

March 2026

Welcome to my monthly newsletter

Although I expected a slower start to 2026 there has been no change in the issues and urgency of problems that effect the peninsula. This combined with my efforts to make East Suffolk more environmentally and financially focused has resulted in a continued focus on my district council responsibilities and a continued push on local issues.

URGENT CALL FOR ACTION ON MUD SLICKED ROADS



Since the beginning of the year, we have had considerable amount of rain across the Peninsula - which has highlighted how much of road edges have been damaged by the large commercial equipment. Many of drains have been damaged and it is clear ploughing up to the periphery of the field has resulted in the loss of an important boarder that prevents sand and water entering our highways. And it is clear to everyone a full program of reinstating ditches against all our roads needs to be implemented through spring and summer to prevent these issues again later in the year.

To make matters worse a number of land users have allowed mud and dirt to enter our highways causing treacherous driving conditions. I have therefore called for an increased vigilance and stricter adherence to highways safety. It is clear landowners should remove excesses amount of mud or the very least place warning signs

Mud on roads is very serious and while we value our agricultural community, there is a clear legal responsibility under Section 148 of the Highways Act 1980 to ensure that mud is not left on the highway where it can cause a danger to other users.

I therefore ask that the parish council and any residents with issues to report these through the [Suffolk County Council Highway Reporting Tool](#) . Working with Hollesley Parish council and our community police officer I did ask for the police to speak to the landowners who (allowed mud on the road as per photos above) apparently the police have been unable to speak to the owners which I find very strange and have stated the county council should pick up the issue. I find this a very poor response and just finger pointing rather than dealing with the issue - will we ever solve our problems?

I was able to talk about the issue on the BBC Suffolk Radio breakfast show , and I was grateful to be able to highlight this use which is largely ignored .

CALL FOR URGENT ACTION ON MARINE NETTING TO PROTECT OUR SEALS



While coastal biodiversity is a cornerstone of East Suffolk's heritage, local seal colonies are facing an increasing threat from "ghost" netting and plastic waste. I am urging East Suffolk Council and residents to prioritise marine wildlife protection with the same urgency as land-based conservation. With the general message of please do not leave any type of plastic on our beaches and if you see any litter or netting if possible please remove and place in a nearby waste bin.

MOTION AT FULL COUNCIL TO GRANT SUPPORT FOR LOCAL HARE POPULATIONS



I tabled an important motion at full council in January to support our dwindling local hare populations and offer greater protection for our local biodiversity. The motion endorsed fully by the council implements a new strategic commitment aimed at enhancing the protection of brown hares and their natural habitats across the district. This motion enhances and builds on a long-standing commitment since the Conservative administration of making sure our local wildlife is a priority in the formation of public policy - prioritising environmental impact and the preservation of East Suffolk's unique natural heritage.

Within the motion there are three clear actions

- **Enhanced Habitat Connectivity:** Prioritizing the creation of "wildlife corridors" in new planning applications to ensure hares and other native species can move safely between feeding and nesting grounds.
- **Anti-Poaching Collaboration:** Increasing coordination with the Suffolk Constabulary Rural Crime Team to combat illegal hare coursing, which remains a significant threat to local populations.
- **Biodiversity Integration:** Incorporating specific hare-friendly land management practices into the Council's owned land and in their development of new planning policies.

Full speech and debate can be viewed at [Youtube East Suffolk page](#)

Photo of myself and my colleague Colin Hedgley who seconded the motion

Even here in our nature rich landscape there is less wildlife so this motion is the first of a series of motions I will be presenting to council in the next year to make sure we do everything we can in our powers to support our nature.

Cllr MALLINDER SPOKE AGAINST THE BUDGET OF EAST SUFFOLK AND WAS THE ONLY COUNCILLOR TO VOTE AGAINST

At full council in Feb, I spoke against the max increase in the council tax. At the time of increased financial pressure on our residents East Suffolk should be looking at providing efficient services and spend less of taxpayers money on vanity projects.

Nobody mentioned the continued cost of living crisis in the debate so on behalf of all my residents I voted against the budget. East Suffolk should be more cost focused and better providing for taxpayers

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Cllr James Mallinder said despite the challenges, the council was not ambitious enough for the future.

He said: "We must never forget that for our residents, this is yet another bill rising during a period of sustained financial pressure - how quickly we have forgotten the cost-of-living crisis.

"If we ask our hard-working taxpayers for funds, in return we need to deliver projects, not just talk about them."

There was no amendment submitted to the council's budget.



FOCUS ON CLEANER COUNTRYSIDE

I am highlighting the issue of litter and dog poo - asking residents and visitors to redouble their commitment to the **Countryside Code** following an increase in littering and dog fouling across the district's rural landscapes.

As a long-standing advocate for environmental stewardship, I am emphasising that protecting East Suffolk's unique natural beauty—from its shingle beaches to its deep forests—requires a collective effort to respect, protect, and enjoy the outdoors responsibly.



Esp important to take litter home, not only is it a threat to our wildlife, but litter dropped can migrate to our rivers or sea where it breaks down further and becomes impossible to remove

PUSHING FOR REGULATION IN HEATING OIL COSTS

I issued a press release and contacted our MP in reference to heating oil costs. I am calling for immediate government intervention as heating oil costs have surged by over 100 pct in the last couple of weeks.

Global instability and conflict in the middle East have caused prices to skyrocket from 66p per litre in March to over 138p per litre today. This volatility has added hundreds of pounds to cost of a single 500 litre delivery, disproportionately affecting the 1.5 million UK households, many across East Suffolk, that rely on oil for heating rather than mains gas.

QUESTION ON BINS ON STREETS

At full council in March, I have tabled a question on how the council will handle the additional bins provided for the change in refuse collection. I am concerned when houses open on to the pavement bins will be stored on the pavement – I am asking the council how they will deal with this and what they propose to keep pavements cleared of clutter and fully accessible.

I will then follow up with a question on general maintenance on clearing debris and weeds from our roads and pavements - update in my next newsletter

SUPPORTING LOCAL COMMUNITY GROUPS



Popped into Bromeswell Village Hall clean up to say hi



Said hi to visitors and residents at Bawdsey market



Had a walk on the new King Charles Coastal Path Melton and Sutton Hoo



Attended the Hollesley Big Breakfast - good opportunity to chat to residents about local issues

MISC

- Dealing with dead deer at Boyton on the highways – trying to arrange East Suffolk to remove
- Assisting Butley PC with planning application to expand Butley Priory
- Assisting Shingle Street residents on a local application to build a reservoir
- Making sure East Suffolk prioritise the resurfacing of Coronation Avenue in Hollesley



James Mallinder

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