

September 2025

Welcome to my monthly newsletter

Local Water Problems

Beginning of August Butley and surrounding villages suffered burst water pipes , no water and pressure drops . This is largely due to burst pipes at Butley and then at Caple st Andrew. Apart from the inconvenience to residents and businesses this caused road closures which had a big impact on the Peninsula .

I have been disappointed with engagement from Anglian Water and have asked for an update on planned improvement of local infrastructure - no plans / and I am pushing hard for proper compensation for residents and business . The whole incident was badly handled with poor communication and only limited interest in providing bottle water

I spoke with EADT and BBC to express my concerns :

<https://www.eadt.co.uk/news/25385146.burst-water-mains-cause-chaos-butley-hollesley/>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cwy332w2eg9o>



This then came to a head again another burst pipe at the beginning of September resulted in the Tour of Britain rerouted due to roadworks - I am still waiting for an update on the situation from Anglian water and compensation for all those who have had no water

<https://www.eadt.co.uk/news/25439001.butley-missed-tour-britain-pipe-burst>

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NEWS

Burst pipe: Tour of Britain disrupted

Water firm apologises for race route change

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A water company has been slammed after a water pipe burst for the fourth time in as many weeks, resulting in a village missing out on the Tour of Britain cycle race.

Competitors had been due to pass through Butley along The Street on Tuesday (September 2). But Anglian Water had to close the road at 9.30pm on Monday for emergency repairs.

A series of incidents involving leaking pipes have occurred in The Street, with the most recent in mid-August causing the loss of water in taps and traffic chaos as vehicles had to divert.

East Suffolk councillor James Mallinder, whose Deben ward includes Butley, said villagers had been looking forward to seeing the riders and the opportunity to showcase the village to a national TV audience.

He said: "I am very disappointed in the failure of Anglian Water in controlling the local water situation. This is the fourth time a pipe has burst in the same area in the last two weeks and quite frankly it looks like complete incompetence. I have repeatedly called for updates and an explanation on the situation and although promises are given to call me back, they have failed to do so."

The Tour of Britain of road closures. "We have been devastated to miss the wonderful event, not only seeing the spectacular at first hand, but also showcasing what a great place we live."

"We are all very angry in the way Anglian Water have dealt with the incident and not once have they offered an apology. Anglian Water should really be ashamed of themselves for their poor handling of the situation and frankly not having a better handle on weak spots in their network."

"Clearly, this episode illustrates a proper assessment is needed across the Deben peninsula and proper updating of our failing pipes and infrastructure."

Butley parish councillor David McElroy said the only solution was for new pipework that was "good and effective" for the job it needed to do.

He said engineers had tried to build up the pressure of the water all the water tower at Holesley, resulting in high pressure water forcing through the pipes, causing the rupture.

"They need to have a total reset of the piping in the peninsula. They have got to find something that works."

"It really needs Anglian Water to take responsibility for their jobs and to put in a system that works," Mr McElroy added.

He said the villagers were able to see the cyclists as they came into Butley, but they had to turn to go down Mill Lane to divert to Chillesdon instead of continuing along The Street.

However, an Anglian Water spokesperson said: "We're sorry that our emergency work in Butley has led to a change in the Tour of Britain route."

"We've had to close a short section of The Street to keep our engineers and other road users safe while we fix a burst water main."

"We know that this pipe also burst in August, which may have contributed to the current burst."





"In the east of England, we've had the lowest recorded rainfall since 1876 this year, and the third lowest since 1899, which can also make burst pipes more frequent."

"The ground moves as it dries out, causing burst pipes."

"We've been using sandbags in the area to keep overflows from flowing, but we know this isn't a long-term solution."

"That's why our teams are currently investigating whether we can replace this pipe as part of our main renewal programme, which will see more than 100km of pipes upgraded by 2026."

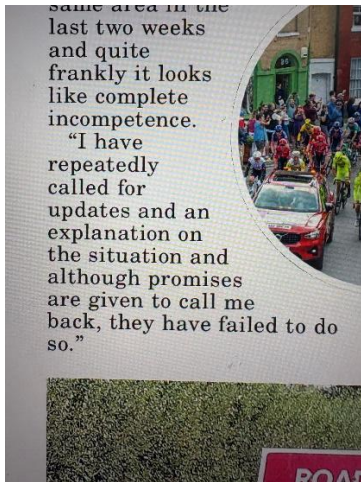
"We'd like to thank all our customers in Butley for bearing with us while we get things back to normal."

The Street at Butley was closed again on Monday after a water pipe burst. (pic: BETH WATSON)

Butley parish councillor David McElroy said pipework needed to be reset in the peninsula. (pic: STEPHEN HARRIS)

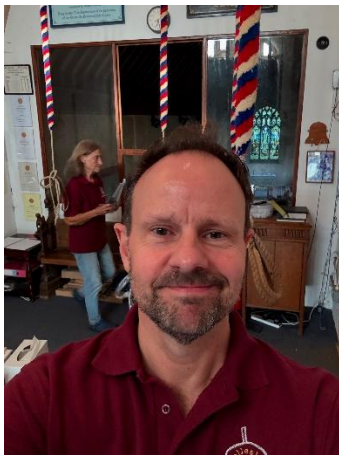
East Suffolk councillor James Mallinder. (pic: STEPHEN HARRIS)



VJ Day

15th August saw the country celebrate 80th anniversary of VJ day and I was pleased to play my part in ringing bells at Hollesley .

All bell towers across the country rang at 630 to celebrate the event and as always I am always touched to be involved with such national events



LOCAL TRAFFIC ISSUES

As mentioned burst water pipes closed roads on the peninsula - this has been combined with Eyke main road closed due to the housing estate along with Melton railway crossing closing the road on various evenings - so our highways are under a lot of stress. This



combined with harvesting and our many visitors over peak holiday season has caused some chaos .

I am watching this closely and will help as much as I can

I continue to work with my villages to remove sand from pavements and highways but East Suffolk has reduced resources to deal with these issues so it can take time to resolve

NETWORK RAIL

I am writing to network rail to ask for a better organisation of rail improvements which is resulting in the closure of Melton and Ufford crossing . This creates a big inconvenience for residents , so what compensation is on offer to businesses or residents ?

However the big concern is the impact this would have on our emergency services there would be a real delay for ambulance or fire engine and could result in a loss of life

Boyton fete

Popped into the Boyton fete - this took place on 6 September and marks the end of the summer being the last fete in my ward . Good to chat to friends and talk about local issues

Spoke to the meet Monday volunteers , a project which I helped to set up in Hollesley and something I am particular proud of - increase taxes and food bills having a big impact on our elderly residents .



Also I had a quick look at the Jubilee Oak I helped to plant in Boyton

As previous cabinet member of the environment I worked hard to deliver a number of projects , and infact East Suffolk became a leader of environmental projects in Suffolk while I was in post . In celebration of the late queen's jubilee I devised a project of gifting an oak

tree to every parish, commemorating our late queen , our communities and giving back to nature . Delighted to discover the Boyton tree which I helped to plant is strong and healthy



Stop press

- Had discussions with staff at Morrisons in Hollesley to understand changes in the letter box Apparently all to change soon
- Have tabled a question to full council in sept asking East Suffolk to focus on dealing with infrastructure issues rather than wasting resources on vanity projects
- Contacted East Suffolk officers to have more focus on keeping our roads clear of sand
- In discussions with our Mp and officers about swapping a council house with a resident wishing to live in Woodridge

James Mallinder

Deben Ward

A voice for parishes and residents of the Peninsula