

**July 2024 Parish Report**  
**East Suffolk Council GLI Group – Councillor Update**

From Dan Clery, councillor for Carlford and Fynn Valley ward

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***Celebrating and connecting culture in East Suffolk***

A new network has been launched to connect creatives and celebrate the diversity of culture, arts and heritage on offer in East Suffolk.

East Suffolk has a vibrant creative sector, with a wealth of local talent inspired by the district's beautiful coast, busy market towns and stunning rural landscapes. To highlight its commitment to culture, East Suffolk Council has now added the sector to the portfolio of GLI Cllr Sarah Whitelock, now cabinet member for Communities, Culture, Leisure and Tourism.

The council has driven forward its Cultural Strategy and has now also created a new network for East Suffolk's creative industry. The 'Culture in East Suffolk' network and accompanying newsletter aims to improve communication between the cultural sector and share opportunities, funding information, events, business support and more. A new Cultural Development Lead Officer has been appointed to deliver this activity.

GLI Cllr Sarah Whitelock said: "Culture plays an essential role in our district, providing important social, community, economic and reputational benefits. We recognise the transformative powers of culture in our places and communities and the opportunities it provides to come together with others, enhancing our quality of life and increasing overall wellbeing. Culture is thriving in East Suffolk and the amendment to my portfolio highlights its importance and the necessity to support the creative sector."

The council continues to support cultural sector organisations, projects, programmes, and regeneration projects in a variety of ways, including First Light Festival CIC, Lowestoft Post Office, the Cultural Quarter, Think Lowestoft, Lowestoft Town Hall, St Elizabeth Hospice Art Trail, Cultural Connections Volunteering as well as supporting many town events and community focused activities.

Cultural activities have also been offered through the Council's Holidays and Food (HAF) programme, which provides activities for children and young people during the school holidays. Museum visits, arts programmes and music activities have all been well received and help children build confidence and foster creativity.

The 'Culture in East Suffolk' network is open to all cultural organisations and individual creators.

Find out more at: [www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/business/culture-in-east-suffolk/](http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/business/culture-in-east-suffolk/)

### ***East Suffolk Council – HERE For You!***

This summer, we're visiting towns around the district to chat to local people about our services and how they feel about what we do. We're HERE for you!

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.

GLI Cllr Caroline Topping, Leader of East Suffolk Council said:

“We are a transparent, communicating council and the best way to listen to our communities is to come and say hi!

“I think it is incredibly important that residents have an opportunity to ask us questions and to chat with councillors and service providers. It means we can learn from each other, and I think that can only be a good thing.

“After September, the roadshows will then begin again next year, visiting different towns around the district.”

### **East Suffolk Council - HERE For You!**

Wednesday 7 August: Church Square, Leiston

Wednesday 28 August: The Triangle, Felixstowe

Wednesday 18 September: The Thoroughfare, Woodbridge

All events are from 10am until 1pm.

### ***Free holiday activities and food this summer***

Filmmaking, theatre, cooking, sport, mindfulness, STEM and outdoor adventure are just some of the free activities on offer during the school holidays across East Suffolk this summer.

Numerous organisations across the district are providing fun and enriching activities and food as part of a programme of experiences for children and young people over the coming weeks. There are 46 programmes on offer with over 7,700 places available.

The Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme has been funded by the UK Government for three years providing over £200m per year for enriching activities for children and young people, particularly those in receipt of free school meals. 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 dance and drama to cooking and filmmaking, as well providing opportunities for physical and social activity.

In Suffolk, the programme is targeted at those eligible for benefits-related free school meals, and other vulnerable children, or those with additional needs who would benefit from accessing the programme.

GLI Cllr Sarah Whitelock, East Suffolk Council's cabinet member for Communities, Culture, Leisure and Tourism said: "Holiday activity programmes enable young people to get involved in a wide range of different activities to help keep them active over the summer holidays, benefitting both their physical and mental health. The activities are a way for children to meet new people and learn new skills. They also provide support for families who may be struggling with the costs of food and energy during the school holidays."

Each funded holiday activity also offers a free meal, and places are redeemed by eligible families through the booking system Eequ. Families can select the programmes and dates they wish to attend, and which young people will be attending. The booking system will ask about HAF eligibility, and the booking will be reviewed and approved by the HAF team at Suffolk County Council.

Activity providers include Kicks and Tricks Ltd, Abbeycroft Leisure, Premier Sports, the Football Fun Factory, Everyone Active, Kinda Education, Catch22, Oulton Broad Water Sports Centre, the Art Station, Footstars, Marina Theatre, Suffolk Wildlife Trust (Carlton Marshes), Suffolk Wildlife Trust (Foxburrow), Next Thing Education, East Suffolk Council, Xtra Time Sports Development, Earthwake, Ipswich Town FC, ASSET Education, Re-Utilise, Britten Pears Arts, Africa Alive, Offshoot, the PE Shed, Inspire Suffolk, MiniMe Mindfulness, Grow Cook Eat and Dialled Cycle works.

East Suffolk Council's Customer Services team is available to support anyone needing help completing the online booking form. The team can be called on 03330 162000.

Book a place now at: [eequ.org/suffolkha](https://eequ.org/suffolkha)

### ***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/](https://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/community/squeeze/)

For the most up to date information regarding East Suffolk Council, please visit: [www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk](https://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk)