
November 2021 District Councillor report

for

Ousden Parish Council

Proposed Ward Planning Seminar

Progress is being made towards the above, more information to follow.

Bexwell to Bury St Edmunds pipeline

Anglian Water are building a 70km pipeline between Bexwell and Bury St Edmunds to improve the water supply in the area. The pipe will connect the reservoirs at Bexwell and Rede, the water treatment works at Isleham and Gazeley and the water tower at Woodditton.

The work is important because it will allow us to move water to where it is needed, which will make the supply more reliable and reduce the number of homes and businesses which have to rely on a single source of water supply. The pipe is part of our 25-year plan to build an interconnected network across the region.

Anglian Water are still refining the route. This work includes carrying out environmental and archaeological surveys and liaising with key stakeholders, including county archaeologists, ecologists, highways authorities and landowners. We have already consulted widely with experts and people who will be impacted by our work.

An online engagement event was held between 22 February and 8 March, 2021, to showcase our plans and ask for feedback. A copy of our community newsletter, sent in February 2021, is at the bottom of this page.

Anglian Water are working closely with the local planning authorities and have submitted some formal reports showing how we intend to manage the environmental impacts along the route, including an Environmental Impact Assessment 'scoping report' which gives an overview of the likely effects of our work on the environment. The feedback they provided is helping us prepare the necessary statements and our application for planning permission later in the year.

You may see our teams carrying out survey work. This preliminary work will be taking place over the next few weeks and will involve digging trenches and boreholes along the planned route so we can better understand conditions below the ground. We will take our findings into account as we finalise the route. Anglian Water will work hard to minimise the impact on communities, and the environment and continue to talk to all those impacted by the work.

The installation will follow good industry practice using tried and tested techniques.

The most commonly used method to lay a pipe is the use of open cut trenches. Where we particularly need to minimise disruption, such as by main roads, rivers, significant drainage and water ditches and railways, we will use trenchless techniques.

Indicative timetable

Phase of work	Types of activity	Approximate timetable
Ground investigation	Making some holes, by digging or drilling, so we can see the conditions below the surface.	Ongoing
Enabling works	Works needed prior to the start of construction, such as wildlife protection and limited vegetation removal.	Autumn / Winter 2021
Construction	Digging trenches, laying pipes and refilling them once the pipe has been installed.	2022 to 2023
Commissioning	Testing of the pipeline prior to becoming operational.	2023 - 2024
Reinstatement	Returning land to its original state where we can and with additional improvements in some areas.	2024

Tackling climate change while protecting and improving our environment is a priority for West Suffolk Council

West Suffolk Council declared a climate change emergency and one of the first acts of the new Cabinet was to set up a taskforce to strengthen and move further forward the ground-breaking work the authority is already doing. The work of that taskforce has produced a road map of around 50 initiatives, agreed by the Cabinet, to build on the already successful work we have been leading on to tackle climate change and reduce greenhouse gases. For the full findings of the taskforce visit [Environment and Climate Change Taskforce](#)

This included an ambition of reaching net zero greenhouse gas (carbon) emissions by 2030 in recognition of the importance of tackling the emergency more urgently.

The move to a 2030 target is a major change from the previous aim the council had previously committed to which was a 75% reduction by 2050 and shows the ambitions of the authority. Also included were measures to bring in a carbon budgeting approach to support the net zero ambition.

Cabinet also agreed to add an environmental emergency to the already existing climate change emergency.

This page gives links and information on what we are doing as a council as well as schemes available for communities or businesses to be involved in.

A list of the longer term initiatives and the taskforce's findings can be found at: [CAB/WS/20/045 - West Suffolk Environment and Climate Change Taskforce - Final Report](#)

[CAB.WS.20.046 - Report of the Environment and Climate Change Taskforce - Environment and Biodiversity Emergency in West Suffolk](#)

We have a good track record of reducing our impact on climate change and have been monitoring this since 2010

Overview of environmental performance during 2020-21



50.2%

Reduction in total emissions compared to 2010 baseline

Total emissions down 28.6% compared to last year



86%

Increase in renewable energy generated compared to 2012

Renewable energy generated up by 11% compared to last year



11%

Reduction in total council fuel use compared to last year

Total owned vehicle emissions have decreased by 17% compared to 2010-11 baseline



6

Green Flag status parks held during 2020-21 - regaining Green Flag status for West Stow park



58%

Reduction in total water consumption compared to baseline

52% Reduction in total water consumption compared to last year



75.5%

Recycling rate, which is up 39% compared to last year

52% Reduction in total office waste compared to last year



41

Electric vehicles can be charged at the same time using public chargers installed by WSC



1,500

plants and trees planted during 2020-21



78%

Less business travel compared to 2010 baseline

Business travel down 67% compared to last year

Plans have been approved for a self-contained care village for people with dementia that has been described as the first of its kind in the country. Care (Little Court) Ltd was given planning permission to develop land off the A143 at Little Wratting near Haverhill in Suffolk.

