



The meeting of Cavendish Parish Council took place on Wednesday 11th March 2026. In the Cavendish Memorial Hall at 7.30pm.

Councillors Present: Nick Vosper (Chair), Ted Gittins, Malcolm Halliday, Nicky Welch, Ed Stevens.

Also present: Kay Garner (Clerk), County Councillor Bobby Bennett, District Councillor Karen Richardson and 11 members of the public.

1. Acceptance of apologies for absence.

Apologies were received and accepted from Annette Williamott

2. Declaration of Interest in items on the agenda and dispensation requests.

No councillor declared an interest in any item on the agenda. No dispensation requests were received.

3. Approval of minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 14th January 2026.

It was resolved that the minutes were correct. The Chair signed them.

4. Public Session (20 minutes)

- Glass Recycling – new bins for households. The Parish Council advised that payments would continue to be received in 2026/27 and 2027/28 at the level paid in 2025/26 (£876) from Suffolk County Council for the Parish Council Glass Recycling Bin.
- Anglian Water – Road Closures. It was advised by DC and County Councillors that Anglian Water had attended a Clare Town Council Meeting regarding closures in Clare and had a new policy in place. Clerk to contact Clare Town Council for information.
- Floodwater Report (Item 18) Parishioner comments on the report were read out.
- Speeding. Concern was raised regarding the speed of traffic through the village. It was stated that councillor Ted Gittins had joined the West Suffolk Traffic & Speeding Group (Item15)
- Parishioner next door to The George in reference to planning application DC/26/0231/LB stated he no longer objected to this application after a visit from the environmental health office who was very helpful and alleviated his concerns.
- Thanks were given to the Parish Council in response to the objection for Planning Application DC/26/0156/VAR.
- A statement was read out from the applicant for Planning Application DC/26/0156/VAR.

5. County/District Councillors' reports

- Bobby Bennett report (attached)
- DC Karen Richardson advised that the Unitary Council process was still ongoing

6. Finance

- a) January 2026 and February 2026 Accounts

These were all agreed by all councillors and approved and signed by the Chair.

7. Parish Councillors' Reports

Ed Stevens Reported that the rubbish had been cleared from the property that had started to accumulate rubbish again. The hedge that was overhanging the footpath in the high street has now been cut back.



Malcolm Halliday Reported that the new Defibrillator group had met and the new 'guardians' will be ensuring that they are maintained and put back online after (potential) use. Thank you to them all.

Grass Cutting. The new contractor Tim Jackson had met with himself and Paul Hurst from the Sports Club with regard to grass cutting for the sports fields.

The Ambrose Trust have not produced the necessary funds as requested. A letter would be sent to the Chair of the Ambrose Trust as we have not received the monies for the hall repairs.

The Finbow-Ambrose Trust for the maintenance of the sports ground. Its trustees are the Parish Councillors with Chris Turner as Secretary and Treasurer.

It should meet annually and the last meeting was in November 2024 (see website for record of meeting). The 2025 meeting is overdue.

At the meetings we get a request from the Sports Club to release funds from the trust to pay their lease and cover other expenses.

In return, the Parish Council, not the trust, ask for money from Sports Club funds (usually £500) as a contribution to the cost of grass cutting the football pitches and cricket outfield for the coming year.

We are now waiting for two payments I believe. A letter would be sent regarding asking for the outstanding and current contribution from the Sports Club for the grass cutting of the Sports Field (two payments of £500 totalling £1000)

Nicky Welch Discussed the Hall Meters (Item 12b) see below.

8. Chair Report

Reported that the pruning had taken place in the Community Orchard. Thanks were given to Harriet North for all her hard work in organizing this.

9. Planning Applications

DC/26/0156/VAR

Proposal: Planning application - variation of condition 5 of DC/24/1711/FUL to change age range from 5-12 years to 5-17 years

Location: Little Haven Water Lane Cavendish Suffolk CO10 8AH

Parish Council Response: Object with comments (attached)

DC/26/0231/LB

Proposal: Application for listed buildings consent - relocation of extract flue

Location: The George, The Green Cavendish Suffolk CO10 8BA

Parish Council Response: Support

10. Vacancy for Parish Councillor

We still have a vacancy and from the 12th May 2026 there will be another vacancy.

11. Audit 2025-2026

Housekeeping actions are required as follows:

1. The standard "Standing Orders and Financial Regs". It was confirmed that no changes are needed. Policies on website: it was affirmed all in order and no amendments due.
2. The Clerk was formally appointed as "Responsible Financial Officer".
3. It was confirmed The Council insurance is up to date and the Premium for 2025-26 and had been paid.
4. It was confirmed that the clerk does not wish to join a pension scheme and we as a council have completed a Declaration of compliance.
5. The updated Asset Register was signed.



6. SALC has been appointed as our Internal Auditor.
The Letter of Engagement was approved.
7. The Internal control statement was signed off.
8. The Completed Financial Risk Assessment statement was signed off.

12. Memorial Hall

- (a) Cadent Gas – Car Park. This is ongoing and with our solicitors.
- (b) Heating Meters. It was agreed that consideration should be given to the possibility of the coin meters being removed and timers being fitted. Discussion will be held with Jerry Maynard Electrician to viability and costs.

13. Emergency Rest Centre

Councillor Nicky Welch had attended the initial meeting and will be investigating further. To report back at the next meeting.

14. Solar Farm

In the absence of Councillor Annette Williamott it was agreed to postpone this until the next meeting.

