

Framlingham Ward

April 2025 Year End Newsletter

Vince Langdon-Morris District Councillor

Framlingham Flood Resilience and Recovery Working Group (WG):

Our voluntary WG, which continues to work under the auspices of the Town Council, completed and submitted a detailed response to the statutory Suffolk County Council (SCC) Section 19 Flooding Response (see [Town Council Website](#) and documents attached). The detailed responses were acknowledged as valuable feedback by SCC and Environment Agency.

This information was used to update the current SCC 19 report and requires further discussion.

Town and Parish Councils in receipt of SCC 19 reports, please feel free to use the Framlingham response as a template, as you see fit.



THE OFFICIAL WEBSITE FOR
FRAMLINGHAM, SUFFOLK, UK



Framlingham Flood Resilience & Recovery

It is especially important that the resilience of our town, parish and wider rural landscapes are kept front and centre in our thinking, as more infrastructure, housing and proposed solar schemes are proposed across the ward and the wider district in the near future.

Be Well Bus: The bus had a well-attended visit to Framlingham on Tues. 22nd April, supported by our very active ESC Community team and local police constables. I firmly support this initiative and tried the onboard SISU health machine :-). if you would like to see any particular council service(s) on the bus (assistance, advice, access to social benefits), please see future dates in the flyer and contact me.



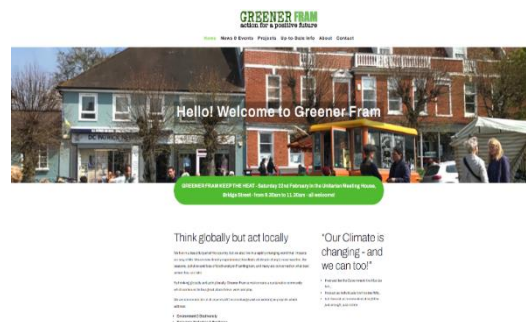
Suffolk Devolution: Discussions to create a joint mayoral office for Norfolk and Suffolk are proceeding at pace. A future mayor will have increased and devolved powers, awarded by central government with, amongst other, authority to decide on regional infrastructure investments and planning decisions.

Progress on Unitary Council (s): Suffolk County Council have proposed the formation of a single 'mega' council to Government as the most 'efficient' way forward.

In a report submitted to Government on 21st March 2025, Suffolk's five district and borough councils presented a separate plan to revitalise Local Government and put the needs of local communities first, stating, *"Our joint proposal demonstrates that a one size fits all mega authority will not solve the existing issue of large countywide services that will continue to drain money, require improvement and potentially lead to further cost cutting. Crucially, more than one unitary authority is the best way to meet these issues and would ensure strong democratic representation as one [council] would be too remote for residents to be heard. This ensures that services are designed and delivered in a tailored way, built on local knowledge to meet the unique need of an area, its residents and businesses. It creates new councils able to deliver both value for money and better outcomes. It is about starting with a blank page and not simply bolting existing council services together. It makes sure the 'local' stays in Local Government for Suffolk."*

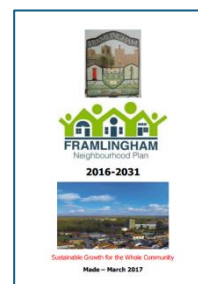
Enabling Community Budget: My ECB allocation of £7,500 for 2024-25 was widely granted across the wards 18 town and parish councils. The 2025-26 ECB allocation is received and already being awarded to Dennington primary school and Earl Soham village hall. We are working on support for Brandeston village hall playground and Framlingham library. Please contact me if you require grant support, the applications are quick and easy to do. But note it is only a small sum and thinly spread across the ward.

Greener Fram: Three projects have been established (see website for detail). A *Splash of Colour* will increase and expand wildflower beds on grass verges across the town. We look forward to a shower of colour. Also, see website for detail on the *Food Share Shed & Thermal imaging*.



