NEWSLETTER - NOVEMBER 2026

Welcome to my monthly newsletter

FULL COUNCIL MEETING SEPT 2026

I asked a question at full council on provisions for Xmas waste collection - additional collections – allowing bagged items - what will the crews do to balance out routes with more waste - the answer is no further provisions in place – which is a worry

Eadt article: https://www.eadt.co.uk/news/26579509.east-suffolk-councillor-calls-christmas-waste-plan/

I also supported the motion on compensation for all residents by East Suffolk for the poor development and implementation of the better recycling bin changes. The Greens voted on mass to reject this important motion. My speech is repeated here:

Speech:

When we talk about waste and recycling, we are talking about the most basic, most visible service that East Suffolk Council provides.

It is the one service that every single resident pays for, interacts with, and expects to work smoothly every single week.

But for the past three months, the roll-out of the better Recycling scheme has been anything but simple. Instead of a step forward for our environment, it has been a masterclass in operational failure.

My residents have been incredibly patient.

1 They wanted this to work.

2 They want to recycle.

3 They want to do the right thing for the environment.

1 But you cannot do the right thing when your food waste caddy is left rotting on the pavement for days on end and bins are just not emptied

2 You cannot do the right thing when your missed collection calls go unanswered,

3 You cannot do the right thing when you are waiting weeks just to receive the correct bins.

What troubles me most, however, is not just the operational breakdown.

It is the defensive response from the administration.

When ward members stood up to echo the sheer frustration of our communities, we are not met with a humble apology or a swift plan of action.

We were told:

1 these were just "teething problems."

1 We were told that social media was simply exaggerating the issue.

3 Shockingly, we even heard comments suggesting that residents just "like having something to be angry about."

Our residents are not looking for something to be angry about—they are angry because they are paying their council tax and receiving a sub-standard service in return. They answer to us with their hard-earned money, and we answer to them with efficiency and value.

The damage here goes beyond overflowing bins.

It has severely damaged public trust.

Not one week since the better recycling project has started have not had an issue in my ward - that's nearly 4 months of failure

Even last week part of Hollesley and the whole of Sutton Heath had no food waste collections

Not only has there been a failure of collection but please council don't forget

1 over an hour to wait report missed collections

2 information passed to residents that nobody follows up on

3 and any request for a new bin residents have weeks if not months of waiting time

The last couple of days I have spoken to my parish councils and met with a number of my residents, we are all angry in how better recycling has been delivered – and frankly I am really just disappointed

Many Residents have told me they have completely given up on using the food caddies altogether.

Think about the environmental cost of that.

We must build that trust back. And we cannot do it with words alone.

This motion does not ask for an overnight miracle. It asks the administration a very fair, very measured question: when you sit down to draft the 2027/28 budget, consider rebate for our residents.

Think of it as an apology in pounds and pence.

In reducing our council tax this will act as tangible acknowledgement that we value our resident's council tax, we respect their frustration, and east Suffolk admits they failed to roll out better recycling quickly and efficiently

I am not point scoring but we must fully solve this problem and never let this happen again. and this administration needs to learn the lesson - stop spending money and staff resources on vanity projects and focus on delivering core statutory responsibilities

Let's send a clear message to my residents in my ward the Deben peninsular and East Suffolk as a whole let's show them that

1 we hear them

2 we respect them

3 we take responsibility.

I urge all members to support this motion.

OPENED EYKE VILLAGE HALL

I was delighted to be asked to open Eyke Village Hall. After 6 years in the making, the fully upgraded new village hall is opened - I even ran the Southwold 10k and raised over £800 for their campaign - a huge achievement with a call out to Sue Clark who did most of the fund raising and pushing the project forward

Eadt article : https://www.eadt.co.uk/news/26614462.eyke-village-hall-opens-six-years-3-500-hours-work/





RENDLESHAM 150 HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

I am increasingly concerned about the development near the peninsula and the increase in traffic along Melton Railway station and Wilford Bridge Roundabout. I have been informed of an outline application for 150 houses in Rendlesham and have written in opposition to this and the major negative impact it will have to our highways - I have also lobbied the County Council to object to this application due to the issue of 100s of more vehicles on the road especially when we have been informed Wilford Bridge roundabout is at capacity

My submission:

I am writing in my capacity as the Ward Councillor for the Deben Ward to formally lodge my strongest objections to the outline planning application for up to 150 new houses in Rendlesham.

