

# July 2023 Town and Parish Newsletter

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Following a recent Archive Service Accreditation Panel, Suffolk Archives, a Suffolk County Council service has achieved Full Accreditation.

## Councils set out concerns as public consultation opens for Norwich to Tilbury proposals

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National Grid has opened its consultation to anyone wishing to comment on its Norwich to Tilbury proposal, previously known as East Anglia Green. This is an eight-week non-statutory consultation period which closes on 21 August 2023.

The project will see a new 400kV electricity transmission line built between Norwich and Tilbury, running a distance of 111 miles. It will be made up mostly of overhead lines and pylons, along with some underground cables and a new substation.

The new consultation reveals the route for the pylons, passing through Norfolk, Suffolk, and Essex. It shows the line will run underground through the Dedham Vale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty on the Essex-Suffolk border.

The consultation is open to residents, landowners, businesses and any individuals or groups that may be interested in commenting on the revised proposals. Consultees can participate online or via face-to-face events.

Essex County Council, Norfolk County Council and Suffolk County Council are also being consulted on the proposals as statutory consultees. All three councils have already raised concerns to the initial consultation undertaken last year.

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

"We must be looking to a coordinated offshore centred approach to energy transmission in the UK. Given our long-term energy security goals and the infrastructure that will be required, simply installing more pylons, and digging trenches cannot be the only viable solution. We will continue to stand strong on behalf of all the communities who will be affected by these proposals."

You can read more about the Norwich to Tilbury project and view a calendar of consultation events on the [National Grid website](#). You can also comment on the proposals by:

- completing National Grid's [online feedback form](#)
- sending a completed paper feedback form to Freepost N TO T (no stamp or further address needed)
- completing a paper feedback form at one of the [consultation events](#)
- emailing your comments to [contact@n-t.nationalgrid.com](mailto:contact@n-t.nationalgrid.com)

## Norfolk and Suffolk councils given authority and funding to help nature's recovery

Suffolk and Norfolk County Councils have been formally appointed by Government as responsible authorities for preparing a Local Nature Recovery Strategy for their respective counties.

This means that they will be working together to help improve wildlife habitats and reverse the decline of biodiversity across the region, working with local communities to develop a tailored nature recovery strategy for their areas.

They will also work with other local planning authorities, the Broads Authority, Natural England, and a wide range of stakeholders and partners, including farming and landowner groups.

This is all part of Government's ambition to further drive nature recovery, with 48 individual local authorities across the country receiving allocations from a £14 million funding pot. Norfolk and Suffolk County Councils will receive £333,000 and £282,000 respectively over two years to fund this work. With the best ways to support nature recovery depending on local character and geography, Local Nature Recovery Strategies will help communities map out the action needed in their area to restore nature.

The Norfolk and Suffolk councils have already been working closely with each other, jointly hosting the Norfolk and Suffolk Nature Recovery Partnership, and a host of other stakeholders and interested parties to prepare for this moment. The two authorities have pooled resources and expertise and to ensure that strategies effectively join up across the two counties to the wider benefit of nature and people.

The Strategies will focus on how to improve habitats and protect the natural environment across the region, with local approaches tailored to the specific circumstances of each area. Norfolk and Suffolk are home to a variety of beautiful and unique landscapes, from the chalk streams of the Norfolk Coast to the Stour estuary at the southeast of Suffolk and across many habitats in between, and specific policies will be drawn up to best protect and nurture each location.

Future plans will include working closely with other neighbouring counties, to identify and support opportunities for nature recovery at sufficient scale to really benefit wildlife.

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

“Protecting and enhancing the environment is one of our core priorities and we know how important it is to our residents. Nature is critical to everything we do and value – the air we breathe, the water we drink, the soils we grow food on. It is essential to many of our businesses, attracts people and investment to the county and is vital to people’s health and wellbeing.

“SCC has made ambitious commitments to restore nature across our estate and through services such as highways, and I welcome this opportunity for us to work with everyone else who cares about and can help nature recovery in Suffolk to develop an ambitious but achievable strategy to achieve that.”

## Domestic Abuse Commissioner praises Suffolk’s Champions

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The Domestic Abuse Commissioner for England and Wales, Nicole Jacobs met today with Suffolk’s Domestic Abuse Champions Network.

