

# THEBERTON AND EASTBRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE THEBERTON AND EASTBRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT JUBILEE HALL, THEBERTON ON WEDNESDAY 11<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2025 AT 7:00PM.

### 1. Attendance and apologies

#### **Attendees:**

Cllr. Stephen Brett – Chair  
Cllr. Graham Ward  
Cllr. Stephen Morphey  
Cllr. Robert Flindall  
Cllr. Daryl Ash  
Cllr. Hazel Collins  
Cllr. Vanessa Davis  
Cllr. Paul Collins  
Cllr. Nat Bacon

#### **Apologies for absence:**

District Cllr. Tom Daly  
County Cllr. Richard Smith- apologised  
District Cllr. Katie Graham

#### **Members of the public:**

One member of the public was present.

#### **In attendance:**

Honor Houlding- Clerk/RFO  
District Cllr. Sarah Whitelock

Theberton and Eastbridge Parish Council approved the apologies and absences from this month's meeting.  
All in favour.

### 2. To receive declarations of interest and to consider requests for dispensations

None.

### 3. Public Forum

- a) Members of the public may address the Council on any agenda item

One member of the public was in attendance.

The member of the public reported that police-escorted HGVs travelling through the village are frequently exceeding speed limits, sometimes dangerously overtaking and crossing the central reservation. Both escort vehicles and HGVs have been observed speeding, despite not being in emergency situations.

The resident had reported the matter to the police, who reportedly claimed exemption due to their status. However, speed exemptions only apply during emergency 'blue light' situations. Deliberate speeding could amount to criminal negligence under Section 26 of the Criminal Justice and Courts Act 2015.

Cllr. Stephen Brett noted that the installation of the three average speed cameras now operating on the B1122 may help address the issue.

District Cllr. Sarah Whitelock suggested raising the matter as a main forum question at the Main Site Forum on 2nd July 2025.

The council noted that whilst Sizewell C fund the escort teams, enforcement remains a police responsibility.

**ACTION:** Clerk to report the speeding of police escorts to Sizewell C, the chief constable and the police and crime commissioner on behalf of the community and Parish Council and copy in District Councillor Sarah Whitelock.

b) To receive a report from the County Councillor

No County Councillors were in attendance.

c) To receive reports from the District Councillors

District Cllr. Sarah Whitelock summarised the East Suffolk Council June Report which is attached as **Appendix I**.

District Cllr. Sarah Whitelock confirmed that funding is currently available for local projects and rural village hall facilities.

**ACTION:** Cllr. Daryl Ash to highlight the available village hall funding available via ESC at the next Community Council meeting.

A new recycling scheme for small electrical items has been introduced. Residents can now leave up to two small electrical items on top of their recycling bin for collection on their usual recycling day.

There are upcoming opportunities for residents to question local politicians about proposed devolution plans. Options under discussion include forming one of three unitary authorities: East Suffolk Council (ESC), West Suffolk Council (WSC), or a Greater Ipswich authority (encompassing areas such as Felixstowe and Woodbridge). A public survey on the proposals is open until 25th July 2025.

District Cllr. Whitelock reported that ESC is aiming to become carbon neutral by 2030, with the exception of housing. Some refuse vehicles now run on used cooking oil. The next largest source of emissions is leisure centres. The council is currently applying for funding from the government. This funding would support upgrades including improved insulation, heat pumps, and shaded solar panel installations in leisure centre car parks. Leiston Leisure Centre and Woodbridge Leisure Centre are both included in the plans. Cllr. Stephen Brett queried the expected lifespan of the solar panels the council intend to install.

**ACTION:** Cllr. Sarah Whitelock to investigate the prospective longevity of solar panels for leisure centre project.

There was further discussion around the future funding of leisure centres, which are non-statutory services and thus often receive less financial support. The council aims to make leisure centres more self-sufficient, especially swimming pools, which are particularly expensive to operate. Ideas include making them more sustainable and generating income to offset costs.

Concerns were expressed regarding the implications of devolution on local representation. A smaller unitary authority could potentially improve local engagement and accessibility, while a larger authority might reduce personal contact and place more pressure on already stretched councillors. There are worries about fewer Parish Council meetings being held, reduced responsiveness to emails, and increased difficulty in finding volunteers and candidates. Cllr. Nat Bacon warned about the risks of centralised systems, referencing Somerset's financial crisis as an example.

Cllr. Stephen Brett raised doubts over assurances that representation levels would remain the same, suggesting that the number of councillors would likely be significantly reduced. He also noted that until

central government addresses care funding, broader structural reforms may be premature. Suffolk County Council has requested to be fast-tracked for reorganisation, though similar areas remain years away from change.

[ACTION: Cllr. Sarah Whitelock to research and send information on how many councillors there are likely to represent the county under the new unitary authority plans.](#)

#### **4. Minutes and Matters Arising**

- a) To approve as accurate the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2025

It was proposed by Cllr. Graham Ward and seconded by Cllr. Stephen Brett and agreed that the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2025 to be signed as a true record. All in favour.

- b) To approve as accurate the minutes of the Annual Meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2025

It was proposed by Cllr. Graham Ward and seconded by Cllr. Stephen Brett and agreed that the minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2025 to be signed as a true record. All in favour.

- c) Matters arising

Cllr. Stephen Brett raised the issue of ownership of the Theberton War Memorial, which stands in the grounds of St. Peter's Church. He is awaiting a response from the Rector regarding any historic paperwork that might clarify ownership. As many war memorials were funded by public donations after the war in honour of fallen soldiers, it is possible that the memorial is owned by the community rather than the church or Parish Council.

The council noted the request for a donation to assist the Yoxmere Fisherman publication, noting that Theberton is one of only two parishes yet to contribute. The publication now has sufficient funds to continue for the next three years, supported in part by private donations prompted by a QR code in their newsletter. Although their application to the Sizewell C Community Fund was unsuccessful, Sizewell C has taken out a full-page advert in the publication which will assist in funding the publication.

The clerk noted that a donation from the Parish Council has been earmarked in the current year's budget.

[ACTION: Clerk to add Yoxmere Fisherman donation to next month's agenda.](#)

#### **5. Councillor's Responsibilities**

- a) To agree which Councillors should lead on Parish responsibilities and projects

The council conducted their annual review of the Councillor Responsibilities.

[ACTION: Clerk to publish the reviewed 2025 Councillor Responsibilities on the parish website.](#)

#### **6. Energy Projects**

- a) To receive an update from Cllr. Paul Collins

Cllr. Paul Collins' June Energy Projects Report is attached as **Appendix II**.

