



Cllr Karen Soons 07864 601 887  
karen.soons@suffolk.gov.uk  
August 2020 Parish Newsletter



Visit [suffolk.gov.uk/coronavirus](https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/coronavirus) for health advice, service changes, business support and schools' guidance.

Keep up to date on the latest guidance on Covid-19 from central government here: [www.gov.uk/coronavirus](https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus)

## [COVID-19 related news](#)

### **Stick with it Suffolk – wear a face covering**

Suffolk residents are being asked to keep looking out for each other and combat Covid-19 by wearing a face covering in shops.

As of 24 July, it is mandatory, in the majority of cases, to wear a face covering in shops – as it is when using public transport. Under the new national changes, measures can be taken if people do not comply with this law on face coverings:

- Shops and supermarkets will be expected to encourage compliance with the law and can refuse entry.
- Transport operators can deny service or direct someone to wear a face covering.

In both cases, if necessary, the police have the powers to enforce these measures, including through issuing a fine of £100 (halving to £50 if paid within 14 days).

People are also strongly encouraged to wear a face covering in other enclosed public spaces where social distancing may be difficult and where they come into contact with people they do not normally meet.

Businesses should be aware that some people will be exempt from wearing face coverings, including children under the age of 11 and people with certain conditions. People may also have a hidden disability which makes it difficult for them to wear one.

Businesses are asked to not make assumptions if someone is not wearing a face covering, as that person may feel quite vulnerable and uncomfortable. Their hidden disability may even include issues with communication. Business should check if the person is wearing a **Hidden Disability Sunflower**.

**David Collinson, the lead for the Safer Places group, said:**

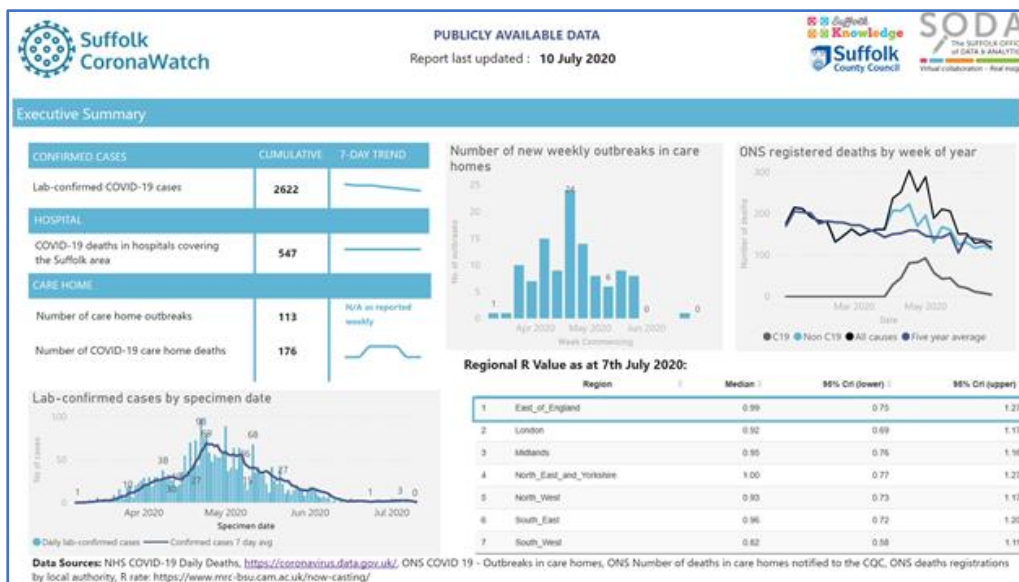
“The safety of our communities is the most important thing as our high streets and businesses recover.

“Ultimately, businesses are responsible to ensure the safety of their staff and customers but, through the Safer Places group, we’re doing everything we can to support them and help reduce the risk of infection.

“But people have a role too and it is vital they follow the face covering guidance. By sticking with the guidance and helping each other to keep safe you will stop the spread of Covid-19 and help local businesses stay open, serving their communities.”

For up-to-date guidance on exemptions to wearing a face covering where they are mandated, see the **government’s website**.

## Suffolk CoronaWatch launches



Suffolk’s Public Health Knowledge and Intelligence Team have produced a suite of resources called CoronaWatch.

The online ‘Coronawatch’ dashboard, which launched in the week of 11 July, gathers all publicly available data on COVID-19 in Suffolk into one place. This data is in the public domain and free to access and use.