The Domestic Abuse Commissioner is an independent voice that speaks on behalf of victims and survivors of domestic abuse.

Alongside Councillor Bobby Bennett, Suffolk County Council’s Cabinet Member for Equality and Communities, DA Commissioner Nicole Jacobs, met with Domestic Abuse Champions and representatives from Suffolk’s commissioned Domestic Abuse Services. They presented certificates to Champions, who have gone above and beyond in their role by providing support or raising the profile of Domestic Abuse.

The Suffolk Domestic Abuse Champions Network aims to raise awareness about coercive control and increase confidence across the Suffolk community in order to provide consistent information, advice and support to victim-survivors of domestic abuse.

The Champions are provided with free training to have the skills to spread awareness to other colleagues and act as the ‘Go to Person’ for Information between their own agency and local support services. The Network was launched in April 2019, and since then, the content of the training has evolved, and the delivery has developed to incorporate an online offer as well as face-to-face.

Over 1,300 Champions have now taken the free training, including representatives from across the county and from a broad range of organisations including health, education, housing, recovery services, mental health support, adult and children’s social care, police and more individuals, voluntary and community organisations.

**Cllr Bobby Bennett, Suffolk County Council Cabinet Member for Equality and Communities, commented:**

“The work of my office is rooted in the reality of local responses to domestic abuse that enhance our understanding and shape our priorities. My vision is a world where every part of society recognises and understands domestic abuse and plays a role in addressing it, so to see the Suffolk Domestic Abuse champions Network begin to bring that vision into reality for their local community is a real pleasure.”

The Domestic Abuse Champions training offer is open to anyone living or working in Suffolk. The trainers welcome individuals or local businesses to come forward and take advantage of the free training and help keep Suffolk safe. To book the free training, visit: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/cc/suffolk-domestic-abuse-champions-network-369439>.

Suffolk’s Champion Co-ordinators are also available to attend team meetings or deliver free bespoke sessions tailored to your organisation. Please contact [dachampions@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:dachampions@suffolk.gov.uk) to find out more.

To find out more about Suffolk’s Domestic Abuse Champions, and listen to the latest in a series of podcasts, featuring interviews with specialist support services and survivors of domestic abuse, visit: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/community-and-safety/communities/community-safety/domestic-abuse-and-sexual-violence>

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### Landscape gardener given suspended jail sentence for fraudulent activity

A landscape gardener has been handed a suspended prison sentence and ordered to pay compensation for a string of offences.

This includes defrauding his victims out of thousands of pounds, after Suffolk Trading Standards pursued a conviction against him.

Darren Moore, 42, of Old Warren Farm, Wimbleton, traded as Darren Moore Garden Landscaping & DIY and operated across Suffolk. He first came to the attention of Trading Standards after a consumer complained of his poor work in April 2022.

An investigation was subsequently launched into Moore, during which statements were taken from eight witnesses who alleged that he had acted dishonestly by taking payment for his services but failing to complete the work. Collectively the witnesses paid over £10,800 to Moore, £2,900 of which was refunded to three of the customers, leaving the rest out of pocket by almost £8,000.

Concerns were also raised about the quality of work carried out by Moore, with an independent chartered surveyor concluding that these “fell well below an acceptable

standard” and that “the amount paid by consumers for his work was completely excessive”. In addition, Suffolk Trading Standards uncovered that Moore had failed to return all monies owed to creditors and acted dishonestly in his communications with customers.

At a hearing at Ipswich Magistrates Court on 22 May, Darren Moore pleaded guilty to carrying out garden landscaping work for a fraudulent purpose, contrary to Section 9 of the Fraud Act 2006. Today Darren Moore was sentenced to 4 months in prison, suspended for 18 months, ordered to undertake 150 hours of unpaid work within the next 18 months, and pay £15,309 in compensation and legal costs.

**Councillor Andrew Reid, Suffolk County Council’s cabinet member for Public Health and Public Protection, added:**

“I welcome the sentence delivered and am pleased that the court recognised the financial loss caused to the victims. Suffolk Trading Standards takes a hard line on businesses that flout the law and this case should send a message to all that rogue traders will not be tolerated in Suffolk.

