

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

1. An additional £500m funding package and further support for Councils was announced on Friday (July 2) by Local Government Secretary Robert Jenrick. The new support will help local authorities to cover income lost during the pandemic, relieve spending pressures and plug any financial holes that have emerged over recent weeks. The 'un-ringfenced' funding, brings the total fiscal support for local councils to £4.3bn. At the County Council we don't know yet how much we will get. We estimate the response work has cost SCC about £75m. To date we have a shortfall at SCC of £23m between spending and Government funding.

2. In Suffolk we are launching our own Coronavirus dashboard — to ensure that residents get the full facts and not media hype. Last week there was huge upset aroused in our officials and genuine fears provoked in residents by media reports that Suffolk was on the list of authorities following Leicester into lockdown as over a two-week period there had been a 50% increase in new cases. Technically correct the number of new cases had risen from 2 to 3. To give you the context, in Leicester in the last two weeks there have been 141 people per 100,000 have tested positive while in Suffolk it is 0.9 per 100,000.

The Multi-Agency Information Cell (MAIC) has introduced a new service, 'Coronawatch', led by the Public Health Function of the County Council. The online 'Coronawatch' dashboard gathers all publicly available data on COVID-19 in Suffolk in one place. From this dashboard, you are able to access national and local data including confirmed cases of coronavirus (COVID-19), deaths from coronavirus and care home outbreaks. As well as data on the incidence of Covid-19 cases, the Coronawatch dashboard has other information about how the virus has affected travel and movement in Suffolk. We have been monitoring this throughout the outbreak and have used additional information on emissions from our air quality measuring stations in Ipswich. At the peak of the lockdown, (31 March-7 April), CO2 emissions were down 61%, and NOx emissions down 66%. Again see **Coronawatch Dashboard** at www.healthysuffolk.org.uk/jsna/coronawatch for more information.

3. A plan which sets out how Suffolk would prevent and respond to a localised outbreak of COVID-19 was published on 30 June.

Suffolk's Local Outbreak Control Plan will be triggered where there are suspected or confirmed COVID-19 outbreaks in any setting or community within the county.

The plan, a requirement of Government of all local authorities, outlines measures to prevent, manage, and contain outbreaks of Coronavirus and protect the public's health. It builds on existing relationships and processes in place with partner agencies across Suffolk.

The plan outlines how complex cases will be managed in more than 30 high-risk places, locations, and communities, particularly care homes and schools. It also outlines local testing capacity, use of data to identify and proactively manage outbreaks, and contact tracing in complex settings. An outbreak is defined when there are two or more cases in high-risk settings, or a greater than expected occurrence of COVID-19 compared with the usual level for a particular place and time.

4. The team in charge of procuring PPE, which has been overseen by our fire Chief Mark Hardingham, has done an amazing job. We have never run out of PPE in Suffolk and have managed stocks to maintain an about 30day supply. We have had deliveries from the Government but also procured our own stocks. The team – all who of whom were deployed from other duties – are beginning to winding down but the aim is to maintain a steady stock as preparation in case of a second wave. Throughout the period the team has issued 2.3m items of PPE to frontline SCC staff, care homes, emergency dental practices frontline district borough staff.

5. The recycling centres re-opened in mid-May with a system of pre-booked appointments, which has worked very well and some users are asking us to continue with booked appointments. Initially the centres were only open for garden waste but are now taking trade waste. The re-use shop at the Bury St Edmunds site opens later this week.

To book: visit - <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/planning-waste-and-environment/waste-and-recycling/book-a-recycling-centre-time-slot/>

Suffolk Recycling Centres are open from 9am to 5pm every day except Thursdays (open until 7pm) and Wednesdays (closed). You can book either a 15-minute or 30-minute time slot depending on the nature of your visit (see 'How to book').

Please do **not** arrive more than 5 minutes before the start of your scheduled time slot.

Visits are restricted to one visit per household or vehicle per 7 day period.

There are two different booking systems. Please select the one that applies to you.

Cars, pedestrians and cyclists - You can book a 15-minute slot to deposit household waste using a car or as a pedestrian or cyclist.