You can visit the CoronaWatch dashboard at [www.healthysuffolk.org.uk/jsna/coronawatch](http://www.healthysuffolk.org.uk/jsna/coronawatch).

You will be able to access national and local data, including confirmed cases of coronavirus (COVID-19), deaths from coronavirus, care home outbreaks, and Google social mobility data. You can also access a series of briefings which have been produced on related topics, all from publicly available sources.

## Other news

### **Council proposes unprecedented environmental plans in response to climate emergency**

In response to its declaration of a climate emergency, Suffolk County Council aims to lead the way with an unparalleled range of activities and policy changes to support its ambition of being a 'net zero' authority by 2030.

At its meeting on 14 July 2020, the council's Cabinet reviewed and agreed an extensive programme of recommendations to achieve this ambition.

The plans include dozens of changes and new ways of working, from making its pool car fleet all-electric, to making it mandatory for all future committee decisions to consider the net zero ambition.

Being 'net zero' means that the council will remove its carbon emissions where it can; if it is unable to do so, it will compensate for those emissions. The council will adopt a more detailed method to measure its carbon emissions output, so that it can more accurately track its progress on an annual basis.

#### **Councillor Richard Rout, Cabinet Member for Environment & Public Protection at Suffolk County Council, said:**

"Suffolk County Council has been involved with successful climate change projects for many years, including the Suffolk Climate Change Partnership. We have put millions of pounds into energy efficiency projects for both businesses and homes and continue to do so.

"Suffolk has been moving in the right direction, having seen carbon emission reductions of 41% since 1990. But now is the time to move up through the gears and do even better.

"The impact of climate change is an issue which involves everyone and affects everyone. With the approval of these plans, the council will lead by example. We will inspire other businesses to see what can be achieved, to show that change can, and must, happen."

In March 2019, Suffolk County Council was the first authority in the county to declare a climate emergency.

One of the council's priorities after this declaration was to set up a policy development panel (PDP). The panel met regularly, discussing the changes and challenges the council faces in reducing its carbon emissions. The panel included

councillors from outside the Conservative group and invited experts to share their experiences and insights. It is this panel that has compiled the recommendations.

Amongst the recommendations, Suffolk County Council will continue its work with all other local authorities and agencies, under the umbrella of the Suffolk Climate Change Partnership, which was formed in 2007. With all local authorities having now declared a climate emergency, they will use their combined powers, duties, influence and leadership, continuing their work together to achieve the net zero ambition for emissions from all of Suffolk.

Full details of the recommendations can be found in the Climate Emergency Policy Development Panel [report](#).

## **Next steps to improve the region's rail service**

A rail scheme to improve passenger rail service frequency between Ipswich/Norwich and Cambridge, and to provide a new direct rail service to Oxford, has moved a step closer with the commissioning of work to develop a business case for the Eastern Section of the East West Rail Main Line.

Consultants Steer have been appointed by the East West Rail Consortium, which has membership from local authorities across Suffolk, Norfolk, Cambridgeshire, Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire, Milton Keynes, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire, to develop a business case for enhancing rail connectivity.

The business case will be used to demonstrate to the Department for Transport the economic benefit of improving the frequency of passenger rail services between Ipswich/Norwich and Cambridge (known as the Eastern Section of the East West Rail Main Line) and of providing a new direct passenger rail link from Suffolk/Norfolk to Oxford.

If the business case is successful, the funding will be used to develop the next stage of the project, which is to assess the rail infrastructure requirements and develop a preferred rail infrastructure option.

The East West Main Line will run from Oxford to Ipswich/Norwich via Cambridge and comprises three sections – Eastern Section (the existing line between Ipswich/Norwich and Cambridge), Central Section (a new rail route between Cambridge and Bedfordshire) and Western Section (a new rail route between Oxford and Bedfordshire). Both the Central Section and Western Section have received funding commitments from Government to construct new rail links. Although a new rail link is not needed on the Eastern Section, it is anticipated that rail infrastructure is required to improve the frequency of passenger rail services to Cambridge and onwards to Oxford.

**Councillor Alexander Nicoll, Chair of East West Rail Eastern Section Group and Suffolk County Councillor and Deputy Cabinet Member for Transport, said:**

“Building a new railway connection would transform connectivity and journey times across our region and with the rest of the country.

“This would bring huge benefits to passengers and businesses, driving economic growth and creating opportunities for housing and new jobs.

“It will also go a long way to get people out of their cars, providing a greener more sustainable transport system.”