“I would urge residents who are thinking of having home improvement work carried out to always obtain two or three quotes before making a decision and to never pay a trader until the job is completed to your satisfaction.”

Anyone who believes they may have been the victim of a fraudulent or substandard trader should contact the Citizens Advice Consumer Service on **0808 223 1133**.

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### Remembering Councillor Caroline Page, Liberal Democrat County Councillor

Suffolk County Council today pays tribute to Councillor Caroline Page, who sadly passed away following her battle with cancer.

**Councillor Keith Robinson, Suffolk County Council’s Chairman, said:**

“It is with great sadness that Suffolk County Council remembers Councillor Caroline Page who sadly passed away last night, following her battle with cancer.

“Caroline was a well-respected, hardworking woman and dedicated county councillor since her election to the Woodbridge division in 2008. Caroline’s unwavering enthusiasm and relentless passion for serving her residents saw her achieve a great deal during her time in office, not only for those living and working in Woodbridge, but those across Suffolk through her wider responsibilities at the county council.



“In the past 15 years since her election, Caroline held many positions within the council, including being the spokesperson for Women, Disabilities and Adult care, Highways and Transport and Deputy Leader for the Liberal Democrat, Green and Independent Group.

“Caroline served on many council committees – dedicating her time to scrutinising council activity, shaping policies, and ultimately helping to improve services to all Suffolk residents. She was an active member on a range of subjects, including environment, waste management and economic development, highways and transport, rights of way, governor appointments and education. Since 2010, Caroline was vice-chair of the Education Transport Appeals Committee.

“Despite Caroline’s health challenges in recent years, she committed everything she had to ensure Woodbridge and its residents were looked after and championed. Caroline also made sure she continued to make us smile in recent months through her regular Twitter updates, sharing her photos, videos, and wit.

“Our thoughts and sympathies are with her family and friends at this sad time.”

**Councillor Andrew Stringer, Leader of the Green, Liberal Democrat and Independent Group, said:**

“Caroline was a true force of nature, a tireless campaigner, and a brilliant councillor. From cleaning up rivers to championing woman’s equality, Caroline set the bar for what a councillor should aspire to be - always putting her community first. For those that had the pleasure to work alongside her, we are proud to call her a friend.”

## Waste transfer station fire sparks fresh warning over disposing of safe battery disposal

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People are being reminded of the importance of disposing of waste batteries properly following a fire at a Suffolk waste transfer station.

Operations were briefly disrupted at Haverhill waste transfer station in Homefield Road after fire broke out amongst 50 tonnes of rubbish on June 16.

Waste batteries should be disposed of properly and never thrown away with household rubbish.

The waste transfer station takes refuse material collected locally and bulks it for onward reprocessing.

The precise cause of the fire has not been determined but FCC Environment, which manages the 11 recycling centres and four transfer stations around the county on behalf of Suffolk County Council, said that when a fire starts in piles of waste it is usually caused by a battery that has managed to spark.

This can happen if there is friction, such as when a waste pile is moved or crushed.

In June 2022 a fire at the Materials Recycling Facility in Great Blakenham, near Ipswich, which recycles waste from across Suffolk, is suspected to have been started by a battery dumped with household recycling.

Lithium batteries are a particular problem but standard household batteries are also culprits, as well as vapes and small electricals plus items that do not look like they have a battery such as Christmas jumpers and light toys.

All batteries should be disposed of either at recycling centres or in collection points at most large stores where they are sold.

**Councillor Richard Smith, Suffolk County Council Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Transport Strategy and Waste, said:**

“Batteries are everyday items we all take for granted but they need to be disposed of properly because if they end up in black bin bags, they can cause fires as they are processed.

“The impact of any fire is felt across the entire waste journey as it means facilities can be taken out of action for a period for remedial works.

“Thankfully the fire at Haverhill was resolved quickly and with manageable disruption to operations, but this incident serves as a reminder to us all of the importance of disposing of batteries properly.”

Work began in May to build a new recycling centre for Haverhill within the waste transfer station.

The new centre, which should be completed in early 2024, will replace the current facility in Chalkstone Way.

Fire and Rescue Services attend around 300 significant fires at waste sites per year in the UK. There are many other smaller fires that are dealt with before they become significant.

