

THEBERTON AND EASTBRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE THEBERTON AND EASTBRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING HELD AT JUBILEE HALL, THEBERTON ON WEDNESDAY 14th MAY 2025 AT 8:30 PM

1. Election of Chair and signing of Declaration of Office

Cllr. Stephen Brett was nominated by Cllr. Graham Ward and seconded by Cllr. Paul Collins to remain in office as Chair. All members present voted in favour and Cllr. Stephen Brett was duly elected. Cllr. Stephen Brett signed the Declaration of Office and the Clerk signed as witness.

2. Election of Vice-Chair and signing of Declaration of Office

Cllr. Graham Ward was nominated by Cllr. Stephen Brett and seconded by Cllr. Hazel Collins to remain in office as Vice-Chair. All members present voted in favour and Cllr. Graham Ward was duly elected. Cllr. Graham Ward signed the Declaration of Office and the Clerk signed as witness.

3. Attendance and apologies

Attendees:

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

Apologies for absence:

District Cllr. Tom Daly
District Cllr. Sarah Whitelock
Cllr. Nat Bacon - apologised

Members of the public:

One member of the public was present.

In attendance:

Honor Houlding- Clerk/RFO
County Cllr. Richard Smith
District Cllr. Katie Graham

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

None.

5. Public Forum

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

One member of the public was present.

b) To receive a report from the County Councillor

Cllr. Richard Smith opened the meeting with an update on the proposed local government reorganisation in Suffolk. Consultations with town and parish councils are expected to take place at the end of the summer. The County Council is in favour of a single unitary authority, while district councils are advocating for one, two, or three unitary authorities within the County. A single unitary council could deliver significant annual savings, although the financial modelling is

still being refined and will continue to be assessed throughout the year. Both the County and District councils are due to submit separate business cases to the government. A final decision from the government is anticipated in January. From September, Members of Parliament will lead the public and political debate. There is pressure from the Treasury to move forward with reform. Devolution implementation is expected to take two years, with the new structure fully in place within three years. It was noted that this time next year, Suffolk is expected to have a regional mayor. The exact responsibilities of the role are still to be determined. Cllr. Smith mentioned the “Council of the Nations and Regions,” in which mayors are expected to participate. There is speculation that this may become the primary mechanism for distributing central government funds to local authorities. Examples from Cornwall and Wiltshire were cited as models where unitary authorities maintain strong links with parish and town councils. It is expected that powers will be devolved to these councils under any new structure.

Suffolk County Council ended the financial year with a small underspend – the first such result in seven years. The total budget for the year was £803 million, with approximately 77% allocated to social care. Despite this positive outcome, financial conditions remain challenging.

Cllr. Paul Collins was thanked for his energy report

The District Council has registered its interest in the SeaLink project and continues to hold monthly meetings with the cabinet. A robust response has been submitted to the National Grid, covering concerns such as the potential impact on Saxmundham, the local church, and Benhall bridge.

Cllr. Richard Smith emphasised the importance of working in the best interests of the community in relation to the cumulative impact of national infrastructure including development at Walberswick, the LionLink project, and Sizewell C (SZC). Ongoing issues were noted, along with environmental and traffic concerns related to Sizewell C, including early summer-level congestion and significant loss of trees and hedgerows.

At the Northern Transport Forum, concerns were raised about rail closures at Darsham diverting all local traffic through Westleton for two years starting this autumn, alongside new A12 roundabouts and lower speed limits. The Yoxford roundabout is set to begin soon. The forum was described as tense, with frustration over the felling of 30,000 trees. Replanting plans are in place but may not offset a projected deficit of 270,000 trees, with only 25% survival or retention rates. Potential flood risks due to vegetation loss were raised.

[ACTION: County Councillor Richard Smith to clarify whether the removal of trees and vegetation has been taken into account in assessing future flood risk to the area.](#)

A member of the public questioned the implications of a unitary authority, expressing concern over loss of local representation and whether the county’s diversity would continue to be reflected. Richard Smith clarified that around 100 councillors are expected, with local voices maintained through governance structures. Increased responsibilities for Parish and Town Councils were discussed, though concerns remain about capacity and recruitment.

c) To receive reports from the District Councillors

District Cllr. Katie Graham summarised the East Suffolk Council April Report which is attached as **Appendix I**.

[ACTION: All councillor’s urged to register their interest with regards to the National Grid SeaLink project](#)

6. Minutes and Matters Arising

a) To approve as accurate the minutes of the meeting on 9th April 2025

It was proposed by Cllr. Stephen Brett and seconded by Cllr. Paul Collins and agreed that the minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 9th April 2025 to be signed as a true record. All in favour.

b) Matters arising

Cllr. Stephen Brett notified the council of the arising repairs for the Parish tractor including a new diesel cap and fuel for continued operation. Due to a potential oil leak and trouble with the vehicle's radiator and brakes, Cllr. Stephen Brett requested permission from the council to seek professional help on quotation of services of the repairs.

