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Court rules crooked company director must pay £50,000

It was announced on June 1st that the director of a Suffolk mobility furniture company which left customers significantly out of pocket has today been ordered to repay proceeds of his crimes.

David Waters, 73, of Manwick Road, Felixstowe, was the sole director of Anchor Mobility, whose products were marketed as life-improving and largely aimed at elderly and disabled people.

He was sentenced to 32 months in prison after Ipswich Crown Court found Anchor Mobility guilty of 15 counts of unfair commercial practice at a hearing in December 2019.

These offences included fraudulent trading, poor customer service, and misleading consumers by taking large deposits with the promise of delivering goods without ever doing so. One customer paid over £8,000 for two beds, which were never delivered, and no refund was ever received.

Suffolk Trading Standards uncovered the fraud after several victims made complaints about the company, leading them to launch an investigation into Anchor Mobility. This revealed more than 20 victims between 2016 and 2017 alone, who lost over £80,000 of their hard-earned savings.

While Anchor Mobility was fined £15,000 for its offences in 2019, additional compensation has been sought by Suffolk Trading Standards for all known victims, with this resulting in a further hearing at Ipswich Crown Court today.

The court ruled that Waters must repay £50,000 in proceeds from his crimes, reflecting the assets available to him.

Councillor Andrew Reid, Cabinet Member for Public Health and Public Protection, commented:

“David Waters ran a fraudulent business and felt no remorse at taking tens of thousands of pounds from many elderly, vulnerable and disabled consumers.

“Officers from Suffolk Trading Standards, assisted by colleagues at Norfolk Trading Standards and the National Trading Standards Tri Regional Investigation Team (East of England, London & South East), were left appalled by his despicable actions and have worked tirelessly to bring a successful prosecution against him, resulting in him being jailed.

“They have also continued to pursue Waters’ criminal assets to stop him benefiting financially from his crimes, with today’s ruling that he must pay £50,000 serving as a warning that this sort of criminal behaviour will not be tolerated, and that there is nothing to be gained from becoming involved in fraud.”

Waters is still banned from being a company director until 2029 and has also been made the subject of a criminal behaviour order, preventing him from selling products in a person’s home or having any involvement in a mobility aid company.


Family carers must be recognised for their invaluable contribution

By Councillor Rebecca Hopfensperger, Cabinet Member for Adult Care.

This week Suffolk County Council, alongside Suffolk Family Carers and other partners, will be marking Carers Week and celebrating the hard work and dedication of carers in Suffolk.

Our theme this year is 'Working together to ensure family carers are visible, valued, supported and connected'. There are an estimated 98,000 carers across Suffolk who provide unpaid care for their loved ones. In the UK, according to research from Carers UK conducted in 2020, this figure rises to 13.6 million. Their contribution is believed to have saved the country somewhere in the region of £193 billion during the Covid-19 pandemic alone – during a time when many have faced unprecedented pressure, taking on new caring responsibilities for some of the most vulnerable in our society.

That is why, this Carers Week, we are highlighting the challenges faced by unpaid carers and recognising the contribution they are making to families and communities across Suffolk and the UK.



Unfortunately, we don't know as many of these carers as we would like. There are many people across our county who support partners, friends or relatives who do not realise they are a carer for someone. They may not have consciously chosen to be a carer and consider the work they do as simply the work of a wife, husband, daughter, or brother.

This work might involve washing and dressing; shopping and food prep; helping with laundry or housework; taking someone to regular appointments; helping someone take medication; providing emotional support; or even just keeping somebody company.

Many people are carers without realising it. If you are supporting someone who cannot manage without help, whether due to illness, frailty, mental health, substance misuse or disability, then you are a carer and we want you to know that there is advice and support available.

Some of this support is financial: for example, you may be entitled to a weekly allowance or a reduction in your Council Tax. You can also find practical and emotional support. There are several groups and organisations where you can link up with other family carers and share information and experiences in a friendly setting. These can also offer a welcome break from your role as a carer.


