

**Minutes of the Annual Meeting of  
YOXFORD PARISH COUNCIL**

held on

**May 9th 2024**

at 7pm

**Yoxford Village Hall**

1. **Election of Chair:** Cllr. Russell Pearce was nominated by Cllr. Nicol McCallum and seconded by Cllr. David Childs to remain in office as Chairperson. All members present voted in favour and Cllr. Pearce was duly elected. Cllr. Pearce to sign the Declaration of Office and the Clerk to sign as witness.
2. **Election of Vice-Chair:** Cllr. David Tower was nominated by Cllr. Ian Patterson and seconded by Cllr. Nicol McCallum to remain in office as Vice Chairperson. All members present voted in favour and Cllr. Tower was duly elected. Cllr. Tower to sign the Declaration of Office and the Clerk to sign as witness.
3. **Attendance and apologies:**

<b>Attendees:</b> Cllr. David Childs Cllr. Janet Gardner Cllr. Laura Greenberg Cllr. Nicol McCallum Cllr. Anna Noakes Cllr. Ian Patterson Cllr. Deborah Thompson Cllr. David Tower Cllr. Hazel Wheeler	<b>Apologies accepted for absence:</b> Cllr. Russell Pearce District Cllr. Julia Ewart County Cllr. Richard Smith
	<b>In attendance:</b> 2 members of the public Trudy Charles - Clerk/RFO
4. **To receive declarations of interest and to consider requests for dispensations:** Cllr. Childs declared an interest in Item 9c
5. **Public Forum**
  - a) Members of the public may address the Council on any agenda item: no member of the public wished to address the Council.
  - b) To receive a report from County Cllr. Richard Smith: no report received.
  - c) To receive a report from the District Cllr. Julia Ewart: the report was circulated in readiness for the meeting and will be included in these Minutes as an Appendix.
6. **Minutes**
  - a) **To approve as accurate the minutes of the meeting** held on 4<sup>th</sup> April 2024 and the Extraordinary meeting of 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2024: Cllr McCallum proposed and Cllr. Thompson seconded that the minutes of the meeting of April 4<sup>th</sup> 2024 be approved. All voted in favour. Cllr. Patterson proposed and Cllr. Wheeler seconded that the minutes of the Extraordinary meeting of April 22<sup>nd</sup> 2024 be approved. All voted in favour.
  - b) **Matters arising:** it was shared that in light of procedural errors made by the ESC Planning Team, the consultation deadline for the planning application, Reference DC/24/1153/LBC had been extended to May 17<sup>th</sup> 2024.

## 7. Councillors

- a) **To receive an update on the Casual Vacancy:** the Clerk shared that she had received confirmation from Elections Services at ESC that there had been no call for an election to fill the current vacancy and so Council could co-opt a new member. She shared that two village residents had contacted her to express an interest in the role and so advised that they be asked to complete an application form for Council to consider. The application form had been circulated to Council in readiness for the meeting. There was discussion about the desired skillset of a new member and it was proposed by Cllr. Tower and seconded by Cllr. Greenberg that both interested parties be sent an application form. All completed application forms would be shared with the Council in readiness for consideration at its meeting in June. All present voted in favour.

**ACTION: Clerk to send the SALC Councillor Application Form to both interested parties and then collate all completed/returned ones and circulate to the Council in readiness for consideration at the meeting of June 6<sup>th</sup> 2024.**

- b) **Councillors' Training:** the Clerk reminded Councillors of the suite of training offered by SALC which includes a new offer relating to Planning. This was discussed. Councillors raised questions about the training for the clerk to research.

**ACTION: Clerk to raise queries with SALC concerning the training on planning matters.**

- c) **Register of Interests:** Councillors were reminded to update their register via the log in details they have.
- d) **To review Councillors' responsibilities** to liaise with outside organisations and to lead on projects: these were discussed and revised to include 'Green Spaces' and 'Community Projects'.  
**ACTION: Clerk to revise the document and circulate to Council.**
- e) **To re-adopt the LGA Model Councillor Code of Conduct 2020:** Cllr. Greenberg proposed that the Code of Conduct be re-adopted. Cllr. McCallum seconded this proposal after which all those present voted in favour.

**ACTION: Clerk to update the document with re-adoption date and upload to the website.**

- f) **Following attendance at an information session on April 15<sup>th</sup>, to receive further information regarding the migration of the village website to a .gov.uk website** from the Clerk and Cllr. Tower: information concerning the features and requirements of a .gov.uk website (and services) was shared and then discussed. There was overall consensus that security and professional standing would be improved by such a migration. Costs of the current website (domain name and site hosting) were compared to potential new costs and these were considered acceptable. Cllr. Patterson proposed and Cllr. Childs seconded that the clerk complete necessary steps to begin the process.