7. Energy Projects

a) To receive an update from Cllr. Paul Collins

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

Cllr. Paul Collins informed the Council that EDF has been acquiring sites from the existing nuclear fleet, including Hartlepool, Bradwell, and Dungeness—though the latter is considered unlikely—with the intention of repurposing them for Small Modular Reactors (SMRs).

Concerns were raised at the Northern Transport Forum regarding inconsistent tree removal; in some areas fewer trees are taken, while in others more are removed, with no clear justification. It was stressed that removing 30,000 trees must have required prior planning. Although EDF claims a tenfold replanting at Coronation Wood, there is no evidence explaining why so many trees were cut. A recent site visit to the SLR revealed that health and safety priorities had changed, but this was not communicated. Attendees felt disrespected and misinformed, particularly after discovering route changes and additional tree felling that had not been disclosed. For example, trees along the farm track opposite the Middleton B1122 turn-off, which had been promised preservation, have all been cut back. Frustration was expressed over the lack of transparency, likening the public reaction to a fraction of the "Sycamore Gap" outrage.

[ACTION: The Clerk and Councillor Paul Collins will draft a letter to Marjorie Barnes \(SZC\), Lord Hunt, MP Jenny Riddell Carpenter, and ESC's Richard Bull, requesting detailed information regarding the extensive tree felling associated with the SZC development.](#)

It was noted that areas such as Goose Hill and Kenton Hills will be reverted to Sandlings heathland, returning them to their pre-plantation state, meaning the existing pine woodland is unlikely to be replaced.

At the Northern Transport Forum, it was confirmed that the government has committed £6.4 billion to the project and holds an 82% stake. A SZC protest event is scheduled for 7th June at 11am, commemorating the late Pete Wilkinson, to maintain public awareness and pressure.

b) To consider a response for Sizewell C Community Study Survey in conjunction with The University of Suffolk

The Clerk informed the council of the Survey in conjunction with The University of Suffolk covering the impact of the Sizewell C development.

Cllr. Hazel Collins volunteered to complete the survey on the Parish Council's behalf.

[ACTION: Clerk to send Sizewell C Community Study Survey to Cllr. Hazel Collins for completion](#)

8. Planning

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

Cllr. Robert Flindall summarised the May Theberton and Eastbridge Neighbourhood Planning Strategy Report which is attached as **Appendix III**.

- b) To approve the Theberton and Eastbridge Neighbourhood Plan Service Level Agreement with East Suffolk Council

Cllr. Robert Flindall summarised the Theberton and Eastbridge Neighbourhood Plan Service Level Agreement from East Suffolk Council. It was proposed by Cllr. Paul Collins and seconded by Cllr. Hazel Collins to sign the agreement to the Theberton and Eastbridge Neighbourhood Plan Service Level Agreement. All in favour.

ACTION: Clerk and Cllr. Stephen Brett to sign and send Service Level Agreement to East Suffolk Council.

- c) To discuss East Suffolk County Council Planning Application DC/25/1625/FUL - Change of Use of agricultural storage land to B8 hardstanding for parking of concrete mixers and associated tanks, including a welfare unit, acoustic bund and fencing, relating to Sizewell C construction at Harrow Farm

Cllr. Robert Flindall informed the council that application DC/25/1625/FUL had been withdrawn.

- d) To discuss East Suffolk County Council Planning Application DC/25/1745/VOC - Variation of Condition No.s 2, 5, and 7 of DC/23/1253/FUL - Erection of one agricultural worker dwelling and detached garage - Approved Plans, Materials, Landscaping and Hill Farm, Harrow Lane

Cllr. Robert Flindall detailed the above planning application. The council noted that a planning application had previously been discussed by Theberton and Eastbridge Parish Council. Due to the new application submitting plans for a smaller property with less impact, the council agreed to submit a no objection response to ESC. All in favour

ACTION: Clerk to submit 'no objection' response to planning application DC/25/1745/VOC

- e) To note the approval of the East Suffolk Planning Application DC/23/3712/FUL at Moat Road

The Council noted the approval of Planning Application DC/23/3712/FUL at Moat Road and observed that many of the relevant considerations and environmental considerations are addressed within the detailed conditions of the planning approval.

9. Clerk/Councillors' Reports

- a) Community Council

The clerk informed the council that due to the recent changes to the Community Council members, there were no minutes available from the meeting held on the 7th of May at this time.

Cllr. Daryl Ash reported that the Community Council expressed strong support for the biannual meetings seeing them as promoting a more constructive partnership between both councils. The Community Council showed keen interest in the Neighbourhood Plan and raised concerns regarding parcels of land and potential developments within the Parish. A discussion took place about the Fun Day scheduled for 21st June, with a request for volunteers. Clean-up days were planned for 7th and 14th June. The possibility of purchasing a laptop for Community Council use was also discussed.

