Services Ltd – for villages in contract

Whilst the roads have been swept by now the timing of the service being delivered isn't easy to decipher. The new company has been asked to be more timely for road sweeping etc.

Scrutiny Question On Behalf Of The Villages

Having asked to speak at the Suffolk County Council Scrutiny meeting that was discussing emergency planning and floods, the question of local concerns was raised, in that any future flood may bring the same tricky and somewhat disorganised outcome. It was suggested that a new way should be sought, by asking residents of the Kelsale & Yoxford ward for their lived experience. Responses to the question are still forthcoming with those involved in drainage discussing the bigger picture. The work carried out on the water course to the side of the A12 in Yoxford is truly splendid.

Budget - East Suffolk Council announces spending plans for 2024-25

Outcome from minutes of Full Council meeting held late February 2024.

East Suffolk Council will spend nearly £100million in 2024/25 delivering critical services for its communities, and projects to improve the district, as part of an ambitious four-year-plan.

At a Full Council meeting today, the Council confirmed a balanced budget for the year and committed to a net spend of £46 million for services such as planning and coastal management, environmental services, leisure, waste collection and parking.

In addition, a further £50 million will be invested in assets, services, housing and infrastructure in 2024/25 as part of the General Fund and Housing Capital Programmes.

Having formed a new Administration in May 2023, the Green, Liberal Democrat and Independent Group (GLI) led by Cllr Caroline Topping, developed 'Our Direction 2028' – a four-year plan which presents the Council's key ambitions. It is driven by four main priorities (Environmental Impact, Sustainable Housing, Tackling Inequalities & Thriving Economy) and Cllr Topping believes this budget shows that the Council is making important funding decisions based on these clear principles. She said: "The GLI administration at East Suffolk Council has a clear and bold plan to promote a bright, green, open, free, and fair future for all - and our budget for 2024/25 reflects that. We know that many people are facing difficulties, and our services can make a real difference. "We are focusing on the inequalities that people face in East Suffolk, with a range of services dedicated to providing support for those most in need. We are raising funding for Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise (VCFSE) organisations, providing more money for Citizens Advice East Suffolk, and to Community Hubs which offer practical advice and support for a range of vulnerable residents." Improved housing is also a key priority and, along with the Housing Revenue Account, our budget commits to supporting safe, suitable and sustainable homes, delivering affordable and sustainable housing as opportunities arise.

"Naturally, we are committed to delivering positive climate, nature and environmental impacts – which will also benefit and enhance our long-term financial stability. This includes a commitment to fund a range of different initiatives such as our Cycling and Walking Strategy and ongoing financial support for the delivery of the Council's commitment to net zero by 2030.

"This budget also looks to ensure that our economic development and regeneration activity enables residents of East Suffolk to benefit from and contribute to a thriving economy but with a sustainable approach at its heart."

Around 40% of East Suffolk's critical services are funded by Council Tax and the total amount paid specifically to East Suffolk by each household will increase by 2.98%. However the Council only receives around 8.8% of each Council Tax bill, with the remainder going to Suffolk County Council, the Police and Crime Commissioner for Suffolk and Town & Parish Councils.

Cllr Topping continued: "If we are to set a balanced budget, while delivering such a wide range of vital services which benefit all our communities and businesses, Council Tax is a critically important element. It funds a large proportion of our net budget requirements, and with rising costs, set against a limited funding provision from central government, a rise is unavoidable.

"However, the proportion of total Council Tax which we receive for the services we deliver remains very small. For a Band D property, the proposed increase equates to an increase of just £5.40 per household for the entire year – and yet, it will help generate a fraction under half a million pounds of additional income for East Suffolk, which will be invested into the services that matter most to our communities."

Winners revealed in 'East Suffolk Through the Lens' photo competition

A stunning selection of images have triumphed in a competition inviting photographers to showcase East Suffolk 'Through the Lens'. Entrants were encouraged to submit photographs that captured the essence of East Suffolk – from its people and wildlife to its historic buildings and beautiful landscapes.

Organised by East Suffolk Council, the competition gave photographers of all ages and experience the chance to exhibit their talents by capturing their favourite sights and scenes from across the district. More than 350 entries were submitted during the seven-week competition between 11 December and 28 January – with one amazing photo eventually chosen by a panel of judges as overall winner, along with three runners-up and an under-16 winner.

Tim Bennett's winning photograph, entitled 'Early morning swim at Southwold Beach', impressed judges with its striking colour, light, and sense of tranquillity. Highly commended runners-up included Peter Stokes' ghostly image of Felixstowe Ferry on the River Deben, Darren Kirby's imposing impression of a misty Lowestoft beach scene, and Jordan Shaddick's breathtaking shot of a hare bounding across Boyton and Hollesley Marshes.

Meanwhile, Bruno Leon's beautiful depiction of a vole eating a blade of grass at RSPB Minsmere was a worthy winner in the under-16 category of the competition.

GLI Cllr Caroline Topping, East Suffolk Council Leader and judging panel member, said:

"We were so impressed with the range and quality of photographs submitted for 'East Suffolk Through the Lens'. Viewing them was a real treat and confirmed the beauty and diversity of landscape in our district.

"Some were inspiring, others were humorous or cleverly composed, and all were worthy of praise for representing something special about East Suffolk to the photographer. Thanks to everyone who submitted an entry and congratulations to our winners."

Tim Bennett's winning photo is set grace the cover of East Suffolk Magazine when delivered to every household in the district next spring. High street retail vouchers are also on their way to the overall winner, under-16 winner and three runners-up.

To see all the photos chosen by judges, visit: www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/news/east-suffolk-through-the-lens-photo-competition-winners/

Grow for it! Residents encouraged to grow their own

East Suffolk residents are being encouraged to grow their own this spring with the return of a successful programme offering free growing kits.

Following the success of East Suffolk Council's Field to Fork programme last year when 1,500 growing kits were distributed to primary schools across the district, the scheme is now returning for 2024.

Field to Fork aims to encourage people to try to grow their own food and improve their health and wellbeing in the process.

This year, 1,900 kits will be made available, each one containing compost pellets, seeds and free access to Groundwork East's online GROW Programme.

Those interested in a kit can apply online and kits can then be collected from locations across East Suffolk, including libraries, community hubs and churches over the next four weeks. Priority will be given to those on the existing Field to Fork distribution list and then the kits will be made available to all from Monday 18 March.

GLI Councillor Sarah Whitelock, East Suffolk's cabinet member for Communities, Leisure and Tourism said: "We want to help people feel more confident with growing their own fruit and vegetables, which can help save money and help people make healthier food choices. The growing kits were well received last year and we are looking forward to seeing everyone's produce as the weather warms up."

Apply for a growing kit here: my.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/service/Field_to_fork

Anyone in need of help completing the application form can contact our Customer Services team: 0333 016 2000

Each growing kit is packed in Melton by Realise Futures. Next month, a small grants scheme will open to support community farms, allotments and gardens to help people get involved with growing their own food. The Field to Fork grant scheme will provide grants of up to £2,000 to help engage local people with 'grow and eat' projects that will feed communities and help people stay active and connected.

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