# Welcome to our July report. As things are easing and re-opening we also echo the words below from the Leader regarding “Stick with It Suffolk” The Virus has not gone away and we must all remain cautious, careful and respectful of others.

**On 24 June, the Planning Inspectorate accepted EDF Energy’s application for Development Consent Order (DCO) for a new nuclear power station, Sizewell C. The DCO documentation has been published on the Planning Inspectorate website:** [**https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/eastern/sizewell-c-newnuclear-power-station/**](https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/eastern/sizewell-c-newnuclear-power-station/)

**We have endeavoured to send through regular energy updates to all of our town and parish clerks to forward onto you, others, council websites, notice boards and newsletters to keep you and our communities updated. We would also like to thank everyone that has copied us into their emails and written to us personally. Councils have teams working on the project and are always available to answer questions on the joint email address sizewellc@eastsuffolk.gov.uk (copy us in please) If there is anyone who requires help or clarification regarding EDF or SPR then please do get in touch and we will endeavour to help/signpost. We have also requested a “timeline” regarding projects and will send this to all of our clerks once we have received the information requested.**

**You may be aware of an agenda item that is to be brought to SCC relating to Sizewell, a link to the relevant papers might be of interest as follows:**

**-**[**https://committeeminutes.suffolk.gov.uk/DocSetPage.aspx?MeetingTitle=(09-07-2020),%20County%20Council**](https://committeeminutes.suffolk.gov.uk/DocSetPage.aspx?MeetingTitle=(09-07-2020),%20County%20Council)

**Please also communicate your comments re any planning applications as per our reminder in previous reports.**

**Keep safe**

**TJ & Jocelyn.**

# Council Leader: “Have a super Saturday, but don’t blow it”

East Suffolk Council is working closely with local hospitality businesses to help them re-open safely, however the Council Leader is asking everyone to approach what was being termed as 'Super Saturday' with care and common sense.

As a result of the recent Business and Planning Bill, premises will be able to provide outdoor seating and stalls, making it easier for customers to safely drink and dine outside. The Council’s Licensing and Food & Safety Teams have written to businesses, providing them with the information they need to comply with Government guidance, including the simplified licensing/planning process. The Council is also waiving the application charge for pavement licences of up to £100.

Cllr Steve Gallant, Leader of East Suffolk Council, says it is essential that the Council makes it as simple as possible for businesses to re-open safely. However, he also stresses that customers must remember the **“Stick with it Suffolk”** health message and the importance of good behaviour for the future prospects of the pub, restaurant, and wider hospitality industry in East Suffolk.

He said: “I am acutely aware that people have been waiting a long time for this day and how important it is for pubs and restaurants to be trading again. The hospitality industry in East Suffolk provides a fantastic offering and it will be great to see so many outstanding premises back open and functioning. Having waived the pavement licence application charge, we have explained clearly to businesses what measures must be taken to adhere to government guidelines and we are confident that these will be respected and adhered to.

“However, there is a huge onus on anyone who is going out this weekend to behave properly and not to blow this opportunity. Social distancing remains critically important and I would be very worried indeed if people took their safety and the safety of others for granted. People may be really looking forward to that first pint -and I know that most people will be sensible - but we are not out of the woods by any means and if people don’t use common sense, we could see a second wave which will close everything down once again.”

Cllr Gallant also expressed concern about any additional strain placed on emergency and public services this weekend. He said: “If people are determined to go out in large numbers on Saturday night, it is almost certain that there will be pressures on the police and medical services throughout the country. So I am asking the people of East Suffolk, and particularly those in our larger towns, to make life as easy as possible for them. Also, I hope that customers will think of local residents and be respectful both in terms of noise nuisance and, of course, any littering which the Council will need to deal with.

“The COVID-19 pandemic has been hard, particularly for people working in hospitality and related sectors, and reopening in a safe manner is a step towards economic recovery. The addition of outdoor seating and pavement drinking is also an important way to allow businesses to function more safely – but this comes with responsibility and consideration for other people. So, my message once again is absolutely clear. Please enjoy yourselves but don’t blow it.”