The specialist village for up to 120 people will enable residents to "live life as normal" backers said.

It is based on a Dutch model called [Hogeweyk](#).

Care (Little Court) Ltd said of the Hogeweyk philosophy: "It's small-group living, meaningful occupation - so actually doing things, getting up in the morning and going out to do things, and also freedom to roam in a safe and secure environment."

The village would include clinic rooms, a pub, community hall and restaurant. Residents would live in a "family-type setting" of six-bedroom shared apartments.

The site was not in an area that West Suffolk Council had designated for residential settlement, meaning development was contrary to its planning policies.

West Suffolk Council's cabinet is expected to agree to go ahead with the £12.1m development of the site at the Suffolk Business Park near the Moreton Hall area beside the Rougham junction on the A14. This would allow the construction of a 40,000 square foot of industrial units - each unit would be about 2,000 square feet.

The site would be developed by the council in what is an Enterprise Zone using business rates retained by the council - with support from the New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership and Suffolk County Council.

This is seen as phase one of a new incubator development - if it is successful it would be followed by another development of a similar size providing a further 20 starter units.

One of the points made by the council is that the development would be seen from the A14 - giving it a profile in the area.

The units would be aimed at firms in the Advanced Manufacturing and Engineering (AME) sector and are seen as important in increasing business along the A14 corridor between Felixstowe and Cambridge.

A recovering drug addict who was sleeping rough praises West Suffolk Council service for helping to turn his life around as Bury St Edmunds and Newmarket residents urged to support Looking for Change campaign - A recovering drug addict who was in and out of jail and sleeping rough on the streets says he has turned his life around thanks to a council support service. <https://premium.suffolknews.co.uk/bury-st-edmunds/news/article/i-was-out-of-control-how-recovering-drug-addict-who-was-s-9223772/>

Message sent on behalf of Cllr John Griffiths

Dear councillors,

As the Government has now designated Suffolk as an Enhanced Response Area due to our COVID case numbers and pressure on our hospitals, the Suffolk Resilience Forum (SRF) is naturally stepping up its communications activity.

The SRF is seeking to achieve three main aims:

- 1) To ensure that as many people as possible are aware of the latest Covid situation in Suffolk
- 2) To provide absolute clarity on the actions that best reduce the spread of COVID-19 and other viruses
- 3) To influence people to make the best choices in order to reduce the spread

In the coming weeks and months, a range of very visual and clear PR, social media and advertising activities will be carried out, supported by and in line with central government messaging, to achieve these aims.

For example, during the week commencing 15 November, every residential property in Suffolk (and some across our borders) will receive the attached leaflet, raising awareness of the current COVID-19 situation in Suffolk and reminding people of things that we can do to best reduce the spread of viruses. This is being supported by print and digital advertising, radio ads, social media promotion and billboards across Suffolk.

Alongside this, the Forum is launching a campaign encouraging people to think about what motivates them, very personally, to choose to follow the actions that best reduce the spread of viruses. Called 'What's it Worth?', the

campaign will be positive about finding ways to live with COVID. To deliver this, we've created a family – the Garnhams – and will feature them all doing things that people enjoy – like having family for dinner – and the role relatively small acts can play in keeping it that way.

Again, a range of communications activities will be used to promote these messages, including radio adverts, videos, social media and bus station adverts. The campaign is deliberately, light and fun because we want to engage as wide an audience as possible and believe being positive is the best approach.

This brief email is intended to make you aware of this activity, which started on Friday 5 November. As community leaders, we hope you will be willing to share and amplify these messages.

For clarity, these are the five actions we're promoting:

- Get fully vaccinated and have your booster when it's due
- Wash your hands regularly with soap and water
- Always wear a face covering in crowded areas
- Ventilate indoor spaces
- Get tested regularly and stay at home if you feel unwell



Mike Chester

District Councillor for the Chedburgh and Chevington Ward

Vice-Chair of West Suffolk District Council