**ACTION: Clerk to begin the process of identifying an Approved Registrar, gathering information on timeline and set up costs.**

## 8. Councillors' and Clerk's Reports

- a) **Yoxwood** (Cllr. Childs): Cllr. Childs summarised current work being undertaken which included preparations for the wood's music day on June 1<sup>st</sup>. The Village Hall is booked as a back up. Cllr. Childs also highlighted that the riverbank requires some maintenance.

**ACTION: Cllr. Childs to liaise with the Yoxwood volunteers and Cllr. Pearce to organise said maintenance. Riverbank maintenance to be included as a standing item under Parish Matters.**

- b) **Church:** the annual Flower Festival is scheduled for May 25-27<sup>th</sup> with stalls available for visitors.
- c) **Police:** the Clerk circulates the emails from 'Police Connect' to all Councillors. Recently, another spate of thefts from sheds has occurred in the local area.
- d) **ESC Community Partnership** (Cllr. Thompson) including an update of an application to ESC's East Suffolk Blooms project: Cllr Thompson summarised the recent meeting she attended which included information on the Field to Fork project. She felt that Council had no capacity as yet but her attendance would help keep everyone informed. The Clerk shared that the application to Suffolk Blooms had been submitted.
- e) **Cemetery:** a brief discussion was had about implementing a wild flower area in the cemetery. It was suggested that the village be invited to contribute to this discussion.

**ACTION: Clerk to publicise the idea of a wild flower area in the next Newsletter. Cllr. Thompson to seek horticultural advice on best practice.**

- f) **Work Party:** possible tasks were discussed, which included litter pick, weeding and tidying of Mulberry Park and Bowling Club Corner. Only one member of the volunteers group had attended the last session and so it was re-confirmed that three monthly dates would suffice. It was agreed that the next session would be May 18<sup>th</sup> 2024 and led by Cllrs. Patterson and Thompson.

**ACTION: Clerk to inform the Yoxford Volunteers of this date and task.**

## 9. Strategic Objectives 2024-2025

- a) **To receive an update on the legal transfer of Yoxwood View play area** (Priority 1.2): no update
- b) **To review the Parish Council's objective regarding proposals for the 20 mph speed limit proposal** (Priority 3.1): this was discussed in light of significant changes in Wales. Cllr. Tower proposed and Cllr. Gardner seconded that this strategic objective be revised to focus upon traffic management measures. All present voted in favour.

**ACTION: Clerk to update Strategic Objectives, circulate and upload to website.**

- c) **To receive an update on the proposal to regenerate Mulberry Park (Priority 1.2) and discuss an update from the Town Land Trust regarding the land known as 'Donkey Meadow':** Cllr. Nicol shared a summary of the current thinking of The Town Land Trust which has met and proposed that the Parish Council buys the land known as 'Donkey Meadow'. The current tenant has been given notice to quit. The matter was discussed at length and it was felt overall, that for the Parish Council to buy the land would preserve it for the village's benefit. It was agreed that no further action could be taken until more information regarding current tenancy and land value had been received. Cllr. Tower proposed and Cllr. McCallum seconded that the Council explores options but that in principle, it would be interested in purchasing the land and that covenants should be incorporated into any contract to ensure that the land would remain as a village asset in perpetuity. All present voted in favour.

**ACTION: Clerk to share Council's thinking with the Trustees of The Townland Trust.**

- d) **To consider any information for communicating** (Priority 2.1): wilding of an area of the cemetery and invite feedback; the new speed limit of 30mph from May 20<sup>th</sup> on B1122, work party date and thanks to the contributors and organiser of the Annual Parish Meeting but note the poor turn out. Cllr. Patterson proposed and Cllr. Greenberg seconded that the 2025 APM be discussed at the meeting of March 2025. All present voted in favour.

**ACTION: Clerk to include said items in the monthly Newsletter and note agenda item for March 2025.**

## 10. Parish Matters

- a) **To provide an update on the application for Suffolk County Council's Self-Help Scheme training:** this is pending.
- b) **To review the information provided by the Cyds Project regarding the effectiveness of Yoxford Youth Club and consider its request for funding for 2024/5:** all information was discussed and considered at length. Overall, it was felt that no decision about funding could be made because the information provided by the Cyds Project was too vague and that there was no up to date report on its work with the young people of Yoxford. It was agreed that the club is an important feature of the village and investment in its young people and so Council is keen to support it.