Vans, trailers and trade waste - You can book a 30-minute slot to deposit trade waste or household waste using a van (including car-derived vans), a trade car or a car with a trailer. (Vans with trailers will **not** be accepted on any site.)

6. Covid19 update West Suffolk Hospital: As of 13 July:

254 patients have been admitted testing positive for Covid19

137 Covid19 positive patients have recovered and been discharged home

Sadly 79 patients have died after testing positive for Covid19

7. A Lowestoft-based charity is the first organisation to benefit from free solar panels, as part of Suffolk County Council's Renewable Energy Fund.

Nirvana Health and Fitness, on Pinbush Road in Lowestoft, is now hosting a 70kWp solar panel installation and is benefitting from zero-carbon electricity.

The council's £400,000 Renewable Energy Fund is open to eligible businesses looking to reduce their energy costs and carbon footprint through solar power. Successful applicants will have solar panels supplied and installed for free.

Once the panels are installed, the business is sold electricity at a better rate than their existing tariff, so they will see immediate savings.

The Fund itself benefits from income generated by the sale of the solar-generated electricity. This means money goes back into the pot, allowing more solar panel applications to be considered by the Fund and installed across Suffolk. Businesses with a relatively high daytime energy demand and large roofspace, and who are interested in applying to the Renewable Energy Fund, can contact Sarah Gill at Groundwork Suffolk sarah.gill@groundwork.org.uk or call **07720 098980**

Visit suffolk.gov.uk/coronavirus for health advice, service changes, business support and schools' guidance.

Keep up to date on the latest guidance on COVID-19 from central government here:

www.gov.uk/coronavirus

July 2020 District Councillor report

for

Depden Parish Council

Local Issues.

District Councillor locality budget funding. Up to £475.00 is available now for Depden.

Below is an excerpt from the essential criteria requirements. (**Update:** Depden Care Farm has made an application).

Essential criteria

The scheme is governed by criteria to ensure that the funding has the greatest impact on the quality of life for residents in the district and ensures probity, value for money and accountability.

Councillors are responsible for satisfying themselves that the following essential criteria have been met by using a checklist included in the funding application form.

2.1 The funding awarded must be at least £100.

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2.2 The funding must go to a community group, not an individual, public body, profit-making organisation or national charity (with the exception of rural parish councils as set out in 1.7 above).

Under exceptional circumstances, where a small group does not hold a bank account, funds can be paid to the holding account of a public sector partner or like-minded community organisation on the strict understanding that funds can only be used for the stated purpose.

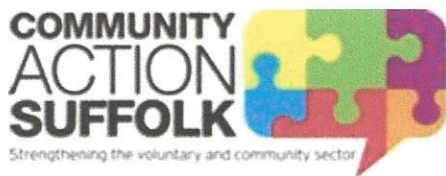
2.3 The granting of the funding is a one-off and does not imply an ongoing commitment by the council or have a revenue implication for the council.

2.4 The activity being funded has not already taken place.

2.5 The project or activity promotes communities working together and results in greater community involvement in a project and/or connecting people and organisations in new or stronger ways.

2.6 The project or activity does not unfairly discriminate against people from different backgrounds as described in the West Suffolk Equalities Scheme.

2.7 The funding should be used by the community group during the 12 months following receipt or should be paid back in full.



FOR MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES AND PARISH AND TOWN COUNCILS WHO MANAGE A VILLAGE HALL OR COMMUNITY BUILDING

PREPARING TO OPEN YOUR VILLAGE HALL OR COMMUNITY BUILDING

FREE QUESTION AND ANSWER ZOOM SESSIONS

ACRE (Action with Communities in Rural England) have worked with Government and Village Hall Advisers to prepare an Information Sheet, which gives the guidance trustees need. This guidance will support village and community halls to put in place measures needed to make buildings safe to use before being given the green light to open their doors once again. This guidance is available on the Community Action Suffolk (CAS) website

<https://www.communityactionsuffolk.org.uk/organisation-support/village-halls-and-community-buildings/covid-19-information/>.

[Around West Suffolk](#)

Bury St Edmunds' Abbey gardens tennis to return with new courts set to open on July 1 - Newly built tennis courts in the Abbey gardens in Bury are set to open to the public from July 1. The old courts near the crypt have been replaced by two new ones which meet Lawn Tennis Association standards.