To learn more about the types of support available, search for “[Help for carers](#)” on the Suffolk County Council website and follow the links.

Caring can be rewarding, but it can also put pressure on many other areas of your life. It can be physically and emotionally tiring. Many of you sacrifice your time, money, careers, or education opportunities to care for loved ones – but it is important to remember that your own health and wellbeing is just as important. You are not alone. If you are providing care for someone and you are struggling, please seek out the support you need.

Suffolk Family Carers have arranged a range of awareness and information sessions across the county this week to help identify unpaid carers who were previously unknown or who may not recognise themselves as a carer, and to encourage them to access this support. A full calendar of events is available on their website at suffolkfamilycarers.org

Together we can ensure that all unpaid and family carers in Suffolk are visible, valued, supported and connected.

With all that in mind, I am delighted that Suffolk's first All Age Carers Strategy is being co-produced with carers at every stage. We have been consulting with young and adult carers since February, asking them what is working well already, as well as what needs to change, and we will



continue to carry out further surveys and focus groups. There will then be a formal consultation period before the strategy is published later in the year.

I hope this strategy and the associated action plan will highlight and celebrate the important role unpaid and family carers have within the wider social care sector and will lead to greater and more accessible support for them across Suffolk.

I hope you can join us on this journey to improve support for carers in Suffolk, because the care they provide is invaluable.

Council objects to Norwich to Tilbury pylon proposals

On June 8th, Suffolk County Council confirmed its intention to object to the proposals for National Grid's East Anglia GREEN pylon run.

A new network is needed to deliver electricity between Norwich, Bramford and Tilbury, to cope with the increasing amounts of renewable and low carbon electricity being generated around East Anglia.

This is National Grid's East Anglia GREEN proposal, which would see many pylons installed across the county, affecting the Suffolk countryside and its communities.


But the council does not support this proposal as it stands. It believes that there are better ways to manage the project, for example involving an undersea network which has not been fully investigated.

The council has been campaigning for government ministers and officials to introduce a more co-ordinated off-shore approach to meet the demands of all the energy projects in the region.

Councillor Richard Rout, Suffolk County Council's Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance & Environment, has written to the Minister of State for Business, Energy and Clean Growth:

"The council absolutely supports ambitions for renewable energy and the government's commitment to meet the target of Net Zero by 2050. We recognise the benefits that can come from this project, and we continue to work with the government to develop coordinated off-shore transmission.

"However, the council objects to the proposal for National Grid's East Anglia GREEN as it stands. I am determined that Suffolk will not suffer unnecessarily as a consequence, we will continue to protect our communities, residents and natural environment.



“Suffolk County Council has been lobbying government for 11 years on the issue of better coordination for off-shore transmission. We are demanding that a more collaborative solution is found to manage the different network connection requirements coming into Suffolk and East Anglia, and that all network options are fully explored.

“Alongside other regional councillors and MPs, through our OffSET group (the Off-Shore Electricity Grid Task Force), we regularly speak with government ministers and officials to express our concerns about the impact of these projects on Suffolk, and East Anglia. Last week I wrote directly to the Minister, to continue to represent Suffolk’s communities and residents, to re-emphasise the recent points made by OffSET.”

National Grid’s public consultation on East Anglia GREEN is open until Thursday 16 June 2022 and can be found on the [National Grid website](#).

New fantail installed on historic Suffolk windmill

A historic Suffolk landmark has had a key feature restored in a refit by Suffolk County Council.

Buttrum’s Mill in Woodbridge has had a new fantail installed which mirrors the long-lost original.

The six-bladed fantail automatically turns to ensure the sails always face into the wind, regardless of whether they are turning.

This is important, as if the wind gets behind the sails, the mill is at risk of serious damage.

Built in 1836, the windmill worked until 1929 and was preserved by the former East Suffolk County Council under a 100-year lease in 1950.


Suffolk County Council is now responsible for the Grade II-listed mill’s upkeep.

