**Boyton Parish Council**

**SCC Newsletter – July 2022**

**Hundreds of local businesses show sustainability is achievable and profitable**

462 businesses are leading the way across Suffolk and Norfolk, actively reducing their carbon emissions.

All of these companies are holders of a Carbon Charter award, a scheme which recognises businesses across Suffolk and Norfolk which are actively reducing their impact on the environment.

These businesses were acknowledged at the annual Carbon Charter event (6 July 2022), organised by Suffolk County Council, and held at Anglia Car Charging’s base in Broome - themselves a recent recipient of a Silver Carbon Charter Award.

**Councillor Richard Rout, Suffolk County Council’s Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance & Environment, said:**

“The Carbon Charter has proved an incredibly successful scheme, which Suffolk County Council set up 12 years ago, in partnership with the Environment Agency. It highlights the hundreds of enterprises across Suffolk and Norfolk who understand how important it is to tackle climate change.

“These businesses are changing the way they operate, influencing their supply chain and educating their staff – all of which shows a business can be sustainable and successful.

“The council and all authorities across Suffolk are actively investing in reducing carbon emissions, through the work of the Suffolk Climate Emergency Plan with the aim of being a Net Zero county by 2030. We are proud to lead by example in Suffolk, and are nationally recognised for doing so.

“But this isn’t something that the council, or Suffolk’s local authorities can do alone. The key players are the businesses like the ones recognised here today.”

Denny Brothers Printers, based in Bury St Edmunds, were presented with their Gold Carbon Charter award at the event. They have long been a vocal advocate of the low carbon technologies that all printers should utilise to stay competitive in an increasingly green-conscious market.

Beckett Invest Management Group received a Silver Carbon Charter award, which was presented to Director, Samantha Owen.

The hosts, Anglia Car Charging, also received their Silver award.

The event was funded by the BEE Anglia project, which has provided free consultancy and £1.6 million in grants to over 1,000 businesses across Suffolk and Norfolk, to support them in leading the way towards a Zero Carbon economy.

For more information on the Carbon Charter scheme, visit [**www.carboncharter.org**](http://www.carboncharter.org/)

**Unpaid family carers urged to have their say on a new All Age Carer Strategy for Suffolk**

On July 14th, Suffolk's Health and Wellbeing Board received a report outlining progress of a new All Age Carers Strategy for Suffolk.

There are an estimated 98,000 carers across Suffolk who provide unpaid care for their loved ones. In the UK, according to research from Carers UK conducted in 2020, this figure rises to 13.6 million. Their contribution is believed to have saved the country somewhere in the region of £193billion during the Covid-19 pandemic alone – during a time when many have faced unprecedented pressure, taking on new caring responsibilities for some of the most vulnerable in our society.

These carers give up their time, money, education, careers and relationships to support those they care for, often impacting their own health too. The All Age Carers’ strategy will also help support young carers in their current roles and through transition to adulthood, so they can continue their education, employment and goals in life.

A consultation on the draft strategy has been launched and it is hoped carers of all ages will have their say on the strategy and its five priorities which focus around; early identification of unpaid or family carers, improved information and advice for carers of all ages, ensuring younger carers have the same priority as adult carers, creating systems which work to support carers and help to improve the health and wellbeing of carers.

Details of the consultation, including a downloadable version of the draft strategy and both surveys (for adult or young carers) is available on [**the County Council's website**](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/CarerStrategy).

**County Councils unanimously agree “no” to damaging new pylons**

It was announced on July 20th that authorities in Essex and Suffolk have united to condemn the current proposals for a 180km network of 50m tall electricity pylons.

Essex County Council and Suffolk County Council have passed motions at their full council meetings in July, to oppose the East Anglia GREEN proposal put forward by National Grid for a 180km network of electricity pylons between Norwich, Bramford and Tilbury.

Norfolk County Council is expected to consider the motion at its next full council meeting, following a planned debate yesterday (19 July 2022) being postponed.

The councils agree that the plan for pylons is destructive and outdated, and will cause irreversible damage to the countryside, wildlife habitats and local communities.

A new electricity network is needed to transmit the ambitious 50 GW of offshore wind that the Government aims to be delivered by 2030, and to connect new projects like Sizewell C. So much of this ambition falls on East Anglia, to provide energy for much of the country.

The councils fully support the need to generate this renewable and low carbon electricity, to meet local and national Net Zero ambitions. However, they believe that more suitable, sustainable and modern alternatives for the network have not been properly investigated and presented, such as undersea cable routes around the coastline of East Anglia.