The development of the business case for the Eastern Section is anticipated to take six months, after which it will be submitted to the Department for Transport for consideration to fund the next stage of the rail investment process.

## Staying safe in the water this summer

With the weather getting warmer, many of us may be looking to enjoy the sunshine by bringing out inflatable paddling pools. However, there are risks for young children when they are around water at home.

The Child Accident and Prevention Trust (CAPT) and The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) state that drownings can be silent and can occur in as little as three centimetres of water.

They have issued guidance to parents for keeping young children safe around water in the home or garden.

While small children are playing in inflatable or home pools, parents should always provide supervision, and young children should not be trusted to supervise younger children as they may be too young to recognise danger.

It is also recommended that paddling pools are emptied when not in use and ponds are enclosed by fences or covered by grilles while children are young. Parents should remain alert to ponds and pools when visiting other people’s homes.

### **Cllr James Reeder, Cabinet Member for Public Health and Prevention, said:**

"Young children can be fascinated by water, and swimming is great for a child's health and fitness. It is however important to stay vigilant, and always supervise young children when they are in or near water.

“I urge parents to follow these simple steps so that children can enjoy the summer safely.”

Suffolk Trading Standards has also provided the following advice to consumers of paddling pools and buoyancy equipment:

- It is very important to make sure you read all the warnings on paddling pools and inflatables to ensure they are suitable for your child.
- Water toys such as inflatables must state: ‘Warning: only to be used in water in which the child is within its depth and under supervision’.
- Armbands and buoyant swim jackets are helpful to give children confidence while learning to swim. However, you should ensure your child is wearing the correct size to provide the necessary level of buoyancy.
- Rubber rings and inflatables are only suitable for children that already have some swimming ability. Be wary of allowing very young children to use these toys, and ensure you provide constant supervision.

## **Good news for Sudbury as the sale of Chilton Woods moves towards completion**

The long-awaited sale of the Chilton Woods development site on the edge of Sudbury has reached its final phase.

On 23 July, it was reported that Suffolk County Council is exchanging contracts with housing developer Taylor Wimpey, selling the land as a single lot. The sale had been planned to be exchanged and completed in March, but was delayed due to the coronavirus lockdown.

Lying within the parishes of Chilton, Acton, Sudbury and Long Melford, Chilton Woods has been allocated for development in Babergh District Council's Core Strategy and was granted outline planning permission by Babergh District Council in 2018. The development will see 1,150 new homes built, a quarter of which will be "affordable" – for rent or shared ownership. A new primary school with pre-school facilities built will be built on the site, as well as a village centre with new local retail units, a pub and village hall. 50% of the site is allocated as green space.

### **Councillor Nick Gowrley, Suffolk County Council Cabinet Member for Housing, Economic Development and Enterprise said:**

"It is fantastic that by achieving this sale SCC have been able to support the housing and employment aspirations for the Sudbury area, as laid out in Babergh District Council's local plan.

"We have also made sure to consider future community needs, including open green spaces, a community woodland, and children's play areas, providing real social value to the development. All this has been achieved while getting a good financial return for the land itself. This is fully in line with SCC's new land management and housing objectives."

The completion of the sale is expected in the next six months. The county council secured outline planning consent for the whole of the Chilton Woods development before bringing this site to the market last year. The next stage after completion will involve Taylor Wimpey, as the new owner and developer, bringing forward their final plans for the site to Babergh District Council for approval.

### **Councillor Gowrley continued:**

"I also want to thank Taylor Wimpey for their hugely professional approach to this sale, especially over the last few months, which have been challenging for everyone. I am confident that with Taylor Wimpey this professional approach will continue."

### **David Pelle, Land and Planning Director for Taylor Wimpey East London, said:**

"This is a significant site for both Taylor Wimpey and the parishes of Chilton, Acton, Sudbury and Long Melford that brings a range of benefits to the local area. We are now looking forward to engaging with residents, community stakeholders and councils as we finalise our plans before commencing construction."

## The Hold moves a step closer to completion

Monday 20 July marked the practical completion of The Hold on Ipswich Waterfront and the 'handover' of the site to Suffolk County Council.

When finished, The Hold will be the new home for Suffolk Archives' Ipswich branch, safely housing the bulk of Suffolk's nationally and internationally significant archives.

Although the majority of the construction is now complete, work will continue on site for the next few months with contractors and staff focused on building fit out, installation of furniture and IT equipment, and staff training, to ensure the site is operationally ready.