More information on hidden batteries can be found at the [Suffolk Recycling](#) website.

Details on how to find your nearest electrical recycling point can also be found at the [Suffolk Recycling](#) website.

## Free exhibition 'Wolsey's Ipswich' this summer at The Hold as part of Wolsey 550 celebrations

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Suffolk Archives' free summer exhibition 'Wolsey's Ipswich' opens on Friday 14 July at The Hold on Ipswich Waterfront and will explore the legacy of Cardinal Thomas Wolsey thanks to funding from The National Lottery Heritage Fund.

The exhibition forms a key part of the Thomas Wolsey 550 project, a programme of events and activities planned to celebrate the 550th anniversary of Wolsey's birth across Ipswich.

Curated by the team at Suffolk Archives, a Suffolk County Council service, the exhibition includes items from Suffolk's own archive collections, as well as items on loan from organisations across the country.

Made possible by The National Lottery Heritage Fund, Ipswich Central and Ipswich Borough Council, the exhibition will explore the legacy of Thomas Wolsey, reconnecting him with his hometown and examining his position on the world stage.

Born and raised in Ipswich, Wolsey rose from humble beginnings to become the most powerful man in England, working alongside King Henry VIII. The '**Wolsey's Ipswich**' exhibition will unearth a story of ambition, aspiration, determination, and the possibility for anyone to succeed.

**Councillor Bobby Bennett, Suffolk County Council's Cabinet Member for Equality and Communities, said:**

"This summer we celebrate 'Wolsey's Ipswich' through an exhibition and series of events at The Hold. We are thrilled that we have been able to bring together a number of historically significant items from museums and collections across the country to explore the inspiring story of Thomas Wolsey in his hometown."

The exhibition features archive treasures from Suffolk's collections dating from the 16th century to the present day, as well as some significant loaned exhibits, including Wolsey's original Cardinal hat, on loan from Christ Church College, Oxford.

Having finally been made a Cardinal by the Pope in 1515 following a long campaign, Wolsey was made to wait three years to receive this badge of honour from Rome and arranged a grand procession for it through the streets of London.

The exhibition will also include an original copy of Shakespeare's first folio, on loan from Trinity College Cambridge and coinciding with Folio 400 which marks 400 years since the first printed collection of Shakespeare's work. The exhibition will look at

how Wolsey has been depicted throughout history including within Shakespeare's play Henry VIII which covers part of Henry's reign and depicts elements of Wolsey's rise and fall.

The final section of the exhibition will be dedicated to building a sense of aspiration for local young people, taking Wolsey's experiences as a starting point. Suitable for all ages, the exhibition offers a unique opportunity to come and explore the complex and inspiring story of Ipswich's most famous son.

***Wolsey's Ipswich*** opens on **Friday 14 July** and runs until **Sunday 29 October 2023** at The Hold on Ipswich Waterfront. Entry is free and open to all ages.

Exhibition opening times are 10:00 - 12:30 and 13:00 – 16:00 Monday to Friday, with late opening until 9pm on Thursdays. 10:00 - 16:00 Saturday and Sunday.

You can book free tickets for the ***Wolsey's Ipswich*** exhibition by visiting: [www.suffolkarchives.co.uk](http://www.suffolkarchives.co.uk). Alternatively, just turn up and depending on the capacity of the exhibition gallery you will be admitted as soon as possible.

The events accompanying the exhibition are ticketed and can be booked in advance by visiting: [www.suffolkarchives.co.uk](http://www.suffolkarchives.co.uk).

The Café at The Hold is also open daily for visitors to drop in for refreshments.

The ***Wolsey's Ipswich*** exhibition programme includes:

### **Wolsey's Ipswich – The Cardinal Connections Walking Tour Map**

As an extension of the '***Wolsey's Ipswich***' exhibition, we have also collaborated with the Ipswich Tourist Guides Association to create a special walking tour map which will help visitors to explore Ipswich and discover more about the history of the town and the possible sites associated with Wolsey's life. We have also included some other incredible Tudor treasures for good measure. The pocket size map will be available for free from The Hold, Christchurch Mansion, and the Town Hall.

