

MIDDLETON CUM FORDLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD VIA ZOOM MEETINGS ON TUESDAY 4TH MAY 2021 AT 6:00 PM

1. **Attendance:** Cllr. Roy Dowding (Acting Chair), Cllr. Julian Cusack, Cllr. Lynda Whitbread, Cllr. Colin Whitbread, Cllr. Chris Reynolds, Cllr. Steve Thorpe, Sharon Smith (Clerk/RFO) and 1 member of the public.
2. **Apologies:** Cllr. Lesley Taylor, County Cllr. Richard Smith, District Cllr. Tony Cooper, District Cllr. Jocelyn Bond and District Cllr. TJ Haworth-Culf.
3. **Annual Reports**
 - a) Parish Council Outgoing Chairman – report taken as read and attached as Appendix A.
 - b) Suffolk County Council – report taken as read and attached as Appendix B.
 - c) East Suffolk Council – report taken as read and attached as Appendix C.
 - d) Middleton Moor – report taken as read and attached as Appendix D.
 - e) Middleton Recreation Ground Trust - report taken as read and attached as Appendix E.
 - f) Middleton Community Council - report taken as read and attached as Appendix F.
 - g) Middleton Village Hall - report taken as read and attached as Appendix G.
 - h) Holy Trinity Church, Middleton - report taken as read and attached as Appendix H.
 - i) Middleton Women’s Institute - report taken as read and attached as Appendix I.
 - j) Middleton Beaux Belles Petanque Team - report taken as read and attached as Appendix J.
 - k) Middleton Nouveaux Petanque Team - report taken as read and attached as Appendix K.
 - l) Middleton Croquet Club - report taken as read and attached as Appendix L.

4. Annual Reports from Other Groups

The Newsletter report was received after the meeting and is attached as Appendix M.

5. Date and Time of Next Meeting

The date and time of the next Annual Parish Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 10th May 2022 at 6:00 pm.

The meeting closed at 6:15 pm.

Appendix A – Parish Council Outgoing Chairman

Over the last year, village life has been dominated by the pandemic. The village responded well. Many came forward to help with deliveries of food and medicines and various other tasks to assist those who had been isolating and shielding. The vaccine roll-out (particularly at Leiston and Saxmundham surgeries) has been fantastic. Most of us have now had both our jabs. I'd like to think we can look forward to a summer of near normality.

I am delighted that Hastoe has started on site – albeit 10 years after we first appointed them. And the problem around single occupancy of the two-bedroom units appears to have been solved. If anyone is interested in securing one of the social-rented units, they must register with Gateway to Homechoice. Hastoe tells me that the shared equity properties will be put on the market shortly.

Nigel Smith

Appendix B – Suffolk County Council

For a selection of news items from Suffolk County Council visit: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/council-news/>

Appendix C – East Suffolk Council

Cllr. Tony Cooper:

Enabling Communities Grants.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, I allocated £2,000 from my 2020/21 Enabling Communities Budget (ECB) budget towards a new Covid-19 hardship fund. A further £45k was subsequently added to the Covid-19 Hardship Funding from councillors ECB.

I donated £2000.00 from my funding grant this year towards supporting Covid-19 this left me £5500.00 for community projects.

Following are the community projects that I supported.

Aldeburgh Business Association - Funding for Christmas decorations project.

Railway Farm Shop - Funding to set up a Community Hub at the Farm Shop.

Middleton cum Fordley Parish Council – Funding to extend disabled space at village hall.

Long Shop Museum – Funding to install a loop system

Aldeburgh & Blyth Community Radio – Funding to purchase radio equipment for community radio.

My Current ESC Committee Membership:

Assistant Cabinet Member for Planning and Coastal Management.
Aldeburgh, Leiston, Saxmundham and Villages Community Partnership.
Audit and Governance
Community Partnership Board.
Community Partnership Chairs.
Full Council
Planning Committee North (sub)
Planning Committee South.
Scrutiny Committee (sub)
Strategic Planning Committee.
Suffolk Health Scrutiny Committee.
Suffolk Coast Forum

ESC Outside Bodies.

Aldeburgh Community and Sports Trust.
Association of Suffolk Museums (Chairman)
Citizens Advice Saxmundham & District.
Citizens Advice North East Suffolk.
Leiston Together.
CAT's Coastal Accessible Transport.

Aldeburgh Leiston Ward (Town & Parishes)

Aldeburgh Town Council
Leiston cum Sizewell Town Council.
Theberton Parish Council.
Middleton Parish Council.
Knodishall Parish Council.
Aldringham cum Thorpe Parish Council.
Friston Parish Council.
Snape Parish Council.
Benhall Parish Council.

Cllr. T-J Haworth-Culf and Cllr. Jocelyn Bond:

What another busy year!

Before we look back at the year we will start this annual report by saying a big thank you to all of our town and parish cllrs, clerks and assistant clerks for all of your hard work and support throughout the year. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank all of the many groups/committees/societies/volunteers within the ward for the wonderful work that they carry out.

Our ward became much bigger in May 2019 after the creation of East Suffolk Council, the elections seeing the Aldeburgh and Leiston wards come together. The ward now includes (in no particular order) Aldeburgh, Leiston, Snape, Knodishall, Thorpeness, Sizewell, Aldringham, Friston, Benhall, Sternfield, Theberton, Middleton cum Fordley and Eastbridge.

Most of the year, and years previously this ward and all those who live, work and play within it have been bombarded with consultations for different items but mainly regarding Energy projects. What can we say apart from a big thank you to all those that have written/mailed and copied us into the responses, thoughts and comments on SPR and EDF etc However, there continues to be much more work to be done; again some will be covered in the body of this report. 33 Town and Parish councils came together to discuss and work together in writing to Government and many of you attended some planning and other meetings where these were discussed (all whilst Brexit was going on)

Regarding the recent item about the changes to parking you may want to be ready by registering with Ringo (covered this in a previous report) but as a reminder the link <https://m.myringgo.co.uk> in order to have seamless parking.

Recently, after some sad events in the media we all have to be KIND and help, support and guide each other as much as we can.

At the end of this report we have included a few useful information words including power cuts and reporting fraud etc, we hope you find these useful.

Important date

East Anglia ONE North – EN010077

Please find below a website link to the Rule 6 letter giving notice of the Preliminary Meeting, Open Floor Hearing, Issue Specific Hearings and the draft timetable for the examination of the application.

<http://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/document/EN010077-001686>

East Anglia TWO – EN010078

Please find below a website link to the Rule 6 letter giving notice of the Preliminary Meeting, Open Floor Hearing, Issue Specific Hearings and the draft timetable for the examination of the application.

<http://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/document/EN010078-001747>

If this link does not open automatically, please cut and paste it into your browser.

Please do not hesitate to contact the Planning Inspectorate's case team if you require any further information.

Attendance at the Preliminary Meetings: If you wish to attend the Preliminary Meeting, please contact the Case Team using the details set out at the top of this letter. **Please confirm this no later than Tuesday 10 March 2020**

At the end of this report is the info but you will need to look at this on line to view it in full and correctly.

Enabling Community Budgets.

As mentioned at the start of the year, we pooled our pots together so that we could make the grants go further and help more people. We are really pleased with the different ones that we have helped this year and already have some ready to send in as soon as the funding opens again. We have given money to:

Siren	Funding towards the running costs of this new initiative, looking at engaging young people and others in thinking about the local coastal and marine environment.
Heritage Hut.	Funding towards the Heritage Hut at Thorpeness.
Aldeburgh Amazing Swifts.	Funding to help print a book for local children about swifts.
Aldeburgh Cinema	Funding towards the 100 year celebration events.
Leiston Dementia	Funding for a 10 week programme of yoga, music and singing designed for people living with long-term conditions including dementia.
Leiston Guides	replacing the worn out flooring in the hut
Kemps Field PP	Funding to support a grant for works on Kemps Field
Leiston CLT	Funding for a greenspace with the town
Knodishall Village Hall	Vital roof repairs
Snape	Funding for their own marquee
Police community work	Funding for a "drugs box" used for educational purposes, young and old to learn about what they look like/signs etc
Leiston events Group	To purchase a marquee for events.

Community Partnership Boards.

Thank you to all those that have attended the CPB events/workshops etc. Please do laissez with Cllr Cooper for updates, agendas and more information; the next meeting 6pm Saxmundham Town Hall on the 23rd March.

Our Leisure Centre operators, Places Leisure, challenged all at East Suffolk Council to help clock up the miles in 10 minute time slots to raise money for Sports Relief. The challenge will take place at East Suffolk House on Thursday 12 March with two spin bikes being located on the atrium in the main building between approx. 9am and 5pm. Donations welcome.

Citizens Advice.

Cabinet decision 03.03.2020 - East Suffolk Council Funding for Citizens Advice

- 1. That the funding for Citizens Advice in East Suffolk be maintained for the three financial years 2020-21, 2022-23 and 2023-24.**
2. That an additional sum be made available to enable the three CAs to secure independent support to help them to explore the transformation of Citizens Advice services in East Suffolk focussed on identifying the optimum structures to deliver the best outcomes for the East Suffolk population.
3. That East Suffolk Council should be directly involved in working with the three CAs to define the scope of this transformation review and receive the final report.
4. That the three Citizens Advice in East Suffolk be encouraged to explore all of the transformation opportunities available in the District over the next twelve months, with a view to freeing up resource for greater involvement in prevention activity and additional outreach into identified and agreed target areas. Reorganisation, and potentially a reduction in the number of Citizens Advice, may well be the best way to achieve this but objective support should enable the three CAs to work together to fully understand both the opportunities and barriers to change.
5. That future funding beyond the end of the 2020-21 financial year would depend on evidence of progress towards transformation and that therefore a further report should be presented to Cabinet early in 2021, with a view to developing a new funding and performance framework for 2021-22 onwards.

TV Licence Scam!

TJ had this delivered with her post delivery on the 6th March and she reported and googled the number here is just one of the Google comments:

“This number is used by scammers. Don’t call them or give any details. This phone number has been connected to scammers pretending to be from TV Licensing claiming you don’t have a TV licence or sending fake Royal Mail cards claiming you have a parcel/post that needs collecting. Don’t trust these con artists! Also, never give any details to anyone cold calling you and if you think they might be genuine, call whatever company they claimed to be on an official number published on said companies web”

Please always check first and NEVER give out any personal details to anyone unless you are 100% positive that it is legit (real companies will not mind you checking with them)



Rt Hon Kwasi Kwarteng

As you are aware many local councils met and wrote to Rt. Hon Kwasi Kwarteng MP regarding the energy projects. They have now written back to the Rt Hon K Kwarteng asking for a meeting:

*Rt. Hon Kwasi Kwarteng MP Minister of State for Business, Energy and Clean Growth Department for Business,
Energy and Industrial Strategy
1 Victoria Street London,
SW1 0ET
3rd March 2020*

Dear Mr. Kwarteng, Re: Energy projects planned for Suffolk Heritage Coast Thank you for your letter of 10th February. The hundreds of town and parish councillors on whose behalf I am writing all understand that the Secretary of State cannot interfere with the Planning Inspectorate's current examination, and we do not seek such interference.

