

Report for Lavenham PC, by County Councillor Robert Lindsay 5.6.25

Black bins random search

The county council is conducting a “composition sampling” of black bin contents to enable them to work out what is currently being sent to the incinerator that could be recycled after the changes due to come in 2026.

On collection day the sampling company will come beforehand and empty some bins at random into their own van which will be taken to a recycling centre for sorting into different categories of materials each of which will be weighed.

Householders do not need to change anything in the way they dispose of things, ahead of this survey. Nor should they because they want an accurate picture of the normal contents.

Libraries taken in-house by county council this Sunday (June 1)

The county is renaming the service, **Suffolk Community Libraries**, and is introducing a new logo. A new website was also launched this week at www.suffolkcommunitylibraries.co.uk, with anyone visiting the existing site redirected to the new site. The county insists nothing is changing for library users. All 45 libraries will remain open, with the same staff, services, opening hours, activities, and the Spydus reservation system.

Consultation launched on Developer Contributions

Suffolk County Council has launched a consultation so Suffolk residents can give their views on the contributions which can be sought from developers proposing major planning applications. In 2011, the council published the “Developers Guide to Infrastructure Contributions to make developers aware of what they should consider, and the financial contributions they should take into account to mitigate for the impact of new developments such as housing estates. The guide has been updated periodically since it was launched, and has now been reviewed and is out for consultation focusing on early years childcare settings, education costs, libraries, and waste infrastructure contributions. Developers need to provide funding to the county council to absorb the impact of extra housing to enable it to provide council services, and the consultation asks for public feedback on how this should be calculated. The consultation is open until 9 June and you can find it here:

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/consultations-petitions-and-elections/consultations/developers-guide-to-infrastructure-contributions-in-suffolk>

Council Annual General Meeting

On Thursday 22 May, all three motions tabled were passed by the council, these included a motion against the government’s proposed changes to public consultation for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) like Sizewell C, Sea Link and Lion Link and solar farm applications. The council also agreed motions proposing a ban on live animals being used as prizes on council land, and to support the campaign for Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) to be eligible for the 20 year long

service medal which is currently for warranted police officers only. The meeting was the council's AGM (Annual General Meeting), and a new Chair, Cllr Jessica Fleming, and new Vice Chair, David Roach, were sworn in during the meeting.

Local Government Reorganization – “Engagement” Meetings

Conservative-led Suffolk County Council's has got the council's comms team to arrange meetings with town and parish councils to advocate the creation of one giant Suffolk unitary, rather than the two or three that district councils, led by different parties, have asked for.

County councillors have not been invited to these meetings. It is important to point out that the “independent report” by accountants the administration was commissioned by the County Council Network, a group whose members are all county councillors. A report commissioned by Suffolk's district and borough council comes to a different conclusion. The Government will decide ultimately in any case and may well go for just one, since it believes one will be easier to control.

Nominations sought for Suffolk Community Awards 2025

Nominations are now open for the Suffolk Community Awards 2025, which is organized by Community Action Suffolk, Suffolk County Council and Suffolk Association of Local Councils. The three bodies, which previously all had their own awards, have combined together this year. The ceremony will showcase the excellent work and achievements of individuals, groups, towns and villages across Suffolk with 18 awards, including a new one for a local community's efforts respond to climate change. Other award categories cover youth participation and young person of the year, community building, contribution to volunteering, most active community and council, councillor, young councillor and clerk of the year. Nominations are now open and must be made by Sunday 13 July at

www.suffolkcommunityawards.co.uk