**Play areas and skateparks will start re-opening.**

Preparation work got underway as East Suffolk Council started the process of re-opening play areas and skateparks following further easing of lockdown restrictions.

Following the latest announcement from the Government, East Suffolk Council and East Suffolk Norse were busy preparing for play areas and skateparks to start re-opening from Saturday 4 July. This work includes inspecting all sites to ensure they are safe and clear for re-opening and installing new signage to highlight the guidelines which must be followed by users. All sites will be re-opened once this is completed. We are encouraging families, children, and young people to enjoy the sites safely by continuing to follow the official guidelines.

We know that many families, children and young people have missed the play areas and skateparks, and we are excited that these can once again be enjoyed by the very people they were built for. However, it remains of uttermost importance that we all continue to play our part in controlling the virus.Therefore, the Council would like to remind everyone, young and old, to continue to follow the Government’s guidelines and any additional guidelines displayed when using our outdoor spaces. If a site is busy and it is not possible to practice social distancing, please consider coming back at another time when it is less busy. Also remember to bring hand sanitiser and use this frequently, and, as a minimum, before and after using any equipment. We know it can be hard to explain, especially to young children, but if you are a parent or a guardian of a child or young person, please make sure you have a chat with them about not congregating in groups or using busy sites, being patient and waiting their turns and continuing to follow the guidelines.

# Council trials new scheme to reconnect older residents

East Suffolk Council has started trialling a new scheme which helps reconnect older residents who are vulnerable due to social isolation.

The East Suffolk Grandpad Loan Scheme is aimed at tackling social isolation amongst mainly older residents who have little or no contact with loved ones or the outside world due to a lack of Wi-Fi, equipment and/or skills.

Grandpads have been specifically designed around the need of older adults, and the large buttons and intuitive interface make it easy for older people to use the device to connect with loved ones and the outside world without the complicated features of other tablets.

Initially, the Council will trial the scheme over a period of 12 months, by lending 24 Grandpads (free of charge) to older residents across the District who have been identified as being socially isolated. The devices will include unlimited 4G internet, 24/7 personalised support and unlimited minutes, so users can easily make phone calls at no extra costs.

Once the trial period ends, East Suffolk Council will evaluate and determine its success and whether residents will benefit from the scheme being rolled out across the District if additional funding can be secured.

Many older people have little or no experience with technology but that doesn’t mean they should be excluded from the many benefits it can offer, such as keeping connected with loved ones, accessing health services and online shopping. This scheme enables users to do a whole range of things online safe in the knowledge that the device can be trusted and that only trusted contacts can communicate with them. The Grandpads could open up a whole new world of opportunities to people that have them

# Enjoy your time outdoors but please don’t litter

As restrictions begin to ease, more people are enjoying time at East Suffolk’s beaches, open spaces and countryside however the increase in visitors has also brought an unwelcome increase in litter.

As people spend more time outdoors, the amount of litter discarded across the district has increased dramatically. And whilst many people are using the litter bins provided at beaches, parks and other popular open spaces, others are dropping litter during their visit or are leaving rubbish beside bins which although well meaning, is still a form of littering.

Unfortunately, a large amount of the litter currently being collected around East Suffolk is takeaway food packaging which is not only unsightly and damaging for the environment but is also attractive to pests.

To tackle the growing litter issue, East Suffolk Norse have installed additional waste bins in popular areas and are emptying all litter bins more frequently. However, people are reminded that their rubbish is their responsibility and are asked to help keep East Suffolk beautiful, by disposing of their rubbish either in the nearest litter bin or if there is not a bin, or the bin is already full, taking it home.

Cllr James Mallinder, East Suffolk Council’s cabinet member for the Environment said: “East Suffolk has some of the most beautiful beaches and rural areas in the country and as some restrictions are lifted, we want our residents to be able to enjoy these areas safely. Unfortunately, we are seeing an increase in litter especially from takeaway and fast food businesses. There is no excuse for littering. We appreciate that bins may be filling up more quickly and we are doing all we can to empty bins as often as possible. If a bin is full, please look for another or take your rubbish home.