**ACTION: Cllrs. McCallum and Gardner, who are the Leads for the youth club, to meet with Cyds, present the Parish Council's views and report back to next month's meeting.**

- c) **To receive and discuss relevant updates regarding the Sizewell C project,** including:
- i. Feedback from the Northern Transport Forum of 8th May 2024: Cllr. Tower summarised key points from the meeting. These included:
    - a. managing high level of transport to and from Sizewell C: HGVs of 3.5 tonnes and more would have trackers so that their routes would be monitored; all traffic less than 3.5 tonnes would be given advisory information on routes; Level Crossings between Leiston and Saxmundham will be enhanced; Park and Ride builds are proceeding; contingency plans being developed; Sizewell vehicles will be identifiable by stickers; disciplinary measures for anyone contravening contractual obligations.
    - b. during Q2 (July to September), preliminary works for the new roundabout would begin;
    - c. once received, Minutes of the meeting will be uploaded to the village website.

- ii. **Discuss and agree attendance at the Yoxford Transport Working** Group 14<sup>th</sup> May 11am-1pm, via Microsoft Teams (Agenda items include information about the 50% Yoxford Improvement Scheme (RIBA4)): Cllr. Patterson to attend and report back.
- d) To receive an update regarding the application for speed measures (30mph roundels): no update. The Clerk shared that she had contacted Wayne Saunders at SCC for a quotation on April 5<sup>th</sup> but had heard nothing.

**ACTION: Clerk to contact Wayne Saunders for an update.**

## 11. Planning

### a) To consider the following planning application:

Proposal: Demolition of boundary Wall Planning Reference No.: DC/24/1419/LBC  
 Hope House, High Street, Yoxford, Saxmundham, Suffolk IP17 3HP  
 Consultation expiry date: 22 May 2024

This planning application was discussed and everyone was of the view that the work would be completed sympathetically. Cllr. Thompson proposed that the application be supported. Cllr. Patterson seconded the proposal and all present voted in favour.

**ACTION: Clerk to submit comments via the ESC portal.**

## 12. Finance

- a) **To approve the Annual Accounts for the financial year 2023/24:** Cllr. Tower proposed and Cllr. Patterson seconded that the accounts be approved. All present voted in favour.
- b) **To approve the Bank Reconciliation for the financial year 2023/24:** Cllr. Tower proposed that the reconciliation be approved. Cllr. Patterson seconded this proposal and all present voted in favour.
- c) **To note the budgeted versus actual income and expenditure for the financial year 2023/24:** the document was noted.
- d) **To note the monthly financial position:** the document was noted.
- e) **To approve the Community Infrastructure Levy Report (CIL) for the financial year 2023/24:** Cllr. Greenberg proposed that the report be approved. Cllr. Patterson seconded the proposal and all present voted in favour.
- f) **To note the Remittance Advice from ESC** informing Council that the 1<sup>st</sup> Precept instalment of 2024/5 has been paid to the sum of £7377.00: this was noted. The Clerk requested approval for her to transfer the sum from the current to savings account. All present voted to approve this request.
- g) Cllr. Patterson proposed and Cllr. Tower seconded the authorisation of the payments listed below. All present voted in favour. :

Details	Payee	Amount	VAT	Total	Power
Salary May 2024 (including 15 additional hours in April and £26 underpayment in April)	Clerk	£1134.72	n/a	1134.72	LGA 1972 s.112
Payment to for MUTs Lunch (20 @ £8 ph)	Caterer	£160.00	nil	£160.00	LGA 1972 s.137
Expenses (Laptop: McAfee LiveSafe anti-virus software)	Clerk	£49.99	£10.00	£59.99	LGA 1972 s.111
Cemetery Water Charges	Wave	£77.27	nil		OSA 1906 s.10
Invoice 3831: grass cutting 19.03.24 to 23.04.24	SCL Landscape Management Ltd	£745.00	£149.00	£894.00	OSA 1906 s.9

## 11. Correspondence

**To review correspondence received from March 28<sup>th</sup> to May 2<sup>nd</sup> 2024 and to take action as appropriate:** the Clerk summarised the issues with the expiry of the website host subscription. Cllr. Greenberg proposed that the sum of £137.62 for a 1 year subscription to the web host be repaid to the Clerk. Cllr. Childs seconded this proposal. All present voted in favour.

