



# July Report Cllr Hall Samford Division

Build Back **Better**  
Build Back **Stronger**  
Build Back **Greener**



## Support our fire service and stay safe this summer

According to the Met Office, Suffolk is one of the sunniest areas in the UK, and it's certainly felt that way over recent weeks when our county has been able to benefit from some glorious weather.

We're incredibly fortunate to have some fantastic places to enjoy when the sun starts to shine, including Southwold beach and Constable Country, but we must make sure that we do all we can to protect these open spaces from the risk of fire.

On a warm day, litter and grass can become very dry, leading to an increased likelihood of a fire catching and spreading. Sadly, we are not immune to this in Suffolk, with firefighters recently attending a large heath fire in Rushmere.

Please help our fire service this summer by following some simple steps to minimise the risk of fires in the open. You can make a real difference by:

- Putting your litter in the bin when out and about
- Avoiding barbecues and campfires in public open spaces
- Ensuring that any cigarettes are totally put out and disposed of properly
- Not leaving any glass items lying around after a picnic

Of course, the good weather may also tempt you to take a dip in a lake or river in the hope of cooling down, but before you take the plunge you should be aware that around 85% of drownings take place in open water. Many people don't realise the danger to life posed by the shock from cold water temperatures, strong currents and uneven banks and riverbeds, and I'd urge everyone to follow [guidance from the Royal Life Saving Society](#) to help prevent death or serious injury.

## Hundreds of local businesses show sustainability is achievable and profitable

462 businesses are leading the way across Suffolk and Norfolk, actively reducing their carbon emissions.

All of these companies are holders of a Carbon Charter award, a scheme which recognises businesses across Suffolk and Norfolk which are actively reducing their impact on the environment.

These businesses were acknowledged at the annual Carbon Charter event (6 July 2022), organised by Suffolk County Council, and held at Anglia Car Charging's base in Broome - themselves a recent recipient of a Silver Carbon Charter Award.

Beckett Invest Management Group received a Silver Carbon Charter award, which was presented to Director, Samantha Owen.

The hosts, Anglia Car Charging, also received their Silver award.

The event was funded by the BEE Anglia project, which has provided free consultancy and £1.6 million in grants to over 1,000 businesses across Suffolk and Norfolk, to support them in leading the way towards a Zero Carbon economy.

For more information on the Carbon Charter scheme, visit [www.carboncharter.org](http://www.carboncharter.org)

## Unpaid family carers urged to have their say on a new All Age Carer Strategy for Suffolk

On July 14<sup>th</sup>, Suffolk's Health and Wellbeing Board received a report outlining progress of a new All Age Carers Strategy for Suffolk.

There are an estimated 98,000 carers across Suffolk who provide unpaid care for their loved ones. In the UK, according to research from Carers UK conducted in 2020, this figure rises to 13.6 million. Their contribution is believed to have saved the country somewhere in the region of £193 billion



during the Covid-19 pandemic alone – during a time when many have faced unprecedented pressure, taking on new caring responsibilities for some of the most vulnerable in our society.

These carers give up their time, money, education, careers and relationships to support those they care for, often impacting their own health too. The All Age Carers' strategy will also help support young carers in their current roles and through transition to adulthood, so they can continue their education, employment and goals in life.

A consultation on the draft strategy has been launched and it is hoped carers of all ages will have their say on the strategy and its five priorities which focus around; early identification of unpaid or family carers, improved information and advice for carers of all ages, ensuring younger carers have the same priority as adult carers, creating systems which work to support carers and help to improve the health and wellbeing of carers.

**Speaking about the consultation Cllr. Beccy Hopfensperger, Cabinet member for Adult Social Care said:**

"The work of unpaid and family carers must be better understood and supported, and the new All Age Carers Strategy will certainly help to do that. I hope all carers across Suffolk take this opportunity to have their say and add their views to help build upon the co-production with carers which has already been fundamental in the strategy's development."

Details of the consultation, including a downloadable version of the draft strategy and both surveys (for adult or young carers) is available on [the County Council's website](#).

### **County Councils unanimously agree “no” to damaging new pylons**

It was announced on July 20<sup>th</sup> that authorities in Essex and Suffolk have united to condemn the current proposals for a 180km network of 50m tall electricity pylons.

Essex County Council and Suffolk County Council have passed motions at their full council meetings in July, to oppose the East Anglia GREEN proposal put forward by National Grid for a 180km network of electricity pylons between Norwich, Bramford and Tilbury.

Norfolk County Council is expected to consider the motion at its next full council meeting, following a planned debate yesterday (19 July 2022) being postponed.

The councils agree that the plan for pylons is destructive and outdated, and will cause irreversible damage to the countryside, wildlife habitats and local communities.

A new electricity network is needed to transmit the ambitious 50 GW of offshore wind that the Government aims to be delivered by 2030, and to connect new projects like Sizewell C. So much of this ambition falls on East Anglia, to provide energy for much of the country.

The councils fully support the need to generate this renewable and low carbon electricity, to meet local and national Net Zero ambitions. However, they believe that more suitable, sustainable and modern alternatives for the network have not been properly investigated and presented, such as undersea cable routes around the coastline of East Anglia.

Formalising their long-standing positions on the East Anglia GREEN proposal, the two councils join a group of 13 MPs who recently signed a letter criticising the consultation, along with a growing public petition with thousands of signatures.

### **New routes added as Suffolk County Council issues updated HGV map**

A new map for hauliers plotting routes for journeys across Suffolk has been drawn up.

The Suffolk County Council Lorry Route Plan now incorporates new developments and roads, schemes such as Air Quality Management Areas, and changes in road safety on lorry routes.

Changes to the map include utilising new by-passes and link roads at Beccles, Eye and Haverhill to divert traffic away from town centres, and downgrading of routes at Leiston and Stowlangtoft. The new edition also features, for the first time, routes in Ipswich.

The map, compiled following a three-month consultation with all parish and town councils in Suffolk, was last updated in 2011 although a minor review was held in 2017.

While hauliers are not compelled to use the routes it does help them identify the best roads for their journey. It also discourages them from taking routes that can cause disruption, road safety concerns and environmental concerns to local communities.

[Read more about the review and view the new map here.](#)