“Small actions make a big difference and if everyone takes responsibility for their own rubbish when out and about, we will hopefully experience far less litter in our beautiful district.”

People are also being encouraged to report overflowing or damaged litter bins, by calling 0333 016 2000 or emailing customerservices@eastsuffolk.gov.uk.

Food businesses in East Suffolk can also help reduce litter by restarting their trade waste collections, ensuring waste directly generated from their business does not end up spoiling the local area.

# Young people invited to have their say about lockdown

To help identify what support may be necessary in future, young people living in East Suffolk are invited to take part in a survey about how they have been affected by Covid-19. Responses to this survey, launched by East Suffolk Youth Voice, will be used to help identify what support might be needed for young people as lockdown restrictions are eased, or if a similar situation was to happen again.  
  
The restrictions have been difficult for many people however our young people have been particularly affected through school and college closures, uncertainty about their future career or education pathways and missing out on vital social activity. We want to find out how young people are feeling so we can help ensure the necessary support is available.

[**Take part in the survey**](https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/BCGMJMN) <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/BCGMJMN>  
  
Youth Voice, also known as the East Suffolk Youth Forum, was established earlier this year and gives young people the opportunity to raise issues directly with East Suffolk Council. This can currently be done by emailing [communities@eastsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:communities@eastsuffolk.gov.uk).  
  
The survey closes on Friday 24 July and the findings will be made available in time for the start of the new school year in September.

# New scheme launched to support fishing industry during pandemic

An initiative providing practical support to the fishing industry across the country has launched a scheme specifically to help those in the East of England.

[Call4Fish is a nationwide initiative](http://www.call4fish.com/) designed to facilitate and enable practical support to the fishing industry during the Covid19 crisis and beyond. It helps reconnect customers with suppliers, helps rebuild the supply chain and protects jobs. It also ensures customers can safely purchase high-quality sustainable fish and shellfish caught by British boats in home waters.

Local authorities in Norfolk and Suffolk and the New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership are working in partnership with Call4Fish and have launched Call4Fish (East) to support the local fishing industry from Kings Lynn to Felixstowe.

Call4Fish (East) will provide a range of services and work alongside local organisations who understand the issues and have a direct stake in supporting their communities. This local knowledge and expertise will help to deliver a much more joined-up and coordinated approach that can help protect jobs and ensure fishermen can go to sea.

Businesses already working with the national Call4Fish initiative have reported positively on the scheme. Gerry Skews, Director of Waveney Valley Smokehouse said: “We have seen significant business growth since being part of the Call4Fish initiative. While we expected interest across Norfolk and Suffolk, we have been surprised by the response right across the country.”

Cllr Craig Rivett, East Suffolk’s Cabinet Member for Economic Development at East Suffolk Council, said: “We are delighted that there are already ten regional fish and shellfish suppliers registered with Call4Fish (East) who offer collection and direct delivery services across Norfolk and Suffolk. We expect the network to grow, bringing further benefits to the local area.

“East Suffolk Council is committed to supporting local businesses, and we will continue to work closely with all sectors of the fishing industry to support the progress of the district’s economic recovery in the months ahead.”

Cllr. Nick Gowrley, Suffolk County Council’s Cabinet Member for Economic Development said. “Suffolk County Council has always recognised and valued the considerable economic contribution of our coastal and fishing communities.  We are therefore pleased to give Call4Fish (East) our full support.  There can be no denying that restarting and reinforcing existing local supply lines, as well as creating new opportunities between Suffolk suppliers and consumers, is key to Suffolk’s post pandemic economic recovery.  But this isn’t just about recovery, it is also about identifying and encouraging future growth in this important industry for Suffolk.”