Trees: You may have seen on social media that trees are having to be felled across the ward, for a variety of reasons, e.g. the Beech tree at Framlingham Castle is diseased. I will stay in touch with the town and East Suffolk Council tree officers to see what can be done and to explore replacement tree planting options

Framlingham Neighbourhood Plan & Ward Housing: The current 'made' Framlingham Neighbourhood plan (NP) is being reviewed and updated for the period up to 2045. This exercise, led by consultants and working with the town council and resident volunteers, is designed to feed into the new regional Local Plan (being developed by East Suffolk Council).



The primary purpose of the new NP is to revise and identify sites for new housing, especially

since central government has recently increased the number of new houses to be built annually across East Suffolk District from 905 to 1,644 homes. A Fram Neighbourhood Plan Survey will be shared with all residents. I encourage you to access this and complete it. Your views are important.



Ward Housing: Victoria Mill Road (VMR) After a long struggle, outline planning was finally awarded by East Suffolk Council planning in June 2023 for the construction of 35 self-build homes off VMR. Suffolk County Council has yet to issue the required [Section 278 certificate](#) to straighten the VMR 'S' bends, a public highway (required to allow construction access to this site). SCC highways told me that they must communicate with residents, before awarding an S278 certificate and I look forward to this happening?

Traffic incidents and near misses continue to be reported to me by residents along the length of VMR. See recent tractor/trailer ['night soil'](#) turnover and spill and an HGV bogged at the VMR 'S' bends, and a cycling accident. Many of these incidents go unreported on official databases (e.g.



the police database) which are used by SCC and ESC to audit the safety of our public highways. VMR is steadily degrading along its length and blockages like this continue to occur. Post Storm Babet, I am concerned that residents face the real possibility of being cut off in the future? In my view, SCC, ESC and developers should also take note of the future liability issues that surround these scenarios?

Station Road: ESC planning department initially refused outline planning for a cart lodge to be constructed at a site adjacent to the Station Road / Kettleburgh turn off. This was taken to appeal and overturned by the Planning Inspectorate (reference, APP/X3540/W/24/3347785).

From personal experience, areas (the lower end of Fairfield and Station Roads) a stone throw from this location, were the epicentre of severe and ongoing flood damage during Storm Babet. All along the banks of the River Ore along Fairfield Road there was erosion, pollution from sewage and chemical spills, and a very close shave for the electrical sub-station. This flood event, now classified as between a 1 in 40 to 1 in 50-year annual exceedance probability or AEP, refer *'Autumn 2023 East Anglian Flood Hydrology Investigation'* Final, February 2025 prepared for the Environment Agency by www.jbaconsulting.com.

To me climate / environmental change and future town and community resilience are not prioritised with our current body of law, a retreat from very much needed wider [strategic](#) thinking and approaches to future catchment management? This is a return to piecemeal projects, 'business as usual' and the bottom-line.

Text from inspector's report: *Note 30. 'Significant concern has been raised about the accuracy of the information with respect to flood risk in the area following the significant damage caused by Storm Babet in October 2023 [that was me]. However, the comments of the EA are dated 26 February 2024 and do not object to the application. The Council, Environment Agency and Lead Local Flood Authority all had the opportunity to provide updated comments to this appeal with respect to this issue but have not amended their positions. I have not been provided with copies of any of the reports carried out following the flood event, including the report carried out by the Lead Local Flood Authority under the requirements of s19 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010. There is therefore no substantive evidence before me that would lead me to a different conclusion with respect to the risk of flooding at the site.'*

Brandeston Queen Pub: Appeal Ref: APP/X3540/W/24/3342873. Hearing Date: 26 March 2025 at East Suffolk House, Melton. Proposed, change of use of public house to 1 no. dwelling. The planning inspectorate refused the appellant's appeal.

Solar Farm Applications: See Environmental Impact Assessment Screening Opinion, for proposed development of solar photovoltaic sites in Easton and Letheringham ([DC/25/0693/EIA | EIA Screening Opinion - Installation and operation of a Solar Development and Battery Energy Storage System with associated equipment and necessary infrastructure | Land North Of Kettleburgh Road Easton And Land South Of The Street Letheringham Suffolk](#)) and in Hatcheston / Easton ([DC/25/0595/EIA | EIA Screening Opinion - For development of a Solar Photovoltaic Installation | Land South Of Easton Lane Glevering Park House Glevering Estate Wickham Market Suffolk IP13 0EX](#)). I am working with Letheringham and Easton Parish Councils and nearby District Councillors to assist in assessing these screening opinions.