However, on the wider issue of the 9 energy infrastructure developments affecting our communities we feel we are being excluded from debate and consultation, so we look to you for help in remedying that situation. Unfortunately we are not reassured by your statement that your officials are working only with the Suffolk Energy Coast Delivery Board. That self-selected, non-statutory, unaccountable body exists to promote and take forward the very developments that concern us, and community stakeholders such as ourselves are specifically barred from its meetings and deliberations. Indeed, as we said in our letter, we do not feel that we have been properly consulted by Scottish Power Renewables or National Grid throughout this whole process.

We welcome the fact you are looking at the co-ordination of the electrical connection points offshore and that you are working with developers. Given that Scottish Power Renewables' applications for EA1N & EA2 are now in the PINS examination process, we are concerned that without an urgent moratorium and a review of the other 7 potential projects that are currently designed for this same fragile coastline and Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, then these projects will simply sleepwalk into existence following any approval of the Scottish Power projects by PINS and Secretary of State.

Alok Sharma said yesterday that it is the government's intention to make the UK a world leader in renewable energy and that the government would do this "in a way that works for everyone, listening to local communities and giving them an effective voice in decisions that affect them". Therefore we ask you, please, urgently to meet a small representative group of us to discuss how our views may be heard on this vitally important issue.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Snape PC, on behalf of Aldeburgh Town Council, Aldringham cum Thorpeness Parish Council, Bredfield Parish Council, Bungay Town Council, Campsea Ashe Parish Council, Chediston & Linstead Parish Council, Chillesford Parish Council, Darsham Parish Council, Dunwich Parish Meeting, Farnham with Stratford St. Andrew Parish Council, Friston Parish Council, Great Glemham, Hacheston Parish Council, Iken Parish Council, Kelsale cum Carlton Parish Council, Kirton & Falkenham, Knodishall Parish Council, Leiston Town Council, Levington & Stratton Hall Parish Council, Marlesford Parish Council, Martlesham Parish Council, Melton Parish Council, Middleton Parish Council, Rushmere St. Andrew Parish Council, Shottisham Parish Council Snape Parish Council, Sutton Parish Council, Sweffling Parish Council, Theberton & Eastbridge Parish Council, Walberswick Parish Council, Westerfield Parish Council, Westleton Parish Council, Yoxford Parish Council.

Briefing sessions ahead of May's Police and Crime Commissioner elections

Prospective agents and candidates for the Police and Crime Commissioner for the Suffolk Police Area are invited to attend briefing sessions ahead of the elections on Thursday 7 May.

The first session is taking place on Monday 16 March at East Suffolk House at 10am and will provide useful information on the election timetable, qualifications, disqualifications, nominations, agents and the local arrangements for the Suffolk Police Area. The second session is taking place on Tuesday 21 April at East Suffolk House at 10am and will focus on what happens on polling day and how the verification and count process will work.

Stephen Baker, Police Area Returning Officer for Suffolk said: "These briefing sessions are important and useful for anyone considering standing as a candidate, or being an agent to someone who is standing, in the election as they provide updated and detailed information on the process. "They also give prospective candidates and agents the opportunity to ask any questions they may have and hopefully make the whole process easier to understand."

The sessions are being held at East Suffolk House, Riduna Park, Station Road, Melton, Woodbridge, IP12 1RT.

If you would like to attend, please confirm by contacting Karen Last on 01394 444324 or karen.last@eastsoffolk.gov.uk

CPB's What communities really need: innovative approach to funding gets underway

An innovative and progressive scheme, established to provide critical funding for projects which local people want and need most of all, will begin allocating money. The East Suffolk Community Partnerships have been created to "bring ideas to life" and eight separate partnership groups, covering the whole district, will now each decide how to spend £10,000 this year and a further £25,000 for the next three years, based on one or more priorities which were agreed at a series of community workshops.

In addition, an overarching pot of £150,000 this year and £300,000 for each of the next three years will be available for the partnerships to bid for.

The eight partnerships cover the whole of East Suffolk and are based on natural groupings of communities, using the new East Suffolk Council ward boundaries as building blocks. Working alongside East Suffolk councillors, will be County and town & parish councillors, the police, health bodies, community groups, businesses and other key organisations.

Each partnership has already established its priorities, following well-attended workshops last autumn. At each session, detailed data packs were provided, containing a range of demographic information about each local area. Three priorities were then agreed based on the information provided and input from local people about what is important to them.

Although each partnership established priorities particular to their own local areas, broad themes emerged across the district, indicating the issues that East Suffolk residents want to resolve. The 'top five' are: reducing

social isolation and loneliness; active and sustainable transport links; improving mental health and wellbeing; community 'hubs', buildings and spaces; and opportunities, activities and facilities for young people.

The first meeting of the overarching East Suffolk Community Partnership Board will then be held on 16 March. The Board will bring together the eight Community Partnership Chairs with a range of strategic partners – Suffolk County Council, Police, CCGs, SALC, as well as East Suffolk Council. It will be Chaired by the Leader of the Council.

For further information about Community Partnerships, including the 'data packs' for each area, head to the [Community Partnerships section](https://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/community/community-partnerships/). <https://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/community/community-partnerships/>

Planning

Reminder - Those interested in speaking at East Suffolk Council's Planning Committee meetings are invited to register their request in good time ahead of future meetings.

Anyone wishing to speak at a future Planning Committee meeting is asked to register in advance, no later than 5pm on the day before the meeting is scheduled to take place.

Planning Committee meetings usually cover large or complex planning proposals where they can be discussed and considered in full. These meetings also give members of the public the opportunity to raise their own issues about particular proposals.

In order to ensure meetings are conducted in a fair manner, giving all interested parties an opportunity to have their say, interested parties are asked to register in advance and will be given three minutes to speak.

To register, and for more details, please go to www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/planning-committee

Commenting on planning applications

It is useful if you notify us about any comments or concerns that you make regarding planning applications. Below are a few words about commenting on applications and viewing planning applications which may be of interest to you.

Please be aware that if you submit comments your name and address will be published on the Public Access website. If you register as a user of the Public Access system and wish to submit comments, your name and address will be published immediately to the Public Access website. Personal telephone numbers and email addresses will not be published. Comments received will be available via the Documents and Comments tab on the next working day after submission. Major applications can take up to 5 working days.

Any comments that contain offensive, defamatory or discriminatory language will not be considered in determining the application and may be removed.

How we record your comments:

A petition is recorded as one comment.

A letter or email containing more than one person's detail is counted as one i.e Mr and Mrs.

If each signatory wishes to be considered as a separate representative then please send in separate correspondence.

Have your say

Anyone is entitled to object to any planning application. Equally anyone may wish to lend their support.

You have 21 days from:

the date of registration of the application, or

the date of the application details being officially advertised (where this is necessary), or

the site notice being displayed, or

the date of any letter sent to you asking for comments

(Whichever is the latest date - this can be viewed in Public Access under 'Important dates').

The Council only take into account 'material planning considerations' when determining an application.

Material Planning Considerations (can be taken into account) include:

Access/traffic (parking and road safety issues)	Affordable housing
Amenity - daylight, sunlight, privacy	Conservation / listed building
Consultee responses	Cumulative impact
Fear of crime (s17)	Government Policy
Layout, density, design/appearance, character	Local economy
Local Planning Policy	Noise, smell or other disturbances
Outlook	Prematurity
Previous similar decisions	Site history

Non-material considerations (cannot be taken into account) include:

Change from previous schemes	Commercial competition
History of the applicant	Impact on property values
Loss of view	Matters covered by other legislation
Moral objections	Ownership of land/right of access
Profit	Restrictive covenants
Work already done	

It is possible to attend the Planning Committee meetings dealing with planning applications. However, only elected members of the council can vote on the application decision itself.

Hope for better national coordination of offshore windfarm projects (also in March report)

Suffolk County Council and East Suffolk Council have been calling for improved national coordination of the offshore windfarm projects off the county's coast, and this approach has been recognised in an Ofgem report. The Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (Ofgem) document, published on 3 February 2020, suggests that money could be saved and the environment better protected, if there is more coordination around the infrastructure of these projects.

The councils continue to support the principle of offshore wind, as it will help reduce carbon emissions and provide significant economic benefits to the county and the UK. However, this should not be achieved at any cost to Suffolk, its residents and its natural environment. Concerns about the apparent lack of coordination in the connection of energy projects have been repeatedly raised by the councils with Government ministers, National Grid and wind farm developers.

In the “Decarbonisation Action Plan”, which supports the target of reaching Net Zero by 2050, Ofgem says that:

“We do not consider that individual radial offshore transmission links for this amount of offshore generation are likely to be economical, sensible or acceptable for consumers and local communities.

We will explore whether a more coordinated offshore transmission system could reduce both financial and environmental costs.

With more offshore windfarm projects planned, many of which are further from shore than those developed already, there is potential for efficiencies from greater coordination of offshore transmission infrastructure.”

Councillor Richard Rout, Cabinet Member for Environment and Public Protection at Suffolk County Council and Councillor Craig Rivett, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Economic Development at East Suffolk Council, said:

“We welcome the coordinated approach proposed in this report. We hope that it means the Government, National Grid and Ofgem form a clear leadership role and strategy on all the energy projects affecting our coast.

Considering each project in isolation, as is the case with current proposals which we have considerable concerns about, does not seem to make sense and increases the environmental impact and the impact on local communities.

We will continue to lobby Government, press National Grid and the regulator Ofgem. [5 February 2020], we met with ministers at Westminster to discuss this very issue.

We believe we can minimise the harm to local communities through better regulation, coordination and planning, as we aim to deliver net zero carbon emissions.”

