October 2025

Parish

Report

**Cllr Penny Otton, Thedwastre South**

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**One Suffolk Business Case Approved at Council Meeting**

On Tuesday 16 September, Suffolk County Council held an Extraordinary (additional) meeting to debate the business case produced by the council that one unitary council would be best for Suffolk after the two-tier system (county and district/borough councils) is abolished. Unitary councils run all services for a local area, and the government is planning for all remaining two-tier areas in the country to change to this model. The reorganization will also see the creation of a mayoral authority and mayor for Norfolk and Suffolk. The business case for One Suffolk was endorsed by the Conservative majority in the council meeting and was immediately afterwards tabled at a Cabinet meeting where the council’s Cabinet voted to formally approve it. It will now be submitted to government by the end of September. An alternative proposal for three unitary councils for Suffolk has been developed by the district and borough councils and will also be submitted to government, who have said they will make a decision on the reorganization by March 2025 – this may be delayed though, as other parts have the process have been so far.

The One Suffolk business case can be found here: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/asset-library/one-suffolk-business-case.pdf>

The Three Councils for Suffolk business case can be found here: <https://threecouncilsforsuffolk.org/wp-content/uploads/Three-Councils-For-Suffolk-Case-for-Change.pdf>

**LOCALITY MONEY FOR VASIGN,** having seen it was still committed have asked for letter to clerk for confirmation . when this is done you will receive the £800 . am guessing this got lost with change of clerk

**NEW SATURDAY BUS SERVICE;** with government money this will be able to start . sent details to clerk.

**WHITE LINES**, have forwarded your request to re-do white lines to highways , you should get a response shortly

**THURSTON COMMUNITY COLLGE**; have an update from Pete Mumford which I will forward but nothing new on the Beyton site.

**THURSON RAIL CROSSING;** meeting with MP on 16th October

**FLOODING;** pleased to see some progress on identifying ownership. Agree with Amanda to take a pragmatic approach regarding Nation highways.

**Local Nature Recovery Strategy Approved**

On 9 September, the council’s Cabinet voted to approve the Local Nature Recovery Strategy, which was produced following a public consultation on the draft strategy between April and June this year. The strategy sets out priority species and habitats for nature conservation in the county, and gives advice on how different habitats can be improved by landowners to protect and encourage nature. Most of the area mapped out for Suffolk’s nature priorities is private farmland, Landowners can use areas mapped in the strategy to produce ‘units’ of biodiversity for purchase by developers, as they will be required to meet the government’s new Biodiversity Net Gain requirements which state that all development should be increasing biodiversity by a minimum of 10%. The units of biodiversity do not need to be onsite or near the development.

The new strategy should also help Suffolk County Council to improve the land it owns in the county, and local planning authorities will have to take account of the strategy when development is considered. In the future, mayoral authorities like the one currently planned for Norfolk and Suffolk will be in charge of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy for their area.

**Financial Forecast at Quarter 1 of 2025-26 Financial Year**

Cabinet on 9 September also considered the most recent financial reporting from the council, which aimed to give a better forecast of how the council’s spending might look for 2025-26. The council is predicting that it will overspend by £13.3m by the end of the year, which it will balance by taking £13.3m from its Risk Reserve. This is extremely worrying, as is the prediction that the council’s Designated Schools Grant debt will rise over the year by £63.3m to a total of £161.2m deficit. Currently the government has agreed councils can hold this debt until March 2028, but a long term plan needs to made as many councils are now carrying a level of debt related to SEND costs which would bankrupt them if it was called in by the government.

**Solar Together Scheme for 2025**

The Solar Together Suffolk scheme, which has so far installed 32,000 solar panels at 2,651 Suffolk households, is now open for registration for 2025. Registering is free and there is no obligation to go ahead with the installation. The scheme also includes battery storage and EV charge points, and customer who have already invested in solar panels can get quotes for these too. The scheme requires householders to register online, and pre-approved solar PV suppliers then take part in a ‘reverse auction’ to bid for the work. After this, registered households will be emailed a personal recommendation which they can choose to accept or not. Telephone and email helpdesks are available to support residents in making an informed decision. The scheme is run by Suffolk’s councils in partnership with iChoosr, who have been working with UK councils on the Solar Together scheme since 2015.

For more information and to register, visit <https://solartogether.co.uk/suffolk/home>

**Apply Now for a School Place for September 2026**

Parents and carers can now apply for a place in the normal year of entry at a primary, infant or junior school and a secondary school for September 2026. The deadline for applications to secure a place at a secondary school is **Friday 31 October 2025** and for primary school places, including infant and junior schools, the deadline is **Thursday 15 January 2026**. <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/children-families-and-learning/schools/school-places/school-catchment-areas/nearest-school-checker>

Parents and carers can apply online for a school place here: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/children-families-and-learning/schools/school-places>

Social Media and Helpful Links

**Follow us on:**

**Twitter** - [Suﬀolk Green, Lib Dem & Independent Group (@ SuﬀolkGLI) / Twitter](https://twitter.com/SuffolkGLI)

**Instagram –** <https://www.instagram.com/suffolkgli_group/>

**Facebook -** [Suﬀolk GLI - Green, Liberal Democrat & Independent Group | Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/Suffolk-GLI-Green-Liberal-Democrat-Independent-Group-108957158595967/?ref=pages_you_manage)

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

Cost of Living help and advice: [https://infolink.suﬀolk.gov.uk/kb5/suﬀolk/infolink/family.page?familychannel=6](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](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-](https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/suffolk-fire-and-rescue-service/fire-and-rescue-safety-advice-in-the-community/what-to-do-in-a-flood) [safety-advice-in-the-community/what-to-do-in-a-ﬂood](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/](https://suffolkprepared.co.uk/get-prepared/risk-advice/flooding/)

Flood recovery advice and support: [http://www.suﬀolk.gov.uk/about/ﬂood-recovery-information-for-](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/about/flood-recovery-information-for-suffolk) [suﬀolk](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/about/flood-recovery-information-for-suffolk)