

September already!

Congratulations and well done to all those students that received their exam results during the holidays. Don't despair if they were not what you expected, there is help and advice for their next steps, so If you or a family member is unsure what to do next visit www.thesource.me.uk, which contains lots of Information and sources of support for young people in Suffolk.

Good luck and best wishes to all those new students starting or moving onwards with their educational journey.

Sea link

It was surprising, good to note and read the newest submissions regarding more people taking the opportunity to register and submit RR's to the inspectors. To register to receive updates about this NSIP project, please visit: <https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN020026/get-updates/start>

Sizewell C/SPR works update

Many people have commented, and although works are not in my division, it does impact local people and visitors to our area. Requests for *basic sign information has been requested but again this needs to be directed at SZC/SPR. Cllrs have been assured that the traffic management is being deployed for safety reasons to protect road users and workers during construction of highway improvements to mitigate the future impacts of the construction traffic created by SZC and the SPR projects. SZC and their designers / contractors have a legal duty to provide this protection. Their powers to do so are included withing their planning permission (DCO) and were accepted by the Planning Inspectorate and Secretary of State. In the first instance complaints should be directed to SZC.

SZC do have a duty to notify SCC and the police in advance when using the DCO powers.

Inspections are undertaken to ensure that the works are signed and guarded in accordance with the regulations.

The positive message is that many of these mitigations are legacy benefits to the network (eg Friday Street, TVB and Yoxford Roundabout), works that are unlikely to have been delivered in the foreseeable future. Friday Street has been calling out for a roundabout for many years, If the works are not delivered the impacts of the SZC / SPR construction traffic on the community will be greater.

SZC have undertaken the following actions:

- provided a works tracker <https://www.szcworkstracker.co.uk/> although it has been pointed out that this does not show the A12 Wickham Market Works. SZC are correcting this.
- provide a monthly update to subscribers giving information about their works (attached). Following successful roll out of bespoke email alerts (that can be subscribed to), SZC will also soon be introducing text alerts that can be adjusted to different parts of the region for members of the community who want to plan their journeys / understand where our works are. This will include advance warning of TM and road closures
- have assured an officer that they will be rolling out of the *SZC branded signs that are due to be erected outside the access points of each AD, this will also be an important

step for the public to identify their sites. SZC want to update the upcoming forums on this and hope that some of the signs start to appear.

- have subscribed to one network to streamline the process for showing their works on this platform. <https://one.network/> . SCC have made it clear that whilst a good tool the amount of information can overwhelm users and that there is a need for SZC (and SPR) to co-ordinate their works before they are put onto the system.

SCC is aware of the sensitivity of the matter and have written to SZC instructing them to provide a long term (ie year plus) program of the traffic management and how they will be communicating this to communities. This was also raised this matter at the Northern Transport Forum. *SCC have instructed SZC to provide information boards clearly showing that they are responsible for the works and associated traffic management.

With respect to specific locations:

- A12 Wickham Market Bypass Lane Closure: This layout was used successfully in the past as it generally keeps traffic moving. It avoids queues and the increased risk of collisions if two lanes are merged into one. The main issue with this layout is delay caused by slow vehicles and closure of laybys (although this required most options). However, this is being discussed with SZC to see if changes can be made to the length of the lane closure and for the layout to remain safe.
- A12 Stratford St Andrew: 30mph limit was put in place due to the anticipated start of the TVB construction. Understanding is this has been delayed and if this delay is significant SCC will ask that the limit is removed until work commences or if is necessary for turning traffic setting up the site compound.
- A12/A1094 Friday Street: 30mph limit in place for ongoing construction works which are visible to road users.
- A12 SLR West (south of Yoxford): 30mph limit in place for ongoing construction works to protect water pipe. The southern extent of this is being shortened after being challenged. The northern extents will remain to avoid a 30: 50: 30 situation and to protect the road surface that is showing signs of distress following the recent hot spell.
- A12/B1122 Yoxford: 30mph limit in place for ongoing roundabout construction works which are visible to road users.
- A12 Darsham: 30mph limit in place for ongoing roundabout construction works, particularly excavations adjacent to the carriageway that also require two-way traffic signals. SZC have been instructed to manage the queues to avoid any traffic backing up across the level crossing.
- B1122: Awaiting program from Galliford Try (contractor) to be submitted to understand what TM is involved, specifically what minor roads and PRoW need closure and what are the diversions. Average speed cameras live. 30mph signs being mounted on posts. Necessary to reduce impacts on residents / road user safety due to increased traffic particularly HGVs.
- B1125 Speed limit extension and average speed cameras in place. For safety reasons, reduce impacts on Westleton and discourage SZC traffic (non-HGV).

