JANUARY 2026

Welcome to my monthly newsletter

New year eve ringing in 2026

RECAP OF 2025 AND UPDATE ON 26 PRIORITIES

First may I take the opportunity to wish you all a very happy new year
2025 proved to be a challenge on many levels and my focus as always continues to preserve the unique character of our rural landscape while ensuring essential services are maintained.

As I look back across the issues it reminds me how fragile life on the peninsula has become. Three near fatal crashes in Hollesley started 2025 and illustrated how dangerous our roads have become. Large commercial equipment, more delivery vehicles and an increase of road usage. Highways, in particular, have become an issue and although these are controlled by Suffolk County council, I did try my best to signpost and also flag cleaning issues to East Suffolk. In particular

- Personally flagged and secured targeted maintenance for roads in Eyke, resulting in extensive curb and drain cleaning and pavement debris removal.
- Parking and Enforcement: Collaborated with Suffolk County Council (SCC) to address ongoing parking issues at Bawdsey Quay , though enforcement remains a challenge being actively monitored.
- Highlighted sand on roads in Butley and pressured East Suffolk to remove

The "gateway" to the peninsula remains a primary concern for local residents and businesses and in particular there have been a number of issues

- Melton Crossroads Congestion: Heavy traffic from the peninsula converges at the Melton crossroads, creating significant delays. There is a critical need for an intervention that reduces the volume of road traffic passing through this junction to access the A12 and I continue to try and push for a specific focus on this issue.
- The ongoing Sizewell C project and Scottish Power energy schemes are projected to exacerbate existing traffic issues on the A1152.
- Network rail recent closure to strengthen the track for Sizewell C freight caused a huge inconvenience for residents, resulting in many businesses loosing considerable amount of income. I lobbied our MP to change the closures and organise compensation but the closures where done ‘to us ‘rather ignoring the spirit of working together and compromise.
- And who forgets the period of pipe bursts and flooding by Anglian water due to many years of neglect and lack of infrastructure investment - causing much inconvenience to all of us.

2026 will see me continue to push all state holders – landowners, housing developers, Anglian water, East Suffolk and Suffolk County council to work together to solve many of our highway issues.

Flooding is a major concern across our highways which is soften seen as a tangible impact of climate change. Environmental issues were a priority in 2025 and will continue to be a main focus in 2026. I try and keep my work centred on environmental stewardship, infrastructure maintenance, and community resilience within the Deben Ward.

The Peninsula's unique geography makes it highly susceptible to climate change.
And I have and will continue to highlight

- Coastal Path Management: Issues with illegal use of river walls by cyclists and motorized bikes are causing undue erosion to flood defences and narrow footways.
- Legacy Projects: Continued oversight of the "Treebilee" oak tree planting scheme, which remains a key tangible footprint for the ward's future. Gifting of spring bulbs to enhance biodiversity and of course continue to push for return of Pardon the weeds we are feeding the Bees campaign and to reinstate the district wide annual litter pick.
- Bawdsey Quay has experienced some erosion, and I have assisted in their projects to highlight the issue and source funding for further projects

Finally, community resilience. Something I am so very proud of here on the Peninsula, I prioritize my community grant in helping all my parish councils and local communities. Grants have included

- Bromesewell parish council – new litter bin
- Shottisham WI – kitchen renovations
- Hollesley Gardening club – funds for equipment and subsides costs for a visit
- Peninsula Mens Shed project

2026 is already looking like a year of change and action. I have started writing motions to East Suffolk council to cover better support for local businesses and increasing engagement and protection for our wildlife – I start with the first meeting in January asking East Suffolk to offer engagement to support our Hare populations.

And of course, there will be a generational change in the method of how our bins are collected and an increased burden of households sorting waste at home along with the problems of now storing 4 bins – more info on this as received.

I will also continue to emphasis the importance of strengthening local flood defences and drainage management and when it comes to any house building I will be supporting the infrastructure first approach .

Please do not hesitate to contract me if you have ideas for funding or any issues or concerns. Later in 2026 I will arrange a number of surgeries which I hope residents will be able to attend to discuss any concerns and issues.

James Mallinder
Deben Ward - A voice for parishes and residents of the Peninsula