

THEBERTON AND EASTBRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE THEBERTON AND EASTBRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING HELD AT JUBILEE HALL,
THEBERTON ON WEDNESDAY 13th MAY 2026 AT 7:45 PM

1. Election of Chair and signing of Declaration of Office

Cllr. Stephen Brett was nominated by Cllr. Graham Ward and seconded by Cllr. Stephen Morphey 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. Hazel Collins and seconded by Cllr. Daryl Ash 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. Nat Bacon
Cllr. Hazel Collins
Cllr. Vanessa Davis
Cllr. Daryl Ash

Apologies for absence:

District Cllr. Tom Daly
District Cllr. Sarah Whitelock
District Cllr. Katie Graham
Cllr. Paul Collins

Members of the public:

No members of the public were present

In attendance:

Honor Houlding- Clerk/RFO

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

No members of the public were present.

b) To receive a report from the County Councillor

No County Councillors were present.

c) To receive reports from the District Councillors

No District Councillors were present.

6. Minutes and Matters Arising

- a) To approve as accurate the minutes of the meeting held on 8th April 2026

It was proposed by Cllr. Stephen Brett and seconded by Cllr. Graham Ward and agreed that the minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 8th April 2026 to be signed as a true record. All in favour.

- b) Matters arising

The Clerk introduced some items for future discussion made by a resident including the replacement of gold gilding at the Theberton and Eastbridge village signs. A discussion was held with regards to the Theberton sign and the landscaping of the area.

ACTION: Clerk to add sign refurbishment of Theberton Village sign at Pretty Road to June Agenda.

ACTION: Cllr. Nat Bacon and Cllr. Stephen Brett to arrange a date to assess the Theberton village sign and landscaping.

The resident had also requested an update to the suggested narrowing of the B1122 entering Theberton by adding white picket fencing like that of the entrance to Saxmundham providing more definition to traffic entering the village. Cllr. Stephen Brett reported that the SZC B1122 Early Years working group had discussed that these improvements were likely to take place within the next five to six months.

A conversation was held with regards to dust and stones from increased road traffic on pavements in and around the parish.

ACTION: Clerk to feedback to SZC and Scottish Power Renewables with regards to safety of pavements due to loose stones and dust from increased traffic.

The footpath that leads from the B1122 close to The Lion Inn, Theberton and leads around the back of Doughty Wylie Crescent was highlighted due to the overgrown hedging and flooring.

ACTION: Clerk to complete the SCC footpath report with regards to Doughty Wylie footpath and add to June's agenda.

7. Energy Projects

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

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

Cllr. Stephen Brett reported that Cllr. Paul Collins had attended the recent Northern Transport Forum meeting where questions were raised regarding Bridleway 19.

It was noted that the proposed diversion of Bridleway 19 remains under consideration. Suffolk County Council has suggested a possible diversion route running along the right hand side of Eastbridge Road, which currently appears to be the most likely solution.

Members also heard that public footpaths are expected to remain open throughout the works, with temporary diversions in place where necessary to maintain access. It was further reported that all footpaths are intended to cross the SLR route and that an underpass is proposed at Fordley Road.

- b) Litter picking around SZC sites

Cllr. Nat Bacon reported that following discussions with a relative employed in connection with Sizewell C, concerns had been raised regarding the increasing amount of roadside litter along the B1122 and B1125.

Unfortunately, it was understood from the Sizewell C contact that litter picking along these routes is currently not being undertaken, as it has reportedly not been possible to establish a safe risk assessment process for staff to carry out the work safely due to the nature and volume of traffic using the roads.

ACTION: Cllr. Stephen Brett to speak to contact at Sizewell with regards to the above response and find a solution to roadside litter picking.

- c) To discuss SZC compensation for village pubs

The Council discussed the matter of potential Sizewell C compensation for village pubs and local hospitality businesses.