- Leiston: Still trying to get a clear picture of what works are being done in which order in the Abbey Road, Station Road, Buckleswood Road, Lovers Lane areas. This is mainly due to co-ordination of utility diversions and the SZC road and rail works with the complexity of many stakeholders.
- Melton: Network Rail have a road closure 5th September to 8th September 2025 for repairs and surveys.

I hope that this provides some satisfaction that the impacts that while they cannot be avoided are being managed as best as they can and that SCC are applying pressure to SZC / SPR to improve matters. *(TVB – two villages bypass)*

TJ

Sizewell C News can be found at: <https://www.sizewellc.com/news/>

Thursday 23 October – Community Forum

Venue: [Sizewell Sports & Social Club, King Georges Avenue, Leiston IP16 4JX](#)

Start time: 1830 (please arrive for 1800)

Wednesday 8 October – Main Development Site Forum

Venue: [Leiston Town Athletic Association Victory Rd, Leiston IP16 4DQ](#)

Start time: 1830 (please arrive for 1800)

July Project update for those that have not seen it:

Introduction

Welcome to the July round up of activity at Sizewell C. Sizewell C has secured its Final Investment Decision (FID), giving the green light to the nuclear plant.

We have announced the new shareholders of the project, with the government the largest shareholder, alongside EDF, Centrica, La Caisse and Amber Infrastructure. For more information please [click here](#) to read our press release.

Following FID, we announced the location and designs of the College on the Coast. This post-16 education facility will be located on the eastern edge of Leiston on King George's Avenue, opposite the Sizewell C Ancillary Construction Area. The college will include an apprentice hub and will have space for 150 students, 20 full-time staff and drop in space for 50 apprentices. For further information please [click here](#).

We also launched the East Suffolk Trust (EaST) which is a new grant-giving charity, set up to enhance biodiversity and restore landscapes in east Suffolk and the wider county. This includes at least £78 million over the next 70 years, with the aim to make East Suffolk the most ecologically diverse and resilient area in England. To find out more please [read our press release](#).

Finally, a reminder that we give advance notice of our wide and abnormal load movements on [the Sizewell C Works Tracker](#). This is updated weekly to help local road users plan their journeys.

Main Development Site

Work has started to build the foundations of the water desalination plant and concrete batching plant on the **Temporary Construction Area**. We have also started preparing compounds for installation of the water shaft which will bring sea water to the desalination plant.

The foundations for the **campus** have started to be poured. This includes the amenity building and four accommodation blocks.

The Civil Works Alliance continues to prepare for the installation of the first bridge over the Site of Special Scientific Interest.

On the **Main Construction Area** work continues to prepare the ground and site for construction.

Ahead of the required bulk excavation works we have installed the first section of the plastic cut-off wall. This 55-metre-deep wall is constructed in panels and is located on the perimeter of the **Main Construction Area**. Once complete, the 3,000m long wall will enable dewatering and bulk excavation to take place.

We will start laying foundations for Primary Network Survey stations during August. There will be 18 stations in total across the Main Development Site to support setting out of structures.

On the **Ancillary Construction Area** off King George's Avenue in Leiston we are progressing well with earthworks. We have taken delivery of ballast and pre-assembled straight track sections ready for the construction of the railhead. The required switch and control units, also known as points, are already constructed and in storage off-site ready to be delivered when needed.



Sizewell Beach and Harbour Area

Construction of the northern section of the temporary sea defence has started with the first sheet piles being installed. The works will take place within the Sizewell C fence line, with the public footpath remaining open.

Work will soon commence on installing a temporary outfall on the beach. This work will all take place within a fenced compound.

To ensure progress of the temporary sea defence it will be necessary to work every other weekend in August including 9-10 August and 23-24 August. Further details of the works can be found on the [Sizewell C Works Tracker](#).