Standing at more than 60 feet it is the tallest surviving mill in Suffolk.

It was built by John Whitmore, a millwright of Wickham Market, for the Trott family, and taken over in 1868 by the Buttrum family which ran it until its closure.

The original fantail was lost in the 1940s as the mill fell into disrepair following its closure.





In restorations in the 1950s a slightly smaller replacement fantail was made, but this did not matter as the sails and windmill cap no longer turned.

In the early 1980s, further restoration work enabled the cap and sails to turn once again, retaining the smaller fantail.

However, it was damaged beyond repair in gales in March 2021 and it was decided to build a new fantail of similar size and appearance to the original.

The new fantail is two feet bigger in diameter than the one it replaces, and the blades are painted dark green as they were in the 1930s.

The work cost £14,300 and was carried out by Bill Griffiths of MillBill millwrights in Ipswich, who remembers the mill from living in Woodbridge as a child.

Councillor Melanie Vigo Di Gallidoro, Suffolk County Council Deputy Cabinet Member for Protected Landscapes and Archaeology, said:

“Buttrum’s Mill is a well-known and much cherished part of the Suffolk landscape.

“As the mill’s custodians the council is delighted to have played its part in restoring this key feature so that the mill resembles how it looked in its heyday and can be enjoyed by future generations.”


The mill is in the grounds of a house built for the miller’s family and now owned and lived in by Nancy Waters, partner Henry Palmer, and their two children.

Successful communities awarded £6.4m to ‘Reclaim the Rain’ and tackle flooding

Norfolk and Suffolk County Council’s joint Reclaim the Rain project, which aims to implement innovative and sustainable water management projects, progressed on June 14th.

The Norfolk and Suffolk County Council’s joint Reclaim the Rain project, which aims to implement innovative and sustainable water management projects progresses as six communities are selected across both counties.

The project team received 37 formal applications from communities keen to be involved in Reclaim the Rain. These applications were carefully considered and whittled down to three communities in Suffolk and three in Norfolk.



The three chosen communities in Suffolk are:

- Boxford – this community displayed a strong interest in sustainable water management and ways in which the community could be more involved with water management.
- Friston – who are exploring innovative ways of resolving long-standing hard-to-resolve flood issues.
- Little Blakenham – they identified some excellent opportunities to work with upstream landowners, allowing them to have a more proactive approach in managing flood water running off their land.

The selection process was based on various factors, including each community's vulnerability to surface water flooding, water resource needs, rurality and the likelihood of attracting funding outside of our project.

In the coming months, Reclaim the Rain will be working closely with these communities to develop projects which maximise the opportunities to manage risks from both flooding and droughts. The overall project objective is to identify new ways of working that can be learnt from and evidenced to inform and influence future policy, approaches to, and investments in how flood risk is managed nationally in the coming years.


Norfolk and Suffolk both face considerable surface water flood risk, while also being the driest region in the UK. The project will aim to store flood water and make it available for use by agriculture, industry, communities, and the environment.

The project will involve both partner organisations and the community in the development of suitable flood water reuse schemes. The schemes will address the community's needs in terms of flood risk and water resource requirements, and could result in provision of:

- Habitat creation and restoration;
- Irrigation reservoir recharge
- Rainwater Capture and Reuse for community, agriculture or business use;
- Retrofitted SuDS;
- Smart Leaky Water Butts
- Rain Gardens and more

Councillor Paul West, Suffolk County Council's Cabinet Member for Ipswich, Operational Highways and Flooding, said:

"Flooding is a very real and challenging issue across many areas in Suffolk and there is much we are doing to minimise the risk for our residents. This



project will take our efforts to the next level by working with six case study communities to capture that excess water and put it to good use. We live in the driest part of the UK, so every drop that falls on it is precious – any way that we can find a more sustainable use for this water will benefit us now and in years to come.

I am excited by the announcement of Boxford, Little Blakenham and Friston as Suffolk's chosen communities, and congratulate officers and selected communities across the two counties, in what will no doubt be a fascinating and innovative 6-year programme."

