

Parish Report for the end of June 2025
to the Bungay and Wainford villages division
County Councillor Judy Cloke.

Bungay:

I have been pleased to spend some time with Julie Bird, our new clerk, who I am sure will settle in well to her role. I am though, sorry to have said goodbye to Roz Barnett.

I attended an information event at Riverside, Lowestoft, about the area local transport plan. Sadly, this covered Beccles only, not Bungay. When I enquired why I was told Bungay and Halesworth are 'too small' to be included in the major plans for the bigger towns but a rural plan is being devised. Apparently, the town centred LTPs are compulsory for County Councils, rural ones are not but as we are such a rural county, they are being done anyway by the team.

I wasn't able to attend the drop-in session at the Library because I had a funeral to go to. Speaking of the Library though I gave some Locality funding to them towards a new kitchen and Amanda emailed her thanks last week – they have a small dishwasher now and are delighted with it.

On 25 July I attended an Impact Day at the Fire Station, this was led by the Fire Service safety team, who were joined by officers from ESC, they had specific addresses to visit in the town and were keen to address safeguarding and possible fire safety breaches. They spent the morning in Bungay and went to Mendham in the afternoon.

I am trying to sort out the issue of the bollards in Earsham Street

St Nicholas:

I attended the Countryside evening and saw three Parish Council Chairman as well as one Clerk from whom I bought some very healthy plants and we both jumped out of our skin as Mr Tilney fired his gun in a demo.

Barsham:

I think we have reached agreement over signage at the entrance to Viewpoint Mews, in an attempt to draw attention to the fact there is an opening there. The signs will be funded jointly from my Highways budget, the Residents' association and the Parish Council. I have discussed with Highways about a traffic survey. On Tuesday 8 July I am meeting the Footpaths officer to look at the collapsed path.

Ringsfield and St Andrew: Traffic surveys have been ordered.

Suffolk wide:

I continue to attend online meetings for the Local Government Review plans. There is a lot going on and I hope parish council members will take the opportunity of attending the information evenings which are being arranged. I have some booklets for residents if anyone would like them?

There is a survey in which everyone can participate:

It only takes about 10 minutes to complete, and can be done online at www.suffolk.gov.uk/devolution, by emailing devolution@suffolk.gov.uk or by calling 0345 603 1842 where a member of Suffolk County Council's customer services team can help residents to complete the survey.

People can also visit any of Suffolk's 45 libraries to complete the survey online. It asks questions about local democracy – such as how you raise issues that need addressing, local decision making – such as how you might want to get involved and about the specifics of council reorganisation itself.

The survey is open for eight weeks – until 4 August 2025.

In my role as Deputy Cabinet member for Highways and Flooding I attended the usual monthly briefing included in which was information about SCCs responsibilities with regard to the Gull Wing Bridge and what will happen once the constructors, Farrens, are no longer responsible for putting things right. It was also quite frightening to be told how many drivers ignore the warning lights and try to cross when the bridge is rising – the barrier was snapped twice in one day

Suffolk generally:

Violence against women and girls

While Suffolk remains a safe county in which to live, work, and visit, the reality is that Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence continue to affect too many people. These crimes are often driven by harmful attitudes and gender-based stereotypes that disproportionately impact women and girls. However, the strategy recognises that anyone, regardless of gender identity, can be a victim and that support must be inclusive and far-reaching.

The new Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Strategy places the experiences of victims and survivors at its heart. Shaped through extensive engagement with victim-survivors, support services, and frontline professionals, the strategy sets a clear and ambitious vision:

For everyone in Suffolk to play their part in preventing and identifying Violence Against Women and Girls, creating the safety we all deserve.

To achieve this vision, the strategy is built around four key ambitions:

- Stop the abuse before it starts
- Support every survivor
- Hold abusers accountable
- Build a united front

In March 2025, the Suffolk Safer and Stronger Communities Board formally endorsed the strategy, marking an important milestone in the county's coordinated response to Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence.

Help is available, whether you are currently experiencing abuse, have recently left an abusive relationship, or are concerned about someone you know, you are not alone. A wide range of local, specialist support services is available [Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls \(VAWG\) | Suffolk Constabulary](#)

Gull Wing Bridge (again)

Congratulations to all involved with Suffolk's iconic Gull Wing bridge in Lowestoft, which has been recognised once again at a prestigious national awards ceremony.

It was 'Highly Commended' at the Chartered Institution of Highways & Transportation (CIHT) awards held at the Royal Lancaster Hotel in London in front of an audience of 450 industry professionals.

The bridge had been nominated in the CIHT Infrastructure Award, which recognises exceptional engineering solutions that have delivered creative and resilient infrastructure.

However, the bridge was pipped to top spot by Belfast Grand Central Station. The Herring bridge in Great Yarmouth was 'Commended' in the same category.

The 'Highly Commended' certificate was presented to Andrew Cook, Executive Director for Growth, Highways and Infrastructure at SCC, and Gull Wing bridge project director Simin Bretherton, along with colleagues from bridge designers Arup.

Andrew said: "The new Gull Wing crossing has been transformative for Lowestoft since it opened last September and is a critical enabler and catalyst for future growth and regeneration.

"This recognition by CIHT is a fantastic reward for everyone at Suffolk County Council who contributed to the success of the Gull Wing from planning and design through to construction and commissioning."

The bridge is the world's largest rolling bascule bridge operated by hydraulic cylinders.

Plug In Suffolk car clubs have arrived:

Two cars with a range of over 200 miles have been placed at each of the following locations:

- Girling St Car Park, Sudbury
- Maiden Way Car Park, Hadleigh
- Station Yard Car Park, Needham Market

With the average vehicle parked 96% of the time, the Car Club gives residents the opportunity to simply book a car for the minutes, hours or day that they need, cutting out the expense of car ownership. Suffolk are receiving free membership to the Car Club as well as credit on their account so they can start using the cars straight away.

Car Clubs have been trialled in other areas of the country and can improve air quality, reduce congestion and parking pressure and increase mobility to those without access to their own car. Residents can also experience driving an electric vehicle without the cost of owning one.

Over the next few months, two car club vehicles are due to be delivered to each of the following further locations:

- Norfolk Road, Ipswich
- Crown Street, Stowmarket
- Cannon Street, Bury St Edmunds
- Ann Street, Ipswich
- Granary Road, Newmarket
- Norwich Road, Lowestoft
- Castle Street, Woodbridge

An award for the Flood Investigations team

Suffolk County Council's Flood Investigations and Grants team is celebrating after winning a national award for its work supporting the communities affected by one of Britain's worst storms of the century.

It has won the Small Team of the Year category in the prestigious Local Government Chronicle Awards.

The team was set up in the immediate aftermath of Storm Babet in 2023 to assist flood victims in applying for funding grants and helping communities get back on their feet.

Team leader Ellie Coleby and grants manager Beverly Davies were presented with the award by stand-up comedian, writer, and actor Maisie Adam in a prize-giving evening at Grosvenor House in London attended by more than 1,400 people.

Matt Hullis, Suffolk County Council Head of Environment Strategy said: "We are absolutely thrilled and delighted to win this award, it is recognition of the incredible hard work of this team.

"I am so proud of each and every member for their dedication in helping the people of Suffolk following Storm Babet."

Judy Cloke 7 July 2025