Cllr. Paul Collins raised the TASK judicial review with regards to the proposed Sizewell C flood defences. Two barriers are planned: one to the north, near the SSI crossing and extending past Goose Hill towards Eastbridge and one to the south across the Sizewell Gap, in front of Sizewell Village. Both would need to be around 9–10 metres above sea level. Eastbridge marshes are currently only 1 metre above sea level, raising concerns about flooding. Sizewell A has no sea defence, and Sizewell B's existing 10m barrier may need extending as its licence runs to 2035. The proposed works could impact the Sizewell area and Minsmere, possibly blocking access to the marshes. The RSPB has discussed potential retreat strategies, including a barrier across Sizewell Haven. Sea surge risk remains a huge concern for the development and impact on the area.

Cllr. Paul Collins noted that although funding has been pledged for Sizewell C, no final investment decision has been made. Any public funding is subject to value-for-money checks and conditions. The TEAGS legal challenge is ongoing, with a decision awaited from the Court of Appeal.

Cllr. Paul Collins confirmed that the Parish Council has not taken a position on the SeaLink project and sees no reason to object, reiterating that residents should decide individually whether to register interest. Minimal cumulative impact is expected for Theberton and Eastbridge. The LionLink cable route passes through the parish, and the Council recorded no objection.

Cllr. Nat Bacon raised concerns about cable depth and farming impact under the SeaLink and LionLink proposals. While cables are to be laid at around 1.2m, past weather events have caused soil erosion up to 900mm, raising issues of soil movement and compaction. In some cases, cables have been laid too shallowly, as with Anglia One (350mm in places), requiring external soil to restore land levels. If depth is under 900mm, National Grid is liable; above that, the farmer is responsible for damages.

Saxmundham Town Council has proposed that the full length of the underground cabling route be designated as a bridleway.

The Department for Energy Security and Net Zero has acknowledged the cumulative impact of energy infrastructure and plan to attend an event with AEPA and government officials on 17th June.

- b) To approve the communications to be sent to Secretary of State, Ed Miliband, MP Ridell Carpenter, SZC Marjorie Barnes and ESC's Richard Bull

The Council discussed the drafted email regarding vegetation cutback related to Sizewell C. It was agreed that the communication would be sent to the listed recipients. All in favour.

**ACTION:** Cllr. Clerk to make amendments and send the approved communication to the list of delegates with regards to the vegetation cutbacks.

## **7. Planning**

- a) To receive an update from Cllr. Robert Flindall with regards to the Theberton and Eastbridge Neighbourhood Planning Strategy

Cllr. Robert Flindall gave an update on the Theberton and Eastbridge Neighbourhood Plan, noting progress and outlining next steps. No acknowledgment has been received from ESC with regards to the signed service level agreement.

Concerns were raised about insufficient communication with the local community. It was agreed more information should be made available on the Parish Council website.

**ACTION:** Councillors to assist in providing feedback on which communications should be published on the parish website by emailing the clerk when they feel something is deemed valuable to residents.

**ACTION:** Clerk to chase SZC Marjorie Barnes with actions to better community engagement post the campus meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> April 2025 and addressing the reason of frustration with residents.

## **8. Clerk/Councillors' Reports**

### **a) Community Council**

Cllr. Daryl Ash provided an updated from the Community Council meeting held on the 5<sup>th</sup> June 2025 reporting that the Community Fun Day will be held on 21st June from midday to 4pm. Additional volunteers have been requested and final preparations will take place from 3.30pm the day before.

The zip wire on Theberton Playing Field also requires attention or repairs. It was noted by the community council that as the item was originally purchased by the Community Council, they will take responsibility for arranging the necessary maintenance. The Community Council has also purchased a new laptop.

Quotes are currently being obtained for the front door of the village hall. A decision will be made on whether it will be more cost effective to repair the door or replace it.

### **b) Heritage Trail**

Cllr. Stephen Morphey informed the council that last illustration had been received and that a provisional meeting with Leiston Press for finalising the design was due to be held.

#### **i) To review and approve Leiston Press as most appropriate service provider**

The quotation from Leiston Press for the design and printing of the Heritage Trail boards, estimated at £620 + VAT, was reviewed and discussed. The Council agreed to proceed with Leiston Press for both printing and installation. This decision was made under Financial Regulations 5.15 iv), recognising the specialist nature of the combined design and print service. Leiston Press's approachable manner and local presence will also support regular meetings without too much volunteer travel and effective communication throughout the project. It was proposed by Cllr. Paul Collins and seconded by Cllr. Hazel Collins to proceed with Leiston Press as the most appropriate provider for the service. All in Favour.

### **c) Speed Indicator Device**

Cllr Paul Collins' June Speed Indicator Report is attached as **Appendix III**.

### **d) Police Crime Report**

The April 2025 Police Crime Report is attached as **Appendix IV**.

The Clerk informed the council that there had been one offence for violence and sexual offence report in the Parish in April 2025.

e) Theberton and Eastbridge Playing Field Swing Repairs

Cllr. Stephen Brett visited Theberton Playing Field and took photographs of the swing set, which is in need of repair. He noted that the equipment was installed 20–25 years ago, and one end of the wooden frame supporting the three swings is rotting.

One suggestion put forward was to install a steel beam across the top for reinforcement.

**ACTION:** Cllr. Nat Bacon and Cllr. Stephen Brett to visit Theberton and Eastbridge Playing Field ASAP to put plan together.

**ACTION:** Cllr. Nat Bacon will remove swing for safety.

f) Theberton and Eastbridge tractor repairs and insurance renewal

Cllr. Stephen Brett reported that a mechanic had estimated the cost of repairs to the Theberton and Eastbridge tractor to be between £1,500 and £2,000, due to a long list of mechanical issues. The mechanic recommended selling the tractor and purchasing a new one instead. The current tractor is estimated to be worth approximately £2,000, with models in mint condition valued up to £4,000.

Cllr. Stephen Brett has attempted to contact the Sizewell Community Fund to explore the possibility of funding a replacement tractor. Despite three attempts, he is still waiting for a response. He noted that tractors of this kind are no longer made to the same standard and queried whether it would be possible to ask the fund to contribute to the cost of repairs instead.