Marine Harbour

Our obligations as a Statutory Harbour Authority require us to publish General Directions which detail the restrictions that apply to vessels operating in the harbour area. These have now been consulted on and implemented, including the harbour area boundary and how the public will be informed of activities in the harbour. Notices and signs will be installed at the Sizewell Beach car park to support this.

Several marine surveys are taking place in the harbour during August, and towards the end of this year construction works will begin in earnest for both the Beach Landing Facility and the Marine Bulk Import Facility. This will involve works on the beach and more vessels, such as jack-up barges, operating within the harbour area. We will give more details of these works closer to the time. Further information on marine and harbour works can be found on [our Works Tracker](#).



In and around Leiston

We have started on the new junction of **Lover's Lane and Abbey Road** as part of the realignment work to allow us to install a new level crossing for our Green Rail Route. Three-way traffic lights will be implemented at the junction in order to facilitate advanced works for utility installation and the Lover's Lane temporary road alignment.

We are also continuing to prepare the site of the **plaza roundabout** to get it ready for construction.

During August, Essex and Suffolk Water will be working at night on weekends in the B1122 Abbey Road area as part of the works to create the Green Rail Route. These works are taking place in the field, away from the carriageway, and are not expected to cause any adverse noise disturbance.

Community Road Improvements

We have installed average speed cameras along the **B1122 and B1125** to enhance road safety in the new 30mph speed limit. On the B1122 the average speed cameras are in operation between Yoxford and Leiston, and the B1125 speed cameras are between the B1122 junction and Westleton. The speed limits are now **enforceable with legal penalties which are enforced by Suffolk Constabulary**.

From 11th August permanent 30mph signs along the B1122 will begin to be installed.

The upgrade work to the layby on the northern carriageway of the A12 near to the B1078 will begin in mid-August. This work will help us to manage our Abnormal Indivisible Loads which are escorted by the police. There will be a lane closure along the dual carriageway section of the A12 during this time.

Off-Site Infrastructure

Two Village Bypass and Friday Street Roundabout

We have installed welfare facilities for our team at the **Friday Street Roundabout** compound ahead of main works starting later in the summer. We have now completed all vegetation removal at this site including the large oak tree, with the wood being used in local community projects. Along the Two Village Bypass all the site accesses have now been established, and construction will begin once our archaeological surveys are complete.

A 30mph speed limit has been implemented along the A12 for the duration of the works around the Friday Street site. This is to ensure the safety of the public and our workforce during construction. Further traffic calming measures have also been installed including lane management cones and lining. As work progresses, further traffic management and some smaller road closures will be required, which we will publish once timelines are confirmed.

Sizewell Link Road

All the site accesses required for the construction of the Sizewell Link Road have now been completed. Our contractor, Galliford Try, will be undertaking the construction of the road and will start setting up their compounds, establishing haul roads and moving equipment from the week commencing 11 August.

We are working on details of required road closures that surround the Sizewell Link Road site and will share dates and details in due course. Pretty Road will close this autumn in order to build a bridge that will cross the Sizewell Link Road.

We have recently resurfaced Town Hall Farm Lane to improve the road access for residents and to our compounds. We continue to prepare the western end of the road alongside the A12 which will include a haul road. We are working closely with the solar farm project adjacent to our site to understand logistics and HGV movements.

Yoxford Roundabout

Construction of Yoxford Roundabout began in July with site establishment and earthworks to bring the level of the site close to the current level of the A12. The roundabout will be completed in mid-2026, with most of the work taking place offline before the final connections to the A12 are made. A 30mph speed limit along the A12 is in place to ensure the safety of the public and our workforce.

Park and Rides

With archaeology now completed, site preparation, including construction of compounds and welfare facilities, and ecology mitigation continues at both our Northern Park and Ride in Darsham and Southern Park and Ride in Wickham Market.

Construction of the roundabout next to the A12 and Willow Marsh Lane at the Northern Park and Ride has started. To improve safety for all road users a 30mph speed limit on the A12 is planned between the A144 and the Darsham Level crossing supplemented by traffic management schemes which are under development.

Orwell Logistics Park and Freight Management Facility

The Freight Management Facility, located within Orwell Logistics Park, is now fully operational.