While this application is physically sited in Rendlesham, its scale means the severe negative impacts will ripple across the entire Deben Ward. It will create an entirely unsustainable burden on our surrounding rural villages, most notably Eyke, and Bromeswell.

My objections are grounded firmly in the following ward-specific Material Planning Considerations:

1. Severe Cumulative Traffic Impact on the A1152 (Eyke and Bromeswell Corridor)

Rendlesham is highly car-dependent, and the vast majority of commuter traffic heading toward the A12 or Woodbridge must travel directly along the A1152. This corridor passes straight through the heart of Eyke and Bromeswell.

Eyke's disproportionate burden is not acceptable without serious mitigation. Eyke Parish Council is already absorbing an immense amount of growth, with the approval of 65 new homes at Denbury Homes' Oak Grove development, which represents a massive 40% increase in the size of the village. Adding the commuter traffic of 150 additional homes from Rendlesham onto the exact same narrow stretches of the A1152—particularly past Eyke Primary School presents a critical risk to highway safety.

Further down the corridor, Bromeswell is a small, protected rural parish positioned delicately between the River Deben and the National Landscape. Its local roads are entirely unsuited to handle the compounding, heavy commuter traffic that this major strategic development will funnel through the village daily.

2. Compromising the Deben Ward Eco-Ecosystem

The Deben Ward is defined by its internationally protected environments. As highlighted by conservation bodies like the RSPB, a development of this size will exponentially increase recreational pressures. The cumulative foot traffic and disturbance will directly harm the Deben Estuary and the Sandlings Special Protection Areas (SPAs), fracturing the delicate natural borders that villages like Bromeswell work tirelessly to protect.

3. Direct Undermining of Local Neighbourhood Plans

Both Rendlesham and Eyke are actively utilizing or developing Neighbourhood Plans to manage organic, infrastructure-led growth rather than speculative overdevelopment. Forcing 150 strategic homes into this cluster entirely invalidates community-led planning initiatives across the peninsula and forces rural communities to suffer the consequences of major urban-scale expansion without the necessary infrastructure upgrades.

Conclusion

As the representative for the Deben Ward, I cannot support an application that treats Rendlesham in isolation. The reality is that the traffic, environmental damage, and infrastructure strain will overflow directly into Eyke, Bromeswell and I strongly urge the East Suffolk Planning Department to look at the broader geographic impact on our ward and refuse this application.

EAST SUFFOLK BIN COLLECTIONS

Although still pockets of issues - I am pleased to see after 5 and half months things are starting to normalize – that said food waste is still an issue with many residents now deciding not to use the food caddy.

SUPPORTED BOYTON ON DELIVERY OF BROADBAND



Delighted to use part of my enabling community grant to pay for broadband connection to Boyton Village Hall – as a small parish they have little precept to assist in community projects, so it was a pleasure to assist

SUPPORTING HOLLESLEY GARDEN CLUB

I donated £750 to the local Hollesley Garden Club, providing a major boost to this local community group. The contribution will fund new planting initiatives, equipment, speaker meetings and visits to public gardens.

This latest grant reflects my distinctive brand of grassroots, community-based politics. Moving away from top-down political messaging, his focus remains firmly on local volunteer networks, social cohesion, and the environment.



ATTENDED THE OPENING OF THE NEW KITCHEN AT SHOTTISHAM SHIRE HALL

I was pleased to attend the opening of the new renovated kitchen at Shottisham village hall. Through my enabling communities' budget, I was able to contribute to the new kitchen. Shottisham, like a number of my small villages in my patch, struggle to raise funds so always important to support my villages and in particular the village hall which is the heart and centre of our community.



Misc

- Supporting Bawdsey in replacing no parking signs at the Quay
- Supporting Butley residents over possible selling of Flagship social housing (looks like we have prevented this)
- Dealing with enforcement issue on Shingle Street
- Helping Sutton Heath to reform their PC

Recent sacking at SCC in case you missed the news -

https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cw8dz3g0d1e8o

Really shocking to read about a cabinet member at Reform SCC post a highly sexual image of a colleague – such behaviour is absolutely not acceptable - and it is quite an embarrassment on Suffolk to have such poor behaviour from an elected official and council

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