[For the councils responses to energy projects please look at: Leader’s “disappointment” with energy scheme https://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/2019/leaders-disappointment-with-energy-scheme/](https://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/2019/leaders-disappointment-with-energy-scheme/)

Statement from the Leader on Ipswich Northern Route

Leader of East Suffolk Council, Cllr Steve Gallant has issued the following statement: "Having studied the findings from the strategic outline business case and the public consultation, I can confirm that East Suffolk Council does not support the proposals for the new Ipswich Northern Route. I have been clear throughout this process that impacts on communities in our district would have to be taken into consideration and I do not believe our residents' interests would be best served by continuing with the project. The reality is that this new road will only happen if additional homes are built to justify it and, at the moment, a figure as high as 15,000 new properties would be required to make it financially viable. According to standard Planning estimates, this could lead to a new settlement with a population greater than Felixstowe and three times the size of Woodbridge, with a further 20,000 additional cars on the road. It is clear that new homes are needed in the district. However, the required growth has already been carefully considered and is laid out in our Local Plans. East Suffolk has a duty to represent the interests of our local residents and the significant extra housing that this project demands would place a genuine strain on existing communities and their quality of life. The primary purpose of a new road would be to cut down congestion elsewhere, however the potential volume of new and additional traffic is worrying. In addition, the cost estimates are troubling and even without any legal challenge we would not see a road built before 2027.

"The focus of East Suffolk in respect of transport infrastructure improvements needs to focus on potential projects which have the greatest positive impact on our district. These include improvements to the Orwell Bridge, The Copdock and Seven Hills junctions, and enhancements to the A12 from Felixstowe to Lowestoft, including campaigning for the re-trunking of this strategic road. East Suffolk Council entirely supports infrastructure projects which provide clear, unarguable benefits to our local communities and businesses. We fully support the decision by Suffolk Public Sector Leaders to complete this study and public consultation. However, it is clear from the outcome that there will be significant impact on residents

in the south of our district and I remain unconvinced that the benefits will outweigh a range of negative effects.

In case you missed this local news item, the below was kindly sent to us by a local resident from a piece in the EADT.

"Campaigners fear new £1bn energy project is 'terrifying prospect' that would destroy Suffolk countryside. Campaigners say the substation will have a huge impact on Friston

SASES Vast swathes of countryside could be sacrificed for a £1billion new infrastructure project deemed "critical" in meeting the nation's energy needs. NATIONAL GRID ESO Energy bosses want to build a 2GW offshore connection between Suffolk and Kent, with associated substations and onshore cables, expected to industrialise more land near Sizewell. The proposals, featured in a National Grid Electricity System Operator report, claim the new transmission route would offer economic benefits and help achieve carbon net zero targets. But campaigners met the news with disbelief, saying the region is "swamped" and cannot cope with more energy projects.

Michael Mahony, of the Substation Action Save East Suffolk group, said: "It is difficult to comprehend how National Grid can even begin to think that an area which cannot accommodate seven major energy projects is suitable for yet two more. There is no thought to the irreversible damage to the East Suffolk countryside and people's lives that all these projects will cause."

Proposals for projects such as Sizewell C power station, various offshore wind farms and two 'inter-connectors', transmitting electricity between the UK and Europe, have seen Suffolk named the "Energy Coast". But while campaigners say they support renewable energy, they warned a lack of coordination from the industry risks sacrificing Suffolk's precious landscapes for the UK's growing energy demand. ScottishPower Renewables' (SPR) proposals for a 30-acre substation site near Friston, on the edge of the Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB, have attracted some of the fiercest criticism, including from Suffolk County Council and East Suffolk Council. SPR claims the substations are needed to transmit power from its East Anglia One North (EA1N) and East Anglia Two (EA2) wind farms, which together with East Anglia Three are expected to power 2.7 million homes.

But with Suffolk expected to host even more wind farms in the future, there is growing concern about the extent of onshore infrastructure that will bring. The concerns prompted a group of East Anglian MPs to write to Secretary of State for BEIS Andrea Leadsom in October to press the case for an 'offshore ring main' (ORM), which would see several wind farms connect to the same marine cable, thereby reducing the disruption onshore. But while the government considers its strategy on the ORM, National Grid ESO is seeking to push ahead with projects deemed "critical" for its energy needs. Its Network Options Assessment, published in January, includes the Suffolk to Kent 'SCD1' transmission route among 42 projects listed 'to proceed', with a completion date as soon as 2028. It estimates the cost as £500m-£1bn.

Paul Collins, Charles Mcdowell and Alison Downes from Therberton and Eastbridge Action Group on Sizewell (TEAGS) A further project, 'SCD2', would see second 2GW circuit created between Suffolk and Kent, running parallel with SCD1. However, this is currently on "hold", meaning investment is not required this year. Although details of the onshore infrastructure required are scant, Mr Mahony claims it will cover a 30 acre site with buildings 28 metres tall, based on similar 'converter stations'. He believes National Grid will seek to use the same Friston site as SPR plans to use for its substations, meaning further industrialisation of a rural location.

The Suffolk Coast and Heath AONB has previously highlighted concerns about the cumulative impact of energy projects on the natural landscape. Chairman David Wood said that although no details were publicly available yet, he hoped the developer would pay due regard to the purposes of the nationally designated landscape, to conserve natural beauty. "The Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB is designated for its natural beauty and supports a wealth of wildlife and has outstanding landscapes," he added. "This mixture supports a thriving tourism industry worth over £210m per year and supports over 4,500 jobs. We expect those making decisions that may impact the nationally designated landscape will play due regard to the purposes of the AONB."

The Theberton and Eastbridge Action Group on Sizewell C (TEAGS) has also raised concerns. TEAGS' Alison Downes said: "We are going to be swamped. The more we hear about all the energy projects planned for this part of Suffolk, the stronger our fears about the cumulative effects on local people, our precious natural environment, tourism and businesses. Multiple, uncoordinated projects with all their construction traffic and workers, built at the same time, is a terrifying prospect."

East Suffolk Council said it had not been consulted on the project. What did National Grid have to say? National Grid said the Network Options Assessment report was published each year with proposals to meet the future needs of the transmission network - as well as recommendations for those which would be most beneficial. "National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET), as the electricity transmission network owner in England and Wales, publishes its response to the NOA each summer," a spokesman added. "NGET is currently considering all of the recommendations from the ESO alongside any other options available to deliver the capability required and will be outlining which we intend taking forward in our Network Development Policy in the summer. "Where any link between Suffolk and Kent might connect to the transmission system has yet to be determined, and where any plans are taken forward, there will be consultation. "We are committed to working with local communities in East Anglia."

To keep up to date with news from our member of parliament please go to:

<https://www.theresecoffey.co.uk/> Here is an update regarding a recent meeting: (taken from the above website)

Friday, 7 February, 2020

A group of local representatives, led by Therese met the Energy Minister, Kwasi Kwarteng, this week to convey their concerns about the approvals process for strategic energy projects. The delegation which included East Suffolk Council Deputy Leader, Craig Rivett and County Council Environment Cabinet member, Richard Rout outlined the situation on the ground in East Anglia and the cumulative impact a dozen energy projects, including offshore wind and new nuclear, will have on the local area.

Therese said: "Whilst we're all proud of the role that our coast plays in creating renewable and low carbon energy, the cumulative impact of the onshore infrastructure required to facilitate these projects is having a major impact on the countryside, heritage assets and the amenities of local residents – and the approvals process needs to be better co-ordinated to reflect that. Considering each project in isolation is not working and the planning approvals process needs more structure and engagement with the community. Something Ofgem seems to agree within its recent report."

Therese added: "I thank the Minister for hearing our views and for the constructive discussions. I have promised to write to him in more detail on how I think the process can be reformed."

East Suffolk communities encouraged to plant trees

As part of plans to tackle climate change, town and parish councils in East Suffolk are being encouraged to plant trees in their communities.

[Since declaring a climate emergency in 2019](#), East Suffolk Council has established an [Environment Task Group](#) which meets quarterly to consider what action needs to be taken to meet the Council's challenging target of becoming carbon neutral by 2030.

One of the group's first initiatives is to enable town and parish councils to plant trees in their local area.

Cllr James Mallinder, East Suffolk's cabinet member for the Environment, said:

"Trees are essential in our fight against climate change as not only do they absorb carbon, they can help to reduce pollution levels and prevent flooding. Native woodland also provides a haven for wildlife.

Planting trees is a small but hugely effective way for communities to make a difference and we want to encourage people to get involved. It is however essential that planting takes place in appropriate locations, meaning the trees can be properly cared for and giving them the best chance of reaching maturity."

Any town or parish council, or community group, wishing to plant trees is encouraged to [contact their district councillor](#) to determine whether there is any East Suffolk-owned land which would be suitable for planting. If land is not suitable for tree planting, it may be possible for the land to be allocated for rewilding or to become a wildflower meadow.

Tree planting schemes can be supported through East Suffolk councillors' individual Enabling Communities Budgets, with trees available through third party organisations.

East Suffolk Council is supporting [BBC Radio Suffolk's 'Planet Suffolk' campaign](#) which encourages people to create spaces for wildlife in their gardens and to get involved in other environmental activities.

Statutory Consultation Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 Public Space Protection Orders – Dog Controls in the East Suffolk District

The Council is considering renewing seven Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) affecting dogs for a further three years. These renewals are required because a PSPO remains in force for a limited period only and these seven PSPOs are due to expire in the near future unless renewed. No changes are being proposed to the detail of the restrictions applied by these seven PSPOs. It is proposed that they be renewed for a further three years.

The seven PSPOs affected by this are as follows: • Exclusion of dogs from Southwold beach • Dogs on leads on Southwold Promenade • Exclusion of Dogs from land at Carlton Marshes Nature Reserve • Dogs on leads at Carlton Marshes Nature Reserve • Exclusion of Dogs from Lowestoft Beach • Dogs on leads on Lowestoft Promenade • Exclusion of Dogs on Corton Beach There are two more PSPOs due to expire in the near future, which were introduced to apply certain controls to the former Waveney District Council area. They are: • Dog fouling – Requirement to clean up • Exclusion of Dogs from Children's Play Areas These PSPOs were replicated in the former Suffolk Coastal District area, but those are not due to expire yet; however, the formation of the new East Suffolk Council, (combining the geographical areas of both former Waveney and Suffolk Coastal Districts) means it is necessary to combine the controls represented by each of these two orders into new orders, each of which covers the entire geographical area of the new East Suffolk Council. Again, no new restrictions are being introduced – just the extension of the existing restrictions by three years.