### **Exhibition Curator Tours, July to October, £5 (advance booking required).**

Go beyond the displays with a special tour from our exhibition team. Find out more, hear new stories, and ask your burning questions. Ticket includes tour and exhibition admission. Visit [www.suffolkarchives.co.uk](http://www.suffolkarchives.co.uk) for dates and time slots.

### **Tudor Dance and Music Sessions**

Every Tuesday throughout August 2023 10:30 – 13:00 Free.

Drop into The Hold for a morning of Tudor dance and music Jacqueline Marshall – Ward and Elizabeth Gutteridge of Colchester Historical Dance and Colchester Waites. No experience needed. All welcome.

### **Let's Get Crafty – Tudors**

Every Tuesday from 25 July to 29 August. 10:30 – 12:30. Ages 5 - 11, Free.

We have teamed up with the Wolsey 550 Project to offer a range of Tudor inspired family crafts.

### **Let's Get Crafty – Who do I want to be when I grow up?**

Every Wednesday from 26 July to 30 August. 10:30 - 12.30. Ages 5 - 11, Free.

We have teamed up with the Wolsey 550 Project to be inspired by Thomas Wolsey's achievements and support young people to explore through craft activities 'Who do you want to be when you grow up?'

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## **Woman sentenced following social care payment fraud**

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Hannah Colley, of Fiddlers Folley, Colchester, pleaded guilty on the 5<sup>th</sup> of June 2023 to one count of failing to disclose information that she was under a legal duty to disclose, between 2018 and 2022. She was claiming care payments in Suffolk and submitted a later claim for social care direct payments from Essex County Council.

A social care review in the summer of 2022 raised concerns that Colley was not providing evidence of how her direct payment had been spent, she had been avoiding meeting with her Social Worker face-to-face and it was found that she was registered to a GP Practice in Colchester.

The concerns were referred to the Council's Counter Fraud Service who found that Colley moved from Ipswich to Colchester in June 2018, meaning she would no longer be eligible for funding from Suffolk County Council and that she had been claiming a second direct payment from Essex County Council since June 2020. During this period, she received £27,643.68 in direct payments from Suffolk County Council.

Colley was sentenced today to 26 weeks' custody suspended for 2 years, with conditions that she complete a rehabilitation activity requirement for 10 days and abide by a curfew. This curfew will require her to stay indoors nightly, for 26 weeks, between 8pm and 8am. The court also ordered her to pay compensation of £27,643.68, legal, and investigatory costs of £6,100 and a victim surcharge of £154. The Court stated that they found 'limited mitigation' in the case and made direct

reference to the falsehoods that Colley had told Suffolk County Council over many years.

**Speaking after the sentencing Councillor Beccy Hopfensperger, Cabinet Member for Adult Care said:**

"Fraud of any type is a despicable crime, but fraud committed against the social care system, in effect stealing money used to provide the care and support for old and potentially vulnerable people, is especially cruel in my view. The sentence in this case is therefore a good outcome for adult social care, and I thank Suffolk County Council's Counter-Fraud team and Legal Services for their hard work in prosecuting this case. I hope this will serve as a warning to others, be in no doubt - we will always pursue and prosecute people who steal from the social care system."

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### Suffolk receives £1.49m funding for walking and cycling pilot

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Suffolk County Council has received more than £1 million from the government to fund participation in a national pilot scheme to promote cycling and walking as part of a more active lifestyle.

The county is receiving £1,495,506 over three years as one of 11 local authorities taking part in the £13.9 million Active Travel England social prescribing scheme.

Social prescribing is a national pilot scheme to promote cycling and walking as part of a more active lifestyle.

The project, launched in August 2022, is helping councils run trials to evaluate the impact of active travel on an individual's physical and mental health, such as through reduced demand for healthcare appointments and reliance on medication due to more physical activity.

This also includes allowing doctors and health workers to prescribe walking and cycling to improve patients' physical and mental health.

As the scheme progresses, GP surgeries in the pilot areas of Ipswich and Lowestoft will be invited to take part.

Work is already underway with Suffolk and North East Essex Integrated Care Board and Suffolk Information Partnership to link some referral systems.

Suffolk will use its funding for projects that will see patients in parts of Ipswich and Lowestoft offered free access to guided walks, cycle training and bike loans.