Across the District

East Suffolk Council, here for you! ESC will visit Fram on 24th Sept. 2025. Following a successful series of events last year, East Suffolk officers and councillors will be visiting towns around the district again this summer, chatting to people about council services and asking how they feel about what we do. Councillors and senior officers will be present to listen to local people and chat about our plans, our services and how we are looking to improve lives and outcomes not only in the towns we visit but throughout East Suffolk. Cllr Caroline Topping, Leader of East Suffolk Council said: *"Last year's roadshows were very popular, with residents taking time to speak with us about local issues and concerns. It is incredibly important that residents have an opportunity to ask us questions and there is no better way to get a real sense of how local people feel about the services we deliver than getting out and meeting them. Last year, I spoke to so many different people about their lives and challenges and I'm looking forward to this year's events, and meeting even more of our residents."*

East Suffolk Council, Green Liberal Independent Group Councillor Update

- **East Suffolk Youth Council.** At the January 25 East Suffolk Council meeting, Full Council adopted and unanimously passed a motion on youth safety and services brought forward by the new East Suffolk Youth Council. East Suffolk Youth Councillors prioritised the issue, drafted the motion, debated and passed it at their own December meeting, and introduced it to Full Council.

GLI Cllr Dr Specca, Chair of East Suffolk Council said: *'Our Youth Councillors conducted themselves with great professionalism throughout, and I couldn't be prouder. I'm also grateful to my fellow Councillors for the taking up the Youth Council motion with due seriousness, as well as for their encouraging words to the Youth Council Chair and Vice-Chair, who attended our meeting for the first time. It was a historic moment for the youth of East Suffolk, and for our local democracy.'*

- **Funding top up for families most in need** Uniform banks in East Suffolk are invited to apply for additional support through a new funding scheme. Following previous successful rounds of funding, East Suffolk Council has now allocated further funding to its East Suffolk Uniform Bank grant scheme and applications for 'top up' funding are now open. Grants of up to £1,000 per application are available and can be put towards vouchers for shoes worth up to £15 per child and/or the purchase of new, branded uniform where supply is limited. The funding is available for all existing uniform banks in East Suffolk, regardless of whether or not they have previously received funding from the grant scheme. GLI Cabinet member for Communities, Culture, Leisure and Tourism, Cllr Sarah Whitelock, said: *'The cost of uniforms adds more pressure to already stressed household budgets, so I am really pleased that we are able to offer further support to uniform banks that offer such practical and sustainable solutions.'* This is a rolling grant scheme, and a panel will meet each month to discuss applications. The scheme will continue until all funds are spent or the scheme is reviewed. To apply for this funding, please visit: www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/uniform-bank-grant-scheme. Successful applicants will be notified via email within five working days of the panel assessing their application.
- **Council 'frustration' at Government response to energy project concerns**
Last Air Quality Management Area in East Suffolk removed. The last remaining Air Quality Management Area in East Suffolk – located on the A12 within Stratford St Andrew – has been removed following significant improvements in air quality. To meet national air quality objectives, local authorities must regularly review and assess air quality in their areas. If a location is found where the objectives are not being achieved, the local authority must declare the area an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) and develop an Air Quality Action Plan to reduce air pollution. The AQMA, located at four properties close to the A12 within Stratford St Andrew, was established in 2014 after elevated levels of nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) were detected. Studies undertaken suggested that southbound traffic accelerating just prior to the end of the 30mph speed limit in Stratford St Andrew – originally located at the end of the Long Row houses – was a cause of increased emissions and a large part of the problem. In 2017, after the 30/50mph speed limit change was moved further south out of the village and away from the houses by Suffolk County Council, NO₂ concentrations within the AQMA fell below the national objective level and have continued to decrease year-on-year. As a result, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) requested that the AQMA be revoked, and an assessment was carried out in 2024 to establish whether removal of the AQMA was appropriate. The revocation assessment considered the historical monitoring data, projected NO₂ concentrations over the next five years, local and national trends in NO₂ emissions, and local and regional factors that may impact on the AQMA. This included the Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) expected to commence within East Suffolk – including Sizewell C, and the East Anglia One (North) and East Anglia Two offshore windfarms. The findings were discussed by East Suffolk Council's Cabinet on 1 October 2024, and following a six-week public consultation, the AQMA was revoked on 18 December.

