

# A Report for Nayland and Wissington Parish Council on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2023 From James Finch – County Councillor for the Stour Valley

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## ➤ Fees waived in Suffolk for communities to celebrate His Majesty the King's Coronation.

To mark the celebration of His Majesty The King's Coronation, Suffolk County Council has waived fees associated with applications to close roads for street parties and other local authority led public events.

Charles III's coronation will take place at Westminster Abbey in London on Sunday 6 May, where the King will be crowned alongside Camilla, the Queen Consort. This is the first coronation of a monarch in the UK since the late Queen's ceremony which was staged on June 2, 1953.

Events will be taking place across the country, between 6 and 8 May 2023. This bank holiday gives communities and people throughout the UK the opportunity to come together and celebrate with their neighbours. Many of Suffolk's residents will also be giving up their time as volunteers to bring people together as part of The Big Help Out. For all events planned over the weekend, which is being referred to as The Coronation Big Lunch, Suffolk County Council will not be charging fees normally associated with road closures for events.

Similarly, to the late Queens Platinum Jubilee, if you are looking to organise a street party as a group of residents, or if you would like to apply as a local authority, for an event in a large public space, such as a park, you can view more information at [www.suffolk.gov.uk/Kings-coronation](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/Kings-coronation)

As part of the main criteria for a road to be closed, the road must be residential and not on A or B roads and/or those roads which have a bus route operating during the proposed event.

*To be allocated Traffic Management to assist organisers/residents with an event, all applications must be received before 11pm on Sunday 2 April 2023.*

## ➤ Volunteering at Suffolk Archives

Suffolk Archives are looking for volunteers in their branches in Bury St Edmunds, Lowestoft and Ipswich. 'Volunteers bring the archive to life for researchers and local communities, making more archives accessible and connecting people to the places they live. By volunteering you will develop new skills, make new friends and conserve Suffolk's history for the next generation.' –

Suffolk Archives collects, preserves, and shares over 900 years' worth of Suffolk's rich history. Our collections are treasure houses of information in the form of original documents such as letters, reports, photographs, maps and plans which have been selected for preservation because of their lasting value to our society.

As the care takers of our county's archival heritage, it is our responsibility to engage, connect and inspire the largest and most diverse audience possible. We are committed to achieving this through a varied programme of countywide events and exhibitions throughout the year.

**NB There are a range of roles available from remote volunteering to in-person.**

If you would like to join the remote volunteer team at Suffolk Archives visit the Suffolk Archives website for more information. <https://www.suffolkarchives.co.uk/about-suffolk-archives/>

## ➤ Children's expert brought in to strengthen council's focus on real-life experiences of children with special educational needs

An independent special advisor has been commissioned to further strengthen reform of special educational needs and disabilities services (SEND) at Suffolk County Council.

The well-respected senior leader in children's services, consultant Anthony Douglas CBE, will work with SEND system leaders and the SEND networks to support the reforms already underway. He will draw on his years of experience to focus on how services are impacting upon the everyday experience of children and young people with SEND.

The challenge of transforming the way we deliver SEND services is extremely complex. Effective improvement is being felt in parts of the system – and it is reassuring that the Department for Education confirms that progress is being made.

However, it is also recognised that there are some areas, especially those lived experiences of families, where improvement is not being clearly felt. This is where Mr Douglas, an experienced

and much respected professional in children's services, will add significant value and strengthen the existing work of the SEND team.

### ➤ **Hosts for Ukraine**

*It has been over a year since the start of the war in Ukraine. Suffolk County Council is still in need of a wide range of host homes for Ukrainian refugees. A big thank you again to all those who have already offered. Potential hosts can sign up directly with the County Council by completing our online form:*

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/community-and-safety/communities/community-engagement/support-for-refugees/support-for-ukraine/ukraine-information-for-sponsors> or emailing [refugeesupport@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:refugeesupport@suffolk.gov.uk) .

### ➤ **Suffolk Walking Festival returns for 15th instalment**

Tickets are on sale now for The Suffolk Walking Festival 2023 as it celebrates its 15th year. This year's festival boasts a 16-day programme and offers over 70 walks across 350 miles of Suffolk's beautiful landscapes. With lots of weekend, evening and family walks. The programme has accessible, short, medium, long-distance walks, and more challenging walks – so there is something for everyone.

From learning about the ancient tradition of 'Beating the Bounds' to exploring the heart of The Brecks with its gorse-covered sandy chalk soils characterised by purple heathland, tall pines and rare wildlife, this year's festival appeals to a wide range of individuals.

There is a range of shorter urban strolls, and for those looking to stretch their legs, several spectacular riverside walks and valley yomps. Also returning this year are ever the popular Walk n' Water River trips with a boat in Sudbury; an exclusive walk with Sweep the sheepdog on Orford Ness; a twilight safari in an ancient woodland; and the intriguing stories of ancient smugglers and shipping routes on Dunwich Heath. The festival highlights some of Suffolk's most beautiful locations so it's a great way to explore, get active and meet others doing the same."

The festival kicks off at Thornham Walks, near Eye on Saturday 13 May with refreshments and 5 launch jaunts. It then runs every day until 28 May.

Visit [www.suffolkwalkingfestival.co.uk](http://www.suffolkwalkingfestival.co.uk) for more details on the programme, to sign up to newsletters, and to buy tickets.

### ➤ **Fire service finalises plan to protect Suffolk's communities.**

Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service's Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP), outlining how it will manage and reduce risks across the county, has been given the green light by the County Council Cabinet. The plan details Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service's priorities until 2027, including:

- Updating how response times are reported to include from the time of call and focus on the areas of highest risk, such as dwelling fires
- Addressing climate change to support Suffolk County Council's ambition to be a carbon-neutral authority by 2030, with a view to introducing more non-fossil fuel vehicles in the fleet
- Developing preventative safe and well visits, including continued work with the National Farmers' Union to tailor advice to rural and farming communities
- Assessing how the service works with partner agencies, such as supporting the ambulance service when appropriate and if capacity and resources allow for this
- Reviewing the recruitment and retention of on-call firefighters and specialist support staff to ensure Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service remains a diverse employer of choice

These priorities were identified during extensive research and pre-consultation engagement with staff and stakeholders. In addition, hundreds of Suffolk residents helped to inform the final document by providing feedback on proposals during the CRMP public consultation, which ran from October to December 2022 and included a series of public events held at six supermarkets across the county

### ➤ **Virtual Fostering and Adoption Sessions for the Stour Valley**

A Foster Carer Recruitment Event is held the **1st Wednesday of every month**, and an Adoption Event is on **the 1st Thursday all 7:00pm** in your home.

To book a place please email [Claire.Gwatkin@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:Claire.Gwatkin@suffolk.gov.uk).

**My Priorities**

*Education - Supporting Vulnerable People - Jobs and Growth - Localism and the Stour Valley - Building on Suffolk's Strength all underpinned by strong financial management and fair council tax.*