We continue to expand the office space at Orwell Logistics Park to ensure a good spread of workers across the region and take the pressure off Leiston. 70 more workers are moving to the site this summer, a further 200 desks will be made available by the end of the year.

Rail Works

The new compound at **Leiston Airfield** is now complete. This will allow our teams delivering rail improvements to move from the current **Buckleswood Road** compound, which will then only be used for materials management and storage.

Track renewal works have been taking place on the Leiston Branch Line. These works are to install new track with a New Track Construction machine which replaces the existing rail sleepers and track. This is a key piece of plant as it is both safer and quicker than other methodologies. For further details please [visit our Works Tracker](#).

Balfour Beatty is carrying out vegetation clearance on the Valley Road rail bridge between Monday 4 August and Thursday 7 August.

Improved bus services coming to Suffolk this month

New or enhanced bus services will launch across the county between 31 August and mid-September, with a further 7 expected to go live later this year.

These routes have all been suggested by the community through the council's "scheme on a page" initiative and have been funded through the 2025/26 Local Authority Bus Grant from Department for Transport. The grant is made up of £2.8m revenue for delivering these new or enhanced services and a further £5.3m capital for new and improved bus stops, bus stations, bus priority measures or vehicle upgrades.

BorderBus	521	Aldeburgh -	Increased Saturday	TBC
		Thorpeness -	frequency and	
		Saxmundham -	extended to	
		Halesworth	Beccles	

Putting People at the Heart of Care: Celebrating Community Catalysts in Suffolk

At Suffolk County Council, our ambition is clear: to ensure that every person needing care can make use of high-quality, personalised support that enriches their life. This is why I am thrilled to celebrate the extraordinary work being carried out in Suffolk by **Community Catalysts**, a social enterprise dedicated to supporting the development of community micro-enterprises providing bespoke care and support for local people.

A Partnership That Delivers Real Local Choice

Since launching in the Waveney district before expanding across the whole of the county, the Community Catalysts initiative has brought meaningful change by promoting local, community-based care options. By working with people who wish to set up their own small-scale care businesses, the project supports those who seek to offer care and support such as home help, companionship, household support, or creative community-led activities. This scheme also supports established local groups aiming to diversify or expand their offerings.

The Community Micro-Enterprise Development Programme in Suffolk has (to date) resulted in the development of 160 new or existing community micro-enterprises that are offering over 5,260 hours of support to 1,100 people (with additional capacity available). This programme is underpinned by our 'People at the heart of care' vision, which values personalised solutions and

empowers people to choose what works best for them. Community Catalysts bring that vision to life by cultivating a directory “[Small Good Stuff](#)”: not one-size-fits-all care, but tailored, homely support rooted in community itself.

Spotlight: HandS Help and Support

One of the most inspiring stories to emerge from this work is that of Lenka Bashford, who launched HandS Help and Support in West Suffolk earlier this year. After contacting her local Catalyst, Amy, Lenka benefited from invaluable guidance on everything from marketing and training to insurance, regulations, DBS checks, and accessing funding.



and Support

Hands Help

By April, Lenka had begun providing support to four local clients, delivering 25 hours of highly personalised care every week. Over half of her enquiries came through Small Good Stuff, Community Catalysts’ directory of local care and support. Rosie who is living with dementia, and has benefitted from using Lenka’s support has found new joy, companionship, and confidence, while Rosie’s daughter remarked that through Lenka’s efforts, “Mum is a person again, with a life to talk about and experiences to share.” Lenka’s journey has given friends and families in Suffolk a shining example of how creativity, compassion, and personalised care can transform lives.

Building Capacity Across Suffolk

Community Catalysts' impact does not stop there. Their Small Good Stuff directory for Suffolk now features enterprises such as Lisa Fowler Home Support (covering Sudbury and nearby areas), Megakare Ltd (operating across towns from Ipswich to Bury St Edmunds), and Small Steps Support and Care Services (working in and around Bury St Edmunds). One particular enterprise, Suffolk Home Help, offers a wide range of services, from companionship, decluttering, and meal support to gardening and community outings, and carries recognised training credentials as well as Doing It Right Standards, thanks to their Community Catalysts development experience.