- **East Suffolk's Amazing** We invest every single penny we can in services to help maintain the beauty and cleanliness of East Suffolk but sometimes admit that it can never necessarily be enough.



A cross-party working group of councillors is already working on different ways we can work to maintain the beauty of East Suffolk, which includes encouraging more residents to take active pride in their local area. This includes reducing fly-tipping, recycling properly and even, where possible, looking after the spaces outside your own property. We are also working closely and collaboratively with Suffolk County Council who have responsibility for weeds on roads and pavements, potholes and road signs. There is already an incredible network of volunteers who work to help keep our district beautiful, with regular litter-picks, planting, and an all-round effort to keep their local area clean. If East Suffolk matters to you, if you want to play your part, we would love you to get involved. East Suffolk's Amazing... let's keep it that way! The Council will support local communities and groups by lending equipment for litter pick events, including hi-vis vests, litter pickers, bags and bag hoops. A range of information about how communities can get involved in schemes, as well as a range of tips and advice, can be found at: eastsuffolk.gov.uk/waste/litter/amazing/

- **Ease the Squeeze on Cost of Living** Are you, or someone you know, worried about the increasing cost of living? We understand the pressures faced by many people today and we are working closely with key partners to ensure support is available to help ease the squeeze for households in East Suffolk. To make it as easy as possible for you to access the services and support available, locally and nationally, we have gathered information about them in one place: www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/community/squeeze/. For the most up to date information regarding East Suffolk Council, please visit: www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk
- **East Suffolk Council has agreed a new approach to recycling collection**, and with it, a commitment to greatly improve environmental outcomes for the district. Working together in response to government legislation, Suffolk's District and Borough authorities: Babergh, East Suffolk, Ipswich, Mid Suffolk and West Suffolk Councils, are all reviewing their waste and recycling services to meet new nationwide 'Simpler Recycling' requirements by 31 March 2026. This will see all households supplied with an additional wheelie bin or other container to separate paper and card from plastics, metal, cartons (including Tetra Pak) and glass bottles or jars. A weekly food waste collection service was also agreed. This extra collection service allows the Council to adopt a three-weekly residual waste collection service, rather than the current fortnightly arrangement, without a reduction in the overall combined capacity of household bins.
- **In September 24, East Suffolk hosted the final stage of the Lloyds Bank Tour of Britain for Men**. The final stage started in Lowestoft, and residents lined the streets to watch the race as it passed through Beccles, Framlingham, Aldeburgh and many more towns before moving on to Felixstowe for the finish. Felixstowe also showed wonderful support in the lead up to the final stage with their Love Felixstowe festival, which proved to be a huge success with local residents.
- **Last winter, a network of venues offering residents a warm, safe space to socialise over the winter reopened for the third year**. East Suffolk Council's Warm Welcomes (formerly Warm Rooms) scheme saw more than 20 libraries, churches and community hubs providing

a warm space and an opportunity to connect with other members of the local community. Warm Welcomes provide a safe and welcoming space where residents, including people who may be struggling with the cost of heating their homes, can come to meet with others and access information about additional support available. East Suffolk Council has secured a provisional allocation of £5.9m to help improve the energy performance of social housing as part of the Government's Warm Homes Plan. The Council was named amongst the local authorities and housing associations offered a total of £1.29bn to retrofit properties, across 144 nationwide projects, under the latest wave of the Warm Homes: Social Housing Fund.