**ACTION: Clerk to process said payment.**

**12. Questions to the Chair/Items for the Next Agenda:**

- i. a question was asked regarding an agenda item from last month relating to a resident's contact concerning a planning /footpath issue in the village. The matter was summarised with no further action by the Council.

**13. Next Meeting**

It was confirmed that the date and time of the next meeting of the Council is scheduled for June 6<sup>th</sup> 2024.

The meeting closed at 9.45pm

Trudy Charles  
Parish Clerk  
May 23rd 2024

Draft

Appendix A: Correspondence – March 28th to May 3rd 2024

<b>Sending Organisation</b>	<b>Date(s) received</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>Date forwarded</b>
<b>Suffolk Association of Local Councils</b>	various	News & Vacancy Bulletins, East Forum Notes, LionLink update	various
<b>East Suffolk Council:</b>	23/04/24	Adoption of Local Validation List and Guidance	24/04/24
	01/05/24	Email from ESC's Funding Officer re. funding streams.	02/05/24
<b>Suffolk County Council</b>	04/04/24	Email from Plug In Suffolk re. car charging project/contract	04/04/24
	05/04/24	Bus strategy	09/04/24
	19/04/24	Update of Planning Policy	22/04/24
<b>Suffolk Climate Change Partnership/SCC</b>			
<b>Police</b>	28/03/24	Police Connect: Car window smashed in Halesworth	28/03/24
	02/04/24	<b>Police Connect: Badingham - appeal following burglary</b>	02/04/24
	02/04/24	Police Connect: Redisham - theft from church	02/04/24
	05/04/24	Police urge residents to review security for outbuildings	09/04/24
	10/04/24	Police Connect: Framlingham - vehicle crimes	10/04/24
	24/04/24	Police Connect: Kelsale Theft of quadbike	24/04/24
	26/04/24	Police Connect: Ipswich – County Lines drug dealers jailed	01/05/24
<b>Others:</b>			
<b>Rural Services Network</b>	19/04	<b>The Rural Bulletin</b>	various
<b>SZC &amp; Community Relations Team</b>	28/03 & 30/04/24	Agenda for SZC Annual Community Forum 09.04.24 and Northern Transport Forum 08.05.24	28/03 & 30/04/24
	03/04/24	Community Newsletter	04/04/24
	18/04/24	Project Update	22/04/24
	18/04/24	Email thread KMC Transport Planning re SZC DoC Yoxford Improvement Scheme. Meeting 14/05/24	02/05/24
	25/04/24	Parish Update	01/05/24
<b>Local resident</b>	08/04/24	Email re Townland Trust	09/04/24
	23/04/24	Email re village entrance railings	25/04/24
<b>CYDS Project</b>	25/04/24	Email re funding for the youth club	01/05/24
<b>Town Land Trust</b>	18/04/24	Reply to. resident's enquiry	22/04/24
<b>Hadleigh Flood Action Group</b>	22/04/24	Enquiry re. village's flood response	24/04/24

## Appendix B: Financial Position May 2024

### Receipts: UT Current Account - April 2024

EC Grant from DCllr JE re speed sign/roundel	£	1,125.00
1st Precept Installment 2024/5	£	7,377.00
	<b>£</b>	<b>8,502.00</b>

### Payments UT Current Account - April 2024

MUTs Lunch 19 @£8 + £15 for 3 cakes	Caterer	£	167.00
Inv.: 28408 Payroll Service ending 31.03.24	SALC	£	54.00
Expense Claim: green waste bin for cemetery/sim	Clerk	£	54.90
Membership Subscription 2024/5	SALC	£	355.57
Contribution for Q3 & 4 2023/4	Yoxford Village Hall	£	481.00
Employer NI Q4 2023/4	HMRC Cumbernauld	£	45.24
Start Up Grant for village parent/toddler group	Pebbles St Peters	£	200.00
Mileage claim for SZC Transport Forum meeting	Councillor	£	22.50
Website Domain Name: annual fee	Zen Internet Ltd.	£	14.39
Cemetery Water Bill: 01.04.24 to 30.09.24	Wave	£	77.27
Sports Grp electricity	EoN	£	414.78
Data Protection Annual Payment	ICO	£	35.00
1st Precept Installment 2024/5	ESC	£	7,377.00
Salary April	Clerk	£	840.32
	<b>£</b>	<b>10,138.97</b>	