A Strategic Boost for the Future

June saw an important milestone with the release of the Suffolk County Council Care Market Strategy 2025–2030. The strategy explicitly recognises community micro-enterprises as a central pillar of Suffolk's future care market: a tremendous acknowledgement of their value and a firm commitment to building on this approach. As I have said previously, Suffolk County Council doesn't just deliver local services – but with our countywide reach, associated economies of scale, and with the support of social enterprises like Community Catalysts, we are able to help new hyper-local micro-enterprises set up and grow.

What This Means for Suffolk

Thanks to Community Catalysts:

- Choice and personalisation are at the forefront, giving people local, flexible, and meaningful care alternatives.
- People with ideas for caring services can now access free mentorship, support, and guidance to set up well-structured, sustainable enterprises.
- Families and peoples across Suffolk benefit from care grounded in community, delivered by other people who know and understand them.
- The county's care landscape has grown in diversity, resilience, and dynamism, and now has solid strategic backing.

Looking Ahead

Recently we filmed some micro-enterprises as part of our Coffee and Care video campaign who talked about their experience of setting up their businesses, I look forward to sharing those with you all soon, but it fills me with pride to see the imaginative and compassionate ways care is being reimaged in Suffolk communities. As Cabinet Member for Adult Care, I warmly encourage anyone in Suffolk who has ever thought, *"I could help my neighbours, but I do not know how to begin,"* to reach out to Community Catalysts.

If you are considering setting up your own micro-enterprise to provide care or support in Suffolk, I urge you to get in touch with Community Catalysts for free, expert advice on how to get started. You can also explore existing care and support options through the Small Good Stuff Suffolk directory, which lists local enterprises already making an impact in their communities.

- Find out more and get in touch here: www.communitycatalysts.co.uk
- Email: suffolk@communitycatalysts.co.uk

Together, we are transforming how care is given and received. We are building a Suffolk where kindness, independence, and community go hand in hand, and that is something truly worth celebrating.

New council boundary proposals mean 3 councils, 3 sets of salaries and the same old story for Suffolk – opinion piece/s

A previously secret map, showing how Suffolk could be split into 3 council areas, has been released by the county's district and borough councils.

- District and borough councils' new boundary proposals criticised as costly and unworkable
- Creating 3 new councils in Suffolk would lead to increased costs and carry safeguarding risks
- One new unitary council for Suffolk is best for county

The proposed map comes following repeated calls from Suffolk County Council for clarity on how their suggested 3-council model will be formed. The map is essential information for Suffolk residents to ensure they fully understand the proposals being put forward.

Under their suggested boundaries, Ipswich would form a unitary council with Hadleigh, Kesgrave and Felixstowe (known as South Suffolk); Bury St Edmunds would be grouped with Sudbury, Haverhill, Newmarket and Brandon (known as West Suffolk) and Lowestoft would find itself with Woodbridge, Eye and Stowmarket (known as East Suffolk).

Alongside the map, the districts and borough have not released any information of what impact these proposed boundaries would have on council tax rates – with Ipswich residents currently paying the highest rate of district or borough council tax in the whole country.

Cllr Richard Rout, Suffolk County Council's cabinet member for devolution, local government reform and NSIPs, said:

"We have been asking the district councils for their proposed council boundaries since March. Given what they've released today, I can see why they've kept them secret for so long. Their proposals are chaotic, confusing, and ultimately unworkable. They will mean higher council tax across the county, but particularly in places like Felixstowe, Hadleigh, Kesgrave the villages south of Ipswich and the Shotley peninsula, more money spent on senior staff and administration and less money going on frontline local services in Suffolk.

"The financial figures that the districts and borough are putting forward are optimistic to the point of being dangerous. We must never lose sight of the fact that the key care services we deliver support some of the most vulnerable people in our community. Spurious assumptions to support an argument to protect their perceived political fiefdoms have no place in this debate.

"Breaking up key expensive care services, that are currently delivered county wide, won't just cost more as they employ new senior teams, it will put the most vulnerable in our community at risk. They will create a postcode lottery for care, drive up costs and create boundaries where they don't currently exist.

“The districts and borough have finally given into pressure to publish their plans, but what they have brought forward just means three sets of salaries and the same old story from local government. I remain as convinced as ever that One Suffolk is the only solution with the best interest of Suffolk’s residents at its heart.”