Suffolk leading the way in UK's water conservation

Announced on June 16th, a new scheme based in Felixstowe reuses over 800,000 tonnes of water.

Since its launch in February 2021 a unique scheme to the UK, based in Felixstowe, has saved over 800,000 tonnes of water being lost to the North Sea - and reused it to grow Suffolk crops.

Drainage water has traditionally been pumped away to the River Deben and North Sea, damaging saltmarsh along the way. Instead, it is now pumped back inland, conserving the saltmarsh and refilling 14 reservoirs, which six local farms are using to irrigate their crops.


Last week (9-10 June 2022) local landowners and national organisations were invited to visit the site, to hear first-hand from the scheme's operators, Felixstowe Hydrocycle, and from farmers who are benefitting from the scheme.

Organised by Suffolk County Council, working with the Environment Agency and University of East Anglia as key partners of the project, the event aimed to inspire more schemes to be trialled around Suffolk, the UK and Europe.

Councillor Steve Wiles, County Councillor for Felixstowe Coastal and Suffolk County Council's Deputy Cabinet Member for Highways, said:

"I'm extremely proud that Suffolk and the council is a national leader with projects like this. I'm grateful for the vision and commitment shown by all the partners and landowners who are making this a success.

"Our region is a dry place and already faces challenges with its water supply – it's estimated that by 2050 we'll need to double our supply if we continue to use water at the current rate. Any way that we can conserve water is crucial and if we can do this whilst supporting our farmers and landowners, then it reaffirms Suffolk's importance to providing for the UK.





“This project epitomises the council’s ambition to protect and enhance our environment. It also complements our aim for the authority, and Suffolk, to be Net Zero by 2030. Sustainable projects like this really do confirm how Suffolk can be the greenest county.”

The Felixstowe scheme is one of only four being trialled across Europe, overseen by FRESH4Cs, a cooperation project between 10 UK, Belgian and Dutch partners. FRESH4Cs has received funding from the Interreg 2 Seas programme 2014-2020 co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund.

The drainage water is sourced from the Kingsfleet near Felixstowe and travels along a 12km pipeline to local farms where it is stored in existing reservoirs ready for irrigation. The pipeline route has been carefully plotted to avoid areas of conservation and archaeological sites.

Extra funding agreed by Cabinet to fund new SEND places

Funding for second phase of £45 million five-year project agreed by Cabinet.

Suffolk County Council’s Cabinet has today agreed an additional £15.9million to complete the funding for the creation of at least 879 specialist places for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities.


This money marks the second phase of a £45million five-year project to deliver specialist provision for SEND students in Suffolk. These places include units attached to mainstream schools and three new special schools.


So far, 500 new places have opened across the county, with another 325 due to open between September 2022 and September 2024 under phase 1. The additional money will enable the completion of phase 2 of the project, and the creation of between 54 to 72 new places, depending on design and planning.

The new SEND places support the growing number of children and young people in Suffolk who need specialist help at school. Between September 2021 and May 2022 there have been 1,333 referrals for specialist placements for children currently in mainstream schools.

Rachel Hood, Cabinet member for education, SEND and skills at Suffolk County Council, said:

“I have had the privilege of visiting some of these new units and seeing first-hand the significant difference they make to children and young





people and their families. It is vital that we continue to increase not only the numbers of places we offer, but also the mix of help and support we offer so we can continue to meet the varied need of lots of young people. This significant investment shows our ongoing commitment to improving our SEND provision and making sure all children and young people in Suffolk have the best education to suit their needs.”

Plans for new SEND places under phase 3 will come before Cabinet from September. The newly-approved £15.9million includes £6million to complete phase 2, £4.6million to cover overspend and a grant from the Department for Education of £5.3million.

The special schools include Castle EAST, a new communication and interaction school in north Suffolk; a new social, emotional and mental health school in west Suffolk named Sir Peter Hall; and a communication and interaction school in south Suffolk, Woodbridge Road Academy.