If you wish to comment on these proposals, please do so in writing either by emailing ep@eastsuffolk.gov.uk or in writing to PSPO consultation, East Suffolk Council, 4 Canning Road, Lowestoft NR33 0EQ, or via the web form located at <https://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/dog-control-order-consultation> Your comments should reach us by no later than 1st April 2020. All consultation responses will be given due consideration by the Council before any orders are made. The final decisions will rest with the East Suffolk Council at a Cabinet Meeting shortly after the consultation closes. If you require any further information or have any queries related to this matter, please contact us using the details given above or write to us.

Celebrating world book day.

Many local primary school children once again dressed up as their favourite characters. This is a reminder that once you've read a book, you can donate it and any other unwanted books to local charities/organisations and community groups for more people to enjoy. Also don't forget the great range of books available at our local libraries.

Looking back:

Views sought on anti-social behaviour controls

East Suffolk Council asked local people for their views on anti-social behaviour controls. Over the last year, Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) have replaced the designated Public Place Orders (DPPOs) in the district due to the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014.

During this process, East Suffolk Council has been in discussion with Suffolk Police to review the PSPOs. The consultation ran from 7 May until 17 June 2019 and the Council wanted to hear the views of local residents and businesses.

PHILIS Reached a Major Milestone

The hi-tech system developed by the Council's Port Health service in Felixstowe has reached a major milestone – handling its one millionth job at the port.

The Port Health Interactive Live Information System (PHILIS) developed by Suffolk Coastal Port Health Authority for handling imports at the Port of Felixstowe, the largest container port in the UK. PHILIS is the IT system developed in house by Suffolk Coastal Port Health Authority, part of East Suffolk Council, which went live in September 2009.

Framlingham got connected

The historic and picturesque town of Framlingham was chosen to pilot a hi-tech new scheme to help people access the internet and make use of digital technology. The aim of the scheme, titled 'Digital Towns Project' is to make the whole of East Suffolk digitally enabled to help drive the economic development of the District. The 'Framlingham Digital Towns Pilot' was the first project to go ahead in the scheme in a partnership led by Framlingham Town Council, Framlingham Business Association and East Suffolk Council.

Help develop East Anglia's fishing strategy

The Renaissance of the East Anglia Fisheries (REAF) partnership asked local people in the fishing industry to help develop a long-term strategy for the area.

The REAF project is a partnership between East Suffolk Council, Norfolk County Council, Suffolk County Council, Lowestoft Fish Market Alliance and Seafish. Peter Aldous MP has been instrumental in establishing and supporting the partnership's objectives at the local, regional and national level. REAF was founded on the belief that the local fishing industry and the coastal communities in East Anglia should be able to enjoy the benefits of the rich fisheries in the area.

The aim of the project is to develop a long-term strategy for East Anglia's fishing industry, with Lowestoft as the main regional hub and explore how economic and social benefits of the fishing industry can be captured and optimised locally and regionally.

Residents encouraged to tackle air pollution

East Suffolk residents were encouraged to take simple steps to protect their health, and the health of their families, from air pollution.

In the lead up to Clean Air Day in June 2019, East Suffolk Council's Air Quality Officers worked with schools, workplaces and communities to help raise awareness of the causes of air pollution and how improved air quality can benefit health.

Have you 'got the bottle' to refill?

We encouraged (and still do) East Suffolk residents and to stay hydrated whilst saving money and avoiding unnecessary plastic waste by using a refillable water bottle. The country-wide Refill Scheme encourages participating cafés, bars, restaurants, banks, galleries, museums and other businesses to sign up to the free Refill app and put a sticker in their window telling members of the public that they are welcome to refill their bottle for free



Recycling There's been some comments received about what can and can't be recycled. We hope you find this useful. All of this and more information is available on the East Suffolk website.

<https://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/waste/>

<https://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/waste/waste-collections-and-disposal/recycling/>

We provide a fortnightly bin collection for recyclable materials.

Aldeburgh's 'Green & Clean' Advent Calendar

Most children hope for an advent calendar full of chocolates or at least traditional Christmas pictures, but for the pupils at Aldeburgh Primary School, last year their school's advent calendar offered something a little different. Hug a tree, feed the birds, eat an egg laid by a happy Suffolk hen or collect some ivy & pine cones to make Christmas decorations were just some of the actions the children (and their parents!) were encouraged to take each day in the run up to Christmas. The children were also opening a giant advent calendar during morning assembly and then, following a conversation about the day's task, were encouraged to make time to carry out the 'green deed for the day'.

Supported by Suffolk Libraries and East Suffolk Council, the team behind Aldeburgh's Green & Clean Community Initiative created the advent calendar as part of their drive to encourage families to become 'greener' in their everyday lives.

The advent calendar was also on view in the Aldeburgh library together with a display and suggestion box inviting people to share their thoughts and offer support or become a 'champion' of a favourite green

Food safety packs launched to help small businesses

Small businesses in East Suffolk can now manage their food safety practices more easily following the launch of new information packs. Developed by the Food Standards Agency, 'Safer Food Better Business' packs are now available from East Suffolk Council's Food and Safety Team to help small business operators understand and comply with food hygiene regulations and food safety management procedures.

Food safety regulations require a business to show and record the actions they take to ensure food made and/or sold on the premises is safe to eat.

The 'Safer Food Better Business' packs contain food safety procedures for a variety of businesses including caterers, care homes, retailers and childminders. The packs contain up to date information on:

- food allergens
- 'Pre-Packed for Direct Sale' regulations (which will be introduced in October 2021)
- details on how to register as a food business
- guidance around the Food Hygiene Ratings Scheme

Download or order a pack <https://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/business/food-safety/safer-food-better-business/>

Helping others to become 'plastic clever' – more info and an update in the March ward report.

We asked for Volunteers to step forward to help their local community take a smart approach to plastic waste by joining a network of Plastic Action Champions.

The scheme aims to encourage more people to learn about their environmental impact, take action to reduce it and spread the word on environmental issues. Four new training sessions for Plastic Action Champions take place at East Suffolk House, Melton and Riverside.

[Ending period poverty in East Suffolk](#)

As part of a scheme inspired by students in Felixstowe and funded by some local cllrs, free sanitary products were made available through community venues across East Suffolk.

Earlier, [students from Felixstowe Academy began a campaign in school to end period poverty](#). The 'Proud, Period!' campaign aimed to support young women by making free sanitary products available within school. As a result of this work, the school now has six boxes containing sanitary products available for pupils to use; toilets containing the boxes are marked with a red glitter heart on the door.

Our district-wide campaign aims to provide sanitary products to girls and women across East Suffolk should they need them. We are grateful to those community locations who have already requested to help the scheme and we are delighted that PP Boxes. To ensure the boxes are available in a wide variety of towns and villages across East Suffolk, we need more businesses and venues to get involved, either as box holders or as suppliers for the products in future. We are also able to provide support to other schools who may be interested in creating their own campaign to end period poverty.

www.eastsuffolkperiodpoverty.com Businesses, organisations and schools interested in joining the scheme are asked to contact Chloe Winlow at info@eastsuffolkperiodpoverty.com

East Suffolk to battle climate change

East Suffolk Council voted unanimously to step up its positive work on environmental issues to help fight climate change.

At its Full Council meeting in July, the Council recognised there was a good record of taking action on environmental issues across east Suffolk. However, it has joined other local authorities in recognising the fact there is a climate emergency – and committed itself to doing more to reduce its own carbon emissions and to encourage communities to help fight climate change.

Leiston Leisure Centre

The second and final phase of the newly redeveloped Leiston Leisure centre was completed by East Suffolk Council's Leisure Development partners, Pulse Design and Build. Operators, Places Leisure, were busy preparing and training staff ready to open to the public on Saturday 10th August. The swimming pool, thermal suite and under 5's play area have been open since June 19th and with the second phase including, refurbished squash courts, sports hall, state of the art fitness suite with functional fitness rig, two studios and a spin studio, along with ancillary facilities of modern changing rooms, Leiston and the surrounding area will have a quality facility for the communities for years to come. (the official opening ceremony was in September 2019)

East Suffolk to host Cyclo-cross World Championships

The Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI) has announced that Trinity Park in East Suffolk will host the 2021 and 2022 editions of the UCI Masters Cyclo-cross World Championships. The successful bid was made by Steve Grimwood, together with partners East Suffolk Council and the Eastern Cyclo Cross Association.

We covered our local Good neighbours schemes during the year, here is a reminder:

Leiston

Who provide voluntary help including befriending, support to get out to activities, practical help at home such as filling in forms or tidying a garden. Their aim is to promote a sense of mutual support and friendship within the local community and create opportunities for volunteering. They do not provide transport as Leiston has a Coastal Accessible Transport Service. They currently cover Leiston, Sizewell and Knodishall. Telephone: Sharon Cuthbert 07724 777465 Email leistongoodneighbour@gmail.com

<http://www.dementia-together.com/place/149?BackEnabled=True>
<https://infolink.suffolk.gov.uk/kb5/suffolk/infolink/service.page?id=UTOb9aQre9I>

Aldeburgh

The purpose of good neighbour schemes is to provide occasional assistance to local people. The range of help that can be offered is dependent on the number of volunteers that have joined the scheme and what type of help they can offer.

ALDEBURGH GOOD NEIGHBOUR SCHEME (AGNES) provides help for Aldeburgh residents in the IP15 postal code.

With a limited number of volunteers its services include:

- Provision of transport to appointments at Aldeburgh Surgery, Aldeburgh Hospital, Aldeburgh and Leiston dentists and opticians. They do not provide transport to Ipswich or other more distant hospitals.
- Local transport – provision of local transport and referral on to Coastal Accessible Transport (CATS) and local taxi services for longer journeys.
- Shopping/errands
- Help with form filling
- Information and signposting for clients to organisations for help and advice

They have a mobile phone which is held by an AGNES "Duty Coordinator" who responds to calls received. AGNES operates Monday

to Friday and the Duty Coordinator usually requires 24 hours' notice to assign a volunteer unless it is an emergency situation. There is a

small charge for local journeys which goes towards the volunteer's petrol costs.

The AGNES phone number is 0777303 1064.

For further information about health services in and around Aldeburgh, please see the link below:

<http://www.ipswichandeastsuffolkccg.nhs.uk>

https://www.aldeburghtowncouncil.co.uk/?page_id=1723

The Snape Good Neighbour Scheme

Their volunteers will help you with a variety of activities including —

Befriending, Lifts and support to your doctor/ dentist/ hospital appointments

Support with shopping, Gardening, TV, PC's and phones (minor adjustments)

Form-filling and administration, Dog-walking or checking on a pet if you are unwell

Other activities as requested and agreed.