ACTION: Clerk to request the CC do not paint noticeboards during community help days.

The Community Council proposed the idea of a covered seating area in Theberton and Eastbridge Playing Field to promote wellness and provide a space for community members to meet and socialise. The chairman approved the proposal, and, subject to a maintenance strategy, granted approval in principle. All in favour.

ACTION: Clerk to inform the CC that the chairman agrees in principle to the application for funding for a covered seating area at Theberton Playing Field

b) Heritage Trail

Cllr. Stephen Morphey provided a summary of the most recent Heritage Trail meeting. The text has been proofread and signed off as complete. Two illustrations are still to be received, after which a full draft will be prepared for the council's approval prior to printing and installation of the Heritage Boards at the two proposed sites.

[ACTION: Clerk to obtain two other quotes to produce the Heritage Trail map boards for review by the Parish Council](#)

[ACTION: Cllr. Stephen Brett to find photos and information from Doughty Wylie boards.](#)

c) Speed Indicator Device

Cllr. Paul Collins summarised the April and May Speed Indicator Device Reports which is attached as **Appendix III**.

d) Police Crime Report

The March Police Crime Report is attached as **Appendix IV**.

The Clerk informed the council that there were no crimes to report in Theberton and Eastbridge in March 2025.

e) 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 a scheduled meeting with a Black Poplar specialist from the Tree Warden Association to conduct a site survey. The survey will be attended by Cllr. Hazel Collins, Cllr. Daryl Ash, and Cllr. Vanessa Davies.

iii) Vegetation screening for Eastbridge Road burrow 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

Cllr Daryl Ash reported that the Eastbridge tree watering rota is working well however the water supply from the water butt at Eastbridge cemetery is running low due to the lack of rainfall. A local resident has generously been donating their own water to support the effort. A discussion was held regarding how to acknowledge this contribution. The Clerk suggested donating to a charity of the resident's choice as a gesture of thanks.

[ACTION: Clerk to add watering rota of Eastbridge playing field trees to next month's agenda.](#)

f) Outstanding Actions List

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

10. Devolution Consultation

a) To discuss Parish Council Response to Devolution Consultation SALC Survey – deadline 25th May

The council discussed their considerations with regards the Devolution Consultation and response to the SALC Devolution Consultation Survey.

[ACTION: Clerk to send Devolution Consultation SALC Survey to Cllr. Robert Flindall for completion before the deadline of the 25th of May 2025.](#)

11. Parish Matters

- a) To discuss the damage to Eastbridge triangle

Cllr. Stephen Brett reported damage to the Eastbridge Village triangle caused by a large delivery vehicle. A local resident carried out emergency repairs and has offered to contact the delivery company to seek compensation for the damage. The Parish Council thanked the resident for her prompt action and diligence.

12. Administration

- a) To review and approve the Annual Governance Statement (Section 1) of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return.

The Council reviewed and approved the Annual Governance Statement (Section 1) of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return. All in favour.

[ACTION: Clerk to scan the approved and signed Annual Governance Statement \(Section 1\) and add to SALC Audit Folder, submit to PKF Little John and publish on to the Parish website.](#)

- b) To review and approve the Accounting Statement (Section 2) of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return.

The Council reviewed and approved the Annual Governance Statement (Section 2) of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return. All in favour.

[ACTION: Clerk to scan the approved and signed Annual Governance Statement \(Section 2\) and add to SALC Audit Folder, submit to PKF Little John and publish on to the Parish website.](#)

- c) To review and approve the Certificate of Exemption for the financial year 2024- 2025.

The Council reviewed and approved the Certificate of Exemption for the financial year 2024- 2025. All in favour.

[ACTION: Clerk to scan the approved and signed Annual Governance Statement \(Section 2\) and add to SALC Audit Folder, submit to PKF Little John and publish on to the Parish website.](#)

- d) To review and approve the Annual Expenditure over £100 2024-2025

The Council reviewed and approved the Annual Expenditure over £100 2024-2025.

[ACTION: Clerk to publish the approved annual expenditure over £100 on the Parish website.](#)

- e) To set the period for the exercise of public rights from Tuesday 3rd June to Monday 14th July 2025.

The Council agreed to set the period for the exercise of public rights from Tuesday 3rd June to Monday 14th July 2025.

[ACTION: Clerk to publish period for the exercise of public rights on the Parish website and noticeboards.](#)

- f) To agree to transfer £1,000 to the earmarked reserve for the Play Equipment Sinking Fund

The Council agreed to transfer £1,000 to the earmarked reserve towards the Play Equipment Sinking Fund.

- g) To agree to transfer £500 to the earmarked reserve for the Yoxmere Fisherman Fund

The Council agreed to transfer £500 to the earmarked reserve towards the Yoxmere Fisherman Fund.

