

## SHOTTISHAM PARISH COUNCIL SCC NEWSLETTER – JUNE 2025

### Dementia Marketplace 2025

On Wednesday 25th June 2025, Care Development East, in partnership with Suffolk County Council and the Suffolk and North East Essex Integrated Care Board (SNEE ICB), hosted the third annual Dementia Marketplace—a free, one-day event offering practical advice, support, and information for anyone affected by dementia. Held from 10:00am to 3:30pm at [Trinity Park Conference & Events Centre, Ipswich](#).

Dementia is the UK's biggest health and social care challenge—and it's growing. One in three people born in the UK today will develop dementia in their lifetime. By 2040, 1.4 million people are expected to be living with the condition. Early diagnosis is key—it unlocks treatment, support, and care that can make a real difference.

Activities included:

- Marketplace – Information and advice from over 40 dementia-related services and support groups
- Expert Speaker Sessions – Short, accessible talks throughout the day
- Innovation Room – New for 2025, come see, and try out a range of equipment and digital care technology to help keep people as safe and independent for as long as possible. It will also include the launch of Reverie a new cutting-edge Virtual Reality (VR) app designed with and for people with dementia featuring customised Suffolk film content
- Supervised Activities Room – A safe space for people with dementia while carers explore the event

Opening at 10:00am with a short welcome from:

- Gareth Everton, Executive Director for Adult Social Care
- Eugene Staunton, Deputy Director, SNEE ICB

Speaking about the Dementia Marketplace's return, Cllr Beccy Hopfensperger, Cabinet Member for Adult Care said:

“I am pleased to see the Dementia Marketplace return this year, as it is an important event that truly showcases the incredible support available for people living with dementia, as well as their families and carers. With an ageing population here in Suffolk, it is absolutely essential that we continue to do all we can to help people find the support they need to live well with dementia—and events like this play a key role in making that happen.”

Cllr Beccy Hopfensperger, Cabinet Member for Adult Care

## Suffolk Libraries to Become Suffolk Community Libraries from 1 June

The service continued to operate as usual, with no changes for library users and all 45 libraries to open.

This ensures the council can continue delivering library services in a sustainable way, strengthening the role libraries play across Suffolk's communities.

Councillor Philip Faircloth-Mutton, Cabinet Member for Environment, Communities and Equality, said:

"This move is not just about preserving the service we have; it's about making libraries even more integral to the services we offer. While they already provide excellent spaces for reading and community engagement, we want to expand their role and ensure they become vital access points for a wide range of public services.

"We're incredibly grateful to Suffolk Libraries and all their dedicated staff for everything they've done, and for working closely with us to ensure a smooth transition. We value their expertise and passion, and we look forward to working with them as they become Suffolk County Council staff."

Suffolk County Council extends its sincere thanks to everyone involved in the transition and looks forward to this new chapter for library services in Suffolk.

For more information, please visit [www.suffolkcommunitylibraries.co.uk](http://www.suffolkcommunitylibraries.co.uk)

## New Strategy Launched to Tackle Violence Against Women and Girls in Suffolk

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](#)

For more information, and to read the full strategy, visit: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/asset-library/Suffolk-VAWG-Strategy-2025-28.pdf>

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## Council reorganisation affects us all - so have your say today

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A new survey giving residents the opportunity to shape the future of councils and public services in Suffolk has been launched.

It's part of the Government plan to reshape and streamline councils in Suffolk to save money, reduce confusion and improve public services for residents.

The survey only takes about 10 minutes to complete, and can be done online at [www.suffolk.gov.uk/devolution](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/devolution), by emailing [devolution@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto: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.

The survey will play a part in helping Suffolk County Council to develop a comprehensive business plan that looks at the best way to organise councils and deliver public services in Suffolk – so that the Government has all the information it needs to decide which proposal(s) to put out to public consultation.

From best practice elsewhere in the country to the costs of various options currently on the table, no stone is being left unturned.

Whilst a final proposal is still to be developed, Suffolk County Council believes that a new single local council is the smartest, simplest, and best option for the whole of Suffolk which will deliver the biggest savings and most sustainable service improvements.

The council argues that any alternatives will have to work hard to justify the risks of breaking up critical services like social care, creating new council boundaries and smaller population sizes.