Always be sure that anyone who you don't know, but who acts as if they are a Snape Good Neighbour, carries a valid photo-ID with this logo.

Their genuine Volunteers are, of course, all DBS-checked, and will NEVER object to you checking their identity via this phone number — 07541 754426

Just call this number, and leave a message DAY OR NIGHT.

One of our volunteers will respond as soon as possible.

Also, please do come along to their 'Meet Up Mondays', held every Monday morning (including Bank Holidays) from 10:30 to midday at the Golden Key

Pop in for a free cup of coffee/tea and biscuits and a friendly chat. It would be really good to see you. If you need a lift please ring us, as above.

<http://snapevillage.onesuffolk.net/what/sgns/>

Aldringham-cum-Thorpe

The "Scheme Phone" is held on a rota basis by the volunteers. When someone rings for assistance, the "Phone holder" will try to find someone from the volunteer list who can provide the requested help. All the volunteers are from Aldringham or Thorpeness, they are insured by the scheme and have had the necessary Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks (formerly CRB - Criminal Record Bureau).

How can they help?

Typical tasks that they aim to help with are:

Give you a lift (45p/mile)*

Collect a prescription

Help with shopping

Take you shopping

Visit for a chat

Look after/exercise your pet for a short time

Check Smoke alarm/change light bulb

Minor household repairs

Write a letter/fill a form in

Deliver a meal

If you need some help please telephone

07521 047 843

* There is a flat charge of £3 to Aldeburgh, £5 to Saxmundham and 45p per mile elsewhere within a (approx) 5 mile radius.

The suggested donation to cover petrol costs for lifts to Ipswich Hospital** and other medical facilities within this area is £25 for a round trip (£50 for a lengthy stay if separate volunteers are used for trips to and from the hospital), and £30 to James Paget Hospital.

Good Neighbours can supply Data Link containers for any parishioner who would like one to record your current medication, allergies and contact numbers for her doctors and next of kin.

Party RSVPs, requests for Data Link containers and any requests for help with minor tasks should go to the GN phone 07521 047 843.

Good Neighbours operates throughout the year, festivities notwithstanding, so if you have a small task you need help with, **call 07521 047843** anytime and a volunteer will get back to you.

<http://aldringham.onesuffolk.net/about-the-parish/community-groups-and-clubs/good-neighbours-scheme/>

East Suffolk Photo Competition was back!

A popular photo competition celebrating the beauty of East Suffolk is returned for a third year and were open to anyone living in, working in or visiting East Suffolk. Well done and thanks to the winners and all those that took part.

Runners raised over £1,000 for charity

Runners, joggers and walkers of all ages and abilities took part in the 2019 Honour Run, which returned to Rendlesham Forest in October, over 160 people took part in the Honour Run and raised a total of £1,010.73 for the Suffolk British Legion Poppy Appeal, which supports serving and ex-serving men and women in the armed forces.

It was great to see so many people taking part in the Honour Run, following up on the success of its launch last year and we would like to thank everyone who took part in the run and to all the volunteers, without whom the event would not be possible.

We reminded people to clear up after your dog/s...Dog owner fined for failing to clear up after pet (see also March 2020 ward report)

An East Suffolk resident who failed to clean up after his dog has been made to pay more than £1,000, following a court hearing. East Suffolk Council brought a prosecution against a resident for breaching a Public Space Protection Order, under section 67(1) of the Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014.

East Suffolk is a dog-friendly district and we know most dog owners are responsible and clear up after their pets. There are however a small number of inconsiderate people who feel the rules do not apply to them, but there is absolutely no excuse for failing to clear up after your dog. We want to ensure that all public areas are safe for everyone to enjoy and will not hesitate to take action against anyone who is found responsible for despoiling our environment.

Men were found guilty of littering in Lowestoft

Two men have been fined more than £600 in total after being found guilty of littering offences in Lowestoft. At two separate hearings at Great Yarmouth Magistrates' Court on Thursday 30 January, 2 residents were both charged with littering following incidents last year.

On 7 May 2019, one was seen throwing cigarette litter from his vehicle whilst pulled up on Belvedere Road, Lowestoft. East Suffolk Norse issued an £80 Fixed Penalty Notice which he failed to pay, despite being sent reminders.

On 24 May 2019, another man was seen throwing cigarette litter from his vehicle whilst waiting in traffic on Katwijk Way, Lowestoft. East Suffolk Norse issued an £80 Fixed Penalty Notice; he denied littering and failed to pay the notice, despite being sent reminders.

At the court hearing, one initially pleaded not guilty on the basis that he could not recall dropping the litter. However, upon further consideration, he changed his plea. The court found him guilty of littering and he was ordered to pay a total of £210, comprising the original fine of £80, £100 for costs and £30 for the victim surcharge.

The other man did not attend his court hearing and permission was granted to proceed in his absence. The court found him guilty of littering and fined him £220 for the offence, plus £200 for costs and £30 for the victim surcharge.

First Light to return to Lowestoft in 2020

First Light, the 24-hour, non-stop multi-arts and science festival will be returning to Lowestoft in 2020. Events will begin on Lowestoft's sandy South Beach at noon on Saturday 20 June and will run continuously until midday on Sunday 21 June.

£200,000 of funding had already been agreed by East Suffolk Council and now Arts Council England have confirmed their support with an additional £198,000.

The festival programme will be launched at the end of March at the CEFAS building in Lowestoft, details to follow.

Funding secured to help rough sleepers in East Suffolk

East Suffolk Council has secured over £600,000 to help support rough sleepers in the district. Following a successful bid to the Government's Rough Sleeping Initiative, the Council has been awarded an additional £693,735 to support work with rough sleepers over the next year. The national initiative has allocated £112million to help get people off the streets and into safe accommodation.

The East Suffolk funding will enable the employment of new street outreach and a specialist to work with vulnerable adults. The funding will also enable the council to retain the services of a rough sleeper coordinator, specialist mental health workers and ensures the continuation of an eight-bed rapid assessment hub. Staff will be solely focused on working with those sleeping on the streets, providing increased support and helping to find accommodation for those in need.

Help available to those struggling with hoarding

A new trial is underway to help people living in rented properties in East Suffolk who may be struggling with hoarding. East Suffolk Council was awarded £56,950 from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government to trial an innovative approach for housing tenants who may be hoarding items in their homes and neglecting their health and wellbeing. Working in partnership with Lofty Heights, Access Community Trust and Flagship Housing, the Council's Private Sector Housing Team will work with tenants and landlords to address poor housing standards in properties where the tenant is showing signs of hoarding and self-neglect.

The trial will offer support to tenants through the decluttering process as well as help to improve their mental wellbeing, addressing the causes of their hoarding and reducing the risks of hoarding recurring in future. Following the clearance of hoarded items, any underlying housing issues and hazards will be

addressed by the Private Sector Housing team to ensure the home provides a good standard of accommodation.

For more information about the scheme or to make a referral, please contact Private Sector Housing on 01394 444506 or email: ps.housing@eastsuffolk.gov.uk

Suffolk to host final stage of The Women's Tour in 2020

The world's top cyclists will return to Suffolk this June as the county hosts the final stage of The Women's Tour on Saturday 13 June. It will be the first time that Suffolk has hosted the final stage of The Women's Tour since 2014, with riders tackling a route from Haverhill to Felixstowe.

To mark the announcement, organisers joined Suffolk partners at the Port of Felixstowe, the UK's biggest and busiest container port, and one of the largest in Europe, which will feature in the closing kilometres of the 2020 race.

Since 2014, The Women's Tour has covered more than 560 kilometres of racing in Suffolk, with the county hosting the opening stage of the race in 2015, 2016, 2018 and 2019, as well as the final stage of the first edition in 2014. The six stages during that period (in 2014 two stages of the race visited Suffolk) have seen over 250,000 spectators cheer on the riders at the roadside in the county, with a net economic impact since 2014 of in excess of £5.3m for the Suffolk economy. More details of the 2020 Women's Tour route will be announced in the coming weeks as well as further information about the route of the Suffolk stage of the race.

Improvements in sight as date agreed for plans to tackle Suffolk's parking problems

Councils in Suffolk are ramping up activity in order to take on responsibility for local parking management from 6 April 2020.

Parking patrols in Suffolk will soon be managed by district and borough councils, in a bid to improve parking locally and drive down nuisance and unlawful parking in towns and villages across Suffolk. Traditionally, roadside parking offences were a matter for the Police. However, parking has become a lower priority for them, so Suffolk County Council is transferring this responsibility to local district and borough councils under a process known as civil parking enforcement, or CPE.

Councils already manage public car parks in many towns and villages, so the changes make sense. Suffolk Constabulary is supportive of the move because the transfer of responsibilities will enable them to spend additional time on keeping communities safe and arresting and bringing offenders to justice.

Moving the responsibility from the police to local councils requires that statutory notice is given in Parliament. The parliamentary order will be laid until 30 January.

CPE has been running successfully in Ipswich since 2005; both Ipswich Borough Council and all the district councils have been working collaboratively with Police and Suffolk County Council in the planning stages to ensure a smooth implementation county-wide.

The change will bring many benefits, including:

- greater priority given to parking management locally, to help keep traffic moving;
- district and borough councils empowered to make local decisions to suit local circumstances;
- irresponsible and nuisance parking being enforced – supporting pedestrians, vulnerable road users, public transport services, drivers and emergency services to use the network more safely;
- fines associated with parking will be retained in Suffolk to support the cost of enforcement. Any surplus can be spent on local transport and environmental improvements;
- new jobs created county-wide to support parking management, patrols and enforcement.

Councillor Norman Brooks, East Suffolk Council's Cabinet Member for Transport,

A lot of residents come to us with concerns that people parking in their towns and villages are becoming more inconsiderate, and something needs to be done about it – we agree, and as a result are committed to seeing these parking issues managed locally to ensure fair and safe parking for all.

The council-run parking teams will, without doubt, provide more effective parking enforcement than the police because it will be their main focus – we have seen this in Ipswich where parking enforcement was de-criminalised some years ago.

Moving the responsibility for parking to local authorities will free up police time for them to deal with more urgent issues, which makes perfect sense and that is why I committed £190K from the Constabulary's reserves to help establish the scheme."

New paperless land charges service launched

A new online land charges tool, which provides users with a paperless search service, has been launched. The new East Suffolk 'Public Access Land Charges' (PALC) system was launched today and enables people to submit searches directly to the Land Charges team at East Suffolk Council.

As part of the conveyancing process, a local land charges search is undertaken whenever a property or piece of land is purchased, leased, valued or re-mortgaged.