**ACTION:** Cllr. Hazel Collins to send community fund representative telephone number to Cllr. Stephen Brett.

**ACTION:** Clerk to add to Theberton and Eastbridge tractor repairs to July's agenda.

The clerk informed the council of the increase of this year's tractor insurance premium of £13.64 to a total annual cost of £66.48.

**ACTION:** Clerk to proceed with renewal of £66.48 with NFU Mutual.

g) Theberton and Eastbridge public liability insurance renewal

The Clerk informed the Council that the 2025 annual insurance premium with Community Action Suffolk will be £598.42, an increase of £30.22 compared to last year's policy.

h) Watering rota of newly planted trees at Eastbridge Playing Field

Cllr. Hazel Collins reported that the watering rota of the newly planted trees at Eastbridge Playing Field is working well and the water butt has been realigned. It was suggested that the council should postpone planting more trees until the prospective water supply is installed at any new planting locations. The council discussed a charitable donation to the resident's charity of choice as a way of thanking them for their generosity with this matter.

**ACTION:** Clerk to add volunteer charity donation to next month's agenda.

- i) Sizewell C Community Fund Application ideas
- i) Eastbridge Burial Ground Hedging

**ACTION: Cllr. Stephen Brett to request quote for Eastbridge Burial Ground/Playing Field Hedging**

- ii) Black Poplars on Eastbridge Road to the New Cut Bridge

Cllr. Hazel Collins reported on a meeting with the Suffolk Tree Warden and a colleague to survey roadside locations for potential new tree planting. David Appleton recommended Black Poplars as a suitable native species, beneficial for wildlife and effective in replacing dead specimens and thinning overgrown hedgerows. The Suffolk Tree Warden Network offers consultation and advice free of charge.

It was agreed that planting 5–6 trees could be considered, subject to landowner permission and further advice.

Cllr. Stephen Brett requested clarification on the planting locations. Whips have been planted opposite where dead trees were removed. Concern was raised about the eventual size of the trees, as Black Poplars can grow to 20–30 metres and potential damage to underground services.

**ACTION: Cllr. Stephen Brett to request permission from landowner for plantation of Black Poplars.**

- iii) Vegetation screening for Eastbridge Road borrow pits

**ACTION: Cllr. Stephen Brett to speak with SZC with regards to burrow pits and possible screening**

- iv) Electricity and water supply to Eastbridge Burial Ground and Theberton Playing Field

**ACTION: Hazel Collins to contact UK Power Network and Suffolk and Essex Water for quotation.**

- v) Commemorative Oak Tree at Theberton Playing Field

Cllr. Stephen Brett informed the Council that the Oak tree at Theberton Playing Field, planted to commemorate the Platinum Jubilee, has died. He noted that it was likely planted at the wrong time of year and suggested that the Council consider requesting a replacement through the Sizewell Community Fund.

- j) Outstanding Actions List

The Clerk provided a summary of outstanding actions and confirmed that any unresolved items will be added to the June action list.

Cllr. Stephen Morphey added that the Leiston Longshop Museum had accepted the donated funeral bier which will take centre place in their new summer exhibition. A certification of donation was provided.

## **9. Devolution Consultation**

- a) To discuss the topic of devolution

The topic of devolution was discussed earlier in the meeting during the conversation with District Cllr. Sarah Whitelock.

Cllr. Stephen Brett added that more non-political, factual background information should be provided to help inform future decision-making with regards to the benefits of unitary authorities.

## **10. Parish Matters**

- a) To note the resolution of damage to the Eastbridge triangle

The Council noted their satisfaction with the resolution of the Eastbridge Triangle damage by the company responsible. Cllr. Paul Collins and Cllr. Stephen Morphey noted that they had added additional topsoil to the Triangle and the grass is establishing well. Cllr. Morphey asked whether spare wildflower seeds should be planted on the area and it was agreed by the council to go ahead.

**ACTION:** The Chair will visit the resident currently storing the grass seed, as it may be used for the Eastbridge Burial Ground and Playing Field.

## **11. Administration**

- a) To review and approve the Internal Auditor's Report AIAR

The council reviewed and accepted the 2024-2025 Internal Auditor's Report AIAR.

- b) To conduct the annual review of the Internal Controls Statement

The clerk informed the council that further clarification and guidance was required before submission of the Internal Controls Statement for Parish approval.

**ACTION:** Clerk to add Internal Controls Statement to July agenda

- c) To conduct the annual review of Parish Council Public Liability Cover

It was proposed by Cllr. Graham Ward and seconded by Cllr. Paul Collins and it was agreed to renew the Theberton and Eastbridge public liability insurance with CAS at the annual cost of £598.42. All in favour.

**ACTION:** Clerk to proceed with renewal of £598.42 for Parish Council Public Liability Cover with CAS.

- d) To agree to renew the tractor insurance policy with NFU Mutual

It was proposed by Cllr. Graham Ward and seconded by Cllr. Paul Collins and it was agreed to renew the Theberton and Eastbridge public liability insurance with NFU mutual at the annual cost of £66.48. All in favour.

**ACTION:** Clerk to proceed with renewal of £66.48 for renew the tractor insurance policy with NFU Mutual.

- e) To discuss rescheduling the July meeting date to the 23<sup>rd</sup> of July 2025

The clerk proposed rescheduling the July meeting from Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2025 to Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2025. It was proposed by Cllr. Graham Ward and seconded by Cllr. Paul Collins and it was agreed to move the July meeting to the 23<sup>rd</sup> of July. All in favour.

**ACTION:** Clerk to amend the July meeting date to the 23<sup>rd</sup> of July 2025 on the Parish Council website.

## 12. Finance

- a) To note the latest financial position

It was proposed by Cllr. Graham Ward and seconded by Cllr. Robert Flindall and it was agreed that the latest financial position to be a true record. All in favour.

- b) To authorise the following payments:

Details	Payee	Amount	Power
Clerk's Salary	Honor Houlding	£371.97	LGA 1972 s.112
Broadband	BT	£31.14	LGA 1972 s.19
Internal Audit	SALC	£219.60	LGA 1972 s.111
Public Liability Insurance	Community Action Suffolk	£598.42	LGA 1972 s.111
Tractor Insurance	NFU Mutual	£66.48	LGA 1972 s.111
Clerk PAYE	HMRC	£271.47	LGA 1972 s.112

It was proposed by Cllr. Stephen Morphey and seconded by Cllr. Graham Ward and it was agreed to authorise the payments listed above. All in favour.