Early analysis by financial consultants PwC suggests that establishing a single new local council could cost around £19 million but that this could be repaid quickest through the significant financial savings achieved by having one council.

Alternatively, the cost of breaking Suffolk into two or even three – as proposed by Suffolk’s district and borough councils - would cost £7 million to £13 million more and, in the case of three new councils, that investment would never be repaid as there would be no savings to be found.

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### £8m funding for Bus Service improvements

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The funding from the Department of Transport’s Local Authority Bus Grant can be used to create new bus services or enhance existing routes.

Following on from previous grants from the Department for Transport to improve bus services, totalling £3.7m of revenue funding between 2023 and 2025, the new grant which has been allocated for 2025/26 comprises of:

- £2,805,076 revenue for delivering new or enhanced services.
- £5,229,805 capital for new and improved bus stops, bus stations, bus priority measures or vehicle upgrades.

This money will enable Suffolk County Council to invest up to £5 million in capital projects to increase bus priority on congested streets, make improvements to bus stops and gain a better understanding of the journeys people are taking, paving the way for more innovative fare offers in the future. The council also plans to upgrade the current Real Time Passenger Information system, giving live updates on when buses will arrive at stops across the county.

The remaining £2.8 million will be spent supporting the existing services on the county’s bus network and working with bus companies to finalise a number of route improvements and new services, set to launch later this year.

The previous funding has created and enhanced more than 15 routes across the county, through the council’s Bus Service Improvement Programme (BSIP). These included the first Sunday and evening service between Sudbury and Bury St Edmunds for more than 20 years and direct links from Haverhill and Mildenhall to the West Suffolk Hospital.

Successful bids will be contacted in early July with new and enhanced services coming online later this year.

A full list of enhanced and new services funded with the previous BSIP funding can be found at: [Bus Service Improvement Plan - Suffolkonboard](#) including videos from services who received BSIP round 1 funding.

Details of successful bids for the latest round of funding will be posted on Suffolk On Board.

## Improvements identified to boost walking and cycling thanks to Active Travel

Improvements to boost walking and cycling and improve road safety in two parts of Suffolk are taking shape following consultations with the public.

Designs to encourage walking, cycling, and wheeling are being progressed for West Felixstowe and on the road between the villages of Copdock and Capel St Mary.

Following two public consultations, which took place in 2023 and 2024, the schemes are now being refined to take into account the feedback received.

They are part of a package of schemes across Suffolk that the council is working on following funding from Active Travel England.

The scheme for West Felixstowe covers the area around three schools - SET Felix primary school, Grange Community primary school and The Bridge school.

Following feedback from residents and students from Felixstowe High School, Suffolk County Council is now reviewing the designs to:

- Retain existing levels of on-street parking within the neighbourhood
- See if shared-use paths for pedestrian and cyclists are appropriate or if there is an alternative solution to provide safe space for cycling
- Consider how to improve traffic flows along the northern section of Maidstone Road
- Ensure the design of the junction of Maidstone Road and the High Road allows people to cross
- Ensure spaces outside SET Felix and Grange primary schools create a safe environment for families accessing them
- Consider if there are sufficient safe crossing points for pedestrians
- Consider where 20mph limits might be appropriate to make it safer for pedestrians and cyclists and adding in design features to support this
- Decide on how to prioritise different elements of the scheme for delivery

The council will now review the designs before moving on to fully detailed plans ready for construction, which it is hoped will begin during 2025. More details are available on [the Suffolk County Council website](#).

The scheme for Copdock and Capel St Mary is along a 3.5 mile route between Whights Corner on London Road in Copdock and finishing at the junction of The Street and Cedar's Lane in Capel St Mary.

Based on feedback from the consultation, Suffolk County Council is now reviewing the designs to:

- Give the easiest possible access to Copdock village hall and best location of the proposed crossing
- Ensure residents on London Road can access their driveways without compromising the safety and convenience of people walking and cycling
- Ensure there is sufficient room for HGVs to turn in and out of London Road
- Consider extending the designs past Whight's Corner to link up to the existing cycle route to the Ipswich Park and Ride Service at Copdock
- Consider how to encourage reduced speeds on London Road
- Consider the design of the existing zebra crossing outside Capel St Mary primary school

Work is now underway to identify funding sources for this scheme. More details on the plan can be found at the [Suffolk County Council website](#).

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