This search shows any restrictions or legal obligations against the site such as tree preservation orders, conditional planning consents, conservation areas and listed buildings. Prior to the introduction of the new PALC system, searches could only be applied for via email or in writing.

Using the new system, customers can track the progress of a submitted search, pay online and receive a downloadable response document, removing the need for printing and further paperwork. To access the new Public Access Land Charges service, please visit www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/local-land-charges

East Suffolk Business Festival returned

East Suffolk Business Festival returned in November with a packed two-week programme of business and training events taking place across the whole district.

The festival, organised by East Suffolk Council and the events were delivered by Breakaway East, Suffolk Chamber of Commerce, Suffolk Chamber in Lowestoft & Waveney, New Anglia Growth Hub, Flyer Group, Nwes, Lowestoft Heritage Action Zone, Lowestoft Vision, Santander, East Suffolk Partnership and Innovation Martlesham. The aim of the Business Festival is to raise the profile of the East Suffolk business community as well as creating opportunities for businesses to connect with each other and grow their business.

This follows the success of the first Business Festival which was held in 2018 and saw over 1,100 people attend 31 events, over 120 people attend training sessions and over 57 people receive one-to-one business advice during the 10-day programme.

Suffolk Coast Forum Annual Conference

Collaboration was the central theme of the Suffolk Coast Forum Conference last year. Drawing in speakers playing a national part in the future of our coast and estuaries, everything from growing the economy to the importance of the coast to mental health is tackled.

The conference audience is wide spread and attracts people from coastal and estuarine communities as well as businesses, students and those who work on the coast. It is free to attend but that is only made possible by the many conference sponsors and supporters.

East Suffolk Business and Community Award Winners

The 2019 East Suffolk Business & Community Awards took place in October at The Hangar, Kesgrave Hall. Organised by East Suffolk Council, the Awards celebrated a vast array of business and community successes and initiatives from the last 18 months.

It saw a record number of entries for the awards, with over 60 businesses and groups represented on the night - alongside the many individual finalists and distinguished guests.

Skills insight for local young people

Young people came from across East Suffolk to learn more about potential careers through a series of fun skills initiatives delivered by East Suffolk Council and local organisations. Children from local primary schools (Years 5 and 6) along with secondary school and Sixth Form students took part in three separate programmes which combined hands-on activities with innovative learning styles; Eyes On, Game Anglia and the Cefas Masterclass.

East Suffolk Council, together with East Coast College, Game Anglia and Cefas are committed to providing young people with opportunities to learn and practice new skills, in order to help develop a vibrant post-16 skills system which is closely aligned to the current and future economy.

Residents reminded only rain down the drain

Residents and businesses are being reminded and encouraged to dispose of their waste correctly and reduce the pollution caused by litter entering the drainage system.

The 'Yellow Fish' anti-pollution project, delivered by community charity Groundwork Suffolk, the East Suffolk Greenprint Forum and East Suffolk Council, is raising awareness of the importance of preventing litter from entering the surface water drainage. Through the project, local communities are reminded that surface water drains, including road gullies, are only designed to carry rainwater. Unlike foul water systems which feed into sewage treatment works, surface water drains usually lead directly to natural watercourses. Any waste entering these drains can therefore end up polluting the watercourses, harming fish and other wildlife.

Cigarette butts are the most common form of littering - in a survey carried out in Lowestoft in July 2018, 53% of all litter was smoking-related waste, mostly cigarette butts. As well as harmful plastic, cigarette butts contain toxic chemical ingredients including arsenic, lead and nicotine which can all be released when the butts break up in the environment. To find out how you can reduce, reuse, recycle and dispose of a wide range of everyday household items and materials, visit the [Suffolk Recycling website](#).

A Motorbike Show was held in Leiston

The Motorbike Show was held at the Long Shop Museum in September. A vast array of bikes were on show from vintage and classic to sports and touring, plus a few unusual and customised bikes for good measure. We are delighted to welcome the outstanding David Silver Honda Collection to the museum again.

Together with all the bike displays, our engines will be in steam. A dazzling display of power, polished chrome and brass to stir the emotions! The Steam-up barbecue served up mouth-watering local burgers and sausages, and the tea room will be serving delicious homemade cakes and savouries with a plentiful supply of tea and coffee.

More recent news:

Man fined for failing to remove dog waste

A Lowestoft man has been fined over £1,700 for failing to remove approximately 15kg of dog waste from his garden.

At a hearing at Great Yarmouth Magistrates' Court on Thursday 30 January, a male was found guilty of breaching an abatement notice under Section 80 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990.

The man did not attend his court hearing and permission was granted to proceed in his absence. The court fined a total of £1,775 comprising £500 for breaching the abatement notice by failing to remove the waste, a further £500 for breaching the abatement notice for failing to prevent the recurrence of the waste, £400 costs, £325 compensation and £50 for the victim surcharge.

East Suffolk is a dog friendly district and we know that most dog owners are responsible and clear up after their pets. There are a small number of inconsiderate people who feel the rules do not apply to them, but there is absolutely no excuse for failing to clear up after your dog, even on private property.

Following complaints from residents about an accumulation of dog faeces in a neighbouring garden, an officer from East Suffolk Council's Private Sector Housing team visited the property in May 2019. A large quantity of dog waste was seen and a letter was sent to the occupant, asking him to clean up the faeces. After two weeks, the waste had not been removed and so a further letter was sent. The waste was still present during visits from the Private Sector Housing officer on both 7 and 20 June. On the latter visit, the officer observed the amount of waste had increased and this now amounted to a statutory nuisance. An abatement notice was served on 25 June, requiring removal of all animal waste from the rear garden within 7 days and dispose of it in a lawful manner. The notice also prohibited recurrence of the nuisance, no appeal against the notice was made.

No effort was made to remove the waste, despite being given additional time. As a result, two officers removed approximately 5kg of animal waste from the garden on 13 August. Further waste accumulated, despite a further letter of the ongoing requirements of the abatement notice. During a site visit in September, officers noted the waste was still present, along with a strong smell which would have prevented the neighbours from using their garden. On 2 October, the Council notified the resident that a breach of the abatement notice had been observed. He was also notified of the Council's intention to clear up the faeces and that the costs of doing so would be recharged to him.

During a site visit to remove the waste on 3 December, the man denied receiving any letters and suggested his dogs may have eaten them. He also claimed to be unaware the Council had previously cleared the waste in August. With the defendant's permission and having been told he would be billed for the clearance, contractors cleared the waste for a second time. Approximately 10kg of waste was removed and disinfectant sprayed over the area.

Help your community become 'plastic clever'

Volunteers are being asked to step forward to help their local community take a smart approach to plastic waste by joining a network of Plastic Action Champions. The Plastic Action Champions scheme aims to encourage more people to learn about their environmental impact, take action to reduce their plastic waste and spread the word on environmental issues.

Volunteers are invited to attend a training session to join a network of Plastic Action Champions across East Suffolk with four new sessions taking place at East Suffolk House, Melton and Riverside, Lowestoft starting later this month.

Becoming a Plastic Action Champion is ideal for those who want to take further positive action and help others within their community to become 'plastic clever' through advice, activities and education. Small changes make a big difference over time, and following the Council's Climate Emergency declaration last year, this scheme is making a real positive difference to our communities and the lives of residents.

The role of a Champion includes volunteering in their local community for a minimum of 20 hours annually. The role is fully flexible and how Champions use those 20 hours is up to you, examples can include reaching out to local community groups and businesses, exhibiting at local events, blogging about relevant topics, and organising litter picks and surveys.

Those interested in becoming a Plastic Action Champion are invited to book a place at one of the following sessions (subject to demand):

- Monday 2 March – Riverside, Canning Road, Lowestoft (4.30-7pm)
- Wednesday 4 March – East Suffolk House, Melton (6-9pm)
- Monday 10 March – Riverside, Canning Road, Lowestoft (4.30-7pm)

Booking is essential and each session will go ahead subject to demand; to register your place, please email greenissues@eastsoffolk.gov.uk or call 01394 444747.

The training is provided by the Greenprint Forum and Jason Alexander from Rubbish Walks. Ongoing training, a comprehensive 'Plastic Action Handbook' and support will be provided through the scheme.

The scheme is part of the Greenprint Forum's ongoing Plastic Action campaign which is part funded by the East Suffolk Partnership and the Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB Sustainable Development Fund.

The East Suffolk Greenprint Forum is a voluntary network open to all and facilitated by the Council. It aspires to improve the quality of life in the district while reducing the impact on the environment.

[See more information about the Greenprint Forum. https://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/environment/east-suffolk-greenprint-forum/](https://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/environment/east-suffolk-greenprint-forum/)

Climate Change Forum addresses need for collaborations to tackle changing environment

A fully booked Climate Change Forum took place in Lowestoft to explore the challenges faced by climate change and the opportunities of working together to identify solutions. The Forum, titled 'A 20:20 Vision on Climate Change' explored ideas for positive actions in the face of a changing climate and how communities, individuals and others can do their bit to take action towards better, more sustainable ways of living while adapting to the impacts of climate change.

The Forum was organised by the East Suffolk Greenprint Forum and East Suffolk Environmental Task Group as part of the Council's commitment to inform and engage with the public.

It included talks by Cllr James Mallinder, East Suffolk's Cabinet Member for the Environment, who addressed the need for the Council and local communities and individuals to work together to fight climate change and Peter Aldous, MP, who told attendees that climate change is the most important issue facing the UK and the rest of the world, and that the UK should be seen as a global leader in taking action.

Talks were also given by Karen Thomas, Head of Coastal Partnership East, who said that adaptive solutions are already being introduced through partnership working on climate change and changing sea levels, and Tom Bryant, Founder of TFB Consulting, who said that sustainability is increasingly becoming good business sense as clients and customers seek out sustainability in the businesses they interact with. Ian Rowlands, Director at Incredible Oceans, ended the talk sessions and explained how we must all be mindful that communications on climate change can be perceived differently by different people, depending on their own perceptions and motivations.

Local organisations and initiatives were being promoted at the Forum, with stalls from Greenprint Forum, Plastic Action Champions, Suffolk Waste Partnership, Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB, Climate Associates Ltd, Lowestoft Climate Action Group, Greener Fram and Fram Climate Change Action Now, Transition Woodbridge, Friends of the Earth, Coastal Partnership East and Groundwork East.

The East Suffolk Environment Task Group was set up following East Suffolk Council's declaration of a Climate Emergency last year, to determine how the Council can reduce its own carbon footprint and work with partners and local communities in the fight against climate change. This includes identifying future priorities for action on climate change, building on the progress that has already been achieved.

