



**March**

**2024**

Welcome to my monthly newsletter.

### **WORKS ON SHINGLE STREET**

Recent flooding in January cut off my residents of shingle street - with implications on safety for residents – especially for emergency access.

I reported this to East Suffolk services and followed up a number of times that week to arrange for the road sweeper to attend and remove the sand and soil left after the water had drained away. I also assisted Shingle Street residents to flag up the county council to discuss with the local landowner to reinstate a ditch to assist water drainage.





## PEOPLE SMUGGLING

Recently we have seen an increase in possible people smuggling along our coast. If residents see anything suspicious especially on the shoreside please do not approach any of these people, they are dangerous and possibly armed. Instead, we ask if you could call Border Force 07900 056435. This as a local Suffolk specific number and is monitored 24 hrs.

## HEDGE CUTTING

Currently, farmers and landowners are prevented from trimming hedges during six months, between 1 March and 1 September to protect nesting birds. However, if the hedge is causing an obstruction either on the highway – for example road or footpath – and restricts vehicle or pedestrian movements, then that hedge can be cut back as a safety measure.

If you see any hedge maintenance during this time, please document as much as possible – photos – confirmation of the date and pass to me, I will then take up with the correct authorities.

## COFFEE CARAVAN

Although calling at Meet up Mondays in Hollesley I am keen for the coffee caravan to attend as many organisations as possible. If you know of any groups that might be of interest, please pass on details of the charity or let me know.

e: [ann@ruralcoffeecaravan.org.uk](mailto:ann@ruralcoffeecaravan.org.uk)

t: 01379 855338

m: 07939581632

[www.ruralcoffeecaravan.org.uk](http://www.ruralcoffeecaravan.org.uk)

## Funding Gap Forces council to Halt Flood Barrier Scheme

Following the emergence of a budget gap totalling more than £100 million, and with no immediate prospect of additional funding being secured, the decision has been taken to halt work on the project to construct a tidal flood barrier in Lowestoft.



## Biodiversity motion to full council inadequate in dealing with issues.

The council is failing East Suffolk residents with words and no action. I was disappointed that the biodiversity Motion passed at Full Council was a missed opportunity. Unfortunately, the Motion is just words with no new policies or initiatives. The environmental crisis at the moment is so urgent that the time for words is over and the administration have again talked about the issue without providing a solution.

Under the last Conservative administration, the entire Cabinet worked hard to not only consider environmental impact of policy but to introduce meaningful policies.

The administration led by Steve Gallant changed the matrix of how policy was judged making sure the Council looked at its environmental impact as well as financial impact and the impact to residents.

I made sure we focused on three core aspects - ensuring all statutory duties were performed with an understanding of environmental impact, introducing new environmental policies and empowering residents and communities to contribute. Always highlighting that the smallest of changes will make a difference over time.

Two flagship policies of note were introduced, the successful 'Pardon the weeds we are feeding the bees' campaign, allowing a more sustainable environmental management of East Suffolk's open spaces. Along with over 50 pct reduction in the use of glyphosate spraying.

And the introduction of hydrotreated vegetable oil, as fuel for our waste collection trucks. Reducing the carbon footprint of the East Suffolk fleet by over 95 pct and the council footprint by over 30 pct. These are meaningful policies and changes unlike those from the current administration who are still just talking about the issues.

## ACTION NOTES

- Worked with Bawdsey PC over a number of planning applications.
- Questioned Cabinet member for the environment at full council asking why the Green party constantly asked me why we couldn't put glass bottles in the recycling bin but now they are in power there is no interest in introducing this policy - reply is Westminster is introducing this policy in 2027 - I asked for further details on new waste policies but waiting for update.
- Coronation avenue planning application was due to go to cabinet in Feb but was withdrawn with no update or reason given - the constant lack of engagement with the community and district councillor is very frustrating - I continue to push for this planning application to be withdrawn and considered properly with local engagement.
- Now East Suffolk have confirmed that Coronation Avenue is under their responsibility I have arranged for officers to attend and fill in potholes and deal with poor maintenance.



- Contacted leader of the council to encourage better communication from cabinet members especially with updates on their policies and actions.
- Chased cabinet member for carparks to why the delay in commencing enforcement of parking restrictions at Bawdsey Quay – waiting for update.
- Spoke at length with Cllr Wilson on local rural issues and how we can work together to deal with them.
- Spoke to Cabinet member for planning - Cllr Yule lobbying on better focus on environmental issues in decisions made by East Suffolk and a request to have more enforcement officers.

**James Mallinder**

**Deben Ward**

**A voice for parishes and residents of the Peninsula**