### Total Funds: Bank/Cashbook Balances

Unity Trust Current Account as of 30 April 2024	£	11,494.39
Unity Trust Savings Account as of 30 April 2024	£	41,439.55
United Trust Bank Business Bond as of 21 February 2024	£	7,611.05
United Trust Bank Business Bond as of 21 February 2024	£	5,668.09
	<b>£</b>	<b>66,213.08</b>

### Earmarked Reserves:

Strickland Manor Hill Play Area	£	1,170.85
Mulberry Park	£	4,425.00
Youth Club	£	4,124.41
CIL 2020-2021	£	5,293.43
CIL 2021-2022	£	17,090.94
CIL 2022-2023	£	3,732.47
CIL 2023-2024	£	3,619.51
Meet Up Tuesday Grant	£	770.05
Teenagers' Shelter Grant	£	603.54
	<b>£</b>	<b>40,830.20</b>

### General Reserves (=Total Funds – Earmarked Reserves)

	<b>£</b>	<b>25,382.88</b>
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East Suffolk Council has been active in a range of areas during the 2023-2024 term, focusing on community services, housing, financial management, and environmental policies.

One of the significant developments in the council was the election of a new leadership team, reflecting a shift towards the Green Party, and the Liberal Democrats and independent administration who all gained key seats and therefore portfolios. This change in governance has implications for the council's strategic direction, particularly in environmental and community-focused initiatives. [East Suffolk Strategic Plan » East Suffolk Council](#)

Financially, East Suffolk Council has managed a budget of £50 million for the 2023-24 period, aimed at supporting essential services and community needs. This includes managing council tax revenues efficiently, which are a critical component of the council's funding. The council has also been involved in reviewing and adjusting fees and charges for various services, including parking, planning applications, and cemetery management, ensuring these are aligned with the needs and financial realities of its residents.

In housing, the council has been proactive in addressing the needs of its community. It offers a comprehensive range of housing services, from providing advice on homelessness to managing council housing and facilitating affordable housing developments. Efforts have been made to enhance the housing strategy to accommodate a growing need for diverse types of housing within the district and it is relooking at social housing with some urgency.

Moreover, East Suffolk Council has been actively managing its benefits services in partnership with the Anglia Revenues Partnership. This collaboration helps streamline the delivery of essential services like council tax, housing benefits, and business rates, making these processes more efficient and user-friendly for residents.

Personal case work for Cllr Ewart has included housing issues, noisy hounds, air quality, dog licenses, school transport, road and verge issues, village maintenance, tree preservation and a great deal of planning. The latter brings great opportunities to the ward.

These initiatives demonstrate the council's commitment to improving the quality of life for its constituents through careful planning, fiscal management, and responsive governance. The council's efforts to adapt to changing political leadership and economic conditions reflect its dedication to meeting the evolving needs of East Suffolk's communities.

In response to the devastation caused by Storm Babet in 2023, East Suffolk Council took significant steps to support the affected communities, demonstrating their commitment to swift and effective crisis management.

The impact of Storm Babet was severe, with more than 200 properties across Suffolk experiencing flooding. This prompted East Suffolk Council to engage in a robust multi-agency response effort to manage and mitigate the effects of the flooding, particularly focusing on the town of Framlingham and the villages of Peasenhall and Yoxford which were heavily impacted.

To aid recovery, East Suffolk Council initiated several support mechanisms, including financial assistance. Affected residents were eligible to apply for a Community Recovery Grant and a council tax discount to help cope with the immediate aftermath. The council facilitated access to these resources by actively reaching out to impacted households to inform them about the available support and assist them with the application process.

Moreover, the council coordinated with local services to offer direct aid in clearing and cleansing operations, helping to restore normalcy as quickly as possible. This included the deployment of East Suffolk Services teams who provided additional resources to the hardest-hit areas, ensuring that those displaced by the storm received necessary support and housing guidance.



The response to Storm Babet showcased East Suffolk Council's capacity to manage emergencies effectively and underscored their ongoing commitment to community welfare and safety. Their efforts were part of a broader strategy to strengthen resilience against future natural disasters and enhance the council's emergency response protocols.

The East Suffolk Council has established Community Partnerships as an initiative to collaboratively address local priorities and improve the quality of life across different regions within East Suffolk. These partnerships are structured around natural community groupings based on East Suffolk Council ward boundaries, serving as the foundational units for each partnership area. There are eight distinct Community Partnerships, each involving local stakeholders such as East Suffolk councillors, town and parish councils, police, health services, businesses, voluntary organizations, community groups, and youth representatives.

These Partnerships focus on tackling various community issues such as social isolation, mental health and wellbeing, and financial inequality. The group operates with a well sourced budget across all partnerships and the Community Partnership Board, aimed at funding projects that address identified priorities within their respective areas.