With the steady relaxing of the Coronavirus pandemic restrictions, it is likely that The Hold will now have a phased and gradual opening. With health and safety plans under development, it is hoped that the building could be ready to welcome members of the public to the opening of its first exhibition towards the end of this year.

With more than 900 years of the county's rich and diverse history to discover, when it opens this exciting new building will allow people of all ages and backgrounds to step inside and discover more about where they live and their own heritage.

The Hold will be open to everyone, offering not only archive specific services in the searchroom, library, and education room, but also state-of-the-art public facilities and teaching spaces for staff and students from the University of Suffolk. An exhibition gallery, café, shop, and garden will complete the visitor experience.

### **Councillor Paul West, Cabinet Member with responsibility for Heritage said:**

"It is fantastic to know that the majority of the construction work is now complete on site and that the building can be officially handed over to us so that it can be fitted out over the next few months. We are looking forward to sharing our archives service more widely. This fantastic purpose-built facility will make such a difference, enabling us to welcome so many more and different audiences than before. I know that much is already happening through the associated National Lottery Heritage Fund Activity Plan and I look forward to seeing this county-wide engagement continue to grow across all three of our branches, and elsewhere in Suffolk"

The Hold is a partnership project between Suffolk County Council and the University of Suffolk. It has received funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, other national organisations, and local Suffolk heritage groups.

### **Anne Jenkins, Director, England, Midlands & East at The National Lottery Heritage Fund, said:**

"The Hold is a fantastic heritage project for the East of England and it's wonderful to see that the work to ready the building for its opening is making great progress. We are excited to see the next milestones for the project ahead of opening and how people from all across Suffolk, and further afield, can discover the captivating history of the area."

## Funding secured for summer holiday activity and food programme

On 10 July, it was reported that £963,000 of funding has been secured from the Department of Education to deliver a holiday activity and food programme for children in Suffolk.

The programme which is named 'Summer in a Box' will support the most disadvantaged families, children in care and young carers over the six-week summer holiday. This will include the distribution of 1,600 activity packs to children and young people.

The packs, which have been developed in partnership with the Youth Sport Trust and a range of local voluntary, community and social enterprise groups, provide lots of practical activities for children and young people to interact with. These range from music to museums, physical activity, art, reading, mental health and wellbeing, and cooking. There is also the opportunity to engage with video tutorials and specialist tutors.

Suffolk County Council has been working with the Suffolk Community Foundation to ensure that families most in need have access to food and information on cooking and nutrition. 6000 food packs, which equates to 12,000 meals, will be sent to these families. This is in addition to free school meal vouchers.

Children who receive Free School Meals will also be able to access a range of free outdoor holiday clubs. At holiday clubs, children can take part in different sports and a range of creative activities, as well as receiving a free lunch. The clubs have been arranged in partnership with West Suffolk Council, East Suffolk Council and Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils.

Children with complex SEND issues and who are in receipt of free school meals will be able to access specialist school holiday provision. There is also a 1:1 activity programme supporting children and young people living in complex family situations, which will not only support the young person but also work with the family to help make positive changes and choices towards a trajectory of better outcomes for the young people involved.

Outreach youth work will also take place in multiple locations and provide young people with the opportunity for assistance and guidance or just someone to have a chat with.

### **Councillor Paul West, Cabinet Member for Ipswich, Communities and Waste said:**

"I am delighted that we have once again been successful in our bid for funding for our holiday activity programme for children and young people in Suffolk. The summer can often be a challenging time for families as they try to keep children occupied, happy and healthy. This will be especially true this year due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Many children have missed out on time in school and have been impacted by lockdown, so it is important that we can provide stimulating activities for them over the summer holidays."



"The Covid-19 pandemic has meant we have had to adapt and modify the programme to ensure we are in line with government guidance. This is why we have developed activity packs, so children and young people can have access to activities at home. For those children who are able to attend outdoor summer clubs we will have the appropriate measures in place to keep them safe."

## **Vans, trailers and trade waste now accepted at nine of Suffolk's recycling centres**

As of 1 July 2020, people with vans, trailers and trade waste can now book to visit nine of Suffolk's 11 recycling centres.

All visitors will need to pre-book an appointment online, where they will be asked what type of vehicle they will use and whether they are bringing household or business waste. To prevent queuing on neighbouring roads, people without a booking will not be able to enter the site. Social distancing measures also operate on site.

Currently, appointments for vans, trailers and trade waste are unavailable at Haverhill and Leiston Recycling Centres. These are smaller sites and have fewer appointments available.