15. West Suffolk Traffic & Speeding Group

Councillor Ted Gittins had joined this group. It will coordinate all the efforts of local villages to tackle this problem.

16. Erosion of Grass Verges

The erosion is at the southern end of The Green on the one-way section in the vicinity of the Duck or Grouse. It was agreed that Ted Gittins would provide a sketch scheme for rectifying the problem..

17. Tree Survey

It was unanimously agreed that this should be carried out.

18. Cavendish S19 Flood Investigation Report

It was agreed that the Parish Council should implement the suggestions. And report back to the Council.

19. Cavendish Housing Needs Survey

It was agreed, by a majority, to proceed to the next step.

Thanks were given to Councillor Ted Gittins for his work on this project.

20. Correspondence

- Litter Pick. Organised by a parishioner. District Councillor Karen Richardson advise that the County Council/Bobby Bennett could advise on the requirements and supplies for this.

21. Any other business for noting or including on the next agenda of the next meeting on Wednesday 13th May 2026.

- Add Emergency Rest Centre to the Agenda
- Add Solar Farm to the Agenda
- Presentation to Malcolm Halliday

Thanks were given to Councillor Malcolm Halliday who will be stepping down from his role as a councillor on the 12th of May 2026. After many years of dedicated service, the Parish Council would like to show their appreciation and invited him to our next meeting which would include a small presentation to him. This was accepted.

Signed:

(Chair) Dated:

13/5/2026



Councillor Bobby Bennett
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**Suffolk County Council Report for Clare Division
February 2026**

OPINION: Young People Lead the Conversation on Public Health

Earlier this month we launched our 2025 Annual Public Health Report. This year's report is different because it was led by young people, with their films, voices and experiences forming the substance of the report and shaping its focus and recommendations.

Public health is often discussed in terms of data, services and long-term trends. Those things matter, but so does lived experience. This year's report places particular emphasis on youth social action, recognising that young people's wellbeing is closely linked to whether they feel heard, supported and able to influence the places where they live.

As part of the process, I was interviewed by young people who were directly involved in developing the report and I attended the launch to hear first-hand about their work. Being questioned by young people about public health priorities was a valuable experience. Their questions were thoughtful and grounded in their own experiences, and they challenged us as decision-makers to think carefully about how our policies translate into everyday life.

Young people from across Suffolk took part in a series of hacks held in Ipswich, Bury St Edmunds and Lowestoft, working alongside partners from the voluntary and community sector. These sessions gave young people the opportunity to explore issues affecting their wellbeing and to put forward practical ideas about how communities and organisations could respond.

What came through clearly during these hacks was that wellbeing is not just about access to services. It's also about feeling connected, having opportunities to get involved, and knowing that your voice matters. These factors play an important role in confidence, mental health and a sense of belonging, all of which are central to public health.

Young people also led the launch of the report, shaping the event and highlighting the issues that matter most to them. During the launch, they emphasised the importance of connection, belonging and safe spaces, whether through friends, clubs, arts or community activities, noting that inclusive, welcoming environments help build confidence and a sense of place.

They stressed the value of meaningful involvement in decision-making, calling for opportunities to move beyond consultation to genuine coproduction, with better feedback and regular engagement with councillors and other decision-makers.

Transport, accessibility and financial barriers were repeatedly noted as obstacles that prevent young people from taking part in activities or accessing support, while mental health and wellbeing, including safe, supportive spaces and trusted adults, were described as critical to everyday life. Participants also



highlighted the need for inclusive opportunities, life skills development, and clear communication, along with consistent long-term commitment from organisations to ensure that young people's voices lead to real, tangible change. Hearing young people speak openly about these issues helps ensure that our understanding is grounded in reality, rather than assumptions.

Importantly, this work wasn't about asking young people to identify problems and then stepping away. The report makes clear recommendations about how youth voice and youth-led action can be better supported across Suffolk, particularly for those in rural, coastal or marginalised communities who are often less heard.

One of the most valuable aspects of this year's report is the way it demonstrates partnership. Young people worked alongside professionals, community organisations and local authorities. That approach leads to better insight and, ultimately, better decisions.

As Cabinet Member for Public Health, I believe this sets a positive direction for how we work in future. When young people are involved early and meaningfully, policies are more relevant and more likely to have a lasting impact.

The publication of the report is not the end of the process. The real test is how we respond to what young people have told us by continuing to support youth-led initiatives, embedding youth voice in decision-making, and making sure this way of working becomes the norm rather than the exception.

I want to thank all the young people who gave their time to take part, including those who led interviews and discussions during the hacks. This year's report is built on their work and will help shape a healthier Suffolk in the years ahead.

To read/watch the full report visit: www.healthysuffolk.org.uk/jsna

Ending Violence Against Women and Girls in Suffolk

Ending violence against women and girls is something that sits very close to my heart, and I know I'm not alone in that. Too many women and girls, and people of all genders, live with fear, control and abuse behind closed doors. That's why I'm incredibly proud of the work Suffolk has already been doing, long before the Government announced its new national strategy at the end of last year.

In Suffolk, we didn't wait to be told this mattered. We acted.

Over recent years, we've worked closely with police, health partners, schools, charities and specialist community organisations to build a joined-up, trauma-informed approach to preventing violence, intervening early, and supporting victim-survivors to be safe and rebuild their lives.

One of the things I'm most proud of is the Suffolk Domestic Abuse Champions Network. Since launching in 2019, more than 1,600 people across our communities have been trained to spot the signs of abuse and to know how, and where, to help someone reach safety. These people aren't just working in public services; they are teachers, hairdressers, shop workers, volunteers and neighbours. Ordinary people doing extraordinary things.