West Suffolk small businesses urged to get their grant applications in before deadline - The owners of small businesses that occupy shared premises in West Suffolk, have just eight days left to apply for a £10,000 grant.

Plan to add 66 homes to Abbots Gate development in Bury St Edmunds - Plans for 66 homes in Bury St Edmunds have been submitted which will complete a site started more than a decade ago. Promount Homes lodged the application with West Suffolk Council at the start of the month which bids to construct 66 homes for the Abbots Gate development off Laundry Lane.

The internet never forgets, be careful what you post online - A long serving councillor has resigned after an investigation was launched over his social media posts.

MPs ask for more government help for county's councils – Councils in Suffolk face a fundamental threat to their ability to deliver key frontline services if they do not get extra funding to cope with the Covid19 crisis, MPs have warned in a letter to the Government.

Blue sky thinking can help keep pollution in check – Less road use equates to about the 45% fall in air pollution in West Suffolk

Sunny skies bring record solar figures – West Suffolk Council has recorded its best return yet on its £14.5million solar farm in Lakenheath.

Abbey's 1000th anniversary events to take place next year - Celebrations for the Abbey of St Edmund's 1000th year have been postponed until 2021.

Jewel in the crown is 'dressed to impress' – Bury St Edmunds is dressed to impress as it opens for business again with floral displays around the town centre.

Financial aid for town sports centres – West Suffolk Council has given a six-figure financial support package to its leisure operator to cope with the costs of the coronavirus lockdown.

Shopping in town centre will be "different experience" – Shoppers who plan to return to Bury St Edmunds next week have been warned to expect "a completely different experience than before. Also, to be aware of the reinstatement of car parking charges by West Suffolk Council.

Bury St Edmunds: Portable cabins to be used as temporary homes for the homeless - Portable cabins are to be used in Bury St Edmunds as temporary homes for the homeless as a council deals with unprecedented demand for emergency accommodation.

Fifteen units are being set up on West Suffolk Council-owned land as hotels and B&Bs become unavailable and the moratorium on evictions ends in August, while furlough pay reduces from this month before ending in October.

[West Suffolk District Council](#)

Since the onset of the Corona virus pandemic, West Suffolk District Council has continued to maintain all functions with an emphasis on core services. Central Government financial support has been crucial in helping the Council balance income and expenditure as much revenue has been lost during lockdown. Please advise if Depden is experiencing missing services.

Full Council meetings have been impossible, however, logistical problems are being resolved and the next meeting via video conferencing is July 14th, after which I will be updating Parish Councils within the Ward.

You can participate in or observe many West Suffolk District Council meetings via the live stream (details on next page) and I draw your attention to the Full Council meeting on July 14th. Due to Covid19 this is the first full meeting of West Suffolk District Council since February 25th, 2020 with a full agenda and much to discuss.



Council meetings live stream

As part of our new trial to provide new ways by which you can view the discussion and decision making process, West Suffolk Council are live streaming some of our council and committee meetings. For regular updates and to know when we are live streaming, follow our social media accounts.



You may need to download the Microsoft Teams app if using a mobile device to watch the meeting.

- [Guidance on how to download Microsoft Teams](#)

Live streams of meetings will go live a few minutes before the meeting starts.

Development Control Committee - Wednesday 8 July 2020, 10am

[Development Control Committee - Wednesday 8 July 2020 - Agenda and guidance notes](#)

Watch the live stream
Development Control Committee -
Wednesday 8 July 2020, 10am

Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Thursday 9 July 2020 5pm

[Overview and Scrutiny Committee Thursday 9 July 2020 5pm - Agenda and guidance notes](#)

Watch the live stream
Overview and Scrutiny Committee -
Thursday 9 July 2020 5pm

Full Council meeting - Tuesday 14 July 6.30pm

[Full Council meeting - Tuesday 14 July 6.30pm - Agenda and guidance notes will be available on 7](#)

[July](#)

[Watch the live streamed full Council meeting - Tuesday 14 July 6.30pm](#)

Past live streamed meetings

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District Councillor Chedburgh and Chevington Ward