The Community Partnerships employ a solution-focused workshop style, utilizing data packs and local intelligence to refine and focus their efforts. They regularly update their priorities based on the latest available data and community input gathered through workshops. Notable projects and initiatives across these partnerships address a wide range of issues from improving air quality and physical health to enhancing opportunities for young people and combating loneliness and isolation.

The Partnership held its annual forum, providing a platform for stakeholders to share knowledge and collaborate on community-driven solutions. These events have already been instrumental in shaping the partnerships' focus and facilitating community engagement and empowerment with the most recent being held at Trinity Park, Ipswich where many of the Partnership attendees from East Suffolk enjoyed getting together and meeting some of the charities involved. The Kelsale & Yoxford ward was glad to host the most recent event, which was held at the Hub, Huntingfield and we thank Sam Kenway

The current projects with the Community Partnership are looking at mental health and local transport. This ties in well with the new Live-Well Hub in Leiston.

To close, funds from the councillor's enabling grant have been spent on a variety of items with in the ward such as a gazebo for the Hub, a (share of) a defibrillator, special traffic gates and village sign posts and more extraordinary piece of support for a history society's archive.

Cllr Ewart thanks everyone who has supported her in her first year of office, for the Clerks' who have ensured the smooth running of the mutual relationship between the Parishes and East Suffolk Council and for their endless attention to supporting the parishes in the storms.

It is a privilege to work for the thirteen villages and eleven Parish Councils. With the large projects of Sizewell C and the renewable plants likely to be in train then there is a busy time ahead and so it is important to keep the channels of communication open.

Cllr Julia Ewart April/May 2024

## **April 2024 Parish Report**

### **East Suffolk Council GLI Group – Councillor Update**

East Suffolk Blooms community wildflower growing scheme returns

A flourishing environmental scheme, encouraging people in East Suffolk to grow beautiful, pollinator-friendly wildflowers, is returning for 2024. Each year, East Suffolk Council distributes free packs of bulbs to town and parish councils, community groups and organisations to plant locally as part of the East Suffolk Blooms campaign. The planting efforts of last year's successful applicants are already being rewarded with colourful narcissus displays.

This time, in tandem with the East Suffolk's Amazing project to promote an all-round effort to keeping the district clean and attractive, and in order to provide greater benefit to pollinators, East Suffolk Council will be offering blends of native bulbs that appeal particularly to bees and butterflies.

East Suffolk Council's Public Realm Contracts Manager, Laura Hack said: "We were thrilled with the level of interest in last year's scheme and we're looking forward to receiving applications for East Suffolk Blooms in 2024.

"We expect to have enough bags of bulbs to distribute one to each of 50 groups across the district."

Packs of bulbs will be available to collect in the autumn, around October, from two locations in the district.

A 'Bees Mix' of bulbs flowers from February to May and includes crocuses, chionodoxas, scillas, muscaris and naturalising tulips, while the 'Butterfly Mix' flowers between May and July and comprises camassias, nectaroscordums, irises and alliums.

The scheme is funded by East Suffolk Council's trading company and services operator, East Suffolk Services Ltd, and from the Enabling Communities Budget scheme.

An application form will be available to complete online until 30 June, before a judging panel meets to decide the successful applicants, with additional consideration given to groups reapplying after missing out last year. Applicants will then be informed of the decision by August.

To view the application form, visit: [my.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/service/east\\_suffolk\\_blooms](https://my.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/service/east_suffolk_blooms)

### East Suffolk's Amazing

We invest every single penny we can in services to help maintain the beauty and cleanliness of East Suffolk but sometimes admit that it can never necessarily be enough.

A cross-party working group of councillors is already working on different ways we can work to maintain the beauty of East Suffolk, which includes encouraging more residents to take active pride in their local area.

This includes reducing fly-tipping, recycling properly and even, where possible, looking after the spaces outside your own property. We are also working closely and collaboratively with Suffolk County Council who have responsibility for weeds on roads and pavements, potholes and road signs.

There is already an incredible network of volunteers who work to help keep our district beautiful, with regular litter-picks, planting, and an all-round effort to keep their local area clean. If East Suffolk matters to you, if you want to play your part we would love you to get involved. East Suffolk's Amazing... let's keep it that way!

For information on community litter picks, recycling, community composting schemes and reporting issues, please visit: [www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/waste/litter/amazing/](https://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/waste/litter/amazing/)

### 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)