- c) To ratify the following payment:

Details	Payee	Amount	Power
Broadband (2 months)	BT	£61.88	LGA 1972 s.19

It was proposed by Cllr. Stephen Brett and seconded by Cllr. Graham Ward and it was agreed to authorise the ratified payment listed above. All in favour.

## 13. Correspondence

To review the correspondence received between 5<sup>th</sup> May 2025 and the 9<sup>th</sup> of June 2025 and take action as appropriate

The council concluded that no further actions were required to the above dated correspondence.

[ACTION: Clerk to add £50 donation to Citizen's Advice to July agenda for discussion.](#)

## 14. Questions to the Chair/Items for the Next Agenda

Cllr. Stephen Morphey reported that the spring rocker at Eastbridge Playing Field has a broken back panel. It is an original piece of equipment and remains popular with children. Despite the damage, the Sovereign safety inspection report has marked it as safe, so no further action is required at this time.

Cllr. Hazel Collins highlighted concerns over the recent installation of automated security bollards, referred to as "talking bollards" or "Daleks," at the Sizewell C sites. When someone stands on the road near the protected, fenced area, a recorded voice instructs them to "leave the area." The bollards contain cameras and are monitored by site security. The message is only activated when the site is unattended and is not intended to alarm or offend passers-by. However, the council questioned the necessity of such measures and continued disruption to peace within the parish.

ACTION: Cllr. Stephen Brett to add question with regards to talking bollards to main site forum questions.

## 16. Next Meeting.

To agree the date and time of the next meeting of the next Parish Council Meeting which is scheduled to be held on the Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2025 at 7:00 pm at the Jubilee Hall.

Honor Houlding  
Parish Clerk  
Meeting Ended at 21.35

## Appendix I – East Suffolk County Council June Report

### Town and Parish Report Cllr Sarah Whitelock June 2025

#### **Suffolk County Council Nature Recovery Strategy – please make residents aware**

Suffolk County Council are holding a consultation on the draft Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS). Local Nature Recovery Strategies are a requirement of the Environment Act 2021, and will set out a strategy for the creation and enhancement of habitats. The Suffolk LNRS has been drafted with input from a range of stakeholders, and the draft is now being promoted and consulted on. The LNRS comprises a strategy document and an interactive map, which can be viewed here - [Local Nature Recovery Strategy - Suffolk County Council](#). **The consultation is open until 11<sup>th</sup> June.**

Promotion of the LNRS consultation has included notifications to Town and Parish Councils and other organisations over recent weeks. ES Officers are currently reviewing the detail and are preparing an response.

#### **ES Community Growing Scheme Grant Fund is back**

We're offering grant of up to £2,000 to establish new community growing spaces or improve existing ones, with the aim of:

1. Increasing the number of people engaging with new or existing local allotments, community gardens, green spaces or equivalents that offer the ability to grow produce.
2. Increasing the amount of locally grown food within the East Suffolk food system by producing it in your growing space and distributing it
3. Broadening people's understanding of how to use fresh produce in their day-to-day cooking.

The application window is open until 24<sup>th</sup> June 2025 and the website is [Field to Fork grant scheme » East Suffolk Council](#)

#### **Grant launched for community building projects**

Village halls, community centres and other 'community hubs' across East Suffolk are invited to apply for a grant of up to £15,000 for upgrades, improvements and essential repairs.

The new grant scheme, worth a total of £190,000, is funded through the UK Government Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF) and the East Suffolk Community Partnership Board, and will provide grants of up to 80% of the total cost of the project.

Grants are aimed at local organisations that want to improve, repair, enhance or upgrade their building, or what's on offer inside the building for the local community. Examples could include:

- Increasing digital access by installing or improving broadband
- Increasing accessibility to the building
- Replacing a kitchen to support additional user groups
- Installing sustainable energy solutions like PV cells or ground/air source heat pumps

The grant scheme also recognises that sometimes essential repairs and maintenance, for example to the roof, windows, doors or floors, are a priority to keep the doors open to the community.

Applications are open until 9am on 16 September and will be considered by a grant panel. All funding must be spent, and the project completed by 31 March 2026.

[Community Centre and Village Hall Repairs and Improvement Fund guidance](#)

[Application form](#)

### **East Suffolk residents urged to recycle their electricals as new kerbside collections roll out across the district**

East Suffolk Council today unveils its plans to introduce kerbside collections of small electrical items across the whole of East Suffolk. Collections will begin in the coming weeks with the hope that 120,000 households in the local community will get behind its drive to recycle their electricals.

The new kerbside collections will enable residents to leave small electrical items on top of their wheeled bins on their usual bin collection day and items will then be collected by the refuse crew and taken away for recycling. There is no need to bag the items.

This is one of over 60 UK projects funded by Material Focus, the not for profit leading the Recycle Your Electricals campaign, who have provided £60,724 to support this project. East Suffolk Council are joining other projects around the country in making it easier for 10 million UK residents to recycle their electricals.

Following a trial of the scheme in parts of the district last year, electrical kerbside collections will now be rolled out across all of East Suffolk. **Residents are advised to look out for a leaflet advising them when collections will start in their area.**

Electrical collections will take place at the same time as existing household waste or recycling collections. Collected items will be sorted for recycling or where appropriate, given to local charities The Repair Shed in Martlesham and the Benjamin Foundation in Lowestoft for repair before selling the items to raise money. **To try and manage demand on the service residents are asked to leave no more than 2 small electrical items, unbagged, out for collection each week.** If the collection basket on the refuse vehicle is full, items can be scheduled for collection the following week.

Residents will be made aware of how and where they can recycle their electricals through information on leaflets and on eye-catching social media featuring HypnoCat. Keep an eye out for HypnoCat, the Recycle

Your Electricals mesmerising pink, fluffy mascot, who is on a mission to hypnotise local residents into recycling their electricals.

This project is part of the new 2025 funding for the Electricals Recycling Fund where Material Focus has allocated an additional £750,000. The aim of the nationwide Electricals Recycling Fund is to significantly reduce e-waste and its environmental impact by making it easier for consumers to recycle their electricals. The projects that have been funded by Material Focus include a variety of recycling methods, from kerbside collections to more drop-off points in schools, community centres, and bring banks. Overall there will be over 400 new collection points plus kerbside collections for 3 million UK residents.