The Task Group is developing into a proactive cross party initiative and will focus on topics at each of its meetings where policies of the Council are analysed to make sure they continue to be fit for the purpose and new policies will be suggested for further investigation.

Reports have already been received by Groundwork Suffolk and Suffolk Change Partnership which recognises the steps the Council has already taken, including moving to its new energy efficient buildings in Lowestoft and Melton, and installing solar PV at the recently refurbished Deben Leisure Centre and Leiston Leisure Centre, and identifies areas that the Council will need to focus on to achieve its ambitious targets.

First Light to return to Lowestoft this summer

First Light, the 24-hour, non-stop multi-arts and science festival will be returning to Lowestoft in 2020. Events will begin on Lowestoft's sandy South Beach at noon on Saturday 20 June and will run continuously until midday on Sunday 21 June.

£200,000 of funding had already been agreed by East Suffolk Council and now Arts Council England have confirmed their support with an additional £198,000.

Genevieve Christie and Wayne Hemingway, festival directors, said:

"We are absolutely delighted that both East Suffolk Council and Arts Council England and have agreed to fund the festival again. More than 30,000 people joined us at the inaugural event last year and experienced the highest quality dance, music, arts and science programmed in collaboration with the region's foremost cultural organisations including Dance East, Snape Maltings and national science institutions CEFAS and the Natural History Museum.

It transformed the beach and seafront into a welcoming, social space, enriching the local arts ecology with opportunities for local artists and performers to showcase their skills alongside world class talent including Mercury award-winning musician Talvin Singh, Six Music DJ Gilles Peterson and award-winning film director Danny Boyle. Having seen the impressive power of the local community to support and celebrate their place at an event like this, we are excited to begin programming for this year's festival."

Lowestoft has proved that it can stage a world class event and local people have shown how much this Festival means to them. We are delighted to fund the event and the support from the Arts Council indicates a real faith in the town to deliver."

The festival programme will be launched at the end of March at the CEFAS building in Lowestoft, details to follow.

Orfordness Lighthouse

Following a site inspection last month, our Building Control team advised the Orfordness Lighthouse Company that the structure was in a dangerous condition due to exposed foundations on the entrance porch and a void between the base of these foundations and the ground. In order to remove this danger, the owners were advised to demolish the entrance porch and secure the access into the main lighthouse building.

Officers advised that the main lighthouse was a potentially dangerous structure and consideration should be given to its long-term future. However, officers did not feel the main lighthouse was in immediate danger and due to its remote location, it was not felt there were any safety risks to the public. Therefore, the Council has **not** issued a notice for its demolition.

The decision to demolish the lighthouse at this time has been taken solely by the owners and is not being ordered by East Suffolk Council.

It is sad to see such a historic feature disappear from our coastline however it is not unexpected. Our Building Control team will continue to liaise with the owners to ensure appropriate action is taken.

Refilling your weekly shop without unnecessary plastic is getting easier in Suffolk

A number of shops in Suffolk are offering refills for a host of household items in a bid to cut down on the amount of plastic and packaging we use.

The Suffolk Waste Partnership has launched a handy online directory which lists the shops, businesses or charities that host refill points for items such as cleaning products, toiletries and dried foods, such as rice or oats and even loose-leaf tea and chocolate. At the moment there are 22 organisations which stock refills, but the partnership is encouraging other businesses to consider introducing similar schemes.

Peter Stevens, Chairman of the Suffolk Waste Partnership, said: "These refill points allow people to make a decision about what plastic they use. Of course, we have a long way to go before these refill points replace our weekly shop, but it is absolutely fantastic that Suffolk is showing such initiative in beginning the process. This is exactly the kind of 'green' thinking we welcome and encourage. I would ask everyone to have a look at the directory and see what is offered in their neighbourhood."

Residents can search their local area on the directory to find where their nearest refill point is.

If any retailers or businesses would like to offer refill services and get listed on the online directory please contact Waste.Management@suffolk.gov.uk. The directory can be found here: <https://suffolkrecycling.org.uk/reduce-your-waste>

Love East Suffolk this spring

The 'Love East Suffolk' litter pick scheme returns next week to encourage, enable and reward people to show some love for the environment we live in. The 'Love East Suffolk' scheme gives community groups a winning way of cleaning up their neighbourhood while helping themselves by offering £20 to their nominated community fund or charity for litter picks carried out between 1 March and 31 May 2020.

All registered groups who carry out their litter pick during this period will also be entered into a £200 grand prize draw, with prizes provided by the Council's partners, East Suffolk Norse.

The scheme ties in with the Great British Spring Clean taking place 20 March – 13 April 2020 which aims to bring together people across the country to clean up litter that blights our towns, villages, countryside and coastline.

A bit of time and effort can make a big difference to an area, not only for the people who live there but the wildlife too – it is a great way of giving something back to your local community and we hope that other residents appreciate the efforts of those who voluntarily pick up litter, helping to keep East Suffolk such a beautiful place in which to live, work and visit. It is a shame it is needed in the first place but unfortunately some people think it is acceptable to dump their rubbish anywhere they like. It would be much better if everyone took responsibility for their own rubbish and disposed of it correctly, using litter bins or taking it home, instead of other people having to pick it up for them.

East Suffolk Norse can provide equipment, including sacks, to groups on request and will also arrange for gathered litter to be collected. Litter pick sticks, bag hoops and green vests can also be loaned out, subject to availability.

Love East Suffolk - Register your litter pick now!

https://my.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/service/Litter_pick_registration

Once again, many thanks for your continued support

T-J, Jocelyn and Tony – Aldeburgh & Leiston Ward

Appendix D – Middleton Moor

Middleton Moor

Report for year ended March 31st 2021

The Middleton Moor Management Group last met in June 2019. We plan to hold the next meeting as soon as Covid restrictions allow.

The Moor is registered as Common Land. The Parish Council has an agreement with Natural England under which annual payments are made to the Council by the Rural Payments Agency in return for preserving the conservation status of the Moor. The agreement makes particular reference to the population of Great Crested Newts which breed in the main pond and I am pleased to be able to report that the presence of the newts in the pond has been re-confirmed this Spring.

The receipts from the Rural Payments Agency are taken to a ring-fenced fund in the Parish council books. The current balance on the ring-fenced funds is £2,726.

The current agreement ends in 2023 and the Parish Council plans to work with the Moor Management Group to develop a management plan to use as the basis for application for ongoing support under the new Environmental Land Management Scheme (ELMS)

I would like to record thanks and appreciation to Jane Etheridge for her work as Parish Councillor in relation to the Moor and look forward to her continuing advice.

I would also like to thank the Summer Wine Group for their volunteer work on the Moor.

Julian Cusack

Appendix E – Middleton Recreation Ground

Middleton Recreation Ground Trust

Report for year ended March 31st 2021

Successive generations of local residents have always taken care of and valued the 'playing field' which is owned by the Recreation Ground Trust and operated by the Parish Council. The latest financial statements for the Trust appear at the end of this report.

During the lock down the playing field proved its value as a natural part of people's walking routes as they took their daily exercise.

This table summarises the facilities available and their usage which is now returning to normal.

Dog walking/exercise	Disposal bin at entrance to car park, provided and serviced by District Council	Most dog owners are considerate and clean up well. Occasional conflict with users of playground, but only 1 or 2 complaints per year about isolated cases
Children's play area	Range of infant and junior play equipment most of which has been recently refurbished. Inspected every two weeks by volunteers and annually by independent safety inspector	Well used throughout the year including by families from surrounding area.
Pavilion	Kitchen, toilets.	Used by Middleton Primary School during term time. In return School picks up the cost of mowing. Otherwise only open when booked for a specific event. Most bookings are either community events, cricket matches or private children's/family parties.
Education/sports - school use	'Forest school' area in north-east corner	Program varies but the school appears to use the field once most weeks during term time. Also used for sports day
Sports use - other	Croquet and boules areas provided by Community Council. Cricket square. Football goals.	Increasing informal use for football kick abouts. Occasional runners

	Cricket club has storage hut and cylinder mower provided jointly by Parish Council	
Nature/well being	Popular as part of a walking route. WI sponsored orchard doing well. Car park area improving with new tree planting and wild-flower seeded area.	
Picnic tables/seating	One new table/chair set provided by Community Council. Others showing signs of wear.	Picnic tables well used throughout year
Storage	Container purchased by Trust and used mainly by the Community Council	

There is a Working Group of the Parish Council which meets occasionally to discuss management and development.

At its last meeting on November 28, 2020 a long list of projects was agreed including:

- Improving the pavilion flooring
- Repairing the rabbit fencing
- Removing plastic tree protectors around established trees
- Upgrading the football goals
- More tree planting
- Provision of a separate infant slide

I would like to thank all members of the Working Group including Irene Ralph who has retired after many years of service and whose advice was always most welcome.

I would also like to thank Andy Keeble for his contribution to the play-ground inspection program.

Finally , many thanks to Roy Dowding for looking after the finances of the Trust since 2009.

Please contact me if you wish to book the pavilion.

Julian Cusack

Chairman, Recreation Ground Working Group

The Middleton Recreation Ground Trust

Income and Expenditure Account

	Notes	£	£	£
		2021	2020	2019
		Draft		
-				
Year ended 31 March				
<u>Income</u>				
100 Club (closed)		60.00	260.00	500.00
Donations from Middleton Residents and Visitors		150.00	159.00	1,130.00
Donations from village bodies			200.00	165.00
HMRC Gift Aid Claim				250.00
Covid-19 Business Support Grant	2	10,000.00		
		<u>10,210.00</u>	<u>619.00</u>	<u>2,045.00</u>
<u>Expenditure</u>				
100 Club standing orders refunded			80.00	200.00
Pavilion cleaning		102.80	60.99	194.87
Pavilion maintenance				575.00
Pavilion insurance		313.07	317.96	313.02
Recreation ground maintenance		185.00		78.00
Play equipment maintenance		1,068.00	850.00	1,440.60
		<u>1,668.87</u>	<u>1,308.95</u>	<u>2,801.49</u>
<u>Surplus/(deficit)</u>		<u>8,541.13</u>	<u>-689.95</u>	<u>-756.49</u>

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The Middleton Recreation Ground Trust

Balance Sheet

	Notes	£	£	£
		2021	2020	2019
-				
At 31st March				

Fixed assets at cost	3	42,073.30	42,073.30	42,073.30
Balance at bank		12,456.46	3,915.33	4,605.28
Total assets		<u>54,529.76</u>	<u>45,988.63</u>	<u>46,678.58</u>
<u>Reserves</u>				
Balance b/f		45,988.63	46,678.58	47,435.07
Surplus/(deficit) for the period		8,541.13	-689.95	-756.49
<u>Balance c/f</u>		<u>54,529.76</u>	<u>45,988.63</u>	<u>46,678.58</u>
-				

The Middleton Recreation Ground Trust

Notes to the Accounts

1. Constitution

Middleton Recreation Ground is a charitable trust, registered with the Charity Commission under number 304797.

