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Suffolk County Council Report for Clare Division July 2025

97.5% of Suffolk Libraries to Become Suffolk Community Libraries from 1 June

The service will continue to operate as usual, with no changes for library users and all 45 libraries will remain open.

This ensures the council can continue delivering library services in a sustainable way, strengthening the role libraries play across Suffolk's communities.

Suffolk County Council extends its sincere thanks to everyone involved in the transition and looks forward to this new chapter for library services in Suffolk.

For more information, please visit www.suffolkcommunitylibraries.co.uk

What a win for waste at the Suffolk Show!

The Suffolk Waste Partnership was presented with the award for the Best Stand Representing Education at this year's Suffolk Show.

The tent brought together waste contractors across Suffolk, such as Biffa who manage and run the Materials Recycling Facility where all Suffolk's household recycling goes.

Suez contributed, the company who manage and run the Suffolk Energy from Waste plant where all Suffolk's black bag waste is sent, to be used to generate electricity for 40,000 homes.

Also exhibiting were FCC Environment who manage and run the county's 11 recycling centres and The Benjamin Foundation who run our re-use shops in Bury and Foxhall.

On display were the new recycling bins that will be introduced across Suffolk next year to allow collection glass and tetrapak, along with food waste.

Visitors also had the opportunity to speak with Master Composter and Repair Cafe volunteers, learn about Food Savvy (a campaign to reduce the amount of food they throw away), and take part in crafting using recycled materials.

The award was presented by the Suffolk Agricultural Association.

Phillip Ainsworth, Chief Executive of the Suffolk Agricultural Association, organisers of the Suffolk Show, said:

“We always maintain that Suffolk Show is not only a great family event but is also a platform for many community and public organisations to showcase all the work they do through the year.

“We were delighted to learn that judges awarded Suffolk Waste Partnership tradestand an award for Best Stand Representing Education at the Suffolk Show this year for their efforts in informing the public about many campaigns they run including ways to reduce waste, reusing and recycling, composting and many more.”

New Strategy Launched to Tackle Violence Against Women and Girls in Suffolk

While Suffolk remains a safe county in which to live, work, and visit, the reality is that Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence continue to affect too many people. These crimes are often driven by harmful attitudes and gender-based stereotypes that disproportionately impact women and girls. However, the strategy recognises that anyone, regardless of gender identity, can be a victim and that support must be inclusive and far-reaching.

The new Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Strategy places the experiences of victims and survivors at its heart. Shaped through extensive engagement with victim-survivors, support services, and frontline professionals, the strategy sets a clear and ambitious vision:

For everyone in Suffolk to play their part in preventing and identifying Violence Against Women and Girls, creating the safety we all deserve.

To achieve this vision, the strategy is built around four key ambitions:

- Stop the abuse before it starts
- Support every survivor
- Hold abusers accountable
- Build a united front

In March 2025, the Suffolk Safer and Stronger Communities Board formally endorsed the strategy, marking an important milestone in the county's coordinated response to Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence.

Help is available, whether you are currently experiencing abuse, have recently left an abusive relationship, or are concerned about someone you know, you are not alone. A wide range of local, specialist support services is available [Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls \(VAWG\) | Suffolk Constabulary](#)

For more information, and to read the full strategy, visit: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/asset-library/Suffolk-VAWG-Strategy-2025-28.pdf>

Council reorganisation affects us all - so have your say today

A new survey giving residents the opportunity to shape the future of councils and public services in Suffolk has been launched.

It's part of the Government plan to reshape and streamline councils in Suffolk to save money, reduce confusion and improve public services for residents.

The survey only takes about 10 minutes to complete, and can be done online at www.suffolk.gov.uk/devolution, by emailing devolution@suffolk.gov.uk or by calling 0345 603 1842 where a member of Suffolk County Council's customer services team can help residents to complete the survey.

People can also visit any of Suffolk's 45 libraries to complete the survey online.

It asks questions about local democracy – such as how you raise issues that need addressing, local decision making – such as how you might want to get involved and about the specifics of council reorganisation itself.

The survey is open for eight weeks – until 4 August 2025.

The survey will play a part in helping Suffolk County Council to develop a comprehensive business plan that looks at the best way to organise councils and deliver public services in Suffolk – so that the Government has all the information it needs to decide which proposal(s) to put out to public consultation.

From best practice elsewhere in the country to the costs of various options currently on the table, no stone is being left unturned.