- h) To agree to transfer £300 to the earmarked reserve for the Neighbourhood Planning Fund

The Council agreed to transfer £300 to the earmarked reserve towards the Neighbourhood Planning Fund.

- i) To agree to transfer £50 to the earmarked reserve for the Website Update Fund

The Council agreed to transfer £50 to the earmarked reserve towards the Website Update Fund.

- j) To agree to transfer £350 to the earmarked reserve for the Theberton Playing Field Equipment Fund

The Council agreed to transfer £350 to the earmarked reserve towards the Theberton Playing Field Equipment Fund.

- k) To note that Theberton and Eastbridge Parish will receive £0.00 from East Suffolk Council in biannual CIL payments in April 2025

The Council noted that £0.00 CIL funds have been allocated to Theberton and Eastbridge Parish in April 2025

13. Finance

- a) To note the latest financial position

It was proposed by Cllr. Stephen Brett and seconded by Cllr. Paul Collins 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

It was proposed by Cllr. Graham Ward and seconded by Cllr. Paul Collins and agreed the authorisation of the payments listed above. All in favour.

- c) To consider the annual donation of £50 to Leiston Library

The Council considered its annual £50 donation to Leiston Library. It was agreed not to proceed with the donation this year, in light of Suffolk County Council's recent takeover of Suffolk Libraries.

14. Correspondence

To review the correspondence received between 7th April 2025 and 5th May 2025 and take action as appropriate

The Clerk summarised the above dated correspondence. The Council agreed that there were no other further actions.

15. Questions to the Chair/Items for the Next Agenda

The Council noted potential maintenance needs for playground equipment at Theberton and Eastbridge playing fields. Specific concerns include the Theberton zip wire and the Eastbridge dome swing, which may have been vandalised. An assessment will be considered.

ACTION: Clerk to add vandalised Eastbridge swing to next month's agenda. Cllr. Stephen Brett and Cllr. Stephen Morphey to assess safety of swing at Eastbridge Playing Field

Cllr. Daryl Ash raised a request from the May Community Council regarding additional dog waste bins in the parish. After discussion, the Council agreed there was no current need to install more bins at this time.

Cllr. Stephen Morphey reported that the litter bin at Eastbridge playing field had not been emptied. The Clerk provided a link to report missed public bin collections via the ESC and Parish Council websites.

ACTION: Cllr Stephen Morphey to complete ESC missed bin report

16. Next Meeting

To agree the date and time of the next meeting of the next Annual Parish Council Meeting which is scheduled to be held on the Wednesday 13th May 2026 at 7:00 pm at the Jubilee Hall.

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 11th June 2025 at 7:00 pm at the Jubilee Hall.

Honor Houlding
Parish Clerk
14th of May 2025
Meeting ended at 9.39pm

**May 2025 Parish Report
East Suffolk Council GLI Group – Councillor Update**

Register as an Interested Party to the Sea Link examination

Register to have your say about a national infrastructure project - National Infrastructure Planning

National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET) have presented their application to the Planning Inspectorate for their grid reinforcement project Sea Link, which is now in the pre-examination stage.

Although the landfall and associated infrastructure fall outside of Theberton and Eastbridge parish, all residents in the surrounding area are encouraged to register as an Interested Party if they wish to have their concerns considered during the examination period. This is a good opportunity to emphasise the cumulative impacts of this project, together with other energy projects planned for our coast and alongside ongoing construction of Sizewell C.

<https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN020026/register/register-have-your-say>

The deadline to submit comments is 23 June.

Reducing litter beside East Suffolk's major roads

As part of an ongoing programme of work to reduce roadside litter and improve the appearance of the district for residents and visitors, litter picking took place alongside the A14 during the week commencing 28 April, with Highways Assurance removing the litter on behalf of East Suffolk Council.

East Suffolk Services Limited, who carry out litter picking on the Council's behalf, is currently reviewing safety procedures for working beside major roads, including the A14, A47, A12 and A146 to ensure future litter picking and other maintenance can be carried out as safely as possible. The roads themselves are managed by National Highways and Suffolk Highways (part of Suffolk County Council) respectively however East Suffolk Council is responsible for litter clearance beside these roads.

Once the safety review is complete, it is expected that the Council will permanently adopt twice-yearly litter picks beside these main roads, as well as a regular schedule of litter picking and emptying of bins within laybys. This new approach will maintain a litter free network of laybys and help reduce the risk of littering in future.

GLI Cllr Sally Noble, East Suffolk's Cabinet Member for the Environment said: "We have listened to public concerns regarding the appalling amount of litter beside major roads in the district and agree that this looks unsightly and is also detrimental to the local environment. We are working with East Suffolk Services Ltd to introduce a regular programme of clearance and maintenance to ensure litter in these areas is removed and the risk of future littering reduced. Working beside these major routes is extremely dangerous and the safety of the staff undertaking this work is paramount, therefore it is essential for East Suffolk Services Ltd to have correct safety procedures in place before this work can begin.