Recycle Your Electricals research has shown that 80% of consumers believe recycling is a good thing, and many of us already recycle things like paper and plastic. Research has also shown that most of us have unwanted electricals we want to get rid of. On average there are at least 30 electricals hidden away in drawers in UK homes, a total of 880 million items across the UK - with a simple repair many could be donated or sold to people who could put them to good use. And yet 39% of people bin electricals, rather than recycle or reuse them leading to over 100,000 tonnes of electricals thrown away every year. The aim of these projects is to overcome these issues by making it easier to repair, donate or recycle electricals.

To find your nearest recycling point search [recycle your electricals](#).

Small items which can be collected through the scheme:

- Toasters
- Kettles
- Hairdryers and hair straighteners
- Electric shavers and toothbrushes
- Mobile phones
- Digital cameras
- Remote controls
- Clocks and watches
- Game consoles and controllers
- Small radios and speakers
- Electric drills and other small power tools
- Chargers and cables
- Laptops and tablets
- MP3 players/iPods
- Electric irons
- DVD/CD players

**Items must be electrical or electronic (i.e. needs a plug, battery, or charger) and about the size of a shoebox.**

Items which cannot be accepted and instead can be taken to your [nearest recycling centre](#):

- Large appliances (e.g., washing machines, fridges)
- TV sets or computer monitors
- Microwaves
- Light bulbs or fluorescent tubes
- Batteries
- Hazardous electricals (e.g. items with leaking batteries)

**District and Borough Councils' clear message to communities: "Let's shape the future of Suffolk together!"**

Suffolk's five district and borough councils are launching [a county-wide survey asking people for their views](#) on the future of vital local government services.

The move comes as part of the government's Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) initiative which would see county, district and borough councils replaced and all their services delivered by one or more new unitary councils covering a specific area in the county.

District and borough councils believe that Suffolk would be best served by more than one unitary council. They have submitted their interim report, which sets out the benefits of a multi-unitary model. In a letter sent earlier this month to all Suffolk councils, the government offered clear encouragement for the districts and boroughs to continue developing their proposals.

With this in mind, they are now seeking to further develop the best possible case for a multiple unitary solution in Suffolk, creating councils that are big enough to deliver, but local enough to care; councils that will be efficient and financially sustainable, delivering genuine value for money.

This is the most dramatic change to local government in 50 years, and the Leaders of the borough and district councils are committed to ensuring that every community is involved in shaping the new councils and their services.

As part of the wider engagement work the district and borough councils are carrying out, residents, businesses, community groups and other organisations can now [have their say](#) on what is important to them, in the areas in which they live and work.

Encouraging as many Suffolk people as possible to take part, the Leaders of the five district and borough councils, Cllr John Ward, leader of Babergh District Council, Cllr Caroline Topping, leader of East Suffolk Council, Cllr Neil MacDonald, leader of Ipswich Borough Council, Cllr Andy Mellen, leader of Mid Suffolk District Council, and Cllr Cliff Waterman, Leader of West Suffolk Council, said:

"We want to transform public services, so they work for all our citizens and communities, and we want you to help us shape them.

"Suffolk County Council has only one plan – to create a single mega-council, which we believe would be out of touch with communities and residents. It would cover a vast geographical area seeking to save as much money as possible, no matter how perilous the impact on local democracy, the quality of services provided or proper accountability where you live - whether it's Hadleigh, Sudbury, Bury St Edmunds, Stowmarket, Felixstowe, Lowestoft or Ipswich.

"We can't let that happen and we want to hear what you think, to understand the challenges and opportunities, and to ensure that all of Suffolk is listened to and properly represented in the generational changes which are taking place.

"We are absolutely certain that a multiple unitary model, with each new council delivering all services to different, recognisable parts of Suffolk, is vital to meet the differing needs of our diverse communities.

"With this in mind, we are greatly encouraged by the government's recent feedback which makes it absolutely clear that we can make a case for local unitaries focused on meeting the needs of all our communities, embodying a true sense of place and local identity. It also supports our argument to have

greater representation in the Mayoral Strategic Authority to ensure local voices are heard from across Suffolk.

“Creating more than one unitary council in Suffolk will ensure strong local leadership and democratic representation, better community engagement, neighbourhood empowerment and more responsive councils. We want more locally targeted, modern and flexible services, to drive better outcomes and value, rather than a basic and unimaginative ‘one size fits all’ option which simply bolts district and borough services on to an old and tired county council system.

“This is a fantastic opportunity to work with communities, service users and organisations to rewire how services are delivered and drive better outcomes to meet local needs. For example, the needs and challenges for people living in Ipswich are different to those in rural Suffolk. For the first time your council will be able to deliver services tailored to meet local needs when previously it was a one size fits all approach that only worked for the few.

“It’s particularly important that we can make a strong financial case for change – not only highlighting how we can deliver savings in the short and medium term, but how we can absolutely guarantee the future sustainability of the services people depend on.”

The survey, which closes on 25 July 2025, can be found at [www.babergh.gov.uk/devolution-and-lgr](http://www.babergh.gov.uk/devolution-and-lgr)

### **Council urges local people to have their say on Sea Link**

East Suffolk Council is urging local residents to get involved in the next stage of the planning process for the proposed Sea Link project.

The project, which is being developed by National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET), involves the reinforcement of the electricity transmission network between Suffolk and Kent.

While part of the project comprises a 122km offshore Direct Current link, a significant amount of onshore infrastructure is proposed, with landfall between Thorpeness and Aldeburgh, onshore underground cables, connection to the transmission network via either the proposed substation at Friston or via a new substation, and a 2GW converter station proposed near Saxmundham.

The onshore infrastructure will have significant environmental, social and economic impacts, both alone and cumulatively with other nationally significant projects also being proposed in East Suffolk.

East Suffolk Council has raised specific concerns regarding the project and is committed to working constructively with NGET to achieve the best possible outcomes for communities and the local environment, if the project were to be consented and delivered.

The Secretary of State has decided that the Sea Link project will be a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP). NGET, as the developer, is therefore required to apply for consent where the final decision whether to give permission will be made by the Secretary of State through the granting of a Development Consent Order (DCO).

The application has been submitted for examination to the Planning Inspectorate, and only those registered will be able to comment during the examination period. Organisations and individuals wishing to comment [must register as an Interested Party](#) by Monday 23 June 2025.

Cllr Tom Daly, East Suffolk's cabinet member for Energy and Climate Change, said: "Whilst attending the recent roadshow event in Saxmundham, the councillors and officers present were inundated with concerns from local residents about the impact of Sea Link and other proposed energy projects on the Suffolk coast.