- ***Meanwhile, numerous organisations across the district provided fun and enriching activities and food as part of a programme of experiences for children and young people over the Christmas holidays.*** The HAF programme is overseen by Suffolk County Council and coordinated locally by East Suffolk Council. Holiday activities are varied and can introduce young people to new experiences and skills, from filmmaking to drama and teamwork to problem solving, as well providing opportunities for physical and social activity.
- ***An innovative new commercial development has opened its doors in the heart of Lowestoft's Power Park energy hub.*** Delivered by East Suffolk Council, The Nexus is home to 16 modern business units for office and light industrial uses – positioned at the forefront of the region's renewable energy sector. With allocated on-site EV parking, the site includes units varying in size creating potential for a cluster of clean energy sector businesses and enhancing ongoing investment in the area, with easy access to the Port of Lowestoft, OrbisEnergy and East Coast College's Energy Skills Centre.
- ***A new fund has been established to provide immediate, short-term financial support to East Suffolk communities affected by future emergency events.*** Last year, as part of the 2024-25 Budget setting process, East Suffolk Council created a Resilience Reserve in response to the severe disruption caused by Storm Babet. Now, Cabinet members have agreed how this £500,000 pot will be managed, through a newly established Resilience and Emergency Response Fund (RERF). The RERF is designed to ensure East Suffolk Council can be more flexible and responsive to cover reasonable additional costs incurred by town and parish councils during an emergency event. In the aftermath of Storm Babet, East Suffolk Council established the East Suffolk Flood Recovery Group, that provided a physical presence in Framlingham and Wickham Market to assist and deal with affected residents enquiries and clean up in the aftermath. Examples of support that could be provided by the fund include temporary accommodation costs for up to 48 hours, disposal costs for damaged furniture, carpets or flooring, and support for voluntary groups to assist and co-ordinate recovery activities.
- ***East Suffolk Council is supporting the efforts of The Deben Climate Centre to deliver "a radical and ambitious plan to regenerate the Deben River for people and nature".*** The Centre is an expanding coalition of residents, academics, local community groups, charities and organisations which plans to regenerate the River Deben Catchment through widespread community action. The Centre's programs to date have focused on testing water quality on the Deben, and several lecture series highlighting the local effects of Climate Change, the global food security crisis, and the startling loss of species and habitats. Deben Climate founders Professor Peter Hobson and Eamonn O'Nolan said: "Ours is a radical and ambitious plan to regenerate the Deben River for people and nature and it is built on the collective will of a partnership between local people, community environment groups and other key stakeholders such as farmers and land-owners. *"We are thrilled to work with*

East Suffolk Council, and we recognise that successful projects like this require the support and expertise of skilled Local Government officers and members."