Our wonderful county has so much it can be proud of on Suffolk Day

A column by Leader of the Council, Councillor Matthew Hicks.


June 21st was Suffolk Day, the longest day of the year, and the day we celebrated everything that is great about our county.


We have so much to be proud of in Suffolk, and after two very different Suffolk Days in 2020 and 2021, we can now join together again and celebrate all that makes Suffolk great. This year Suffolk Day is also part of the Festival of Suffolk, to mark The Queen’s Platinum Jubilee, and it has been fantastic to see so many people hosting street parties and other community events to recognise this historic event.

The proclamation of Suffolk Day will be read this morning outside Framlingham Castle, and I look forward to seeing many of our county’s mayors gathered outside the famous Castle on the Hill for this.

Mark Murphy was inspired in 2016 to set up an annual event to recognise everything that makes Suffolk great. Since then, Suffolk County Council has supported Suffolk Day. One of the ways we continue to do this is by looking after www.suffolkday.co.uk, and I’m pleased to say that we have been able to launch a new version of the website in time for this year’s celebration. You can find details of all the events being held today on the website, as well as promotional materials and information about Suffolk Day.

If you can’t make it to a Suffolk Day event today, you could visit one of the 25 ‘Icons of Suffolk’ that have been announced today from Newmarket





Racecourse to Landguard Fort, the Suffolk Punch horse and Sutton Hoo mask, Benjamin Britten to Ed Sheeran - so many great symbols of our county.

We also proudly fly the Suffolk flag at Endeavour House and have replaced the majority of the 'Welcome to Suffolk' road signs with new signs displaying images of the local area, showing the beauty of our county as you cross the border.

Councillor colleagues and I will also be out and about visiting Suffolk Day events and marking the day.

As an example, Cllr Andrew Reid, Cabinet Member for Public Health and Public Protection, will be spending the day visiting Trading Standards at Landmark House before heading to the Port of Felixstowe to spend time with the Imports team, then making his way to Ipswich East Fire Station.

Suffolk Day is not just about our wonderful places, but also our incredible people, including those who work tirelessly to protect our county's residents.

As another example, Cllr Bobby Bennett, our new cabinet member for Equality and Communities, will be attending a coffee morning at Beccles Library where they will be celebrating the 10th anniversary of Suffolk Libraries. She will also visit the Long Shop Museum in Leiston, where they are offering free entry on Suffolk Day, as well as hosting local charities and community groups to showcase their services.

Today we are also holding the first of our 'Local Matters – We are Listening' events at The Triangle in Felixstowe from 11am – 1pm. I will be there, alongside other councillors and officers from Suffolk County Council, talking to local people to find out what matters to them and their local community. For the past two years we haven't been able to get out into the community to meet Suffolk residents in this way, and I'm looking forward to hearing what everyone has to say.

We will also have information on what Suffolk County Council is doing in the Felixstowe area and across the county, as well as talking about 'Our Ambitions for Suffolk' which we launched at the Suffolk Show. These will be our guide as we build back better, build back stronger, and build back greener, and focus on four ambitions: looking after our health and wellbeing, strengthening our local economy, protecting and enhancing our environment and providing value for money for our residents.

[Bury St Edmunds archives branch starts planning for the future](#)



It was announced on June 23rd that Suffolk County Council is looking to the future as it considers plans for its Suffolk Archives branch in Bury St Edmunds.

As part of long-term planning for the Suffolk Archives service, the county council is looking at options for either remaining at its current location in Raingate Street or moving to the planned new Western Way Development.

Councillor Bobby Bennett, Cabinet Member for Equality and Communities, said:

“We need to ensure that our archives service is fit for the future, operates efficiently and provides value for money for our residents. It also needs to be accessible to all our visitors, whether that is at our existing branch in Raingate Street or elsewhere in Bury St Edmunds.

