



## July 2021

Welcome to my monthly newsletter

### **Specialist Accommodation Created To Support Former Rough Sleepers**

As part of the Council's commitment to support people facing homelessness, a property in Lowestoft has been transformed into specialist accommodation especially for former rough sleepers.

Following a successful bid to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, the Council received £93,312 in September 2020 through the Government's Next Steps Accommodation Programme (NSAP), to provide accommodation and support to rough sleepers during the pandemic.

An additional £389,482 was then secured from the NSAP earlier this year to provide support to rough sleepers in East Suffolk through the delivery of longer-term 'move on' accommodation. This enabled us to purchase a large property in St Peter's Street and over the past few months, the Housing Maintenance Team have worked tirelessly to transform the building into a seven-bed unit of specialist, supported accommodation specifically for former rough sleepers and single homeless people.

An official opening event was held on Monday 28 June and was attended by representatives from East Suffolk Council and Orwell Housing, who will manage the accommodation and provide care and support for residents.

### **Free parking scheme extended to support vaccination staff**

To support the Covid-19 vaccination programme, East Suffolk Council will continue to offer free parking for healthcare staff working in vaccination centres across East Suffolk until the full easing of current restrictions, currently expected to be 19 July.

The extension to the parking pass only applies to those working at vaccination sites and does not extend to wider health and social care staff. Health and social care workers who

need to park in resident parking zones can register for permits, known as 'carer vouchers' at [www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/parking](http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/parking)

### **New policy for commemorative benches in East Suffolk**

We have introduced a new policy for 'commemorative' benches, the service which allows people to sponsor seating at locations in the district to remember a friend, relative or colleague who has passed.

People can sponsor a new bench with a commemorative plaque for a period of ten years in numerous locations on council land, mainly replacing existing benches that are coming to an end of practical use. The benches are located in places where everyone can sit, rest and reflect.

Members of the public who choose to commemorate someone in this way will also be encouraged to not attach any additional items to the benches. Unfortunately, these items, which can often include flowers, wreaths and balloons, can either prevent people from sitting, or make them feel uncomfortable about doing so.

Items can sometimes be left for a long period of time and can also cause environmental issues, particularly if they are not degradable.

With this in mind, we are now also kindly asking people to collect and take care of any items they may have placed on benches on council land, which they would like to keep.

### **Protecting East Suffolk's historic environment**

The Council has adopted a new Historic Environment Supplementary Planning Document which will provide guidance on a range of topics, including repairs and alterations of historic buildings, to support the implementation of the adopted Local Plan policies.

View the new document, and supporting documents, at [www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/planning/planning-policy-and-local-plans/supplementary-planning-documents/](http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/planning/planning-policy-and-local-plans/supplementary-planning-documents/)

### **East Suffolk Annual Report**

East Suffolk official Annual report can be found here :

<https://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/news/our-year-our-annual-report/>

### **New Grant - Nature first**

As part of our ongoing drive to build the right environment for East Suffolk, the Greenprint Forum has launched a funding scheme for voluntary and community groups who are planning projects that help promote biodiversity.

Eligible projects could include work to restore existing habitats or create new ones, provision of nesting/roosting places for birds, pollinators and other animals, or activities to help local people of any age learn more about and enjoy their local biodiversity.

The scheme will run over four phases during 2021/22, offering grants of up to £1,000

## Misc

We have had a pilot give and take day at Leiston and have created a simple guide should you want to replicate : <https://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/assets/Environment/Green-Issues/Reports/Give-Take-Day-Leiston-28-5-2021-event-report.pdf>

And last month I publicised our lead on biodiversity issues with an article in the EADT <https://www.eadt.co.uk/news/local-council/east-suffolk-council-issues-wildflower-challenge-to-homes-8043348>

with a focus on our new wildflower boarder - with the message if we can do this at East Suffolk , whats stopping you in your communities



## Coronavirus Resources

- Guidance for councils and LRFs during the coronavirus outbreak:  
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-local-government>
  - Latest information on coronavirus: <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>
  - Coronavirus communication materials:  
<https://coronavirusresources.phe.gov.uk/>
  - FAQ from the Cabinet Office:  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-outbreak-faqs-what-you-can-and-cant-do/coronavirus-outbreak-faqs-what-you-can-and-cant-do>
  - National lockdown: what you need to know:  
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/local-restriction-tiers-what-you-need-to-know>
  - Coronavirus cases: <https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk/>
- Previous MHCLG Coronavirus Bulletins:  
<https://bit.ly/3iC2Pnz>

The Council's online form for reporting health and safety concerns  
[https://my.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/service/COVID\\_19\\_Health\\_and\\_Safety](https://my.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/service/COVID_19_Health_and_Safety) .

Enquiries can also be made to [environment@eastsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:environment@eastsuffolk.gov.uk) .

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