Introductory walk and cycle groups are taking place now on Friday mornings in Ipswich at Murray Park and Holywells Park. In Lowestoft, they are operating from Normanston Park.

These will be available through July and August, with participants offered 1-1 journey planning, 1-1 buddy walking, or cycling and bike maintenance training.

From September, walking and cycling groups will take place across Ipswich at Whitton, Chantry, Gainsborough, Wherstead and Central Ipswich.

In Lowestoft they will be taking place at the Seafront, Normanston Park, Nicholas Everett Park and Sparrows Nest. Other venues will develop as the pilot progresses.

There will be varying levels of activity depending on health needs, with each activity lasting up to 90 minutes with a rest break and free drink in a local café.

There will be plenty of rest stops based on the needs of the participants. Equipment can be provided to include walking aids, bicycles, or e-bikes.

All activities are led by experienced and qualified cycle and walk leaders.

Later in the year other activities are planned in the form of community events, themed walks, or cycle rides, cycling courses and a digital walking app featuring challenges and treasure hunts focused on the areas of Ipswich and Lowestoft.

**Councillor Alexander Nicoll, Suffolk County Council Deputy Cabinet Member for Transport Strategy, said:**

“This is an innovative trial scheme and one we are looking forward to exploring the potential of now that we have received funding.

“The benefits of good health and well-being are already well-known. Helping people to achieve it through walking and cycling is not only good news for them but also for the wider community thanks to less road traffic and cleaner air.”

Participants within the target areas can be referred through a GP or voluntary group or a self-referral by contacting [thewaytogosuffolk@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:thewaytogosuffolk@suffolk.gov.uk) or calling 01473 260060.

For more details about the scheme go the [Way To Go Suffolk](#) website.

Suffolk County Council has also received £545,528 over three years from the Government’s Capability Fund to develop and invest in cycling initiatives.

This includes setting up an accessible cycling scheme in Stowmarket for those unable to use a bicycle and working with a selection of organisations offering their staff a free six-week e-bike trial - [launched with Associated British Ports at Port of Ipswich last November](#) - and which now has almost 30 bikes on trial around the county.

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## Summer is the time to think about how you heat your home!

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Although it's the middle of summer, now is a good time to think about making your house more energy efficient and cheaper to run during the colder months.

Warm Homes Suffolk has new funding available for eligible households, to put towards energy efficient measures such as insulation, solar panels, or heat pumps.

The scheme is administered by Suffolk County Council, and delivered by East Suffolk Council, on behalf of all councils in Suffolk. It has been funding home energy efficiency improvements for over a year but has recently received further funding from the Department for Energy, Security and Net Zero, to continue the work.

Early this year, Warm Homes Suffolk supported **Jane from Halesworth** to have loft insulation and solar panels fitted to her home:

*"We are warmer, we can turn the heating down and we've saved on our bills. Our solar is generating electricity throughout the day, and the draft from our loft hatch has gone. We are saving money and worry less about having the heating on. We're also finding the insulation is keeping the heat out in the summer.*

*"Our installation was very quick and efficient. I'd recommend to anyone, the team and installers were so helpful, kind, and considerate."*

An average of £18,000 in funding per property is available for homeowners meeting the following criteria:

- Homes that are not heated by mains gas
- Homes with an EPC rating of D, or below
- A combined household income of under £31,000 (though this is only for certain postcodes)

Landlords and tenants are also eligible to apply, with qualifying rental properties getting up to two-thirds of costs, as an average grant of up to £12,000.

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



“Since Warm Homes Suffolk began in early 2022, we have improved 558 properties across the county, just like Jane’s.

“Projects like this are a win-win situation - the improvements help to make people’s lives better and their homes more comfortable, but they should also see lower bills as their homes are more energy efficient.

“Priority for this new funding will usually be given to homes which are not well-insulated and leaking heat. We are also keen to support landlords and privately rented properties, so their tenants can have confidence that they are moving into energy efficient homes.”

Through the Suffolk Climate Emergency Plan, the county’s authorities have a collective ambition to be net zero by 2030, towards which Warm Homes Suffolk is contributing.

To find out more about how Warm Homes Suffolk could help you, visit [www.warmhomessuffolk.org](http://www.warmhomessuffolk.org) or call the team on 03456 037 686.

