

Parish Report – June 2022

Councillor: Penny Otton

Divisions: thedwastre sth

County Council Details

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Latest SCC information is available here: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19/>

For information on supporting Ukrainian refugees in Suffolk, email:
refugeesupport@suffolk.gov.uk

Welcome Guidance for Ukrainians arriving in the UK:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/welcome-a-guide-for-ukrainians-arriving-in-the-uk>

1) Motion Passed, Further Commitment to Suffolk Rivers

Full Council convened on the 19th May. I proposed a motion for greater commitment towards improving rivers in Suffolk. Currently, all Suffolk rivers have been reported by the Environment Agency to have failed government standards. Increased pollution comes from a rise in sewage discharges, as well as chemicals used in agriculture that run off into waterways.

Our motion committed SCC to improving rivers, investigating what more can be done to enhance waterways, and increase engagement and support with farmers and environmental groups in any future strategies. Our motion was passed unanimously.

Below is a picture of our Group campaigning a successful protest outside Endeavour House:

2) Successful Protest on Suffolk Rivers



3) Current petition for in-house Suffolk Highways maintenance contract

Our Group has started a petition, demanding that SCC produces an in-house bid for the new Suffolk Highways contract. The contract, which will have been held by Kier for 10 years, is up for renewal next year.

Since Kier's arrival, our Group has seen astronomical prices for the maintenance of Suffolk's highways. Some of these prices include £5,000 for a pair of dropped kerbs.

Our Group believes an in-house bid from SCC to take back control of Suffolk Highways is needed to get things done. We need 3,675 signatures to bring this to debate at the Council.

Please sign here (ensure you make your name public, or it won't count!):

https://www.petitions.net/for_suffolk_county_council_to_develop_an_in-house_bid_for_suffolk_highways_maintenance

4) National Grid consultation

National Grid have released proposals to increase pylon networks across Suffolk's countryside, in light of the Government's strategy to grow the East of England's offshore electricity generation. Our Group are strongly against the development of more pylon networks impacting Suffolk's rural landscape and cultural heritage. The proposals are even criticised by Conservative MPs Dan Poulter and James Cartledge.

Our Group will put pressure on this Council to respond to the consultation, in collaboration with Essex and Norfolk, stressing the significant need for sea-level cables that reduce the community impacts of National Grid's proposals. Our Group will respond ourselves if the Conservative fail to address our concerns.

If you would like to voice your opinion on the matter, click here (Deadline is the 16th June):

<https://eastangliagreen.participatr.io/index.php?contentid=13>

THURSTON RAIL CROSSING; at the council meeting on 19th May the cabinet member put a motion asking for Network rail to get on with the Haughley junction; I asked that they include Thurston when speaking with Network rail to get them to get on with the promised feasibility study.

EXTENSION TO THURSTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE; have been sent the plans.

LIASON MEETING WITH TCC; met with Jean Wheeler we have agreed to restart the liaison meetings,

BUS SERVICE; DARS COACH TRAVEL ; I have sent details of a possible new service which will stop in Heston but as yet no start date. They need permission from the Travel commissioners.

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Instagram (New!) - https://www.instagram.com/suffolkgli_group/

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