The Trust was created by a Declaration of Trust dated 16/12/1937 by Guy Hambling and 3 other individuals who at that time were the owners of the land. The terms of the declaration state that the land 'should be held in trust as public ground for the purposes of a Recreation Ground for the Inhabitants of Middleton and for no other purpose'. By a conveyance dated 16/9/1940 the land was gifted to the Parish Council with 'the intent that the Parish Council should hold the same upon and subject to the same trusts...'.

The terms of the Trust were clarified by application to the Charity Commission on 25/8/2008 to the effect that the objective of the Charity is now defined as to provide 'an open space for a recreation ground with purpose built facilities for leisure and educational activities and events'. The area of benefit was also extended to 'the Parish of Middleton cum Fordley and surrounding communities'.

The Parish Council is empowered under the 1940 conveyance to 'undertake the entire care maintenance and management of the Open Space for ever pursuant to the provisions of the Open Spaces Act 1906'.

2. Covid-19 Business Support Grant

The Trust was invited in a letter dated 8/4/20 from East Suffolk District Council to apply for a grant of £10,000 under the Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grant Scheme. We appeared to satisfy the eligibility criteria and a successful application was duly made. The grant in the sum of £10,000 was paid to us on 9/7/20.

A further grant of £10,708 was received from East Suffolk District Council on 8/4/21 under the Covid-19 Business Support Scheme and relating to restrictions on use of the Pavilion between November 2020 and March 2021.

3.Fixed assets - at cost

£

Pavilion	22,476.80
Container	1,626.00
Play equipment	17,970.50
Total	<u>42,073.30</u>

4. Financial history - to 31 March 2020

The Trust's bank account was opened in 2009 when fund raising for the pavilion began.

Since then the totals accounted for have been:

<u>Income</u>	£
100 Club	11,168.00
Donations including gift aid	18,203.33
Other fund-raising	2,660.43
Grants	28,931.27
VAT refund	3,869.22
Total	<u>64,832.25</u>

<u>Expenditure</u>	
100 Club	5,755.00
Pavilion cleaning	636.30
Pavilion maintenance	575.00
Pavilion insurance	1,514.04
Recreation ground maintenance	1,684.68
Play equipment maintenance	2,290.60
Construction of pavilion - contractors/suppliers	22,470.47
Construction of pavilion - fees	3,875.55
Container	1,626.00
Play equipment refurbished/new	17,970.50
Other	2,518.78
	<u>60,916.92</u>
Surplus	<u>3,915.33</u>

Appendix F – Middleton Community Council

What a strange, disappointing and challenging year!

Due to the Covid pandemic none of our usual major events were able to take place.

No Fete, no Autumn Fayre no Christmas Dinner, no Mummers, no Quiz, no Santa Boules.

However, we were able to take advantage of the rule allowing charities to hold Covid secure events to organise a village picnic on the Playing Field which was well attended and enjoyed.

In May the AGM was postponed 'sine die'.

An EGM was held in October to amend the constitution to allow us to meet electronically.

The work of the Community Council continued by purchasing a circular picnic bench for the Playing Field which was kindly assembled by the Summer Winers.

An oven and hob were purchased as a contribution to the Village Hall renovations and improvements.

A poppy wreath was donated for the Remembrance Sunday service held in the churchyard.

A Christmas tree was bought and erected on the village green by the Summer Winers and decorated, along with the bus shelter, with lights.

£10 Christmas vouchers were purchased for all children residing in the village.

A donation of £100 was made to the school towards the purchase of electronic devices to enable children to access lessons at home.

A Local Communications Grant was successfully applied for which enabled to installation of Broadband and the purchase of a laptop, tablet and printer, to be housed in the Village Hall.

Many thanks to all Committee members who have attended virtual meetings and agreed to decisions to make the above purchases and donations.

Hopefully things will be able to continue this year but it is by no means certain.

Only time and circumstances will tell.

Written on behalf of Middleton-cum Fordley Community Council, April 2021.

Appendix G – Middleton Village Hall

The Hall was closed in March 2020 as part of the national lockdown to combat the Coronavirus pandemic. By way of mitigating losses through lettings and with a desire to see these essential Community buildings survive, the Hall was able to access a Government Grant of £10,000. This has enabled several refurbishment initiatives to be proposed which will incorporate energy saving by replacing all the Hall's lights with LED's and renovation and upgrade of kitchen facilities to enhance our ability to maintain an even higher level of hygiene required to open post Covid.

New notice boards have been attached to the northern end of the main hall.

The Committee Room has seen the erection of an Archive cupboard across one end and all of the pictures, plaques, posters and large tapestry have been rearranged. The small watercolours have been moved from the main hall to main a more orderly and condensed display. A new carpet has been laid.

Most of the old kitchen cabinets have been reused to enhance storage in the rear Store Room and new shelving has been installed to rationalize access.

The disabled toilet area has been reorganized and now has a storage cabinet. Frost heaters have been renewed. This is, at present, the only toilet in use as it reduces the cleaning requirement and has an internal lock for single use only thereby enhancing bio security measures.

Full five year electrical testing has been completed along with PAT testing of all the equipment.

Broadband has been installed and a laptop, tablet and printer have been purchased thanks to a connectivity grant. This facility was made available for anyone wishing to complete the recent census online.

A concrete pad has been laid to the rear of the Village Hall to facilitate disabled parking. The relevant signage has been added. A robust yellow post has been situated by the front wall in an attempt to prevent further damage by vehicles.

The area of banking behind is currently being landscaped by village volunteers.

The Hall has been made Covid secure by following Government guidelines. There is a designated QR code sheet, relevant posters and signage, gel dispensers at key locations and a Covid First Aid box.

All hall users have been contacted to inform them of the above and to ascertain their future plans, allowing them to be compliant with Government guidelines.

They have all been issued with hygiene measures and given instructions on how to enter and leave safely and the regular cleaning they must undertake to leave the facilities ready for the next user.

The Parish Council has initiated a coffee morning, held inside or outside depending upon the rules applicable at the time.

During the past year there have been one to one Pilates sessions but all other users are waiting until they are allowed to have the numbers sufficient to financially support the activity.

Thanks go to the financial support given by the Government via East Suffolk Council in the form of a variety of grants and initiatives and the Parish Council for their input and advice.

Many thanks go to all members of the Village Hall Management Group who have helped to decorate and clean the premises and make it Covid secure.

Particular thanks go to our Secretary, Barbara Barker, who has successfully applied for all of the grants, organized the renovations and installations and generally used the unprecedented, potentially devastating events of the past year to produce positive change and hope for the future return of community events and activities.

Richard Turner, Chairman, on behalf of Middleton-cum-Fordley Village Hall Management Group

Appendix H – Holy Trinity Church

As with the rest of the country, Holy Trinity has had to comply with all the Covid 19 restrictions this past year. This has obviously resulted in the cancellation of all services in church but with prayer and worship being offered over Zoom. Subsequently, Holy Trinity has been closed for most of the year but the good news now is that the church, along with the rest of the country, is beginning to relax the rules and 'live' services are now being held.

At our APCM on 18th May we shall be welcoming onto the PCC a new Secretary and Treasurer (already co-opted) and approving the accounts for the past year.

Rita Pateman
Margaret Perrett
Churchwardens

Appendix I – Women’s Institute

The monthly meetings were conducted by Zoom; at first as an opportunity for a virtual get-together; latterly with speakers on Zoom covering topics including the history of RSPB Minsmere and a locally based digital festival about our oceans & the environmental threats that they face.

Caroline Howlett

Appendix J – Middleton Beaux Belles Petanque Team

This has been a very strange year as far as organised teams and leagues are concerned.

The Summer League was cancelled and replaced when regulations allowed by a Triples League so that players could abide by the rule of six. Lockdowns meant these has to be suspended for periods of time and the so called Winter league has still not been completed.

Practice sessions have taken place when the rules allowed and we await next year with a mix of anticipation and trepidation.

Richard Turner on behalf of Beaux Belles.

Appendix K – Middleton Nouveaux Petanque Team Annual Report 2021

On behalf of Middleton Nouveaux we have very little to report.

Our summer 2020 was aborted as per everyone else.

We have two games of the winter league left and we've done ok.

We have entered two teams in the doubles this summer but not entering the summer cup due to lack of numbers.

I anticipate entering the next winter league and a full team next year when hopefully there will be more enthusiasm post the worst of the issues re COVID will be behind us.

It doesn't help currently not being allowed to play on the Bell Inn piste. Hopefully this will not be for long as a social beer after the match is intrinsic in our ethos.

John Balcombe

Appendix L – Middleton Croquet Club

As you can imagine there is absolutely nothing to report, I can't say any more than that. Hoping to resume activities this year all being well.

Michael Kennedy

Appendix M – Newsletter

During the first lockdown of 2020 the Newsletter became a valuable source of information for residents regarding where and when they could get their shopping, and who to turn to if they needed medication/prescriptions collecting or any other help, as well as carrying articles to keep us all cheery- if only for a short while!

Thanks to Marilyn who compiled a comprehensive list of food stores/ suppliers willing to deliver and the PC email contacts list which I was able to extensively add to we were able to cover most bases. The email version of the newsletter proved to be a hit with probably 2/3 of the village and the majority still prefer to receive their newsletter this way. For those without email I initially printed off myself the hard copies to deliver as Leiston Press was closed. On quite a few occasions during the past year there have been “extra updates” in between the monthly publications and I would like to thank those who have kindly printed off the, usually single sheet, copies for their neighbours when I needed them to.

Thank you.

Once Leiston Press re-opened we began to have the hard copies printed in colour as we obviously didn't need so many. Currently I have 70 out of the original 220 printed. I do not envisage this changing much for the foreseeable future as there are a surprising number of residents who do not use email at all. Most new residents in the village have been happy to supply an email contact.

The newsletter accounts for 2020 were published earlier this year and the bank balance is currently very healthy – many thanks again to everyone who has contributed, whether it be a one-off or a regular donation.

Barbara Barker