- ***Plans for a major development which will reinvigorate Lowestoft's town centre have been given the green light.*** The Cultural Quarter project, which when complete will be known as Battery Green, is one of five transformational regeneration projects which received £24.9m from the Government's Towns Fund in 2022 and will see the redevelopment of East Suffolk Council's current Customer Services Centre and the former Battery Green multi-storey car park. Designed by Norwich-based architects Chaplin Farrant, the development will provide a new cultural and community hub with studio space for creative businesses together with a leisure complex and restaurant. The Cultural Quarter project is just one of many regenerative projects underway in the town, with a new seafront complex being built at Jubilee Parade and improvements at Royal Plain, Royal Green and South Quay Wharf.
- ***More than 80,000 people have logged onto free Wi-Fi while visiting East Suffolk towns during the first two years of a project to boost connectivity and business.*** The Digital Towns programme was launched by East Suffolk Council in June 2022 to support market towns through the installation of free public Wi-Fi, digital footfall counters and marketing platforms. As well as more than 80,000 free Wi-Fi users, Digital Towns has attracted 20,000 promotional email subscriptions and logged millions of movements on footfall sensors designed to provide more insight into shopping habits to help towns and businesses improve the town centre experience. Subsequently collected data has provided the impetus for new town websites, marketing resources and bids to extend free Wi-Fi zones.
- ***East Suffolk Council has developed a Tree and Hedgerow Strategy, seeking input from residents, community groups, and experts to identify key priorities and requirements for tree and hedgerow planting and management of existing trees across the district.*** Currently, forests cover just 12% of land in the UK, whereas Europe's total land area has forest cover comprising 47%. The Tree and Hedgerow Strategy would aim to enable 250,000 trees to be planted across East Suffolk, increasing canopy cover by 1%. Landowners play the key role in protecting and planting trees and will be invited to suggest spaces suitable for tree planting. Ongoing work to map the tree canopy in East Suffolk will be completed, creating a map of council-owned land where there are opportunities for tree planting and feeding-in to Suffolk's developing 'Local Nature Recovery Strategy'.
- ***East Suffolk Council has pledged to extend its support for town centres with the launch of a new programme designed to foster long-term prosperity and sustainability.*** Cabinet members approved an additional revenue budget of £537,000 to support delivery of the new Town Development Programme over three years from this month. The renewed pledge builds on the work of the East Suffolk Towns Revitalisation Programme in delivering evidence-based actions plans, resources, and grant support for 12 key towns and villages to develop locally identified priorities since 2019. East Suffolk Council secured £900,000 of external funding and invested £270,000 for the programme to support town centres through delivery of covid recovery and resilience assistance, town apps, websites and branding, skills and training, capital improvements, and events development.
- ***Funding of over £400,000 has been agreed to extend a scheme which helps young people in East Suffolk to find employment.*** At a meeting of East Suffolk Council's Cabinet on 1 October, additional funding of £420,000 was approved to extend the Youth Employment Service (YES) from April 2025 to March 2028. Additionally, £190,000 in external funding has also been secured from Nuclear Restoration Services (NRS) which will support the creation

of an enhanced service to help young people with more challenging needs. Delivered by Inspire Suffolk on behalf of East Suffolk Council, YES is an innovative project supporting local young people aged between 16 and 24 who are not currently employed or in education to receive job coaching, skills and employment training by providing bespoke online and face-to-face support. It also offers access to other support services and programmes.

- ***East Suffolk Council is investing £1 million in car park infrastructure, including new contactless payment terminals, EV chargers, new cycle racks and signage, as well as introducing a suite of new parking tariffs in the district.*** As part of an annual review of its fees and charges, the Council agreed to retain the 30 minutes free parking available in many council-owned car parks and to introduce several new tariffs to reduce congestion at peak times of the year. To reflect the increased number of visitors coming to the district from further afield during the summer, new seasonal tariffs are being introduced in car parks in popular tourist destinations. Parking fees haven't risen in four years, and over that time the council has carried the cost of inflation. Parking in a council-owned car park still compares favourably with other similar locations, with council-owned car park fees being approx. 20% cheaper than alternative parking options, and our new charges still compare favourably to other tourism destinations and our neighbouring councils. Other changes include the option to park for longer in short-stay car parks and reduced parking prices in car parks out of town centres to encourage people to park further afield and walk into town. Contactless payment terminals will be introduced to give drivers more choice when paying for parking. This will be in addition to paying through a parking app or with cash.
- ***East Suffolk Council has pledged more than £64million towards delivering quality key services for residents while continuing to invest in projects for the benefit of local communities.*** In February, East Suffolk Council agreed a balanced Budget which allows for vital day-to-day services to be delivered alongside programmes developed to help improve the quality of people's lives. The annual Budget is set against the framework of a Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) to ensure effective management of resources and support delivery of the Council's strategic action plan, Our Direction 2028. More than £64m has been budgeted within the Council's General Fund to pay for services such as planning, leisure, housing and environmental services, waste collection and parking. The Council is committed to securing a balanced budget, not just through setting council tax, but by utilising opportunities to deliver service efficiencies and generate additional income, while maintaining an appropriate level of balances and reserves in case of significant variations or emergencies. A balanced budget will be achieved for 2025/26 by using reserves, currently estimated at £5.3m. Meanwhile, a council tax premium on second homes, to be introduced from April, could generate around £9m in East Suffolk.