

JANUARY 2026

Welcome to my monthly newsletter



New year eve ring in 2026

RECAP OF 2025 AND UPDATE ON 26 PRIORITIES

First may I take the opportunity to wish you all a very happy new year

2025 proved to be a challenge on many levels and my focus as always continues to preserve the unique character of our rural landscape while ensuring essential services are maintained.

As I look back across the issues it reminds me how fragile life on the peninsula has become . Three near fatal crashes in Hollesley started 2025 and illustrated how dangerous our roads have become . Large commercial equipment, more delivery vehicles and an increase of road usage . Highways in particular have become an issue and although these are controlled by Suffolk County council , I did try my best to signpost and also flag cleaning issues to East Suffolk. In particular



- Personally flagged and secured targeted maintenance for roads in Eyke, resulting in extensive curb and drain cleaning and pavement debris removal.
- Parking and Enforcement: Collaborated with Suffolk County Council (SCC) to address ongoing parking issues at Bawdsey, though enforcement remains a challenge being actively monitored.
- Highlighted sand on roads in Butley and pressured East Suffolk to remove

The "gateway" to the peninsula remains a primary concern for local residents and businesses and in particular there have been a number of issues

- Melton Crossroads Congestion: Heavy traffic from the peninsula converges at the Melton crossroads, creating significant delays. There is a critical need for an intervention that reduces the volume of road traffic passing through this junction to access the A12 and I continue to try and push for a specific focus on this issue.
- The ongoing Sizewell C project and Scottish Power energy schemes are projected to exacerbate existing traffic issues on the A1152.
- Network rail recent closure to strengthen the track for Sizewell C freight caused a huge inconvenience for residents, resulting in many businesses losing considerable amount of income. I lobbied our MP to change the closures and organise compensation but the closures were done 'to us' rather ignoring the spirit of working together and compromise.
- And who forgets the period of pipe bursts and flooding by Anglian water due to many years of neglect and lack of infrastructure investment - causing much inconvenience to all of us.

2026 will see me continue to push all state holders – landowners, housing developers, Anglian water, East Suffolk and Suffolk county council to work together to solve many of our highway issues.

Flooding is a major concern across our highways which is often seen as a tangible impact of climate change. Environmental issues were a priority in 2025 and will continue to be a main focus in 2026. I try and keep my work centred on environmental stewardship, infrastructure maintenance, and community resilience within the Deben Ward.

The Peninsula's unique geography makes it highly susceptible to climate change.



And I have and will continue to highlight

- Coastal Path Management: Issues with illegal use of river walls by cyclists and motorized bikes are causing undue erosion to flood defences and narrow footways.
- Legacy Projects: Continued oversight of the "Treebilee" oak tree planting scheme, which remains a key tangible footprint for the ward's future. / gifting of spring bulbs to enhance bio diversity / and of course continue to push for return of Pardon the weeds we are feeding the Bees campaign and to reinstate the district wide annual litter pick.
- Bawdsey Quay has experienced some erosion and I have assisted in their projects to highlight the issue and source funding for further projects

Finally community resilience . Something I am so very proud of here on the Peninsula, I prioritize my community grant in helping all my parish councils and local communities . Grants have included

- Bromeswell parish council – new litter bin
- Shottisham WI – kitchen renovations
- Holleley Gardening club – funds for equipment and subsidises costs for a visit
- Peninsula Mens Shed project

2026 is already looking like a year of change and action . I have started writing motions to East Suffolk council to cover better support for local businesses and increasing engagement and protection for our wildlife – I start with the first meeting in January asking East Suffolk to offer engagement to support our Hare populations .

And of course there will be a generational change in the method of how our bins are collected and an increased burden of households sorting waste at home along with the problems of now storing 4 bins – more info on this as received .

I will also continue to emphasize importance of strengthening local flood defences and drainage management and when it comes to any house building I will be supporting the infrastructure first approach .



Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have ideas for funding or any issues or concerns. Later in 2026 I will arrange a number of surgeries which I hope residents will be able to attend to discuss any concerns and issues .

James Mallinder

Deben Ward - A voice for parishes and residents of the Peninsula