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### Happy Birthday Cassius and Social Work Award sponsorship

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This month we celebrate the two-year anniversary of Cassius, Suffolk’s digital care partnership between Suffolk County Council, technology company Alcove and change management consultants Rethink Partners, and the results so far have been fantastic.

Cassius offers modern, cutting-edge care technology which blends in with mainstream technology and can be used to complement face-to-face care. Since launching in 2021 we have had over 3,800 referrals, provided over 7,600 pieces of digital care technology and things just keep growing with over 100 referrals each week over the last month alone. Aside from the £12.9m of savings made so far, by helping people stay independent for longer in their own homes and avoiding more expensive care options, what we are really seeing is that people, their families, friends, and carers are now at the heart of their own care. They can do more for themselves, and continue to live good, fulfilling lives within their own communities across Suffolk.

What is most impressive about Cassius, is that it’s not just about the technology, it goes the extra mile to provide the information and intelligence necessary to ensure people get the right care. It also offers an end-to-end service, talking people through their needs, providing ongoing guidance, advice, and support, as well as installation of the necessary technology.

Cassius was also awarded three prestigious awards earlier this year, At the Health Tech Digital Awards 2023, it was named Best Innovation Project of the Year; it was awarded Best New Assistive Technology Solution of the Year at the Assistive Technology Awards 2023, while Cassius+, a new pilot project in the west of Suffolk, won Best Innovation Project of the Year at the same awards.

Congratulations to the whole team for working so hard and truly revolutionising, and leading, the digital care offer in Suffolk - Happy Birthday!

Speaking of awards, Adult Social Care is about more than just new technology, however important that may be these days, it is always primarily about people, and we are pleased to announce that Suffolk County Council are sponsoring the Newly Qualified Social Worker of the year awards, having been immensely proud of the achievements of one of the Newly Qualified Social Workers in winning the award last year.

At Suffolk County Council we believe our workforce is the cornerstone of delivering high-quality services and we are proud of the investment we make in our staff to ensure they have the skills, time, and support necessary to improve the lives of people across the county.

Recruitment into Adult Social Care is a top priority, and like every other local authority across the country, at times that can be tough. In Suffolk, we are fortunate to have a highly successful Apprentice Social Worker programme running alongside other sponsored recruitment schemes, a range of funded and supported post-qualifying programmes, and an excellent Assessed and Supported Year in Employment programme, with co-production firmly embedded across social work education through our Social Work Teaching Partnership.

So, if you are reading this and want to join an ambitious and innovative Local Authority, and its Adult Social Care service which is leading the way through cutting-edge care technology, and celebrating the incredible work of social workers, carers and others – visit [Suffolk Jobs Direct](#) and search for adult social care.

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### Suffolk's Archive Service Achieves Full National Accreditation

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The service achieved Provisional Accreditation in March 2019 and today the UK Archive Service Accreditation Committee has moved Suffolk Archives from provisional to full accreditation status.

Accreditation is the UK quality standard which recognises good performance in all areas of archive service delivery. Achieving accredited status demonstrates that

Suffolk Archives has met clearly defined national standards relating to management and resourcing; the care of its unique collections and the service it offers to a broad range of users.

Archive Service Accreditation is supported by a partnership of the Archives and Records Association (UK), Archives and Records Council Wales, National Records of Scotland, Public Record Office of Northern Ireland, Scottish Council on Archives, The National Archives, and the Welsh Government through its Museums, Archives and Libraries Wales division.

The Accreditation Panels are composed of Committee members nominated by the seven Accreditation partners and openly recruited from the archives sector.

The Archive Service Accreditation Panel “supported the move to full accreditation following the successful move to new premises at Ipswich. The Panel commended the determined efforts made by Suffolk Archives in developing and delivering community engagement across the county.”

**Councillor Bobby Bennett, Suffolk County Council’s Cabinet Member for Equality and Communities, said:**

“We are delighted that Suffolk’s archive services have achieved full accreditation following detailed submissions and inspection from UK Archive Service Accreditation Committee. Suffolk Archives preserves our local history so that people of all ages and backgrounds can discover more about their heritage, and this national accreditation formally recognises the important work they do. Suffolk’s local communities can be assured that their heritage is in good hands.”