

West Suffolk District Councillor  
Report  
for  
Ousden Parish Council  
July 2023



## Community Chest Fund

**West Suffolk**  
Council

**West Suffolk  
Community Chest  
Apply now!**

**Closing date 29 September 2023**

[westsuffolk.gov.uk/community/community-grants.cfm](https://westsuffolk.gov.uk/community/community-grants.cfm)

**West Suffolk**  
Council

**#WestSuffolk** Community Chest fund invests in initiatives that support residents' health and wellbeing has been increased this year to help with the cost of living crisis. Community Chest funding supports voluntary and community groups who make a contribution to improving the quality of life for people in West Suffolk.

Funded activities must help deliver the Families and Communities Approach and Families and Communities Strategy. Eligibility criteria apply. The minimum amount that can be applied for is £2,500. This funding can be for one-off projects or revenue funds for services.

Full application details can be found at  
[www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/community/community-grants.cfm](https://www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/community/community-grants.cfm)

To discuss your application prior to submission please contact  
[families.communities@westsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:families.communities@westsuffolk.gov.uk) or call **01638 719235**

**The deadline for applications is 6pm on Friday 29 September 2023**



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## Locality Budget

My Locality Budget is now open for applications. Whilst much smaller in comparison to the Community Grant scheme above, villages within the Ward have previously demonstrated this method of funding can be very useful.

West Suffolk Council has a strong belief that families and communities are the bedrock of West Suffolk. Where they are thriving, we see successful places that are economically buoyant, healthy, and cohesive. But where they are struggling, we see a range of issues and challenges emerging that prevent people from achieving their goals,

The objective of the scheme is for the funding to be used in developing and building, capacity, and resilience in local communities, helping residents to take ownership of and make a difference to the issues they care most about locally. The Locality Budget spend for 2023-24 is £2,800, if spent democratically within the eight villages within the Chedburgh and Chevington Ward this equates to £350.00 per Village although a larger amount may be available.

In exceptional cases, as well as using the locality budget to support a project in his or her ward area, it is possible for more than one councillor to collaborate to support a project that crosses ward boundaries, or for a councillor to work together with a county councillor using funding from his or her county locality budget. However, projects covering the whole district are not considered suitable for this funding.

**The school summer holidays are fast approaching** and so I wanted to share news with you about the free targeted programme of holiday activities that will be taking place across West Suffolk.

### What are the Holiday Activities and Food Programme?

This is a £220m national programme funded by the Department for Education. It is being coordinated locally by West Suffolk Council on behalf of Suffolk County Council and delivered through a range of partners.

### Who is the HAF programme for?

The programme is primarily targeted at families who have children or young people who are eligible for benefits-related free school meals.

That said, it allows councils to use up to 15 per cent of its local funding to make places available for families who wouldn't normally qualify but who are struggling with the cost of living and suffering financial hardship.

This council has used this discretion before and will be applying it to help more struggling families over the approaching school summer holidays. This will be available on a first come first served basis.

Families with children on benefits related free school meals should have already received information through their school about HAF in their area. Those in financial hardship can find out about what's on in their area and how to apply at <https://www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/leisure/holiday-events.cfm>

### What's on?

Just to give you a little more about the activities that our partners have on this summer.

We have a total of 5,324 places over 656 sessions across many of our towns and several of our villages.

Activities include Park cooking, film making, football, craft making, roller skating, gardening, singing, dancing, Nerf wars, tennis, gymnastics, archery and more.

We are working with 17 external providers including schools, enterprises, local organisations, and leisure businesses. There are areas without activities. If you think there's a particular organisation we could be working with in your area, please email [families.communities@westsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:families.communities@westsuffolk.gov.uk) and include "HAF" in the subject line.

Further details of what is happening where and when can be found at <https://www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/leisure/holiday-events.cfm>

## Recycling

I recently visited 'The Suffolk energy-from-waste facility' at Great Blakenham. The sheer scale, efficiency and cleanliness of this state-of-the-art facility re-affirms my faith that recycling by individuals and Councils working together to minimise landfill is effective. Apparently, the top of this tall industrial building resembles this edge of a cliff face, amazingly Ospreys have taken to nesting there. The public can visit. The information below is from the facility website <https://suffolkefw.co.uk/community-and-education/education-activities/>

## Community and education

In 2006, Suffolk County Council started to look for a cost-effective and sustainable alternative to landfill and replace it with a technology that would put Suffolk's waste to good use.

Following extensive research and a detailed tendering process, the council signed contracts with SUEZ recycling and recovery UK to build and then run an energy-from-waste facility to deal with the county's waste for the next 25 years.

The Suffolk energy-from-waste facility uses the waste left after recycling – from homes and some businesses across Suffolk – to generate electricity. This reduces the amount of waste that goes to landfill and the associated cost to the council taxpayer.

SUEZ recycling and recovery UK (formerly SITA UK) provides the day-to-day operation and maintenance services for the facility. Work started on site in January 2012 and the facility began operating in December 2014.

Working with the local community around the facility and promoting our education facilities to schools and communities around Suffolk are very important to us.

Our responsibilities include a duty of care to our employees, the wider community, and the environment. That demands integrity and transparency in all our dealings with the public, their representatives and local organisations, as well as running our facilities safely and efficiently.

We respect the concerns and interests of our neighbours and promote open communications with all stakeholders. We maintain proactive communication with our local parish councils by sending copies of our newsletter and annual report ahead of their AGMs and attending in person meetings when requested. You can find out more about these in the [community liaison section](#).

As well as being accountable and open in our dealings with the local community, we want to contribute to the society we serve in other ways that complement our business services.

Our state-of-the-art [visitor and education centre](#) at the Suffolk energy-from-waste facility provides a valuable resource for education and for the community.

We support [community and environmental improvement projects](#) with funding raised from landfill taxes distributed by the SUEZ community's trust.

## Police and Crime Panel

After an absence of 4 years, I'm returning as a member of the Police and Crime Panel, a Government sponsored initiative under the control of Suffolk County Council. This Committees role, with members from all Suffolk Councils role is to scrutinise and act as a critical friend to the work of the Police and Crime Commissioner, currently Tim Passmore, your thoughts and input are always welcome.

## West Suffolk Council-The new administration

Post West Suffolk Council elections in May, the new administration is the Progressive Alliance made up of Independents, Labour, Liberal Democrats (1) and Green(1). Elected to lead this group is Labour Councillor Cliff Waterman.

The Conservatives group remains the largest single group but failed to reach a majority large enough to form an administration.

At present previous policies remain, however changes may happen, and new policies announced, as your Councillor I will keep you informed of progress and to that end I will be attending the meeting of Cabinet on July 18<sup>th</sup>.

*Mike Chester*



District Councillor for the Chedburgh and Chevington Ward