



## August 2020

Welcome to my monthly newsletter

### Remember **STAY AT HOME, PROTECT OUR NHS, SAVE LIVES**

Latest national information on coronavirus: <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

NHS advice: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

The refreshed COVID-19 pages present a range of information that you and your communities may find helpful. <https://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/covid-19>

### Communities and supporting residents

There are 7,031 people on the shielded list in East Suffolk this week, with 1,068 currently receiving Government food parcels. 1,792 referrals have been received, in total now, through Home But Not Alone – with 1,267 referrals from the Lowestoft Community Partnership area. The next highest area in terms of referrals is Felixstowe (106) and the lowest is Framlingham (12). On average 60% of referrals are for food, 30% for Medicines and 10% for Isolation/Other needs. Meanwhile, more than 70 calls have been made to people identified by the CCG (north) through their Covid Protect system as having non-medical needs.

Ipads simply designed and user friendly , ‘Grandpads’ have been allocated to 24 residents who are digitally deprived and are now able to use these simple devices to engage with others. The CCG (south) have now identified funding for 50 more.

Lowestoft and Northern Parishes Community Partnership agreed this week to allocate almost £10,000 of funding to continue the befriending scheme in Lowestoft and around £20,000 is remaining in the Hardship Fund with more than £100k allocated to groups and individuals.

## Grants, funding and business matters

### Response

Applications for both the original business and more recent discretionary grants schemes are now reducing significantly. To date ESC has awarded grants totalling £62.6m to 5450 businesses in East Suffolk. We continue to take a permissive approach to awarding the discretionary grants of between £2,500 and £25k and the feedback from the businesses receiving grants has been that they really are providing a lifeline and allowing them to continue trading and retain staff.

The ED team also continue to support safe town centre reopening with the roll out of the Reopening High Streets Safely Fund. Barriers and signage have now been provided to a number of towns and in collaboration with Environmental Health team we have now supported road closures/ highways changes in 5 towns to allow for the safe use of high streets.

### Recovery

The ED team continue to develop the Council's Economic Growth programme so it can reflect the new economic environment following the lockdown. This adapted plan will continue to focus on supporting enterprise, growth in established businesses and attracting investment focussed in our key sectors. There will also be a strong focus on inclusive growth and ensuring our workforce has the right skills to take advantage of the employment opportunities available.

Work also continues on the development of the Lowestoft Town Investment Plan which can secure up to £25m of govt funding for infrastructure investment. Detailed work has been completed to determine the projects which will be included in the plan and those for which we will be seeking direct funding. Additionally, we have received £750k from the Accelerator Towns Fund which will support the redevelopment of East Point Pavillion.

This along with the wider Towns Fund investment and the recent announcement of £43m for the flood prevention scheme will provide a huge economic boost to the area and contribute to the district's economic recovery.

## Environmental Health

### Test & Trace

East Suffolk Council are leading the Suffolk Test & Trace workstream on complex workplaces and enforcement issues and chair weekly meetings with representatives from Environmental Health, Trading Standards and the Public Health Team. The group have links with the HSE and FSA who are the enforcing authorities in a number of these more complex work settings such as meat processing plants and manufacturing businesses.

Lessons are being shared nationally from outbreak investigations carried out in other parts of the country, for example, the 2 Sisters meat processing plant in Anglesey. The Food & Safety Team have written to our meat and fish processing premises with information and advice on Test & Trace, Covid secure requirements and cleaning arrangements and follow up calls will be made to these businesses to check their understanding of the Test & Trace requirements and discuss any particular risks with their workforce. The retail and hospitality sector have already received information and guidance from the team following the easing of restrictions and other complex work settings will be the focus of future engagement work.

## Operational updates

### Grounds maintenance:

Normal grass cutting has resumed in many areas now. Some areas that have not been cut to offer the potential to create wildlife buffers – particularly in larger areas of open space, and we are writing to town and parish councils to set out our approach to grass cutting, including maximising the opportunity to retain some areas that have become havens for wildflowers and invertebrates. Our New Conservation areas , with the banner headline of ‘pardon the weeds we are feeding the bees ‘



#### Dealing with increased littering

We have seen issues with increased littering over recent weeks. We are addressing this by putting in additional bins and collections and have designed targeted posters for particular locations encouraging people to put litter in the bin – or take it home.

Across my ward we have suffered negative impacts from tourists. I have worked with Shingle Street and Bawdsey PC in particular to make sure sufficient bins are in place and have increased the frequency of collections from Monday and Friday to now include Wednesday .

East Suffolk was pleased to announce full support of Radio Suffolk's ' Don't be a tosser ' anti litter campaign

#### Vehicles

We are pleased to announce a number of new electric vehicles with our partners Norse. This is an important flagship initiative to meet our environment vision , policy implementation to meet the strategic plan and to implement practical measures to meet carbon neutrality by 2030 as a direct result of declaring a climate emergency .

#### Play areas

East Suffolk Council play areas are reopening on the 4th July. A risk assessment has been carried out, and government advice on safe use will be in place in all locations. The key messages are that people need to keep their distance, and that children need to clean their hands before and after use.

#### Misc :

In response to the Planning Inspectors decision on allowing Sizewell DCO East Suffolk's official statement can be found here :

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/council-news/show/joint-statement-from-sizewell-c-joint-local-authorities-group>

I arranged for a letter to be sent to our MPs expressing concerns of lack of legislation in dealing with the environment . In particular in planning and dealing with recycling / waste issues

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