Cllr. Stephen Brett advised that, at present, Sizewell C appears to be adhering closely to its established guidelines and that businesses are currently being offered advice and support rather than financial compensation. He noted that no direct compensation arrangements are presently in place.

Members acknowledged that a number of local businesses have experienced a noticeable loss of income and that the wider economic climate is already creating financial pressures for hospitality venues and other rural businesses.

It was also noted that four new pétanque pistes are expected to be constructed at The Eel's Foot within the next six weeks.

8. Planning

- a) To discuss planning application: 2 & 6 of DC/23/3712/FUL, Storage Yard, Moat Road

Cllr. Robert Flindall introduced applications DC/23/3712/FUL and DC/23/3716/FUL relating to the Storage Yard at Moat Road. A revised planning statement has now been submitted alongside proposals for a change of use and alterations to the site layout.

It was explained that planning permission had previously been granted for 80 units on the site, however the current proposal seeks to amend the layout within one corner of the development area. Members also noted that part of the site is subject to a separate planning application and therefore consideration of the overall proposals may depend upon the outcome of the second application.

Cllr. Stephen Brett queried whether access to the site would continue via Moat Road and questioned whether this would result in farm traffic and lorries regularly using the route where as it is known that Moat Road's connection to B1122 will be closed by the end of May.

Discussion also took place regarding operational activities at the site. Members noted that activities are proposed to be restricted to specified working hours, however concerns were raised regarding the potential requirement for security lighting

It was proposed by Cllr. Graham Ward and seconded by Cllr. Stephen Brett to submit a no objection in principle response to planning application DC/23/3712/FUL, Storage Yard, Moat Road, subject to the same conditions to original planning application response. All in favour.

ACTION: Clerk to submit 'no objection in principle, subject to same conditions to original planning application' response to planning application DC/23/3712/FUL

- b) Suffolk Preservation Society - Neighbourhood Planning Study Day 16th May 2026

The Clerk informed the council that Cllr. Paul Collins intends to attend the Suffolk Preservation Society Neighbourhood Planning Study Day 16th May 2026.

9. Clerk/Councillors' Reports

a) Community Council

Cllr. Daryl Ash reported that the Community Council AGM was held on 9th April 2026. Nine people attended the meeting and three apologies were received.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved. Members heard that the Treasurer is currently resolving some banking issues, however the overall financial position of the Community Council remains healthy.

It was reported that a Chairman is still required, although the current Vice-Chair has agreed to continue undertaking the role of Chair. It was noted that there are currently sufficient trustees in place. The annual Flower and Produce Show is due to take place on 25th July 2026.

An application relating to Sizewell C Community Fund for a laptop and shelter was also mentioned. Members were advised that a baking event hosted by The Lionesses will take place on 16th May 2026.

The date of the next Community Council meeting was confirmed as Monday 18th May 2026.

ACTION: Clerk to speak to CC with regards to Sizewell C Community Fund application and posting events on website.

b) Sizewell C Community Fund Large Grant Application to purchase replacement tractor

The clerk informed the council that there were no updates to the Sizewell C Community Fund Large Grant Application to purchase replacement tractor at present. However, they are waiting on submission of Theberton and Eastbridge Parish Council's Safeguarding Policy and Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy which are scheduled to be reviewed at the current meeting.

c) Sizewell C Community Fund Large Grant Application:

- i) Eastbridge Burial Ground Hedging
- ii) Theberton Playing Field Seating Area
- iii) Electricity and water supply to Eastbridge Burial Ground and Theberton Playing Field
- iv) Benches for Heritage Trail route

Cllr. Robert Flindall summarised the previously discussed project ideas and introduced a number of additional suggestions for future community initiatives. These included further tree planting projects, the provision of allotments, a dedicated dog exercise area, the purchase of a community woodchipper, improved public WiFi provision and enhancements to the village archive and local history resources, including the possibility of creating a permanent exhibition or small museum space.

ACTION: Cllr. Vanessa Davis volunteered to research the improvements to village archives and interviews with local people project.