The impact of this work has been recognised nationally. When the Domestic Abuse Commissioner for England and Wales, Nicole Jacobs, visited Suffolk in 2024, she told us that “Suffolk had been the talk of the office” that week. That recognition matters, but what matters more is the difference those champions make every single day.

We’ve also invested heavily in training frontline professionals, because the right response at the right moment can change, or save, a life. Teachers, healthcare workers, social care staff and others are receiving training on issues including honour-based abuse, female genital mutilation, stalking, sexual violence, misogyny, online harms and trauma-informed practice. This also includes how to complete risk assessments and make referrals to a Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC), where professionals from different agencies work together to plan safety for people at high risk. This isn’t tick-box training; it’s about confidence, understanding and compassion.

Alongside this, we’ve significantly strengthened our safe accommodation offer for people fleeing abuse, whether they are coming from within Suffolk or moving here for safety. We now have a range of accommodation options suitable for people of all ages and gender identities, with tailored support in place, including access to specialist mental health support for those dealing with the impact of trauma and abuse.

Last year, we published our Safe Accommodation Strategy for 2025–2028, shaped directly by lived experience, service providers and local needs. Listening to people who have been through abuse and acting on what they tell us, is something I believe deeply in. This year, we’re focusing especially on working with younger people who have experienced abuse, co-producing new routes to support and opportunities that actually meet their needs.

Community voice has also been central to shaping our new Ending Violence Against Women and Girls+ Strategy for 2025–2028. We held engagement sessions with victim-survivors across Suffolk, both face-to-face and online, alongside sessions with professionals. Our ambition now is to establish an ongoing survivor voice panel so lived experience continues to directly influence decisions and action.

Collaboration sits at the heart of this work. We see it in how we deliver the national White Ribbon Campaign locally, with organisations across Suffolk uniting around one clear message: violence against women and girls is never acceptable.

There is still more to do, but Suffolk’s progress shows what is possible when we are determined, compassionate and prepared to listen. In March 2025, Full Council passed a motion appointing Councillor Bobby Bennett as Suffolk’s Violence Against Women and Girls Champion, strengthening our leadership and accountability on this issue.

This work matters to me not just as a councillor, but as a person. And I’m proud to hand over to Bobby to share what this role means for the future.

Cllr Bobby Bennett, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People and VAWG Champion:

As Suffolk’s Violence Against Women and Girls Champion, my focus is on prevention, especially when it comes to children and young people.



If we want lasting change, we have to tackle harmful attitudes early, challenge misogyny and online harms, and make sure young people grow up with positive role models and a clear understanding of healthy, respectful relationships.

Through our Violence Against Women and Girls Steering Group, we're exploring new education programmes and opportunities shaped by young people themselves.

I'm proud to take on this role and to build on the strong work already happening across Suffolk as we continue striving to make our county safer for everyone.

Suffolk County Council's chief executive to step down

Nicola will leave at the end of March 2026 and the process to appoint a new chief executive will begin shortly.

Reflecting on her decision, Nicola said:

"Serving the people of Suffolk has been a great privilege and I am immensely proud of what has been achieved together over the last eight years.

"Leaving this job has not been an easy decision, and I have thought long and hard about it. However, I believe this is the right time to hand over leadership to those who can steer and support colleagues through local government reorganisation over the next two years, whatever option the Government decides to implement.

"I would like to thank all of my colleagues, Matthew and his Cabinet and all councillors for their support and I wish them the very best for the future.

"I do not have another role lined up – I am simply looking forward to a new change of pace and lifestyle, enjoying this wonderful county and taking time to travel and see family and friends."

Cllr Matthew Hicks, Leader of Suffolk County Council, said:

"Nicola has led the council through an important period of change and achievement.

"She is very well-regarded, hardworking and has an exceptional knowledge of the complexity of public service, plus an unfaltering desire to deliver the best services for the people of Suffolk – the county that she loves.

"Under her tenure and with strong political leadership, Suffolk County Council is well positioned to rise to the challenge and opportunity of local government reorganisation. Her legacy will be enduring and deeply felt.

"I want to thank her for her outstanding leadership and dedication, and I wish her all the best for the future."

Amongst her achievements, Nicola has:



- Managed a budget of £850 million and led the authority's 6,294 staff, significantly improving the council's culture
- Negotiated local government reorganisation and created the legacy for lasting stability during the next phase
- Transformed adult social care and ensured the improvement in children's and young people's services
- Led the council and partnership response through the Covid pandemic
- Opened Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service's new control room and ongoing improvements across the service
- Strengthened emergency planning and response, particularly during Storm Babet
- Opened the £146 million Gull Wing bridge in Lowestoft
- Brought the library service back in house

Nicola joined Suffolk County Council in May 2018 from Essex County Council, where she was director of infrastructure and environment. Previously she was chief executive of Braintree District Council.

Nicola's last day will be March 31st having completed her three months' notice period. She handed her notice in before Christmas, but it was agreed to hold the announcement until some important milestones had passed, including the closure of the LGR consultation.

Details of her replacement will follow.

Council budget protects frontline services amid rising costs and demand

Demand pressures, particularly in adult and children's social care, are expected to add £32.2 million to the council's costs next year. As a result, around 77 pence of every £1 the council spends will go directly towards services for people, including public health.

