



District Councillors Report to Little Bealings Parish Council Meeting

For May 2026

Carlford and Fynn Valley Ward.

Rushmere Village, Great Bealings, Little Bealings, Playford, Bredfield, Grundisburgh & Culpho, Witnesham and Swilland, Westerfield, Hasketon, Clopton, Charsfield, Dallinghoo, Tuddenham, Boulge, Burgh, Debach, Otley.

From District Councillor

Cllr Colin Hedgley

Colin.Hedgley@eastsoffolk.gov.uk

Westerfield Quarry (SCC/0093/25SC)

We are still awaiting a decision. A number of clarification requests have been sent to the applicants. As I have stated before, the application will not now be considered until well after the County Council Elections on the 7th May. Then the new Councillors will have to undergo training in order to sit on certain committees. So, my guess is more like a June/July decision.

Devolution

The new Local (District) Councils will be in place from May 2028. The Mayoral Election should take place in 2028. Of course anything could change.

I make no secret of my disappointment. I firmly believe that one council for the whole of Suffolk was the best way forward. Having three separate Councils looking after Social Services, Education, SEND children etc doesn't seem to me the best way of streamlining local services. Or saving money!

Planning.

'Planning' is still undergoing some major changes from this government. with the aim of speeding up the delivery of new homes. East Suffolk has had their built homes figure increased from 905 to 1660. The first phase of asking for sites has been completed and the second phase will eventually see the development plan for each area.

Waste and Recycling

2026 will see the introduction of a new bin collection system. The distribution of new bins is well underway and many have now received them.

The details can be viewed on the East Suffolk Website. Just enter **Better Recycling**.



Boot Street Bridge

I do not know when Boot Street Bridge will be repaired. So, lorries of 3 ton or more will still have to find alternative routes and I daresay additional traffic passing through Rushmere Village.

District Councillor Funding.

As you are aware I have a certain amount of money each year in order to help good causes and projects around Carlford Ward. It does not amount to much though, just £7500 to be spread over 17 Parishes. In the past I have assisted Rushmere Village financially and the call on funding increases with each year.

Support has been agreed for temporary coastal defences which will provide short-term protection for homes at Thorpeness.

Funding was agreed to support the urgent installation of rock bags on the beach in front of homes in the Old Homes Road area. Expected to last between two and five years, the rock bags aim to slow erosion and reduce the risk of flooding through wave overtopping to a number of homes and allow time for further future options to be considered.

Planning- How is East Suffolk Progressing?

Planning figures can be pretty boring on occasions.

However, there is plenty of information on the East Suffolk website [Planning application and enforcement statistics | East Suffolk Council](#) webpage.

Call for Sites

The call for sites has now been completed and a map of these has now been published. This does not mean that they will all be accepted or that the ones accepted will be built on in its entirety. However, your experience in the past will have shown you that we must be vigilant in order to have our say.

The map can be viewed on the ESC Planning website and "Call for sites submission map"

Council launches 2026 apprenticeship scheme

To help grow local talent. East Suffolk Council is helping people unlock their potential with the return of its successful apprenticeship scheme.

There are six new opportunities available in a number of teams, including Coastal Properties, Communities, Finance, Private Sector Housing and Planning.



Potential apprentices can learn more about the scheme and about working for the Council by attending a special open evening, which will take place between 5.30pm and 7pm at East Suffolk House in Melton on Tuesday 12 May, and at Riverside in Lowestoft on Thursday 14 May. Please email HR@eastsoffolk.gov.uk to book your place.

The scheme returns for a fourteenth year. Each cohort is full of talented apprentices that bring unique qualities to the work they do. Apprenticeships provide the opportunity to gain workplace experience, high quality training, and a recognised qualification - all while in paid employment.

The apprenticeship scheme has no upper age limit. Prospective apprentices can be reassured that our supportive culture will enable them to get more out of their apprenticeship than just a qualification.

Current apprenticeship opportunities: <https://eastsoffolk.co/2026-apprenticeship-scheme>

East Suffolk Council careers page: <https://eastsoffolk.co/jobs-2026>

Applications close on Monday 8 June, with all apprentices expected to start in September.

Entries open for two East Suffolk planning awards '

East Suffolk Council is to open nominations for two planning awards as it launches the East Suffolk Developers Charter Awards for the first time alongside the Quality of Place Awards.

Celebrating developments that go above and beyond minimum standards, members of the public and residents living in new developments are invited to put forward projects that demonstrate close community collaboration for the Developers Charter Awards.

With nominations also welcomed from town and parish councils and developers, the awards aim to recognise and support developers that carry out meaningful engagement with the community and achieve high quality design in terms of appearance, function and sustainability, across five categories:

- Participation and engagement
- Landscape and biodiversity
- Homes
- Sustainable design
- Consideration construction and community ownership

Championing high standards in all forms of design - including planning, architecture, sustainable development, ecology, landscape design and community engagement - the Quality of Place Awards established in 2010 invites nominations for projects across six categories:

- Design – New build
- Design – Extensions and alterations
- Building Conservation



- Community
- Landscape
- Nature/ecology

Nominations can be made online at:

[East Suffolk Developers Charter](#)

[Quality of Place Awards](#)

Nominations for both awards close on Friday 3 July.