



January 2025

Welcome to my monthly newsletter

Happy 2025

I want to take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy new year and I really hope with working in partnership with the parish council and residents we can continue to push hard against institutions to protect and champion our natural and urban environments. I will continue to hold East Suffolk district council to account, push harder for more community engagement, especially on planning, proper structured pavement and curb cleaning and maintenance and will gently persuade Suffolk County council how we need a focus on rural roads. Flooding continues to be a major problem, yet we see little evidence of projects to solve the issues just action against the outcome - clearly landowners have a really important part to play, and we want to see all our stakeholders on the peninsula working together to solve the issues. And of course, we have county council election or new authority elections pending - so much change going forward but very much I think this is a positive I absolutely believe by working together we can demand a better focus into our area.

Proposed changes in waste collection

At Full council in Sept the Conservative group have been quick to highlight the faults in a hastily designed new collection format to meet national requirements for 2026. As reported in the last newsletter I have tried to articulate the mistakes in such a policy, but I have not been able to change the direction of the council and my request for greater engagement with all parties has been ignored.

I will continue to push these issues and try to steer the council to make the right decisions.

Suffolk Heath Tree Felling

I find it absolutely astounding through national tree planting week last year East Suffolk cabinet member for the environment authorised the felling of mature trees on Suffolk Heath, a number of residents contacted me, and I wrote personally to the leader of East Suffolk to pause such destruction but received no acknowledgement or reply. It is clear that heaths need to be cleared of saplings as the heath will quickly turn into a juvenile wood but in this particular area the trees have been growing for generations. It is an established



habitat in its own right and the Green party at East Suffolk should stop and think about how they are destroying the home of many species that survive in and around these trees.

This area in particular is well used by local walkers who enjoy that special peace as you walk between these special trees and by clearing the area it will have a huge negative impact not only on our biodiversity but to visitors and residents alike

As cabinet for the environment in the previous administration I authorised the continued maintenance of the heath - but never authorised the felling of mature trees

All parties are obsessed with planting of trees and of course this has its place, but the main focus should be maintaining the mature trees we have - I am very angry about this outcome and in particular the lack of engagement with me and residents

<https://www.eadt.co.uk/news/24760446.east-suffolk-council-felling-trees-sutton-heath/>



I like to think I plant trees not cut them down

Bawdsey quay Parking restrictions making a difference

After years of pushing for Bawdsey Quay parking restrictions I am delighted to report much positive feedback Less overnight parking and fewer camper vans staying for prolonged periods and blocking the view for others

From July to end of the year following statistics:

- Nine logged enforcement officer visits to Ferry Road, Bawdsey.
- Eight Penalty Charge Notices issued

Small steps but it does make a difference

Christmas festivities

Attended the Christmas tree festival at Alderton - a quite beautiful and festive start to the Christmas period Local charities and groups decorated each tree and donations were then given to local charities

I also attended a number of local craft fairs and Xmas festivities finishing off with new year eve bell ringing to welcome in 2025





Love East Suffolk Litter Pick Cancelled

At full council in November, I asked the leader of the council if she agreed with me that cancelling the district wide Love East Suffolk litter pick was a mistake. She took no notice of the question, and it seems the annual event will not be reinstated – a disappointing outcome and I am sad to see this popular event cancelled.

Finally

Please have a quick audit of anything you require locally - additional bins - dog, grit, litter/ benches - any particular problem areas that need looking at and I can look at allocating part of my enabling budget in supporting your projects.

James Mallinder

Deben Ward

A voice for parishes and residents of the Peninsula