



**November 2022**

Welcome to my monthly newsletter

**Helping East Suffolk Ease the Squeeze on cost of living**



Information, including practical support, funding and advice, has been gathered on our website, at [www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/squeeze](http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/squeeze)

This page is continuously being updated as more schemes, services and support becomes available, so please share this with others.

### **National award for innovative Deben Fields development**

A prestigious national award for high-quality and innovative design has been won by the Deben Fields development in Felixstowe.

The project, on the site of the former Deben High School, is being developed by the Council to provide new leisure and community facilities, as well as new private and affordable homes.



Following a submission by architects TateHindle, the scheme was shortlisted in the national Housing Design Awards earlier this year and has since been chosen as the winner of the Project Award.



The scheme comprises a highly sustainable new neighbourhood of 61 high-quality, innovative homes designed to achieve Passivhaus certification, including 41 affordable homes, and a range of community amenities.

As well as delivering energy-efficient homes, the construction process will be low carbon using durable, low maintenance materials. The homes will be highly insulated with triple glazing to lower running costs.

The buildings also maximise natural light and solar gain and are futureproofed to allow for sustainable technologies, including heat pumps and air filtration. Solar panels will provide renewable energy to power common areas.

Planning permission for Deben Fields was granted in 2021, and work is due to start in 2023.

### Significant improvements in air quality at Woodbridge junction



An Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) in Woodbridge has been revoked following significant improvements in air quality.

The Woodbridge AQMA was established in 2006 after high levels of nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) were detected at the junction of Lime Kiln Quay Road, The Thoroughfare and St John's Street.

Since this time, NO<sub>2</sub> concentrations within the AQMA have decreased, and since 2014, have been consistently below the national objective levels.

As a result, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs requested that the AQMA be revoked, and an assessment was carried out in 2021 to establish whether removal of the AQMA was appropriate. Using measurements taken in 2019 and 2020, the assessment predicts future NO<sub>2</sub> concentrations within the AQMA over the next five years and concludes that the AQMA could be revoked.

These findings were discussed by East Suffolk Council's Cabinet on 3 May 2022, and following a six-week public consultation, the AQMA was revoked on 29 September.

### Free Wi-Fi service launched in two more East Suffolk towns



Free-to-use public Wi-Fi has been launched in another two towns as part of a variety of digital projects for the district.

The East Suffolk Digital Towns programme has now been rolled out to Beccles and Halesworth, following previous launches in Felixstowe, Lowestoft, Southwold and Woodbridge.



The Digital Towns programme, initially piloted in Framlingham in 2019, will transform market towns through the installation of free public Wi-Fi, digital footfall counters and town marketing platforms, alongside a business support programme.

Supported by funding from the Getting Building Fund and New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership's Innovative Projects fund, the new technology will be combined with bespoke business support, helping local businesses and towns to grow.

It will enable us to understand the number of visitors to towns, the busiest periods, the average time people spend in the town centre and much more – enabling the Economic Development team to provide tailored support for local businesses and provide data-based evidence to support other ongoing projects.

Following the latest launches, East Suffolk Free Wi-Fi is also scheduled to be available in, Bungay, Aldeburgh, Leiston and Saxmundham very soon.

### **Hat-trick of awards for building excellence in East Suffolk**



The recently opened Martello Café, in Felixstowe, has again been nominated for a top award – along with a locally based building contractor and architect.

It was named 'best non-residential new build' at the regional LABC Building Excellence Awards – just a few months after being commended by local design judges.

Opened in May 2022 as part of continued wider redevelopment of Felixstowe's South Seafront area, the Martello Café was funded with a grant of £950,000 from the Government's Coastal Communities Fund and a further £30,000 from the Coastal Revival Fund.

Along with its architects, Plaice Design Company, the café was also 'Highly Commended' by judges at the RIBA Suffolk Design Awards 2022.

Felixstowe based architect, Robert Allerton was also recognised as the region's 'best residential and small commercial designer' in the LABC Building Excellence Awards, while Woodbridge firm Chapel Properties won 'best residential and small commercial builder'.

The regional winners will all go forward to the Grand Finals of the LABC Building Excellence Awards 2022 in January. They cover all local authorities in England and Wales, across 12 regions, and recognise the work of building control surveyors, builders, site managers, architects, designers, and anyone involved in a construction project where building control was provided by a local authority team.

### **Misc**



Look out for the latest residents magazine arriving through your letterbox soon - this edition is focusing on my work across the council implementing my environmental vision . Not only tangible differences , but embedding policy across the work of East Suffolk .

I issued the following statement :

To whom it concerns,

It is my pleasure to write a letter of support for the application for designated bathing water status for the Woodbridge/Waldringfield site along the river Deben in Suffolk.

The Deben Estuary is a Site of Specific Scientific Interest, a Special Protection Area (SPA), Ramsar Wetland site and an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and has been the well-respected wild swimming site for the local population since Viking times.

Within the context of the poor state of our rivers (Water Quality in Rivers Report, Environmental Audit Committee January 2022) this application if successful, is hoped to result in an increased monitoring of the local water quality and an investment in improved sewage processing approaches at the sewage outlets currently emptying into the river and a greater understanding in how our land use effects water quality .

Our water systems need to be fit for humans and our biodiversity alike, this concept should be without question .



I am therefore delighted to support this application and urge Defra to consider all evidence presented in the application favourably.

Kind Regards

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East Suffolk supported a cost of living event at Tunstall at the end of Nov  
I went along and gave advice and helped residents



**James Mallinder**  
**Deben Ward**  
**Environment Portfolio holder**