Formalising their long-standing positions on the East Anglia GREEN proposal, the two councils join a group of 13 MPs who recently signed a letter criticising the consultation, along with a growing public petition with thousands of signatures.

National Grid completed the East Anglia GREEN non-statutory consultation in June and later this year, it is anticipated they will publish a report outlining the key themes from the feedback received and explain the next steps. They expect the first statutory consultation to take place in early 2023, with an application to the Planning Inspectorate in late 2024.

**Council looks to protect Suffolk following Sizewell C decision**

Suffolk County Council will now focus its attention on protecting Suffolk, ensuring that the county sees the maximum benefits from Sizewell C project.

On July 20th, the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy granted the Development Consent Order to build and operate a new nuclear power station, Sizewell C.

The council remains disappointed that a number of key issues have not been fully resolved but is now looking ahead to the boosts for the local economy and protecting the local environment.

Whilst the council has been successful in securing many improvements to the scheme, it had raised several concerns where the impact on the natural environment could have been improved:

* The blight of the additional pylons at the main site
* Unnecessary and damaging outage car park at Goose Hill
* Sizewell Link Road should be removed after construction to prevent lasting damage to the environment.

The council has been instrumental in recent changes made to the proposals, which will see Suffolk benefit from nearly £200m of investment to mitigate the impact on communities, the environment and infrastructure. Assurances have also been secured to see a far greater quantity of construction materials will be delivered by rail and sea, reducing the number of lorries on the county’s rural roads.

Following the decision to grant the Sizewell C Development Consent Order, there is now a six week period in which judicial review challenges may be made. Subject to any legal challenges, Suffolk County Council will work with EDF Energy, local communities and local authorities, to ensure that the scheme is constructed accordingly and that opportunities for Suffolk are maximised.

**New routes added as Suffolk County Council issues updated HGV map**

A new map for hauliers plotting routes for journeys across Suffolk has been drawn up.

The Suffolk County Council Lorry Route Plan now incorporates new developments and roads, schemes such as Air Quality Management Areas, and changes in road safety on lorry routes.

Changes to the map include utilising new by-passes and link roads at Beccles, Eye and Haverhill to divert traffic away from town centres, and downgrading of routes at Leiston and Stowlangtoft. The new edition also features, for the first time, routes in Ipswich.

The map, compiled following a three-month consultation with all parish and town councils in Suffolk, was last updated in 2011 although a minor review was held in 2017.

While hauliers are not compelled to use the routes it does help them identify the best roads for their journey. It also discourages them from taking routes that can cause disruption, road safety concerns and environmental concerns to local communities.

Those parishes which feel that local HGV weight restriction traffic orders are not being adhered should sign up to the [**Suffolk Lorry Watch**](https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/lorry-management/lorry-watch-scheme/) scheme. This is run by Trading Standards, in partnership with Suffolk Highways, who ensure weight restriction orders are enforced. These orders are in place to protect old or weak structures and minimise use of a route unless access is necessary.

[**Read more about the review and view the new map here**](https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/lorry-management/lorry-route-plan-review-in-suffolk/).

**UK’s leading digital care technology sees huge results for social care and the NHS**

The data, released on July 25th by the Cassius service, highlights the benefits of a digital care technology service, which is the most advanced in the country.

Launched in July 2021, Suffolk County Council’s Cassius service has:

* Changed the lives of 1,600 people with over 2,600 pieces of digital technology installed
* Avoided 118 ambulance call-outs at a time when pressure on the NHS is at an all-time high\*
* Prevented hospital admissions saving 170 hospital days, freeing up beds for those most in need\*
* Estimated saving to social care of £4.2 million and cashable savings of £430,000 and £160,000 to the local NHS

One resident said: “The technology literally saved my mother’s life”

Cassius provides digital care technology to people in Suffolk to help them to remain independent for longer and to support them to live safe and well at home. The types of technology includes movement sensors, smart watches, wearables, falls prevention devices and technology to address specialised needs.

One of the success factors is that the technology is customised to a person’s individual circumstances ensuring that addresses specific requirements.

For example, Phil, who has Parkinson’s, has been in hospital for two months. The hospital team felt he needed to be in a care home due to his poor mobility; however, Phil really wanted to be at home with his wife.

The Cassius service was able to provide him with digital care technology to keep him safe, including sensor mats, a falls button and Video Carephone should he wish to raise the alarm if he needed help. This meant Phil could safely be discharged into his own home, saved longer-term care requirements, and meant he didn’t need to remain in hospital longer than he needed to.

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