"Litter picking on this scale is expensive, with the one-off clearance being carried out by our contractors in late April costing at least £28,000. These costs are ultimately borne by the taxpayer and most of this rubbish is deliberately thrown from vehicles using these roads. The easiest way to reduce the need for costly litter picking and associated road closures is for people to dispose of their litter properly when travelling on the roads, by using one of the many layby litter bins or by taking it home with you. East Suffolk's amazing and we can all play our part to maintain the beauty of the district for the benefit of all those who live, work and visit here."

To report concerns about roadside litter, or any matters relating to refuse and cleansing services in your area, please contact East Suffolk Council's Customer Services team: **0333 016 2000 / customerservices@eastsuffolk.gov.uk**

Supporting young people with mental wellbeing

Primary school children across East Suffolk will shortly receive a new resource to help support their mental wellbeing.

Developed by local parent and author Jen Rose, and funded by East Suffolk Council's Community Partnership Board, *Me (and My Mind)* aims to be a relevant, accessible, and supportive resource for children during a key transitional stage in their lives.

Over the coming weeks, every Year 6 pupil across East Suffolk will receive a copy of *Me (and My Mind)* – an engaging, interactive colouring journal designed to support young people in beginning to understand and manage their mental health. This unique resource (each with its own pack of colouring pencils) is fully funded by the Community Partnership Board.

The journal offers a fun and creative way to help children explore who they are, understand their emotions, and learn strategies to recognise and manage when they might not be feeling ok. They are designed to complement PHSE lessons in schools and can be used in class, in smaller groups, or individually. They are also suitable to take home and be shared with parents, carers, and family members.

Cllr Sarah Whitelock, East Suffolk's cabinet member for Communities, Culture, Leisure and Tourism said: "The Community Partnership Board together with other public, voluntary and business sector partners work together to find solutions to local issues. With mental health challenges among young people on the rise, this project is a vital step in equipping them with the knowledge and skills to care for their mental wellbeing."

This initiative reflects East Suffolk Council's ongoing commitment to supporting young people's mental health and fostering resilient communities.

Suffolk Councils deliver report to Government: Best for democracy, delivery of services and meeting diverse demands of county

Suffolk's five district and borough councils have united to present an interim plan which would revitalise local government and put the needs of local communities first. A clear message is being sent to Government that multi-unitary authorities are vital in Suffolk, for services to work and for residents to be heard, in a county with a range of rural, coastal, industrial, agricultural and urban demands.

In response to the Government's English Devolution White Paper Suffolk Borough and District Councils have worked together to look at the best unitary solution for the county, while taking into account Government guidance.

The Councils are clear: a one size fits all 'mega-council' covering a vast geographical area could not possibly focus on the competing needs of three-quarters of a million people as effectively as two or three unitary authorities.

In a joint statement, the leaders of Suffolk's borough and district councils said: "Multiple unitary authorities will produce services designed with residents in mind to meet local need, drive improved outcomes, create value and save money in a sustainable way.

"Our joint proposal demonstrates that a one size fits all mega authority will not solve the existing issue of large countywide services that will continue to drain money, requirement improvement and potentially lead to further cost cutting. Crucially, more than one unitary authority is the best way to meet these issues and would ensure strong democratic representation as one would be too remote for residents to be heard.

"It is the best solution to ensure decision makers, and the communities they represent, would be as close together as possible. This ensures that services are designed and delivered in a tailored way built on local knowledge to meet the unique need of an area, its residents and businesses. It creates new councils able to deliver both value for money and better outcomes.

"This is a generational change to the way local government and services are delivered and something we should seize. It is a real opportunity to think holistically about how services such as leisure, housing and social care could help residents to thrive. This is about starting with a blank page and not simply bolting existing council services together.

"Our collective solution is the best way to deliver great services and value for money. It makes sure the 'local' stays in Local Government for Suffolk."

The interim report says multi unitary authorities will provide:

- Cost effective and high-quality services for Suffolk residents
- Long term financial sustainability
- Economic growth and support to local industry
- Stronger democratic representation, community engagement and neighbourhood empowerment
- Governance and support systems which can adapt to future aspirations and sustainable growth
- Ambitions to drive progress, innovation, and long-term success
- Structures to support and enable thriving communities and economies.

It also supports a more balanced solution for the governance of the Mayoral Combined Authority which is being set up next year for Norfolk and Suffolk.

This interim report does not constitute a final decision, and councils will have further time to develop options to redesign and reinvigorate Local Government for the future. Critically, the views of local communities will be at the heart of this work.

Cllr Deborah Saw, Leader of Babergh District Council, Cllr Caroline Topping, Leader of East Suffolk Council, Cllr Neil MacDonald, Leader for Ipswich Borough Council, Cllr Andy Mellen, Leader of Mid Suffolk District Council Leader and Cllr Cliff Waterman, Leader of West Suffolk Council signed the interim proposal sent to Government.