Cllr Graham Plant, Norfolk County Council’s Cabinet Member for Growing the Economy, said: “We are really pleased to be supporting the Call4Fish programme, helping to connect customers with suppliers and rebuild the supply chain whilst protecting jobs across Norfolk. This will help aide the recovery of an important and historic sector to Norfolk’s economy from Covid19, and also ensures residents can purchase with confidence safe, high quality fish and shellfish caught by our local fishing industry. We would encourage all Norfolk fish and shellfish suppliers to register with Call4Fish for a free listing for their business.”

Chris Starkie, Chief Executive of the New Anglia LEP, said: “It is great to see this innovative platform being rolled out to support Norfolk and Suffolk’s fishing industry, its supply chain and customers. Many businesses have had to look for new ways to market and sell their produce during the Covid-19 pandemic and I’m sure there is potential for this to continue to grow and develop into a tremendous digital asset for the sector.”

Businesses in the fishing industry wishing to be part of the Call4Fish (East) initiative can sign up by contacting [call4fisheast@gmail.com](mailto:call4fisheast@gmail.com). Supplier listings are free and there is a simple registration process.

Members of the public can find lists of suppliers and how to place an order from our local [Suffolk](https://www.call4fish.com/suffolk) and [Norfolk](https://www.call4fish.com/norfolk) suppliers at [www.call4fish.com](http://www.call4fish.com/). They can also find addresses of where they can collect orders directly from retailers who all have social distancing measures in place.

Details and delivery options will change as more suppliers join the network, so customers are reminded to check the website regularly or register to receive updates directly.

# New campaign launched to support those with financial worries

East Suffolk Council and its three local Citizens Advice services have launched a new campaign to remind residents with financial worries that free support and advice is available.

To encourage people to talk about any money worries they have to avoid financial problems building up over time, East Suffolk Council and East Suffolk’s Citizens Advice services (CAs) have joined forces and launched a new campaign, titled ‘Money Matters – Managing Debt Together.”

The aim of the campaign is to direct people to the CAs, which provides free, independent, impartial, and confidential quality assured advice to those with money worries. The team can talk about any financial issues people may have – whether this is advice on debts, or if you’re worried about going into debt in the current climate – and explain the options and solutions available to address the issue.

If you’re worried about money, it is important to know that you are not alone. Free support is available in East Suffolk, and we urge people to talk to us about any financial worries they may have, whether big or small. No one will judge you for any decisions that you have made that have led to money problems. Our Citizens Advice are here to help and suggest ways to deal with debt and offer advice on ways to manage your money.

**Chiara Saunders, Chief Officer at Leiston, Saxmundham & District Citizens Advice, said:**

“We understand how stressful it can be when people are facing financial difficulties, which is why we really wanted to get involved in this campaign to ensure that residents in East Suffolk know that they don’t need to worry alone.

“At Citizens Advice we provide free, professional, and quality assured advice and we take the time to understand your circumstances and provide advice on maximising your income, minimising your expenditure, and managing any debts or arrears.

“Equally, our experience and knowledge of the local area means that we can help you access additional support you may not be aware of. We are only a phone call or an email away and anything you tell us in the strict confidence.”

To talk to someone from one of the CAs teams, call 0330 107 5627 or email [moneymatters@nescab.cabnet.org.uk](mailto:moneymatters@nescab.cabnet.org.uk) Monday – Friday between 9.30am – 4pm or find your nearest CA on the [Citizens Advice website](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/about-us/contact-us/contact-us/search-for-your-local-citizens-advice/?q=&q2=&c=SERP-BUREAU).

# Conservation areas identified across East Suffolk

Posted by on 16 June 2020 | Comments

As part of plans to increase biodiversity in East Suffolk, forty new conservation areas are being created to benefit wildlife.

Non-essential grounds maintenance, including grass cutting, [was temporarily suspended in April](https://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/news/grass-cutting-and-grounds-maintenance-work-reduced/) to ensure the safety of staff and the public. During this time, only grassed areas which presented a safety, visibility or access issue were cut.

Some of the areas where grass was left to grow longer over the past two months have started to ‘re-wild’, with anecdotal examples of increases in insect and pollinator levels, and an increase in the numbers of wildflowers.

