

# Parish Report – August 2023

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## DIVISION NEWS

*London Road* – reprofiling works have been completed outside the Barsham Vale development. The new profile seems to have worked well in the recent downpours, but we will continue to monitor with support from local residents.

*Accessibility* – projects paid for through Caroline's highways budget to support ease of access into the town for those with wheelchairs and other mobility issues have been started. The path has been widened outside the dentists on Blyburgate, dropped kerbs and a raised bus stop have been installed along St Anne's Rd and 'H' markings have been painted outside St Georges Care Home. Dropped curbs still to be put in at entrance to Fredericks Road, outside CC Betts across to Peddars Lane junction. A further dropped curb will be installed coming out of Kilbrack onto Blyburgate where currently vehicles park and block the pavements. This will ensure that people can have access right from St. Annes Road, into town. We continue to work closely with councillors and residents to further improve accessibility across the division and Caroline did recently go out with Mayor Christine Wheeler to speak to a lady in a wheelchair about access challenges around Beccles.

*Road Safety* – the VAS sign at North Cove has now been recalibrated and the hedge clearance before the junction is scheduled to take place in the next couple of months.

*Barclays* – we have received emails informing us of the closure of the branch in Beccles on 24<sup>th</sup> November. We have sent several questions regarding how they will be supporting current customers and have requested a meeting with managers. Peter Aldous has also been copied into this correspondence.

*Train travel* – the consultation regarding the closure of ticket offices across the country closes on 1<sup>st</sup> September. We have added our responses in opposition to this decision.

*Weeds* – our group have had a recent briefing with SCC Highways. The acetic acid spray being used to control weeds is still in its test phase. Currently two treatments are carried out per season, and we await feedback from operatives on its efficacy and what more can be done to support the management across the county. We are aware of problem areas across the division and continue to report these on the SCC Highways Reporting Tool. We will also be supporting the Community Self Help training programme.

*Cold Calling* – Ash has recently spoken with a resident in Beccles concerning aggressive sales calls on the doorstep. Any resident of Suffolk can contact Suffolk Trading Standards for a free sticker for their door and if there is a spate of calls on a particular street, or residents are especially vulnerable, we can support them to apply to become a No Cold-Calling Zone. Please contact us for further information.

Ash supported Worlingham Parish Council at their mobile skatepark/climbing wall event on 31<sup>st</sup> August. It was great to see so many young people coming out and having a go at the activities (some as young as 2!) and we thank everyone for their efforts in organising the event.

*Cadent works at Barnby* – this has now been completed and we have been working with the Cllr Ian Bond and Darren from Barnby Garden Centre regards the best types of trees, planting and wildflowers to be planted in the banks either side of the road and by war memorial. Cadent have agreed to pay for this works to be carried out including the actual planting and ongoing looking after of the planting to ensure its survival. There is ongoing discussion regards the best trees to plant bearing in mind the soil conditions.

## **GLI GROUP NEWS**

### **Pylon plan not supported by SCC**

Suffolk County Council is not supporting the latest proposals by the National Grid to install 114 miles of electricity pylons across the county as part of the “Norwich to Tilbury” project. A number of objections have been raised about the 33 mile stretch of the new works which would run through Suffolk, which includes installing a stretch of cabling under the Dedham Vale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The council is pressing for an offshore solution to be fully researched and considered.

### **Onshore facility proposal for Suffolk Coast**

Suffolk County Council was disappointed to learn that the LionLink interconnector project from National Grid Ventures has identified an alternative landfall at Walberswick, with cable routing making its way to the north of Southwold.

The Lionlink project aims to connect multiple offshore wind farms in the North Sea, instead of individual wind farms connecting one by one to the shore. The project is a joint venture between the UK and the Netherlands, supplying energy to both countries.

The Council will study the details of the new proposals, and will prepare its response to the National Grid’s second public consultation, which opens on 8 September.

### **2023 Tour of Britain Cycle Race**

The world’s best cyclists will be taking to the roads of Suffolk on 7 September, including Tour de France champions. This fifth stage of the national race will start in Felixstowe at 10.45am and go through Kesgrave, Ipswich, Hadleigh, Needham Market, Stowmarket, Framlingham, Leiston and Woodbridge before finishing back in Felixstowe at around 3.30pm. For details of the route and timings, please see the plans for Stage Five on the Tour of Britain website: <https://www.tourofbritain.co.uk/stages/stage-five/>

### **New Fire and Rescue Service Training Centre**

The Suffolk Fire and Rescue Training Centre at Wattisham has had a £1.3m upgrade and was formally opened on 24 August. This includes a new tactical firefighting facility to simulate incidents firefighters may be faced with and help them prepare for the dangerous work they undertake in the community.

### **Social Worker of the Year Awards 2023**

Suffolk County Council’s social workers and social care teams have been shortlisted for six awards at the annual Social Worker of the Year Awards. This is the only major national awards event for social work in England, attracting hundreds of entries every year and reaching millions of people with positive stories of outstanding social work. We are really proud of our social workers, who work so hard to help people in often challenging circumstances. The winners will be announced at the awards ceremony in November this year.

### **Support for Ukrainian refugees moving to private rented accommodation**

In May, Suffolk County Council announced a one-off £2,000 support grant for Ukrainian refugees moving on from their host into their own accommodation.

The Independent Living Payment is available to any Ukrainian refugees moving into private rented accommodation after 1 April 2023. Guests must have been living in Suffolk for a minimum of two months and be registered on the Suffolk Homes for Ukraine scheme to be eligible for the payment. This funding can be used for any associated housing costs, including furniture, moving costs or travel to work. The support can be used towards accommodation which is furnished or unfurnished, and accommodation can be in Suffolk or out of county.

Ukrainian guests can apply for the Independent Living Payment and completing the application form on the Suffolk County Council website:

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/community-and-safety/communities/community-engagement/support-for-refugees/support-for-ukraine/ukraine-information-for-guests>

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Cost of Living help and advice:

<https://infolink.suffolk.gov.uk/kb5/suffolk/infolink/family.page?familychannel=6>

Benefits advice and support:

<https://infolink.suffolk.gov.uk/kb5/suffolk/infolink/adult.page?adultchannel=0>