You can read the report at: tinyurl.com/573r5d2k

Wild spaces return to support nature across East Suffolk

A conservation scheme which will create over 100 spaces for the benefit of wildlife is returning for another year, with a new name and a brand-new look.

116 wild spaces will be left to grow during the spring and summer as part of East Suffolk Council's 'Nature at Work' scheme, which is being delivered in partnership with environmental charity Groundwork East.

New signs have been installed on council-owned land across the district to help identify the wild areas where grass cutting will be limited to twice per year for the benefit of pollinators such as bees and butterflies. The signs feature a QR code directing people to further information about the scheme, including how residents and community groups can get involved. A map of all the sites is available online, and photos from the locations will be added throughout the year; to view this, please visit: <https://tinyurl.com/5d63wvy9>

Additionally, Groundwork East will be visiting local schools to help them create their own Nature at Work sites in their school grounds, and later in the year, Groundwork East will be working with town and parish councils to build awareness of the sites. Town and parish councils will be encouraged to help monitor the sites to better understand what species are present and how the sites are changing.

GLI Cllr Sally Noble, East Suffolk's cabinet member for the Environment said: "Nature at Work aims to respond to the climate emergency and biodiversity crisis by supporting nature at small-scale community sites across East Suffolk. We are delighted to be bringing this scheme back with a new refreshed look and a renewed focus on supporting local schools, town and parish councils and community groups to get involved. Since the 1930s, the UK has lost over 97% of its wildflower meadows and grasslands which has had a devastating effect on the species that depend on these habitats for food and shelter.

"I would encourage people to check the online map and find their nearest Nature at Work site, and to use the resources on our dedicated webpage to find out more about the importance of leaving spaces to go wild and learn how to get involved in your own garden."

Ten East Suffolk schools will be supported by Groundwork East to create native wildflower meadows and habitats for wildlife on their school grounds. These spaces can then be used for learning activities, encouraging future generations to be conscious of and inspired by the natural world.

Ease the Squeeze on Cost of Living

Are you, or someone you know, worried about the increasing cost of living? We understand the pressures faced by many people today and we are working closely with key partners to ensure support is available to help ease the squeeze for households in East Suffolk.

To make it as easy as possible for you to access the services and support available, locally and nationally, we have gathered information about them in one place:

www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/community/squeeze/

For the most up to date information regarding East Suffolk Council, please visit: **www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk**

View the Well Minds East Suffolk booklet: tinyurl.com/9xhka624

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 that investors have been sought to support the Financial Investment Decision and as we become aware 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.

Although there have been several rumours circulating of an early decision on the FID, both DESNZ and more recently Keir Starmer have clarified the position that this decision will be made public at the 2nd stage of the spending review which we understand will be made public on 11th June.

The fact that the original date for FID was supposed to be made over 12 months ago would seem to indicate that investors are not exactly queuing up to take part in this project and that HMG is probably finding their required terms, regarding risk premium, difficult to accept.

It may be that HMG ends up being a much bigger investor than perhaps it would like to have been at the outset of this investment raising exercise and given the apparent tight fiscal constraints on HMG finances, the appalling overspends and schedule delays record of EPR builds (including HPC, Flamanville, Taishan and Olkiluoto) plus further issues with EDF stating it will only invest between 10% and 20% that both HMG and other investors are balking at involvement.

Also the Cours des Comptes (French National Audit Office) suggesting that no SZC investment should be made before the shortfall at HPC, due to the exit of the Chinese as continuing investors that there are still issues even within HMG about keeping its investment at levels well above those of EDF itself, should commercial investors not appear or be too demanding with their terms.

An application has been made to East Suffolk Planning to take more trees on the main development site than was authorised in the DCO. The application also states that less hedging will be removed than stated in the DCO. This appears to be accepted by ESC and other submissions in the Discharge of Requirements request.

SZC has been telling the public at all of the various forums that less trees are being felled than allowed in the DCO. We raised a question at the last Northern Transport Forum as to how many more or less trees or hedges than allowed in the DCO have been removed in the four remote sites, ie: SLR, Two Villages Bypass and the Two Park and Ride sites. It would appear that this question was not answered by SZC at the Northern Transport Forum despite it being submitted in advance and we should pursue this further.

A Sizewell C Outrage event has been planned for Saturday 11:00am on 7th June at Sizewell Beach. It will also be part of a memorial for Peter Wilkinson who died earlier in the year and speakers will include Jonathon Porritt, Simon Barnes and a speaker 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).

2. East Suffolk Communities Energy Partnership and Anglia Energy Planning Alliance

Efforts to arrange a meeting with DESNZ continue, but in the meantime a meeting was held at Snape and last week a Zoom meeting follow up was held where a chair (Tim Beach) and vice chair (Marianne Fellowes) of ESCEP were elected.