The remaining 23 pence in every £1 will fund all other services, such as fire and rescue, highways and waste management, alongside the staff, infrastructure and technology that support service delivery across the council.

To deliver a balanced budget, councillors approved £46.5 million of savings. These will be achieved through service improvements, more efficient ways of working, and a reduction in employer pension contributions, made possible by the strong performance of the council's pension fund. This reduction in employer contributions will not reduce employees' pension benefits.

Councillors also agreed a 4.99% increase in the county council's share of Council Tax, comprising a 2.99% general increase for county-wide services and a further 2% Adult Social Care Precept to help meet rising care costs.

For households, this means weekly Council Tax bills will increase by £1.23 to £25.90 for a Band B property – the most common in Suffolk – and by £1.58 to £33.30 for a Band D property.

Combined with a forecast 1% increase in the taxbase, the Council Tax changes will generate an additional £27.4 million for the council in 2026/27.



Alongside day-to-day spending, councillors approved a revised three-year capital programme, reduced from four years to reflect local government reorganisation planned for 2028. The programme will continue to fund essential projects such as school expansions and infrastructure improvements, while also investing in improvements to bus services, public rights of way, and cycling and walking infrastructure.

Cllr Richard Smith MVO, Suffolk County Council's deputy leader and cabinet member for finance, economic development and skills, said:

“This has been one of the toughest budgets this council has ever had to set. Government funding has gone up only slightly, and, because that increase is below inflation, in real terms we are receiving less. That puts even more pressure on our ability to protect essential services.

“We have made the reluctant decision to increase Council Tax. We know residents are facing their own pressures, but the government's finance settlement assume councils will raise Council Tax to the maximum. If we don't, we risk losing vital grant funding, and that would force even harder decisions.

“Even with those challenges, we have set a responsible and realistic budget that protects key services and continues to invest in Suffolk's future. But it also underlines a wider truth: council finances remain under real strain, and many of the long-term solutions – including long-overdue SEND reform – can only come from central government.”

Councillors approved the budget at their meeting on Thursday 12 February 2026, following Scrutiny's examination of the proposals on 13 January and Cabinet's decision on 27 January to bring them to Full Council for approval.

The meeting can be watched back on [the council's YouTube channel](#). The budget papers can be viewed at committeeminutes.suffolk.gov.uk.

Man pleads guilty to £9k romance scam

Adam Mowle, 34, of Larksfield Crescent, Harwich pleaded guilty at Ipswich Magistrates Court of laundering £9,165.00 into his personal bank account from the victim of a romance fraud. The hearing took place today following an investigation launched by Suffolk Trading Standards. Mowle pleaded guilty to one count of acquiring criminal property by fraud.

The court heard of how an online relationship was formed between the victim and a person calling themselves “Jenna Smith”. Over a ten-month period, the victim paid over £9,000 to “Jenna” believing that she needed the money due to illness and financial difficulties. The victim was unaware that the money was in fact being paid to Mowle.

The victim, who does not want to be named, said:

“In January 2019 I ‘matched’ with a female called Jenna Leigh Smith on a dating app and as our relationship developed, I genuinely thought that this was the start of a long-term relationship.



“I felt genuine sorrow for the problems Jenna told me she was having that included her father having cancer and her own serious health issues. Jenna told me that she was struggling financially. I felt confident I could lend her money to assist her in the short term and she would pay me back. It was not until I suspected Jenna was lying to me that I realised I had paid £9,135 into an account that I thought at the time was owned by Jenna.

“The personal impact that the relationship with Jenna and losing nearly ten thousand pounds has had on my life is significant and has destroyed my mental health. I felt the need to gamble to try and get something back, this has led to me losing £93,000 to try and recoup the money I paid into Mowle’s bank account, going into a deep state of depression and having to seek help via medication and counselling.

“The situation was so bleak that I seriously considered taking my own life.

“This crime has cost me any chance of having a relationship due to my lack of trust and has led to spiralling depression that then led to gambling, that has further ruined my life and future.”

Graham Crisp, Head of Suffolk Trading Standards, commented after the hearing:

“This has been a particularly complex investigation, and I am proud of the officers who worked diligently in the case to hold Adam Mowle accountable.

“Mowle has repeatedly shown no regard for his victim, using the payments he received on living expenses and the upkeep of his horse.”

Councillor Steve Wiles, Suffolk County Council’s Cabinet Member for Public Health and Public Protection, added:

“Romance fraud is a cruel crime which causes serious financial and emotional harm to its victims.”

“I thank the courage and the bravery of the victim in coming forward in this case and supporting with the team at Suffolk Trading Standards with the investigation.”

“I would ask anyone in an online relationship to be suspicious of any requests for money from someone you have not met in person. Speak to friends and family to get advice. Stop and think, is this person who they say they are?”

Sentencing is listed for 18 March 2026.

Anyone who suspects they or someone they know is a victim of romance fraud can report this in confidence to Suffolk Trading Standards via the Citizens Advice Consumer Service on 0808 223 1133.

New Suffolk Exhibition Shines a Light on Disability

Beyond Labels explores themes of visibility, independent living, discrimination, and making change happen. Understand how national campaigns, and social and political changes have impacted lives in Suffolk. As



well as discovering the histories of organisations, schools, and charities that work with and support local disabled people.

Made possible by The National Lottery Heritage Fund, this exhibition is co-curated by local community groups and Suffolk Archives and has enabled communities to share and celebrate their lived experience. Beyond Labels celebrates disability while sparking conversations about accessibility, equality, and the work that's still needed.