ACTION: Cllr. Robert Flindall to send list of ideas for funding application to be recorded in minutes.

ACTION: Clerk to update the SZC Community Fund project headlines with new list provided by Cllr. Robert Flindall

ACTION: Cllr. Stephen Brett & Cllr. Robert Flindall to meet to flesh out ideas for next SZC Community Grant Application.

d) Heritage Trail Launch Event – 20th June 2026

The Clerk summarised the draft itinerary for the Heritage Trail Launch Event to be held in conjunction with the Community Council Summer Fun Day on 20th June. It was noted that particular emphasis should be placed on encouraging attendees to spend time supporting the Fun Day in order to help raise funds for the Community Council.

Cllr. Stephen Brett reiterated the importance of ensuring sufficient baked goods and refreshments are available and noted that additional pressure should not be placed on the Community Council volunteers. He requested that Members consider volunteering to provide baked items, plants for the plant stall and raffle prizes. Councillors agreed and made a number of suggestions regarding contributions they would bring to the event.

It was also raised that the Community Council should not be out of pocket for the event and that a contribution towards ingredients should be considered. It was proposed by Cllr. Stephen Brett and seconded by Cllr. Graham Ward to authorise a £100 donation to the Community Council in advance of the Summer Fun Day and Heritage Trail Launch Event, to be funded from the anonymous donation earmarked reserve. All in favour.

The Clerk also outlined the quotations received from Leiston Press for the production of an A1 Foamex board for the official unveiling at the event, along with printed leaflets, which were discussed by Members.

Councillors considered arrangements for stewarding the Heritage Trail walk, including appropriate coverage at key points along the route.

ACTION: Clerk to confirm with the Parish Council insurance provider that stewarding arrangements for the walk are covered under existing insurance.

ACTION: Clerk to arrange design and printing of posters for Heritage Trail Event

ACTION: Clerk to send invitations to attendees of Heritage Trail Event.

ACTION: Cllr. Stephen Morphey to prepare written descriptions for key map points for councillors to present during the walk, alongside welcome speeches.

ACTION: Clerk to produce leaflet for submission to Leiston Press for printing.

ACTION: Cllr. Stephen Brett to liaise with the craft group regarding production of a curtain for the unveiling of the Heritage Trail board and the possible use of an easel.

e) Eastbridge Playing Field

Due to time constraints and with the agreement of Members present, it was resolved that the Council would defer discussion of the remaining agenda items deemed non-priority at this stage and proceed directly to item 12. Administration, in order to ensure the meeting remained within the allocated time.

f) Commemorative Oak Tree at Theberton Playing Field

None.

g) Speed Indicator Device

Cllr. Paul Collins May Speed Indicator Device Reports is attached as **Appendix III**.

h) March Police Crime Report

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

There were no crimes to report within our Parish in March 2026, however there was one instance of public disorder within close proximity to the Parish boundaries near Leiston Abbey on the B1122.

i) Theberton and Eastbridge website information and updates

None.

j) Theberton and Eastbridge Newsletter

None.

k) Village archives, local resident stories

None.

l) Outstanding Actions List

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

10. Devolution Consultation

a) None

None.

11. Parish Matters

a) None

None.

12. Administration

a) To review and approve the Annual Governance Statement (Section 1) of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2025-2026

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 2025-2026

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 2025-2026

The Council reviewed and approved the Certificate of Exemption for the financial year 2025- 2026. 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 agree to set the period for the Exercise of Public Rights from 3rd June to 14th July 2026

The Council agreed to set the period for the exercise of public rights from Tuesday 3rd June to Monday 14th July 2026. All in favour.

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

- e) To review and note the SALC Internal Audit Report

The Clerk summarised the SALC Internal Audit Review for 2025/2026 and highlighted the recommendations raised by the Internal Auditor.

Particular attention was drawn to the donations made to Yoxmere Fishermen and WaterAid, which had been authorised under an incorrect section of the Local Government Act. It was noted that these payments should have been authorised under Section 137 powers.