3. B1122 planning discussions and SZC Deed of Obligation Forums

Progress on the one-way system in the local roads between Theberton and Eastbridge has made glacially slow progress and a meeting scheduled for 22nd May is now being proposed as the final plans will still be with Suffolk County Council Highways Department for sign-off. Once this has been achieved a new meeting will be arranged.

Despite continued promises that the Average Speed Cameras were due to be installed, there is still no sign of them appearing.

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 has 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 23rd October 2025, Main Development Site Forum is on 2nd July 2025 and Northern Transport Forum on 7th August 2025.

4. Scottish Power Wind Farms and Friston Substation

Various preparatory works and archaeology are now being undertaken.

5. LionLink (formerly EuroLink) – National Grid Ventures

No further progress.

6. 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.

I haven't had a chance to look at the application yet and as it is generally routed between Aldeburgh, Saxmundham and Friston, any ground works are unlikely to directly impact our Parish Council area.

However, there will be cumulative transport impacts both along the A12 and other roads in combination with Sizewell C, Scottish Power and later with LionLink so I will examine this aspect of the application and write a report for our June meeting including any Relevant Representation that we might wish to make should we register as an Interested Party.

Given the way these examinations often illuminate other issues not immediately obvious within the original application document it would make sense to apply to be an Interested Party and submit a Relevant Representation in support of our application.

7. Solar Farms/Battery Storage between Friston and Snape

No further information at this time.

8. Hydrogen East/Capital Hydrogen

No further information at this time.

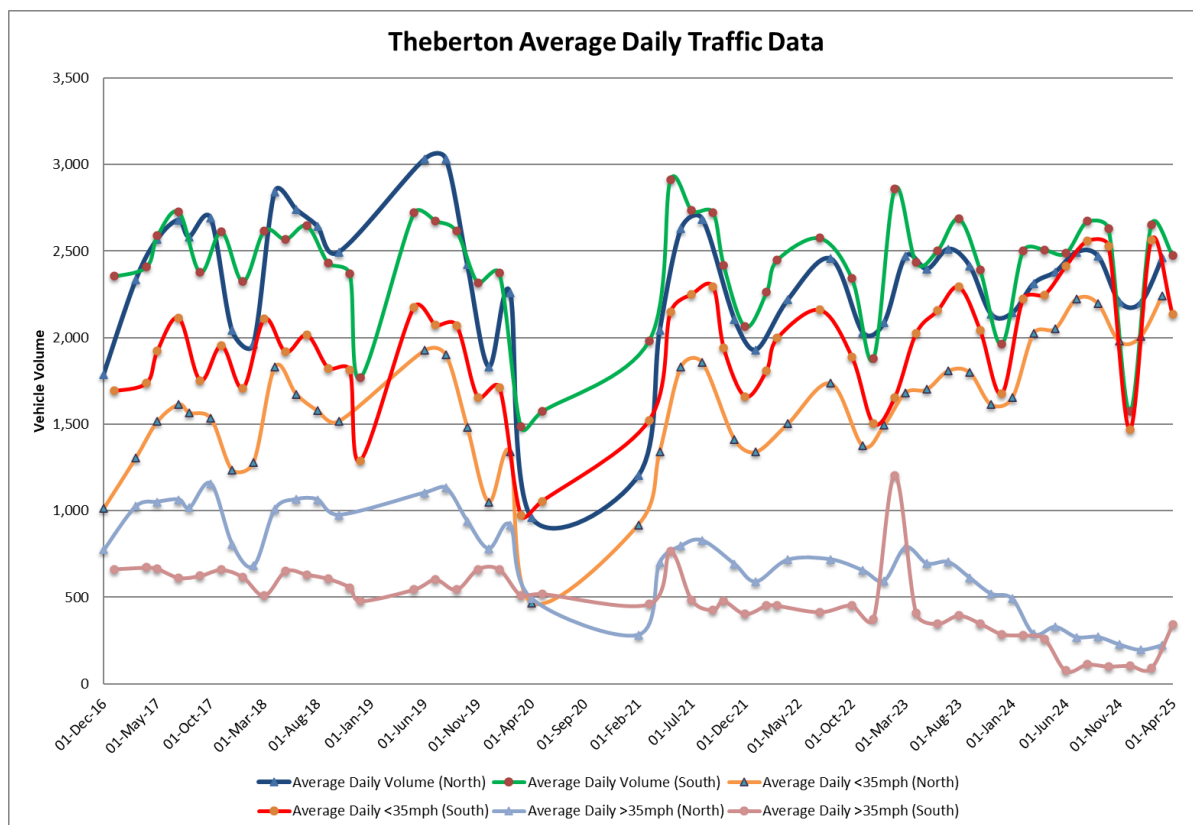
Theberton Speed Indicator Device Report 14th May 2025

The speed indicator device has been operational for eighty-eight ~20-day periods since 20th 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 **85th percentile speed*** is **38.8mph** from North and **36.3mph** from South when they enter the village. These averages are over the whole period from December 2016.