"We are now approaching a significant phase of the planning process for Sea Link, and we want to ensure residents understand the proposals and their implications for the local area. Most importantly we want residents to understand how they can submit their views for consideration by the Planning Inspectorate, who will make the final decision about whether Sea Link goes ahead.

"Over the years of pre-application engagement, the Council has repeatedly called for a coordinated approach to delivering the infrastructure for Sea Link and has provided extensive responses to all consultations previously held. In all these responses, the Council has raised significant concerns that issues have not been satisfactorily addressed by NGET, including the limited amount of information shared with the Council for review and response.

"Earlier this year, we wrote to National Grid to highlight our concerns and to request that many of the issues raised were addressed prior to the submission to the Planning Inspectorate and are currently awaiting a response.

"We are now approaching the examination stage and only those organisations and individuals registered as Interested Parties will be able to submit their views to the Planning Inspectorate during this stage. Therefore, I would urge people who wish to give their views to [register as an Interested Party before 23 June](#)."

In [February 2025, East Suffolk Council wrote to the Chair and Chief Executive of National Grid](#) to highlight the Council's concerns about the Sea Link project ahead of the project's planned submission to the Planning Inspectorate, and to urge NGET to engage constructively with East Suffolk Council to place the project in better stead for formal submission to the Planning Inspectorate.

To save considerable time and effort during the Examination process, the Council expressed a view that many of the issues raised would be better discussed and progressed ahead of the application being submitted to the Planning Inspectorate, and which would then assist with the drafting of the Statement of Common Ground.

This would enable the formulation of a comprehensive Development Consent Order, which would make a significant contribution to the smooth and timely delivery of the project, should development consent be granted.

The Council also stated that the Sea link project cannot, and should not, proceed with a view that identification of Sea Link as an Accelerated Strategic Transmission Investment (ASTI) project means the project can be delivered at any cost.

The Council is supportive of the Net Zero transition and recognises the importance of projects such as Sea Link, but to date do not have the confidence that the delivery of the project as currently proposed and understood would not result in unacceptable harm to the local environment and the existing communities.

East Suffolk Council continues to call for a coordinated strategic approach to the delivery of the energy infrastructure, including a more rigorous approach to Offshore Coordination Support Scheme possibilities around coordinated offshore transmission infrastructure and alternative brownfield landfall locations that may be possible. Net Zero targets should not be used to remove these options from the discussion.

## Appendix II – Cllr. Paul Collins June Energy Projects Report

### 1. TEAGS – Stop Sizewell C

We still await a decision from the Appeal Court as to the success or otherwise of our appeal against the ONR Nuclear Site License application.

We continue to raise awareness with those investors who are reported in the press as to be considering investing in Sizewell C. Those interested have changed over the months and recently we have added Brookfield, Canadian Pension Fund Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec (CDPQ) and Rothesay, and we have set up mailing letters on the website for individuals to raise their concerns regarding the project in the hope of curbing their enthusiasm.

Also, USS (Universities Superannuation Scheme) who were thought to have pulled out from investing have now been reported as back in the game. Centrica also seem to be back in investment mode despite having been rumoured to be a potential investor at HPC, although saying quite clearly that they would only invest in either SZC or HPC but not both.

Lord Hunt, who was the minister within the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero has stepped down from his role and Baroness Curran has been appointed to replace him. We would hope to meet her at the next DESNZ NGO meeting, and a [mailing letter suggestion](#) is also available on the website.

Despite the various rumours in the past there now seems to be some debate in the press as to whether a final investment decision (FID) will be made public at the 2<sup>nd</sup> stage of the spending review on 11<sup>th</sup> June. There now seems to be a belief that any “final” FID will be made at the Anglo-French Summit 8-10th July.

This may mean that the spending review announcement is limited to talking about the final stake the government is proposing to take in the project and how they might reduce their existing 88% stake within the Regulated Asset Base scheme.

EDF’s current stake is ~12% having provided no additional funding since SZC Ltd was initially set up and according to company declarations, the maximum stake they are prepared to take is 19.99% but a figure of 10% was also given as a base investment in their latest annual report.

It is also well known that EDF have been trying to find alternative investors in Hinkley Point C to replace the funding deficit following China General Nuclear’s (originally a 25% owner of HPC) refusal to contribute to the significant cost overruns at HPC. One suggestion from EDF/French Government has been that HMG take a stake in the project, but this has been ruled out by HMG on several occasions, saying that the HPC project is a purely commercial affair for EDF and that the Contract for Difference price guarantee represents HMG’s only “participation” in the project.

So we await the outcome of the Anglo-French summit to see what transpires regards both SZC and HPC given there are also concerns in France about the availability of sufficiently qualified construction specialists to support projects here and the nuclear maintenance and new build plans in France. Similar concerns have also been voiced in the offshore wind and interconnector sectors in this area given the intensity of projects planned and approved in East Suffolk.

On the evening of 4<sup>th</sup> June, Stop Sizewell C projected images onto the SZB dome calling for the government to use the £40 billion cost of SZC to be invested in other projects that are quicker and have more immediate and needed impacts. A video of the projection with rolling text that calls for the £40 billion to be better spent on other projects and priorities including:

Sir Keir, Sizewell C is a Nuclear Waste of Money  
Sizewell C is £40 billion badly spent  
Instead: Install Four Sizewell Cs in Offshore Wind  
Instead: Insulate Over Three Million Homes.  
Instead: Build 40 Hospitals

Instead: Repair 40,000 Schools  
Instead: Restore Winter Fuel Payments  
Instead: Reverse Disability Cuts

A video of the projection is available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gxZU4KMRHY8>



The Sizewell C Outrage event incorporating a memorial for Pete Wilkinson on Saturday 11:00am on 7<sup>th</sup> June at Sizewell Beach was a great success with about 300 people attending. Speakers included Jonathon Porritt, Simon Barnes, two of Pete's daughters and Charlie Kronick from Greenpeace. Pete was one of the founding directors of Greenpeace UK and has long campaigned against nuclear power and other environmental issues as Greenpeace advocate as well as a long stint as chair of Together Against Sizewell C (TASC). Attendees also walked down to the area of the beach in front of the Sizewell C construction site to tie yellow ribbons with messages to the fencing and work is now well underway with a couple of sheet piles of the temporary sea defence in place as well as large mounds of sand, soil etc from excavations within the power station platform area.