As restrictions begin to ease, East Suffolk Council is reviewing the way these spaces are managed going forward. Forty areas across the district have been identified as ‘wild spaces’ where grass will be left to grow, wildflower seeds will be planted, and the area will not be cut until the end of the season. These areas, which are large enough to provide an environmental benefit and do not present any safety issues for local communities, will be marked with new signs to make residents and visitors aware.

Cllr James Mallinder, East Suffolk’s cabinet member for the Environment said: “We know our residents are keen for us to create more spaces for the benefit of wildlife and had already committed to trialling reduced strimming and cutting in Southwold and Saxmundham this year. Reduced grass cutting across the whole of East Suffolk, enforced by Covid-19 restrictions, helped us to identify these larger spaces which will be ideal for conservation and we will now manage these to help wildlife to thrive, through reduced cutting and the sowing of wildflowers.

“We are committed to promoting environmental sustainability and ensure responsible stewardship of our open spaces. By making these small changes, we are hopeful these conservation areas will benefit both wildlife and local people living nearby.”

Since declaring a climate emergency in 2019, East Suffolk Council has expressed its intention to increase the amount of wild spaces in the district, where a more conservation-based approach to cutting could promote biodiversity.

In addition, a trial of managing grass more sustainably in some churchyards has been well received, so this will now become permanent.

In residential and other key areas such as parks, grass cutting will continue as per the usual maintenance schedule.

Town and parish councils, supported by East Suffolk Norse, will be asked to monitor these conservation areas to remove litter and control any invasive plant species. Town and parish councils are also encouraged to contact East Suffolk Council to highlight additional areas which could benefit from a possible change in how they are managed.

The conservation areas are:  
  
• Castleton Avenue, Lowestoft (footpaths)  
• Bloodmoor Road, Carlton Colville (two roundabouts)  
• Yarmouth Road, Lowestoft  
• Beaconsfield Road / Field Lane, Kessingland  
• Lloyds Avenue / Church Road, Kessingland  
• Kilbrack, Beccles (open space)  
• London Road, Beccles (open space)  
• Barnham Road, Beccles (open space)  
• Cemetery, Beccles  
• Waveney Drive, Bungay (open space)  
• Wherry Road, Bungay (open space)  
• Mayfair Road, Bungay (open space)  
• Stradbroke Road, Lowestoft (open space)  
• Dorleydale, Carlton Colville (open space)  
• Dales, Lowestoft (footpath)  
• Colsterdale, Carlton Colville (open space)  
• Aveling Way, Carlton Colville (open space)  
• Marbella Green, Carlton Colville (open space)  
• Westwood Avenue / Long Road, South Lowestoft  
• College Meadows, Lowestoft  
• Durban Close, Halesworth  
• Allington Road, Halesworth (open space)  
• Jermyn Way, Halesworth (open space)  
• Chichester Road, Halesworth (open space)  
• Old Station Road, Halesworth (open space)  
• A1152 to Warwick Avenue, Woodbridge – Melton – Bredfield Road (verges)  
• Bury Hill, Woodbridge (road banks)  
• Woodbridge A12 from A1152 – B1428 (verges)  
• B14138, Ufford (verges)  
• Garrison Lane, Felixstowe (verges)  
• Grove Road, Felixstowe (verges)  
• Candlet Road, Felixstowe (verges)  
• Cliff Road Car Park, Old Felixstowe  
• Brandon Road, Felixstowe (open space)  
• Grange Farm Avenue, Felixstowe (open space)  
• Warren Avenue, Saxmundham  
• B1119 Rendham Road (verges)  
• St John Church, Church Hill, B1119  
• Main Road B1121, Bridge Street B1121, Rosemary Lane B1121

# Helping young people take positive next steps

A new online service has been launched in East Suffolk, helping young people to find employment.

The East Suffolk Youth Employment Service (YES) has been designed to help people from any background who may be struggling to find or apply for jobs, courses and training. The service is aimed specifically at 16 to 24 year olds.