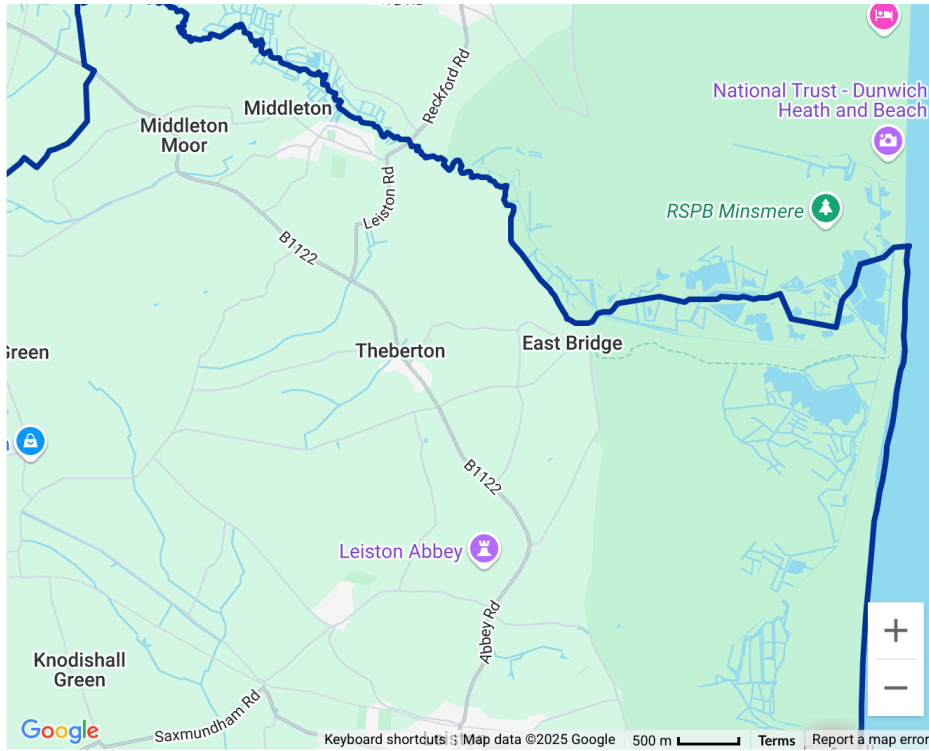
There is a general reduction in speed noticeable from 20th May 2024 when the enforceable 30mph speed limit came into effect. However, this latest month has seen a slight increase again. Whether this continues or is a one off remains to be seen. When the average speed cameras are installed and operational, I expect the lower levels to be retained or even drop further.



SID Start Date	13-May-24	17-Jun-24	12-Jul-24	11-Aug-24	10-Sep-24	21-Oct-24	20-Nov-24	20-Dec-24	21-Jan-25	18-Feb-25	22-Mar-25	22-Apr-25
Average Daily Volume (North)	2,380		2,495		2,471		2,207		2,202		2,464	
Average Daily Volume (South)		2,489		2,672		2,632		1,573		2,652		2,478
Total Vehicles (North)	40,455		48,750		46,940		44,146		41,845		49,273	
Total Vehicles (South)		47,287		50,769		47,367		29,882		58,350		47,072
Total Vehicles <35mph (North)	34,863		43,474		41,792		39,593		38,125		44,829	
Total Vehicles <35mph (South)		45,843		48,650		45,554		27,888		56,369		40,589
Total Vehicles >35mph (North)	5,592		5,276		5,148		4,553		3,720		4,444	
Total Vehicles >35mph (South)		1,444		2,119		1,813		1,994		1,981		6,483
Average Daily <35mph (North)	2,051		2,225		2,200		1,980		2,007		2,241	
Average Daily <35mph (South)		2,413		2,561		2,531		1,468		2,562		2,136
Average Daily >35mph (North)	329		270		271		228		196		222	
Average Daily >35mph (South)		76		112		101		105		90		341
85th percentile speed North (mph)	34.8		34.2		34.2		34.1		33.7		33.8	
85th percentile speed South (mph)		29.7		30.1		29.9		32.1		29.8		29.9
% <35mph (North)	86.2%		89.2%		89.0%		89.7%		91.1%		91.0%	
% <35mph (South)		96.9%		95.8%		96.2%		93.3%		96.6%		86.2%
% >35mph (North)	13.8%		10.8%		11.0%		10.3%		8.9%		9.0%	
% >35mph (South)		3.1%		4.2%		3.8%		6.7%		3.4%		13.8%
Battery	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4
Days recorded	17	19	20	19	19	18	20	19	19	22	20	19

*The 85th Percentile is indicative of the speed that the majority of road users are travelling at.

Appendix IV – Police Crime Report March 2025



All Crimes (62)

March 2025