

## **Report from District Cllr. Sally Noble**

**Dear Clerks and Councillors,**

**I hope that this report finds you well. I have included only the relevant information regarding general topics below.**

**Can I first apologise for the lateness of this report. A bout of Covid and a week of annual leave are to blame.**

**Since I last wrote to you, there have been several things to report on.**

- 1. During August, I worked with a number of volunteers including the Chair of Wickham Market PC, renovated and planted up a very tired school garden in readiness for the school to open in September. It was planted with many sensory plants for the children to enjoy including herbs and lavender.**
- 2. Case Work: I have been tackling many complaints about overgrown pavements. This is going to be an ongoing issue due to lack of funding at County level. Following a meeting it appears that the way forward seems to be Community Self-Help. Suffolk County Council have a self-help scheme running where PCs can apply for funding for equipment needed. I would strongly recommend that all PCs look further into this as soon as possible. I know that there have also been teething problems with ESSL, but I have been assured that their customer service posts have now been filled and that complaints should be dealt with more quickly and efficiently. Any further questions, please do contact me.**
- 3. I have spoken to EDF today following their cancellation of Farnham and Stratford St Andrew's PC meetings at the last minute. This obviously caused much frustration. I have been assured that a new date will be provided soon and am sure that this will be well publicised.**
- 4. Catch Bus: Following a meeting with Officers and Rosamond Webb from the Station House at Campsey Ash, it has been agreed to produce an updated and more accurate poster and leaflet to promote this service. Rural transport is a huge issue in this district and I would encourage the use of this service or we may lose it.**
- 5. The next full council meeting is at East Suffolk House on the 27<sup>th</sup> September at 6.30. This is an important meeting where the GLI authority put forward our new energy strategy and hope to get this motion passed. This will cover issues such as Sizewell, wind and solar. I would encourage as many members of the public to attend as possible.**
- 6. On a lighter note, I have had the privilege of a wonderful tour of the woods and the redwood sculptures in Ufford with Clerk Judy Halett and woodland volunteer Jane Hawthorne. They do a marvellous job at maintain the wood and I am seeking**

to support with additional funding. I also had the pleasure of a wonderful bus tour of other wards where officer Ali Stone provided a fantastic knowledge and commentary of the local area. Finally, I enjoyed attending the Wickham Market summer fayre and the singing of the community choir. It was well attended and very well organised.

I look forward to seeing you all soon,

Best wishes,

Sally

### **August 2023 Parish Report East Suffolk Council GLI Group – Councillor Update**

#### ***Fund Launched to Help Reinforce Community Hub Network***

Community groups in East Suffolk are being invited to apply for up to £30,000 in capital grant funding for upgrades and improvements to facilities. East Suffolk Council is accepting applications from local voluntary and social enterprise groups, as well as some small to medium sized businesses, for a £15,000-30,000 share in the newly launched Rural Business and Community Hub Fund (RBCHF).

The fund is part of the Government's wider Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF) and aimed at organisations that provide, or wish to provide, a multi-purpose community hub or for-public-benefit facility offering access to a range of quality, cost-effective services.

The £110million REPF was launched by the Government last September to complement the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and help to improve productivity and strengthen the rural economy and rural communities. East Suffolk was allocated £1.129m, to be delivered via two separate strands – the Rural Business and Community Hub Fund (RBCHF) and the Rural Business Investment Fund (RBIF) – to small, rural businesses and community organisations between 2023 and 2025.

Applicants could include existing village halls, local skills providers, business and co-working spaces, health, wellbeing and mental health providers, sports and recreation providers, and arts, culture and heritage providers. Applications should meet at least one of the three main priorities of net zero, small and medium-sized enterprise investments and diversification, and agriculture and farm diversification.

Prospective applicants can contact Community Action Suffolk for further support via: [info@communityactionsuffolk.org.uk](mailto:info@communityactionsuffolk.org.uk)

#### ***GLI Group Meet with Forestry Commission and Anglian Water***

The GLI Group recently met with Forestry Commission and Anglian Water to explore ways of protecting the outstanding natural environment of East Suffolk. East Suffolk Council and GLI Group Leader Cllr Caroline Topping is pleased that they were able to discuss important

issues with both organisations. She said: "We are determined to develop and maintain a constructive dialogue with key environmental stakeholders and these two recent meetings really got the ball rolling.

"The presentation from the Forestry Commission was incredibly engaging and I am keen that we really do spread the word about the importance of tree planting and the range of grants that are available to do so.

Meanwhile the meeting with Anglian Water was also incredibly useful although I was disappointed by representatives' suggestion that sewage discharge into rivers was a low priority issue for the public. It was also interesting to that they are not statutory consultees with regards to planning applications which is a concern when it comes to the issue of ensuring appropriate supply to new developments.

These meetings mark our commitment to deliver on our campaign promises and prioritise residents, communities and the environment in everything that we do. The GLI Councillors are enthusiastic about improving quality of life across the district, and this is just the beginning - so watch this space!"

For the most up to date information regarding East Suffolk Council, please visit:  
**[www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk](http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk)**