The exhibition will explore local stories such as the actions taken by parents after their children were labelled "uneducable" following the Education Act 1944. Parents like Jean Thompson set up the Lowestoft and District Society for Mentally Handicapped Children, which appointed a home visitor, opened a special care unit and occupation centre thus providing essential support and opportunities that the state system had denied.

Lived experience of disability is more and less visible in the historical record at different points in time. Wartime experiences are highlighted in a range of archival records, covering topics such as shell shock, or PTSD, long term health conditions, and individual stories such as that of Frederick Pigeon. Frederick was wounded during World War One, had his right leg amputated and was later fitted for an artificial limb. After the war he settled in Blythburgh where he married Ellen.

Coming up to present day the exhibition will explore hidden disabilities which are not always visible but have an impact on an individual's day-to-day life, promoting awareness and understanding.

Community Forum member Becca Jakaman said:

"I joined the forum for the Beyond Labels project, I wanted to get more involved with The Hold, and the amazing work they do. As a wheelchair-user, I wanted to offer my lived experience to help make the project as inclusive and open about disability as possible."

As part of Beyond Labels, Suffolk Archives, a Suffolk County Council service, has been working with more than 30 local community groups and schools on an impressive community art illustration called 'Unlabelled'. 'Unlabelled', is created from 150 giant labels made from sustainably sourced plywood, which have been decorated to represent lived experience of disability, and themes of access, visibility, and representation. The artwork will be displayed in the foyer of The Hold as part of the 'Beyond Labels' exhibition.

Cllr Nadia Cenci, Suffolk County Council's Cabinet Member for Communities, said:

"Beyond Labels is a fantastic exhibition that highlights the experiences and achievements of disabled people in Suffolk. It's an important project that helps raise awareness, challenge barriers, and encourage greater understanding and inclusion across our communities. I'm proud to see Suffolk Archives working with local groups to bring these stories to light."

Liz Bates, Director, England, Midlands and East at The National Lottery Heritage Fund, said:

"The National Lottery Heritage Fund is committed to supporting projects that encourage greater inclusion, access, and participation within heritage. Beyond Labels: Celebrating Disability is a brilliant example of this



in action. Thanks to funding from National Lottery players, Suffolk Archives have recorded and preserved the stories of people with disabilities in Suffolk, past and present, so that their lives can be shared and celebrated.”

The project has been made possible with a grant of £139,107 from The National Lottery Heritage Fund. Beyond Labels: Celebrating Disability in Suffolk runs from 27 February to 30 May at The Hold in Ipswich, home of Suffolk Archives. Exhibition pre-bookers get 15% off in Suffolk Archives’ café.

New SEND school and centre of excellence to be built in Bury St Edmunds

Run by Eastern Education Group and funded by the Department for Education, the school in Glastonbury Road will provide 90 places for students aged 14 to 19-years-old with special educational needs and disabilities

In a first for Suffolk, the new school will also become a centre of excellence and hub for SEND guidance, offering expertise to mainstream schools. Examples of this approach include providing outreach staff to work with mainstream schools and offering specialist expertise and training opportunities.

This hub model is increasingly encouraged by the Department for Education and is reflected in guidance from Ofsted around inclusive practice and system leadership. It launches Suffolk County Council’s ambition to implement this model across the county with a number of other education settings.

This news comes just a week after it was announced that Suffolk County Council and Unity Schools Partnership will open a new SEND school in Saxmundham for 126 students with severe learning difficulties.

Both new provisions have been agreed by Suffolk County Council in line with its SEND sufficiency plans, which outline how specialist provision should be delivered across the county.

This new special school in Bury St Edmunds will share a site with Chalk Hill School special school which is due to open in Easter 2026. Chalk Hill will occupy the former Horringer Middle School building, while the second school will be built by the Department for Education on a field on the site. Eastern Education Group will run both schools.

Dr Nikos Savvas OBE DL from Eastern Education Group said:

“We are incredibly proud to be leading this transformational development for young people with special educational needs and disabilities in Suffolk.

“This new school is not only about providing high-quality specialist places in Bury St Edmunds, it’s about rethinking how expertise is shared across the whole system.

“As a Group, we have already led two SEND schools to improved Ofsted ratings, demonstrating our commitment to high standards, strong leadership and continuous improvement. We will bring that same ambition and care to this new provision.



“By establishing a centre of excellence and outreach hub, we will work alongside mainstream schools to strengthen inclusive practice and ensure more young people can thrive within their local communities. Collaboration, early intervention and high expectations will be at the heart of everything we do.

“Together with our partners at Suffolk County Council and the Department for Education, we are creating provision that will deliver meaningful impact for families now and for years to come.”

Reflecting on the new school, Andrew Reid, Cabinet Member for Education and SEND at Suffolk County Council, said:

“This is a significant and very welcome step forward for SEND provision in Suffolk. The new school in Bury St Edmunds will not only provide much-needed specialist places, but it will also introduce an innovative centre of excellence model that strengthens support across all our mainstream schools.

“By working as a countywide hub - offering outreach, specialist expertise and high-quality training - this provision will help build confidence, skills and inclusive practice right across Suffolk. It means earlier intervention, better outcomes for families, and fewer young people needing to leave their communities to access the support they deserve.

“Coming so soon after the announcement of the new school in Saxmundham, this demonstrates real momentum in delivering our SEND sufficiency plans. Together, these developments show our commitment to ensuring that every child and young person in Suffolk can access the right support, in the right place, at the right time.”