Whilst a final proposal is still to be developed, Suffolk County Council believes that a new single local council is the smartest, simplest, and best option for the whole of Suffolk which will deliver the biggest savings and most sustainable service improvements.

The council argues that any alternatives will have to work hard to justify the risks of breaking up critical services like social care, creating new council boundaries and smaller population sizes.

Early analysis by financial consultants PwC suggests that establishing a single new local council could cost around £19 million but that this could be repaid quickest through the significant financial savings achieved by having one council.

Alternatively, the cost of breaking Suffolk into two or even three – as proposed by Suffolk's district and borough councils - would cost £7 million to £13 million more and, in the case of three new councils, that investment would never be repaid as there would be no savings to be found.

Plug In Suffolk Car Clubs have arrived!

Two cars with a range of over 200 miles have been placed at each of the following locations:

- Girling St Car Park, Sudbury
- Maiden Way Car Park, Hadleigh
- Station Yard Car Park, Needham Market

With the average vehicle parked 96% of the time, the Car Club gives residents the opportunity to simply book a car for the minutes, hours or day that they need, cutting out the expense of car ownership. Suffolk are receiving free membership to the Car Club as well as credit on their account so they can start using the cars straight away.

Car Clubs have been trialled in other areas of the country and can improve air quality, reduce congestion and parking pressure and increase mobility to those without access to their own car. Residents can also experience driving an electric vehicle without the cost of owning one.

The Plug In Suffolk Car Club is just one way that Suffolk's local authorities are helping to create a net zero Suffolk. This project delivers on two of the Suffolk Climate Emergency Plan's goals; a reduced number of cars on the road and an increased proportion of vehicles on the road that are low or zero emission. You can find out more about the Suffolk Climate Emergency Plan at greensuffolk.org.

Over the next few months, two car club vehicles are due to be delivered to each of the following further locations:

- Norfolk Road, Ipswich
- Crown Street, Stowmarket
- Cannon Street, Bury St Edmunds
- Ann Street, Ipswich
- Granary Road, Newmarket
- Norwich Road, Lowestoft
- Castle Street, Woodbridge

An initial 18-month trial of the Car Club will determine the appetite for a wider scheme across the county so we could see electric community vehicles rolled out to more locations in Suffolk in the future.

To join the car club, visit co-wheels.org.uk/Suffolk. Suffolk residents can use promo code Suffolk15 to get free membership and £15 credit on their account. After becoming a member, vehicles can be booked via the website, Co Wheels app or over the phone.

This innovative project is funded by Suffolk's public sector organisations and managed by Suffolk County Council with additional charge point funding provided by the Department for Transport's On Street Residential ChargePoint Scheme (ORCS). On the ground, the Car Clubs themselves will be delivered by Co Wheels and the chargepoints provided by Connected Kerb, with Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils managing the chargepoints located in their car parks.

£8m funding for Bus Service improvements

The funding from the Department of Transport's Local Authority Bus Grant can be used to create new bus services or enhance existing routes.

Following on from previous grants from the Department for Transport to improve bus services, totalling £3.7m of revenue funding between 2023 and 2025, the new grant which has been allocated for 2025/26 comprises of:

- £2,805,076 revenue for delivering new or enhanced services.
- £5,229,805 capital for new and improved bus stops, bus stations, bus priority measures or vehicle upgrades.

This money will enable Suffolk County Council to invest up to £5 million in capital projects to increase bus priority on congested streets, make improvements to bus stops and gain a better understanding of the

journeys people are taking, paving the way for more innovative fare offers in the future. The council also plans to upgrade the current Real Time Passenger Information system, giving live updates on when buses will arrive at stops across the county.

The remaining £2.8 million will be spent supporting the existing services on the county's bus network and working with bus companies to finalise a number of route improvements and new services, set to launch later this year.

The previous funding has created and enhanced more than 15 routes across the county, through the council's Bus Service Improvement Programme (BSIP). These included the first Sunday and evening service between Sudbury and Bury St Edmunds for more than 20 years and direct links from Haverhill and Mildenhall to the West Suffolk Hospital.

Successful bids will be contacted in the coming days with new and enhanced services coming online later this year.

A full list of enhanced and new services funded with the previous BSIP funding can be found at: [Bus Service Improvement Plan - Suffolkonboard](#) including videos from services who received BSIP round 1 funding.

Details of successful bids for the latest round of funding will be posted on Suffolk On Board.