Funded by East Suffolk Council, Suffolk County Council, Suffolk Public Sector Leaders and the former East Suffolk Partnership, YES is delivered by Inspire Suffolk with the support of Access Community Trust.

The YES programme was originally designed to be provided through hubs in Lowestoft, Leiston, Saxmundham and Felixstowe however the Covid-19 restrictions have meant the service is now being provided online. To support this, a new website ([www.yessuffolk.co.uk](http://www.yessuffolk.co.uk/)) has been launched.

Young people can visit the website to view current job opportunities, find training programmes, and other support information and advice. Referrals can also be made by community groups. Young people will be allocated an employment coach to support them into appropriate work, education or training. Wellbeing services are also available, provided by Inspire Suffolk.

We are committed to supporting local young people and with the current restrictions in place, it was essential that this service continued to be available, albeit in a different way. Finding and applying for jobs can be a difficult process under normal circumstances, let alone during these uncertain times. This new service will guide and support local young people towards new opportunities, boosting their confidence and enabling them to take their next steps.”

Garry Mills, Education Programmes Manager at Inspire Suffolk said: “With the new website and booking system now in place, we have ensured the excellent work our employment coaches do can still be received by all young people along the East Coast, regardless of the restrictions in place. This comes at a time when young people need support more than ever. I am very pleased that we have been able to find innovative ways to ensure they still have the opportunities they deserve, so they can move onto positive next steps, such as employment, training or education.”

You can also follow YES on [Twitter](https://twitter.com/YEService_) and at [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/YES.YouthService).

# REMINDER - There is still time to have your say on proposed changes to the Suffolk Coastal Local Plan

Local people and businesses are reminded that they have until 5pm on Friday 10 July to have their say on proposed changes to the East Suffolk Council - Suffolk Coastal Local Plan.

The consultation on proposed Main Modifications to the Suffolk Coastal Local Plan began on 1 May and the Council are reminding residents and businesses that they still have time to submit any comments.

East Suffolk Council is well advanced in the preparation of a new Local Plan for the area of the district formerly covered by Suffolk Coastal District Council. The East Suffolk Council – Suffolk Coastal Local Plan will contain new planning policies and site allocations, to set out the strategy for growth and to inform decisions on planning applications within that part of the district, covering the period up to 2036.

The Local Plan is currently undergoing examination by an independent Planning Inspector following its submission to the Secretary of State in March 2019. As part of the examination, public sessions were held in August and September 2019.

Following these sessions, the Inspector wrote to the Council advising that Main Modifications are needed to the Local Plan for it to be ‘sound’. The Main Modifications are intended to address issues of legal compliance and/or soundness within the document.

Alongside the Main Modifications, a series of Additional Modifications have also been proposed by the Council. These are also subject to public consultation during the same period. The additional changes are generally factual or typographical changes, and proposed modifications to the policies maps are also published for consultation. These modifications have been made to take account of Main or Additional Modifications, to make factual corrections or for presentational reasons. The Council welcomes any comments on the Additional Modifications and the modifications to the policies maps.

Cllr David Ritchie, Cabinet Member for Planning and Coastal Management, said: “I would encourage people to respond to the consultation on the modifications because once adopted, the Local Plan will be the starting point in determining future planning applications and ensuring new developments are properly planned and of the highest possible quality.”

In a response to the current COVID-19 pandemic, the Council has set out measures to enable safe participation in the consultation and to ensure that those who wish to engage in the consultation are not disadvantaged. This includes holding the consultation for an extended period of ten weeks and putting measures in place relating to the provision of hard copies of the documents.

The Council would normally make hard copies of consultation documents available to view in libraries and Council offices, for those who are unable to view them online, however this has not been possible for this consultation. The Council is therefore posting hard copies on request, free of charge to those who do not have access to the documents online. Although restrictions are gradually being eased by Government, the arrangements put in place for this consultation remain in place and the Council will continue to provide assistance where appropriate, including offering to post hard copies of documents, to enable people to fully engage in the consultation. The Council is continuing to keep these measures under review and will communicate any changes.