## **2. TASC Ltd JR Challenge to Secretary of State Department of Energy Security and Net Zero**

A challenge to SoS DESNZ has been issued at the High Court concerning Overland Flood Barriers (OFBs) that have been committed to by SZC Ltd in their Nuclear Site License. These barriers reaching to heights of 9-10m AOD (above sea level) may be needed should sea level rise reach what is known as the “credible maximum”. It is a requirement for a Nuclear Site License from the Office for Nuclear Regulation to be granted that protection of the site from flooding (from the sea) meets this level.

Whilst the sea facing Hard and Soft Coastal Defences are designed with the capability of being raised to meet this criterion and were presented and assessed in the Development Consent Order, no such plans for OFBs were presented at the DCO examination and suggestions that there was a potential for flooding the SZC site from the sides and rear were dismissed as nonsense during both consultations and the examination. It now appears that EDF were aware from 2015 that, for their selected 7.3m high platform, further protection for the rear of the site would be necessary using these OFBs. An alternative approach assessed in additional EDF documents, obtained under Freedom of Information requests to the ONR, was to raise the platform height to 8.6m AOD.

When TASC asked the SoS DESNZ to either revoke or vary the DCO, through a material change to include the OFBs, running both to the north and south of the Sizewell A, B and C sites, allowing them to be assessed in terms of their potential for environmental damage under the Habitats Regulations, and to make clear to the Sizewell community that these barriers would run across the dunes in front of the village. The request was dismissed as not being necessary at this time.

TASC’s lawyers believe that the response of the SoS DESNZ was not compliant with the various planning acts and so have submitted the TASC Ltd case on the following four grounds;

- The SoS was in breach of his obligations under the Habitats Regulations Act 2017 when refusing TASC’s request to review the development consent order.
- The SoS misdirected himself in law in the wording of the response to TASC’s request.
- The SoS breached his duty of inquiry in his refusal of TASC’s request.
- The decision to refuse TASC’s request to vary or revoke the development consent order was irrational.

Further details can be found at <https://www.leighday.co.uk/news/news/2025-news/opposition-to-sizewell-c-nuclear-power-station-sea-defence-plans-lodged/>

TASC are Crowd Funding to support this challenge at <https://www.crowdjustice.com/case/sizewell-c-legal-challenge/>

## **3. East Suffolk Communities Energy Partnership and Anglia Energy Planning Alliance**

An initial meeting with DESNZ has now been agreed and will take place with a number of ESCEP committee members on 17<sup>th</sup> June.

## **4. B1122 planning discussions and SZC Deed of Obligation Forums**

At long last the Average Speed Cameras have been installed.

Progress on the one-way system in the local roads between Theberton and Eastbridge has made glacially slow progress and we await a new date to review finalised plans once the final plans have been approved by Suffolk County Council Highways Department.

These mitigations are woefully late and show SZC to be well outside the expected timeframe for delivery. It was a consistent theme from the Examining Authority at the DCO examination that mitigations are supposed to precede the impacts occurring. This expectation, which was dashed at the examination, are now even later than expected from statements from SZC both during the examination and in statements made at the Transport Forums.

The next Community Forum is on 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2025, Main Development Site Forum is on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2025 and Northern Transport Forum on 7<sup>th</sup> August 2025.

## **5. Scottish Power Wind Farms and Friston Substation**

Various preparatory works and archaeology are now being undertaken.

## **6. LionLink (formerly EuroLink) – National Grid Ventures**

No further progress.

## **7. Sea Link Interconnector – National Grid Electricity Transmission**

The DCO Application has been submitted and accepted for examination by PINS. Registration as an Interested Party is now open until 23 June. An initial review of the application from NGET is given below. A decision as to whether to register as an Interested Party will require us to submit a Relevant Representation at the time of registration.

- No part of this proposal will involve direct construction within the Parish boundary.
- There will be some cumulative impacts from Sea Link alongside Sizewell C, Scottish Power (SPR) EA1 and EA2 and LionLink but not with Nautilus, now making landfall at the Isle of Grain.
- Landfall will be between Aldeburgh and Thorpeness using trenchless Horizontal Direct Drilling beneath both Aldeburgh SSSI and RSPB North Warren to the transition joint bay (marine to land based cable connection)
- Underground HVDC cables will be laid to the converter stations outside Saxmundham then underground HVAC cables will go back to the Friston National Grid substation being constructed as part of the SPR projects
- Main access to the converter station site will be from the B1121, south of Saxmundham, across the Fromus and up the hill to the site southeast of Saxmundham
- The maximum workforce associated with the construction phase is expected to be about 327 in 2028 averaging 65 per annum with approximately one third living within a 60-minute drive
- The peak construction traffic along the B1121 (north and south of Saxmundham) is expected to be approximately 30 vehicles per day
- No construction vehicles are expected to use the existing B1122 between Yoxford and Leiston or the Sizewell Link Road once completed
- However, separately, Lion Link is expected to cross the Parish en-route from Walberswick to the converter station at Saxmundham, assuming that it gains development consent after the application is submitted

It is difficult, therefore, to see how to raise legitimate concerns within a Relevant Representation regarding Sea Link, from a Parish point of view, when there is so little potential additional impact. This will not be the case once the Lion Link Development Consent Order application comes forward.

So, despite having real concerns about the cumulative impact and industrialisation of the area with all of these energy projects, as well as sympathy for Saxmundham who are likely to have multiple large industrial sheds housing these converter stations, I cannot see how to register the Parish as an Interested Party with a direct and legitimate set of issues within a Relevant Representation.

My recommendation is that we do not register as an Interested Party on this occasion.

## **8. Solar Farms/Battery Storage**

Town Farm solar array, between Saxmundham and Yoxford, is now starting preliminary works close to the A12 where the Sizewell Link Road Roundabout is being constructed.

## **9. Hydrogen East/Capital Hydrogen**

No further information at this time.