There are a number of restrictions in place to help support social distancing at sites and to make sure waste is dealt with efficiently. These include:

- Vans with trailers will not be allowed on any site.
- Only one visit per household or vehicle within seven days. This allows more visitors on site, while maintaining social distancing and protecting the health and safety of site staff and users.
- Trailers must be no more than 750kg max gross weight, single axle and unbraked. No other trailer size or type is permitted.
- All waste should be pre-sorted to make your visit as quick and simple as possible and to maximise recycling.

The easy-to-use booking system is available at [www.suffolk.gov.uk/recyclingcentres](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/recyclingcentres). If you do not have access to the internet call 0345 606 6067. Residents must not arrive on site more than five minutes before their allocated time. Appointments are released on a rolling seven-day basis.

### **Paul West, Cabinet member for Waste at Suffolk County Council, said:**

"Our phased response to reopening recycling centres since the lockdown has gone extremely well and we are grateful for the support of the public in allowing us to support social distancing on site, while still having the capacity to process the county's waste."

As part of this phased reopening, the Re-use shop at Bury St Edmunds reopened on Thursday 9 July, after the successful reopening of the Re-use shop at Foxhall recycling centre. The Re-use shops at the Foxhall and Bury recycling centres were closed in March following the lockdown announcement.

The Re-use shops at Foxhall and Bury are part of a partnership between Suffolk County Council, waste and recycling partner FCC Environment, and charity partner The Benjamin Foundation. The shops were opened with the aim of reducing waste and increasing recycling in Suffolk, as well as raising vital funds for those in need.

## **Suffolk granted more funding for emergency walking and cycling schemes**

On 1 July it was reported that Suffolk has been awarded more money than expected from the Department for Transport (DfT) to support our plans for emergency temporary walking and cycling schemes.

Back in May, the Transport Secretary Grant Shapps announced a £250m investment in swift emergency interventions to make walking and cycling easier and safer during the Covid-19 pandemic to avoid overcrowding the transport network. The interventions ensure those people who need and want to make essential journeys and take daily exercise by foot or bike can do safely while maintaining social distancing.

£337,000 had been allocated to the County Council as the first tranche of its funding. But, following its proposed plans being assessed against the DfT criteria, it has now been given £376,501 as its proposals were particularly strong.

In line with the guidance from the DfT, Suffolk County Council has already made temporary emergency changes to road layouts in Ipswich by closing off sections of roads to motorised vehicles, widening existing footpaths and cycle lanes, providing temporary footpaths and cycle lanes, and changing traffic signal timings to reduce waiting times at puffin and toucan crossings.

Work continues with other schemes being considered in Bury St Edmunds, Newmarket, Beccles, Felixstowe, Stowmarket and Sudbury. For a full list of the proposed schemes please visit [suffolk.gov.uk/walkingandcycling](https://suffolk.gov.uk/walkingandcycling)

Not all of the schemes will be delivered by the County Council from the first tranche of its funding from the DfT. However, there is the potential for a second tranche of funding at a later date.

The Government has asked that evaluation and consultation are included as the emergency interventions are put in place, so that authorities can make temporary measures permanent where possible. This will enable a long-term shift to active travel as the economy moves from restart to recovery. To provide feedback on any of the schemes, please visit [suffolk.gov.uk/walkingandcycling](https://suffolk.gov.uk/walkingandcycling).

**Councillor Andrew Reid, Suffolk County Council's Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Rural Affairs, said:**

“I am delighted that Suffolk County Council has been allocated this additional funding from the Department for Transport. It shows that we as a county are able to meet the Government's criteria and work at pace to implement workable schemes in an emergency time frame.

"Many residents in Suffolk have embraced walking and cycling during the pandemic, so we have a real opportunity here to make our roads and pavements, especially in the built-up areas in our county's towns, safer not just for this unprecedented period, but for the future as well. Our aim is to embed active travel - walking and cycling - as part of a long-term habit and reap the associated health, air quality and congestion benefits.

"However, it is crucial that any of the measures we put in place work for the majority of people living on or near the streets concerned. We've been engaging closely with walking and cycling groups, local communities and councillors, and will continue to do so, to make sure accessibility is maintained for businesses, those with mobility issues and the emergency services, and these conversations will help us as we implement and evaluate our changes.

"Also, it is not just the physical infrastructure on our highway that is going to create safe active travel improvements, it is the soft measures too, which includes updating our cycling maps and marketing campaigns to encourage people to walk and cycle more."