Residents are being encouraged to have their say on the future of councils and public services in Suffolk by [completing Suffolk County Council’s survey](#). You can also complete the survey by visiting a Community Library or by calling **0345 603 1842**. The survey takes about 10 minutes to complete.

Responses will inform the One Suffolk business case, which will be submitted to Government in September.

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Recently, local media has been very excited by the arrival of a large pink container ship in Felixstowe with the word “One” in big white lettering on the side. I get it — it’s big, it’s bold, and it’s delivering lots of good things for people. We saw similar excitement the week before last when we launched our equally pink “One Suffolk” leaflet, inviting the people of Suffolk to have their say on Local Government Reorganisation (LGR).

It may not come as a surprise that LGR isn’t seen as the most exciting topic. But it’s an incredibly important one. The way local government is structured hasn’t changed in the last 50 years, so it’s essential people — particularly the service users of the future — engage with it. The response to our county-wide campaign so far has been nothing short of spectacular. Over 7,000 people have already had their say on what’s important to them.

Our engagement doesn’t start and end with a single pink leaflet, of course. So far, we’ve held over 40 evening meetings with town and parish councils, listening carefully to what local councillors are telling us about what they want from unitary local government. We’re holding similar meetings with businesses, community groups, and voluntary organisations too.

At the Suffolk Show, we launched our latest round of “Local Matters – We Are Listening” events, where the council travels across Suffolk, visiting towns and villages to speak to residents about local issues, including the One Suffolk plans. So far, hundreds of people have spoken to us at these events about what LGR should mean for them — all vital engagement that’s feeding into our final business case.

And of course, we’ve been using social media and online tools to ensure that as many people as possible — including young people and those from harder-to-reach communities — have had the opportunity to have their say too.

A truly One Suffolk approach to engagement — and it’s really paying off.

Now, not everyone is thrilled by our herculean efforts to engage with the people of Suffolk — least of all the District and Borough councils, who have been conspicuously absent from any form of real engagement beyond their fire-and-forget survey. Instead, they’ve locked themselves away, jealously guarding their nonsensical and costly plans to carve Suffolk into three councils. They’ve point-blank refused to release their controversial maps showing which towns and villages have been traded to which unitary. They’ve remained silent on the increased council tax

for many and how they plan to deliver vital adult and children's services after putting a wrecking ball through them.

Rumour has it they may finally cave to public pressure and show us the lines on those maps tomorrow – we shall have to wait and see.

One of the many complaints I've heard from district and borough leaders is that money is all we care about. That isn't true — but the accusation cuts to the core of what their model ignores. Financial sustainability is essential. Councils will be responsible for running services that support the most vulnerable in our society. No one wins awards for small unitary councils going bankrupt in their first few years. And they certainly do no favours for the elderly, disabled, and children of this county by promoting a model which, by their own admission, will cost more than the current system — a system already financially stretched. In fact, I believe they're putting those futures at risk by doing so.

This is why we're so strongly opposed to the proposal from Suffolk's districts and boroughs to split the county in three. It will mean three sets of salaries for top-level executives and senior staff, and more of the same old story from local government. It means creating new structures and new, highly paid management to deliver three sets of services currently delivered by one countywide team.

In my view, their plans for three councils have less to do with good local government — and far more to do with maintaining their own perceived political fiefdoms. Theirs is a model rooted in the politics of yesterday — not what's best for apolitical service delivery, not what's best for the taxpayer, and not what's best for Suffolk. By contrast, with One Suffolk, the savings would be sufficient to invest more in services, ensure everyone — including in Ipswich — sees their council tax set as low and fair as possible, allow for proper planning of housing allocations countywide, and build a coherent case for investment in key infrastructure like the Ely and Haughley rail junctions, A11 Fiveways, A14 Copdock interchange — and yes, the Ipswich Northern Route or an alternative to ease congestion on the A14 when the Orwell Bridge closes.

Breaking Suffolk up would see these projects — and Suffolk's towns and villages — pitted against each other in funding bids, trying to catch the eye of a new Suffolk and Norfolk mayor.

I genuinely believe local government reorganisation is an exciting opportunity to take the best of what districts and the county do — and create something new and fit for the future. I make no apologies for doing everything I can to make sure people engage with it.

At the County Council, we remain convinced that Suffolk is an identity worth preserving — and that One Suffolk is smarter, simpler, and better for our residents.