Trial scheme to remove vehicles blocking road resurfacing work to begin

Suffolk County Council is to launch a trial scheme to remove vehicles that are blocking highways resurfacing work.

The move comes following repeated issues with vehicles across Suffolk that have been left in roads where works are scheduled, despite advance warnings they were due to take place.

This has led to the cancellation of entire resurfacing works or small areas being left where vehicle parking has prevented access for equipment.

Offending vehicles will be either moved to a safe place in line of sight from where they were parked, or to a secure compound in Bury St Edmunds.

Any vehicle which is moved to enable works to go ahead will be subject to a £70 Fixed Penalty Charge Notice, reduced to £35 if paid within 14 days.

Vehicles taken to the secure compound, due to there not being a suitable location near the works area to move the vehicle to, will also be subject to additional fees to recover their vehicle.

The trial scheme will be introduced in March and will cover the Suffolk Highways resurfacing programme up to May 2026.



The first site where it will be used is scheduled to be in Allington Walk, Haverhill, where two days of works are due to start from Wednesday March 18.

Councillor Paul West, Suffolk County Council Cabinet member for Operational Highways, said: “Removal of vehicles will be a last resort but unfortunately there are occasions when it is necessary.

“Each time a resurfacing scheme has to be cancelled costs the Council Tax payer money, as well as the frustration of having to reschedule and notify residents again.

“Suffolk Highways is committed to maintaining the county’s roads and this scheme will help our workforce get on with the job.”

Each abortive visit where works are unable to take place costs in the region of £15,000.

This cost covers items such as wasted material, plant, labour and equipment hire. Abortive works also impacts future programmed work delivery.

Under the removal scheme, the process would see:

- A temporary traffic regulation order (TTRO) advertised six weeks before work starting
- Warning signs erected and letters delivered to nearby residents and businesses clearly detailing whether vehicle removal will be imposed 2 to 3 weeks prior to the works date.
- No parking cones placed in the road and any vehicles parked on the road at the time of visit will have information cards placed on the windscreen two days before works start
- On the day, a District Civil Enforcement Officer will issue PCNs, offending vehicles photographed then relocated safely with the police informed
- Offending vehicles will be either moved to a safe place in line of sight, or if this is not possible to the secure compound in Bury St Edmunds
- Contact numbers and references will be left on site for the owner to call to locate/collect vehicle

Councillor West said consideration would be given for blue-badge holders and vulnerable residents, and vehicles would be moved only to safe nearby locations or the secure compound.

“This is a measure about making sure the council does not have wasted costs through having to abort a scheme,” he said.

“The measure that will only be used when needed and I can assure the public that it will be implemented fairly.

“This is only being introduced for planned work that is notified in advance. It is not being used when potholes are filled on reactive call outs.”

Joint Chief Executives recommended for appointment

Mark Ash, the council’s executive director of organisational change and local government reorganisation, and Andrew Cook, executive director of growth highways and infrastructure, would become Suffolk County Council’s first joint chief executives. They will be charged with leading the council through the challenges



of delivering local government reorganisation, devolution, maintaining essential public services and financial sustainability in the next two years.

Specifically, Mark would be responsible for local government reorganisation, devolution, transformation and change programmes. Andrew will be responsible for delivering safe, high-quality and reliable services to residents, robust financial controls and ensuring the council meets all its statutory duties and requirements following independent inspections. The joint chief executives would each lead on their own areas of responsibility but work together to ensure focus is maintained across the council's duties and priorities.

The decision, which will be taken formally by all county councillors when they meet on 19 March, follows a recommendation from the council's Staff Appointments Committee which met earlier today.

The county council's chief executive of eight years, Nicola Beach, is to leave her post at the end of March 2026, with Mark and Andrew set to take on their new roles from 1 April 2026 following a structured handover.

Councillor Matthew Hicks, Suffolk County Council's leader, said:

"Mark and Andrew are very experienced and well-respected senior officers in local government, and both have a wealth of knowledge that will be invaluable to the county council and wider local government partners in Suffolk.

"I very much welcome their appointment, especially as Suffolk County Council is facing a critical time over the next two years.

"Local government reorganisation, devolution, managing spending and rising demand, and ensuring we deliver on our duties to provide quality services to the people of Suffolk, will require strong and strategic leadership. I am confident that Mark and Andrew will play critical roles.

"I have said it before, and I will say it again; Nicola Beach has been a fantastic and dedicated chief executive throughout the past eight years. Her expertise and love of Suffolk will be missed, but I am confident this new approach will build on that success."

Tens of thousands of pounds would be saved because Mark and Andrew's existing posts would not be recruited into. The number of the most senior staff would therefore reduce by one and save up to £92,000 a year. Recruiting internally will therefore save time, money on salaries and recruitment, and make use of existing, well-developed relationships with partner organisations and knowledge of Suffolk.

The council's constitution requires it to have a designated head of paid service, responsible for leading the council's employees as they deliver services to residents. Significant uncertainty in the local authority chief executive recruitment market has led to many county councils, including Leicestershire, Lancashire, Lincolnshire, Essex and Hampshire all making internal appointments in recent months, having advertised the roles externally.