Local businesses celebrated for carbon reduction achievements

The Carbon Charter was set up in 2010 by Suffolk County Council and the Environment Agency. Since then, over 500 businesses of all sizes have received Carbon Charter awards for taking on climate action, by reducing their carbon emissions, supporting their local community and developing green spaces.

This year's event was hosted by long-standing Carbon Charter members, Home Farm Nacton. They use the latest farming technologies, robots and AI to produce organic vegetables, Red Tractor certified and LEAF marque crops.

Attendees enjoyed speakers from CNH Tractors, Groundwork East and Home Farm Nacton, as well as a tour of the farm and seeing its droid robots in action. Carbon Charter Awards were presented to:

Suffolk Chamber of Commerce
Shepherd Engineering
Kelling Heath Holiday Park
Woodhill Park

Local businesses at any stage of their carbon reduction journey can benefit from the work of the Carbon Charter, whether they are not sure where to start, or are looking to take their efforts to the next level.

For more information on the Carbon Charter, visit www.carboncharter.org

Success for Flood Investigations and Grants team at prestigious local government awards

Suffolk County Council's Flood Investigations and Grants team is celebrating after winning a national award for its work supporting the communities affected by one of Britain's worst storms of the century.

It has won the Small Team of the Year category in the prestigious Local Government Chronicle Awards.

The team was set up in the immediate aftermath of Storm Babet in 2023 to assist flood victims in applying for funding grants and helping communities get back on their feet.

Team leader Ellie Coleby and grants manager Beverly Davies were presented with the award by stand-up comedian, writer, and actor Maisie Adam in a prize-giving evening at Grosvenor House in London attended by more than 1,400 people.

The Flood Investigations and Grants Team was set up immediately after Storm Babet in October 2023, which saw the worst flooding in Suffolk for more than 70 years with over 900 homes and businesses affected.

It hit the ground running, investigating the causes, streamlining procedures, collaborating with the Environment Agency, district/borough and parish councils, and working to keep communities informed and supported.

The LGC judges said: "Suffolk CC's entry was a great example of a small team responding to crisis with compassion, tenacity, and creativity.

"The judges were impressed with how they faced a potentially overwhelming challenge through strong leadership, courageous approach to building trust with residents and partners whilst taking opportunities to do things differently.

"This resulted in innovation, better relationships which are having long term impacts for residents which a whole range of public services could learn from."

The LGC Awards identify and celebrate outstanding practices and innovations delivered by councils, highlighting the significant contributions local government makes to communities and showcasing the hard work of teams and individuals.

Further details of this year's awards can be found [on the LGC website](#).

Set Sail on a Journey Through Suffolk's Maritime Past with Suffolk Archives

Running from 27 June to 27 September at The Hold in Ipswich, the exhibition explores Suffolk's deep connections to the sea from smuggling and sea rescues to shipbuilding, coastal communities, and historic ports.

This free exhibition features fascinating contributions from local museums and organisations including the Felixstowe and Offshore Radio Group, Ipswich School, East Anglian Traditional Arts Centre, Lowestoft Maritime Museum, and the RNLi Archives. It is supported by Associated British Ports.

To accompany the exhibition, Suffolk Archives has launched a packed programme of talks, walks, workshops, and family events offering something for curious minds of all ages. Young explorers can dive into storytelling adventures with The Yarnsmith of Norwich, Grethe Jensen, and Hannah Brailsford, who will bring to life tales of sea monsters, pirates, treasure and more.

Families can also drop anchor at Let's Get Crafty workshops taking place at The Hold in Ipswich and at venues across the county including Newmarket's National Horse Racing Museum, Haverhill Library, Stowmarket Library, Lowestoft Library, Eye Library, and Moyse's Hall in Bury St Edmunds. These creative sessions are a fun and engaging way to explore maritime myths and legends.

Also on tour is Following the Fish, a travelling exhibition telling the powerful and often overlooked story of the Scotch Girls, women who followed the herring fleets from Scotland to Suffolk and Norfolk. A collaboration with High Life Highland's Archive Service, Tasglann nan Eilean, and the Norfolk Record Office, and supported by the Lloyd's Register Foundation, the exhibition visits towns where their story once unfolded.

So, whether you're a seasoned history buff or just looking for a fun family day out, chart a course to Suffolk Archives this summer where there's something for everyone to discover.

For more information and event listings, visit www.suffolkarchives.co.uk.