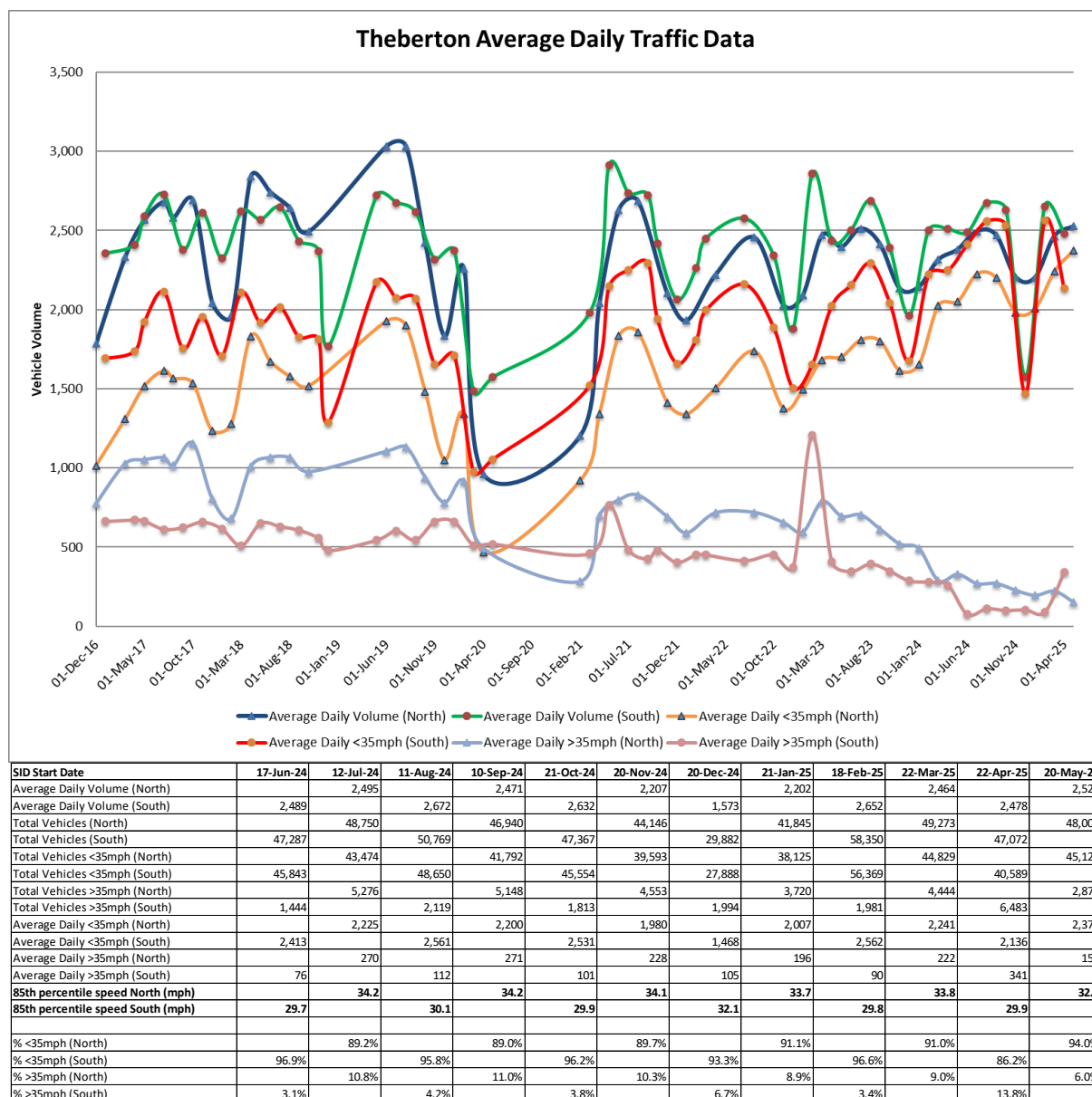
## Appendix III – Cllr. Paul Collins June Speed Indicator Device Report

The speed indicator device has been operational for eighty-nine ~20-day periods since 20<sup>th</sup> December 2016. It is placed at one end of the village or other at ~30-day intervals.

Traffic volumes long-term averages for those exceeding 35mph is now **30.9%** from north and **20.1%** from south.

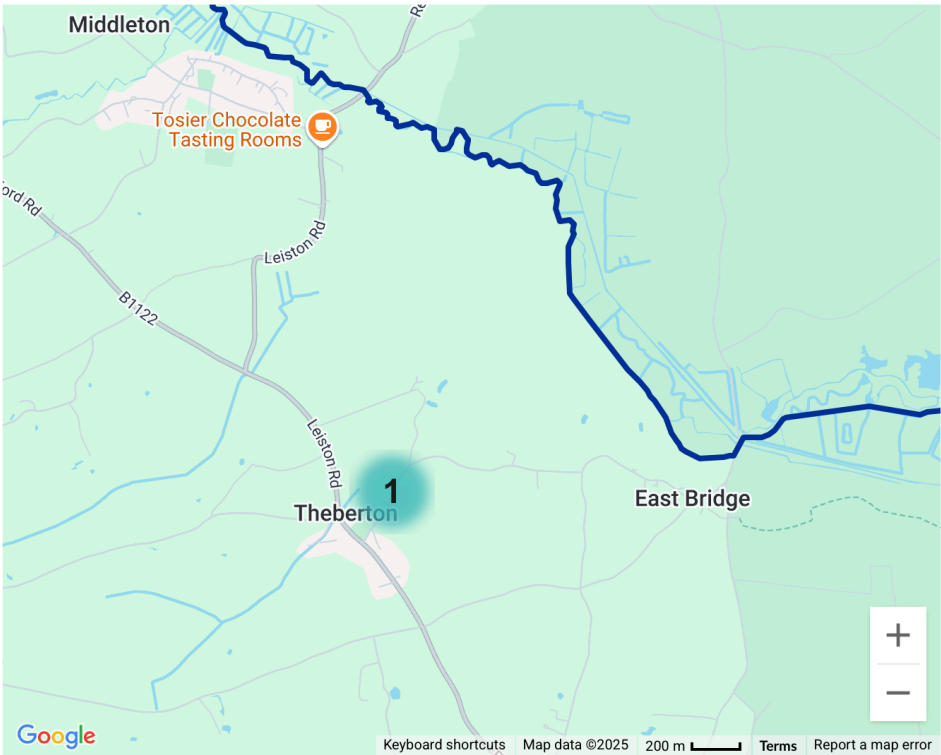
The **85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed\*** is **38.7mph** from North and **36.3mph** from South when they enter the village. These averages are over the whole period from December 2016.

There is a general reduction in speed noticeable from 20<sup>th</sup> May 2024 when the enforceable 30mph speed limit came into effect. The average speed cameras are now installed and operational. It will be interesting to see whether the lower speed levels are retained or even drop further.



\*The 85<sup>th</sup> Percentile is indicative of the speed that the majority of road users are travelling at.

Appendix IV – April Police Crime Report



All Crimes (80) ▼

April 2025 ▼

1 crimes were reported here in April 2025

Violence and sexual offences 1