[£500,000 Culture Project Fund backs 37 creative and community projects across Suffolk](#)



The fund was created to boost cultural activity, widen participation and support creativity across the county. This year's successful projects span festivals, youth arts programmes, heritage initiatives, wellbeing-focused activities and community-led creative work, with grants ranging from £2,000 to £20,000. Among the projects funded are:

- Frame the Future at DanceEast an eight-week creative intervention using hip hop dance and film to support young people at risk of exclusion in Ipswich. Delivered in partnership with schools and specialist artists, it aims to build confidence, skills and wellbeing through co-creation.
- The Mid-Suffolk Light Railway Museum has secured funding to refurbish its accessible railway carriage, maintaining inclusive access for wheelchair users, families and visitors with additional needs, while supporting volunteer-led heritage restoration skills.
- The Bloom Community Engagement Programme, delivered by Theatre Royal Bury St Edmunds, offers year-round participatory theatre and workshops across West Suffolk, including youth theatre, SEND provision, over-55s sessions and an annual Bloom Festival to strengthen community connections.

Cllr Nadia Cenci, Cabinet Member for Communities at Suffolk County Council, said:

"I'm delighted that we are able to support such a vibrant mix of cultural projects through this year's Culture Project Fund. These initiatives show the imagination, talent and community spirit that make Suffolk such a special place.

"What stands out is how many of these projects are rooted in local people, supporting wellbeing, nurturing young talent and bringing creativity into our towns, villages and rural communities. The benefits of these art projects cannot be underestimated. They can change the lives of our communities across the county."

The Culture Project Fund continues to support both established organisations and grassroots groups, strengthening Suffolk's cultural landscape. Last year's programme delivered meaningful outcomes, from improving wellbeing and confidence to widening access to heritage and cultural experiences.

One example was Status Creative CIC's *Creative Connections* in Lowestoft, which brought together people with lived experience of domestic abuse through creative writing, poetry and music workshops in a safe, supportive space. Participants reported improved wellbeing, stronger social connections and renewed confidence.

Another was Woodbridge Tide Mill Charitable Trust's Tide Mill Museum 3D Tour, which created an immersive online experience featuring 42 learning points, videos and audio content, enabling people worldwide, including those unable to travel to explore the historic mill year-round.

This year's funded projects build on that growing legacy, ensuring culture continues to inspire, connect and enrich communities across Suffolk for years to come.

The full list of organisation receiving funding can be found here: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/cultureprojectfund>



Receipts

Date	Source	Amount	Admin.	Cemetery	Allotments	Other	Hall Bookings	Hall Other	VAT
05/01/26	Hall Hire - Yoga (Vatters)	170.00					170.00		
05/01/26	Hall Hire - Mens Badminton	7.00					7.00		
06/01/26	Cemetery (Foreman)	150.00		150.00					
08/01/26	Cash - Hall Meters	166.00						166.00	
09/01/26	Hall Hire - Koalas	84.00					84.00		
15/01/26	Cemetery (Staples)	150.00		150.00					
19/01/26	Hall Hire - Pre School	250.00					250.00		
19/01/26	Hall Hire - Mens Badminton	7.00					7.00		
23/01/26	Hall Hire - Scuba Club	14.00					14.00		
23/01/26	Pre-School Electric	160.64						160.64	
29/01/26	Allotment - Laxton	40.00			40.00				
29/01/26	Allotment - McKnight	20.00			20.00				
29/01/26	Hall Hire - Mens Badminton	7.00					7.00		
30/01/26	Allotment - Condliffe	40.00			40.00				
30/01/26	Allotment - Winfield	40.00			40.00				
30/01/26	Allotment - Quealy	60.00			60.00				
	Total for January 2026	1365.64	0.00	300.00	200.00	0.00	539.00	326.64	0.00
	B/Fwd	112084.46							
	Total C/Fwd	113450.10							
	Less Expenses to 31/01/26	45042.40							
	Net	68407.70							

Earmarked Funds as at 31/01/26

Cavendish Flowers	647.13
War Memorial	711.00
Memorial Hall	8750.00
Play Area (Replacement)	5000.00
Traffic Management	6030.00
Total Earmarked Funds	21138.13
Reserve	47269.57
Total	68407.70

Santander Bank Account 31/01/26

Current	58331.74
Savings	9708.32

* Unity Trust Bank Account 31/01/26

Current	367.64
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Total	68407.70
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Date	Source	Amount	Admin.	Cemetery	Allotments	Other	Hall Bookings	Hall Other	VAT
02/02/26	Hall Hire - CCA	169.00					169.00		
02/02/26	Hall Hire - Mens Badminton	7.00					7.00		
02/02/26	HMRC Vat Return	1689.99							1689.99
02/02/26	Hall Hire - Yoga (Vatters)	210.00					210.00		
02/02/26	Allotment (Grayson)	20.00			20.00				
02/02/26	Allotment (Lockwood)	80.00			80.00				
02/02/26	Hall Hire - CCA	34.00					34.00		
02/02/26	Allotments (Ward)	20.00			20.00				
04/02/26	Allotments (Blake)	180.00			180.00				
05/02/26	Allotments (Pickett)	40.00			40.00				
06/02/26	Allotments (James)	20.00			20.00				
06/02/26	Allotments (Grimwood)	20.00			20.00				
09/02/26	Hall Hire Deposit (Bridge)	25.00					25.00		
09/02/26	Hall Hire (Sudbury Model Ra	57.00					57.00		
10/02/26	Hall Hire Deposit (Knight)	25.00					25.00		
10/02/26	Allotments (Freeman)	60.00			60.00				
10/02/26	Cash - Hall Heating Meters	107.00						107.00	
11/02/26	Hall Hire (Mens Badminton)	7.00					7.00		
16/02/26	Allotments (Clifton)	40.00			40.00				
16/02/26	Allotments (James)	20.00			20.00				
18/02/26	Pre-School Rent	250.00					250.00		
23/02/26	Allotments (Carter)	20.00			20.00				
23/02/26	Allotments (Cooper)	40.00			40.00				
23/02/26	Hall Hire(Quiz Night Illumina	10.00					10.00		
23/02/26	Hall Hire (Koalas)	70.00					70.00		
24/02/26	Hall Hire (Bowls Club)	56.00					56.00		
25/02/26	Hall Hire (Mens Badminton)	7.00					7.00		
25/02/26	Pre-School Electric	378.16						378.16	
27/02/26	Hall Hire (Tea Dance)	36.00					36.00		
	Total for February 2026	3698.15	0.00	0.00	560.00	0.00	963.00	485.16	1689.99
	B/Fwd	113450.10							
	Total C/Fwd	117148.25							
	Less Expenses to 28/02/26	49389.80							
	Net	67758.45							