[Find out more, view the consultation document ad submit your comments](https://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/planning/planning-policy-and-local-plans/suffolk-coastal-local-plan/local-plan-review/suffolk-coastal-local-plan-examination/).

<https://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/planning/planning-policy-and-local-plans/suffolk-coastal-local-plan/local-plan-review/suffolk-coastal-local-plan-examination/>

Comments must be received by 5pm on Friday 10th July.

If you have any questions, would like to request a hard copy or would like any assistance, please contact the Planning Policy and Delivery Team on [planningpolicy@eastsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:planningpolicy@eastsuffolk.gov.uk) or 01394 444557. It should be noted if contacting the team by phone, that a voicemail service is currently in operation. Please leave a message including contact details and calls will be returned as soon as possible.

# Council relaunches scheme to tackle social isolation

East Suffolk Council has relaunched a scheme to help people who are struggling with social isolation and loneliness during the pandemic.

The Hidden Needs Programme was originally launched in 2018 to support older people and families with limited resources who were struggling with social isolation and loneliness.

In a response to Covid-19, East Suffolk Council has now relaunched the scheme with a fund of £100,000 and adapted it to help fund projects which supports people of all ages who are particularly vulnerable during this time.

Therefore, the Council is asking local community groups and voluntarily organisations to bring to life projects which can help reduce social isolation and loneliness by applying for a grant of up to £10,000 through the scheme.

A lot of work has already gone into tackling social isolation in East Suffolk. However, we know that this is a very unusual time and some people will be finding it very challenging as they have not been able to see family or friends during the lockdown. We want to encourage local community groups and voluntary organisations to submit innovative ideas for projects which can help those feeling social isolation to be more connected and supported in this challenging time.”

The scheme is now open for the first round applications, which must be submitted by 17 July 2020. A second round will open on 18 July 2020 for applications which must be submitted by 30 September 2020.

[See more information, including details on how to apply](https://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/community/community-grants-and-funding/hidden-needs-grant-programme/).

<https://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/community/community-grants-and-funding/hidden-needs-grant-programme/>

# Reminder - Applications open for popular apprenticeship scheme

Applications are now open for a successful apprenticeship scheme which helps young people kick-start their careers in local government.

Applications are now open for the East Suffolk Council apprenticeship scheme. Five opportunities are available in a number of teams, including Communities, Customer Services, Elections, Private Sector Housing and Property Information.

Cllr Colin Hedgley, Chairman of East Suffolk Council said: “Our apprenticeship scheme is always very popular and offers a route into employment with plenty of additional benefits. We are committed to offering local young people opportunities to grow and fulfil their potential and with this in mind, we felt it was important to continue with the scheme, even during these uncertain times.

“More than 80% of our apprentices stay on with the Council once their apprenticeship is complete and continue to have long and varied careers in local government. I would encourage anyone interested to apply for these exciting opportunities.”

Apprenticeships roles offer a host of benefits, including a fully funded qualification, invaluable workplace skills, training and development opportunities and generous annual leave entitlements.

Applications close on 12 July and due to the current situation, interviews will take place virtually. Successful applicants will start in September, although this will be regularly reviewed to reflect the latest government guidance.

The apprenticeship scheme gives young people a clear pathway from education into work and teaches them key skills which are essential for employment, such as questioning and listening, giving feedback and managing relationships. The scheme also benefits existing council staff by developing their supervisory and management skills, as well as enabling them to become mentors.

After their apprenticeship is complete, the apprentices are encouraged to apply for alternative roles within the Council. This gives them the opportunity to secure permanent employment and also creates a vacancy for a new apprentice.

[Full details of all the apprenticeship opportunities and details on how to apply](https://www.suffolkjobsdirect.org/EastSuffolkCouncils/SearchResults.aspx?ocg=1758).

<https://www.suffolkjobsdirect.org/EastSuffolkCouncils/SearchResults.aspx?ocg=1758>