“Recent inspections have shown that if the service were to remain at Raingate Street, alterations requiring significant investment would be needed for the long-term future sustainability of the building, as well as to provide a modern and inclusive archive service in the town.”

The planned hub development at Western Way, Bury St Edmunds, will introduce state of the art replacement leisure facilities, as well as health, education and other public services to a site which is already a close neighbour of West Suffolk College, the Abbeygate Sixth Form, several schools and the existing council offices. It is expected to open to the public in 2025.

Suffolk County Council will be working with users of the branch, depositors of archive documents, and other key local stakeholders to show what the archives service would be able to offer in the future at either Raingate Street or the Western Way development, as well as how they can input into the council’s decision.


No decision has been made and any proposed options for the Bury St Edmunds Archives Branch will be considered by Suffolk County Council’s Cabinet later in the year.

[Suffolk looks closer this Modern Slavery Awareness Week](#)

The Suffolk Safer Stronger Communities Board (SSCB) is raising awareness of Modern Slavery from June 27th as part of a local campaign.

The campaign, ‘Suffolk Looks Closer’ will support people to spot the signs of Modern Slavery and empower them to report any concerns.

Modern Slavery is an umbrella term used when someone is coerced or forced to do something they don’t want to do and another person gains



from this exploitation. Victims of Modern Slavery are held against their will and are often unseen and unheard. They can be of any age, gender, nationality and ethnicity. It is often hidden in plain sight, making it harder to recognise victims. People are often unable to escape because of fear for their own lives or for the lives of their family, or because they don't know who to turn to or who to trust. 40.3 million people worldwide are estimated to be victims of Modern Slavery.

There are five main types of Modern Slavery, but the focus for this week is labour exploitation and sexual exploitation.

Labour exploitation is when victims are forced to work against their will for long hours and for little or no pay, in poor conditions and under verbal or physical threats of violence to them or their families. Sexual exploitation is when victims are pressured or manipulated into sexual activity. Victims are primarily women and children, but men can be affected too.


The Modern Slavery Network, which reports to the SSCB will be hosting a number of community events across the week in Bury St Edmunds, Lowestoft, Sudbury and Ipswich, where people can speak to representatives from Suffolk Police, Suffolk County Council and local District and Borough Councils. The events will run between **10:30am and 3:00pm**- see the full list of events below:

- **Wednesday 29 June** – Bury St Edmunds, Market Place – Suffolk Constabulary
- **Thursday 30 June** - Lowestoft Britton Centre – Suffolk Constabulary, East Suffolk Council
- **Thursday 30 June** – Sudbury, Market Place - Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Council, Suffolk County Council, Suffolk Constabulary
- **Thursday 30 June** – Ipswich Cornhill – Suffolk Constabulary, Ipswich Borough Council, Gangmasters Labour Abuse Authority, Suffolk County Council

Partners will also be sharing social media content across the week using the hashtag [**#SuffolkLooksCloser**](#).

Cllr Bobby Bennett, Cabinet Member for Equality and Communities and Chair of the Safer Stronger Communities Board, said:

“Modern slavery is happening here in the UK, it is not just something that’s happening beyond our borders. We can all play a part in stamping out exploitation by learning to spot the signs. Victims are often isolated, have unusual travel arrangements, show signs of untreated injuries and may be reluctant to seek help. If you think something isn’t right, report it.”



You can report any concerns to the UK Modern Slavery & Exploitation helpline on 08000 121 700. It is free, confidential, open 24 hours and available in 200 languages. You can also report to Suffolk Police on 101. Remember, if someone is in immediate danger please call 999 and report it to the police. Do not attempt to intervene yourself as you may put yourself and others in danger, including potential victims of modern slavery.

Visit [UnseenUK](#) or [download the Unseen app](#), for more information about the common signs of exploitation and how to report it.

The number of referrals in Suffolk has increased annually in line with the national trend. We have seen an increase in Suffolk Modern Slavery reporting to Suffolk Police from just under 20 reports in 2016 to in excess of 140 reports in 2021.