Earmarked Funds as at 28/02/26

Cavendish Flowers	647.13
War Memorial	711.00
Memorial Hall	8750.00
Play Area (Replacement)	5000.00
Traffic Management	6030.00
Total Earmarked Funds	21138.13
Reserve	46620.32
Total	67758.45

Santander Bank Account 28/02/26

Current	54283.68
Savings	9708.32

* Unity Trust Bank Account 28/02/26

Current	3766.45
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Total	67758.45
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11/3/2026

Payments



Date	TO WHOM	Cheque No./DD	Amount	Category											
				ADMIN	MISC Other	Cemetery/ Allotments	Street Clean/Maint.	Grass/ Trees	Hall Maint.	Hall Services	Hall Deposit Return	VAT	S137		
05/01/26	Water Rates (Allotments)	DD	18.00			18.00									
13/01/26	Water Rates (Memorial Hall)	23550	401.71								401.71				
14/01/26	West Suffolk (Bins) Allotments	DD	38.03			38.03									
14/01/26	West Suffolk (Bins) Memorial Hall	DD	57.13								57.15				
14/01/26	West Suffolk (Bins) Cemetery	DD	85.74			85.72									
14/01/26	James Munro Landscaping	23542	122.50				122.50								
19/01/26	Chubb F&S Replacement Parts	23549	945.60								788.00		157.60		
20/01/26	PPL PRS Music Licence	23551	247.84								206.54		41.30		
21/01/26	British Gas (Electric)	DD	420.59								350.49		70.10		
27/01/26	Chubb F&S	DD	32.33								26.94		5.39		
27/01/26	Clerk Wages (K Garner)	23544	685.12	685.12											
30/01/26	James Munro Landscaping	23545	160.00				160.00								
	Total For Period		3214.59	685.12	0.00	141.75	282.50	0.00	0.00		1830.83	0.00	274.39	0.00	
	B/Fwd		41827.81												
	C/Fwd		45042.40												

Date	TO WHOM	Cheque No./DD	Amount	Category											
				ADMIN	MISC Other	Cemetery/ Allotments	Street Clean/Maint.	Grass/ Trees	Hall Maint.	Hall Services	Hall Deposit Return	VAT	S137		
05/02/26	Water Rates (Allotments)	DD	43.00			43.00									
09/02/26	J Murcott Hall Cleaning	23546	206.65								206.65				
13/02/26	Zurich Insurance	23547	2376.52	2376.52											
17/02/26	B Pettitt Window Cleaner	23543	116.00								116.00				
19/02/26	Santander Bank Charges	DD	4.99	4.99											
25/02/26	British Gas (Electric)	DD	919.78								766.48		153.30		
27/02/26	Clerk Wages (K Garner)	23548	676.12	676.12											
28/02/26	Unity Bank Charges	DD	4.34	4.34											
	Total For Period		4347.40	3061.97	0.00	43.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		1089.13	0.00	153.30	0.00	
	B/Fwd		45042.40												
	C/Fwd		49389.80												


11/3/2026



The Parish Council has considered the Section 73 application seeking to vary Condition 5 to extend the approved age range from 5–12 years to 5–17 years.

When the original application was supported, that support was explicitly and clearly predicated on the home accommodating a maximum of four children between the ages of 5 and 12 years. The age restriction formed a key element of the Council’s assessment of likely impact on residential amenity and the character of the village.

The Council notes that the approved use has not yet commenced and that no children have been resident at the property. In those circumstances, the original model has not been tested in practice within the village setting. The proposed variation therefore seeks to alter a fundamental component of the scheme before its effects under the approved parameters have been experienced or assessed.

Members further note that the justification now advanced appears to indicate a need to accommodate older children. While the Parish Council has sympathy for any young person who may face disruption as a result of age thresholds within the care system, the planning system must consider land use impacts rather than individual circumstances.

In considering amenity and sustainability, the Parish Council is mindful that the village has limited facilities and no independent activities or services specifically aimed at older teenagers. The potential implications of introducing a broader and older age range into a small rural community are therefore materially different from those associated with the originally approved 5–12 age group.

The original age condition was requested because Members considered it an important safeguard in limiting the scale and intensity of the use, and in mitigating potential impacts on neighbours and the wider community. Extending the upper age limit to 17 represents a significant change to that balance.

For these reasons, the Parish Council considers that the proposed variation alters a key element of the scheme upon which its previous support was based, and requests that the District Council give careful consideration to whether the removal of the age restriction would materially change the nature and impact of the development.

K Garner

Clerk to the Parish Council

On behalf of the Parish Council