The Clerk formally apologised to Members for the error and acknowledged the seriousness of the matter. The Council discussed the importance of ensuring full compliance with statutory powers and maintaining robust financial governance procedures at all times.

The Clerk outlined a number of actions to strengthen procedures going forward, including reviewing and improving internal financial controls, compliant email addresses for all councillors and seeking further guidance and support from Suffolk Association of Local Councils to ensure future compliance and best practice.

The Council noted the report and agreed that the recommended actions should be implemented with immediate effect.

[ACTION: Clerk to add update of Financial Regulations to June Agenda](#)

[ACTION: Clerk update Standing Orders to June Agenda](#)

[ACTION: Clerk to make note in budget minutes for 2026 to add amounts of budget, reasoning of budget and to minute Tax Band D increase in % in all budget meetings going forward.](#)

[ACTION: Produce analysis of variances document 2026 and 2027 and publish on website](#)

[ACTION: Clerk to seek advice and update data protection policies](#)

[ACTION: Clerk to seek advice and update website accessibility and do website audit](#)

[ACTION: Clerk to seek advice and update IT policies](#)

[ACTION: Add councillor email addresses to June Agenda](#)

- e) To note the receipt of the precept of £5,435.99 into the Barclays Current Account

The council noted the receipt of the precept from East Suffolk Council paid to Theberton and Eastbridge Parish Council in two payments totalling £5,435.99 into the Barclays Current Account.

- f) To review the funds earmarked for Theberton Playing Field and Eastbridge Playing Field sinking funds

The Council reviewed the Clerk's report which evidenced that £3,500 had been paid into the Play Equipment Sinking Fund between 2021 and 2026. It was also noted that the Theberton Playing Field Improvements Fund was opened in April 2025 and currently holds £700.

Members further noted that there are no known stipulations or formal requirements regarding minimum contribution levels to either of the sinking funds at this time.

- g) To review and approve the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy

The Council reviewed and approved the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy. All in favour.

[ACTION: Clerk to publish the updated Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy on the parish website and forward to SZC Community Fund.](#)

- h) To review and approve the Safeguarding Policy

The Council reviewed and approved the Safeguarding Policy. All in favour.

[ACTION: Clerk to publish the updated Safeguarding Policy on the parish website and forward to SZC Community Fund.](#)

- i) To appoint a Safeguarding Lead

It was proposed by Cllr. Hazel Collins and seconded by Cllr. Stephen Morpehy to appoint Cllr. Daryl Ash as Safeguarding lead for Theberton and Eastbridge Parish Council. All in favour.

It was highlighted by Cllr. Graham Ward that a Safeguarding Lead should have appropriate DBS checks in place.

[ACTION: Clerk to check with SALC whether DBS certification is recommended for the newly appointed Safeguarding Lead.](#)

- j) To appoint a Safeguarding Deputy

It was proposed by Cllr. Nat Bacon and seconded by Cllr. Stephen Morpehy to appoint Cllr. Hazel Collins as Safeguarding deputy for Theberton and Eastbridge Parish Council. All in favour.

13. Finance

- a) To note the latest financial position

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

- b) To ratify the following payments:

Details	Payee	Amount	Power
Data Protection Registration	Information Commissioner's Office	£52.00	LGA 1972 s.111
Broadband	BT	£34.74	LGA 1972 s.19

The Clerk explained a complication relating to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) direct debit, which had been cancelled by Barclays Bank.

It was reported that, in order to ensure compliance with the legal requirement to maintain registration and payment of the data protection fee to the Information Commissioner's Office, the Clerk had made the payment from her personal account to prevent the registration from lapsing.

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

c) To authorise the following payments:

Details	Payee	Amount	Power
Clerk's Salary	Honor Houlding	£391.17	LGA 1972 s.112
Broadband	BT	£34.74	LGA 1972 s.19
Annual Subscription	SALC	£186.45	LGA 1972 s.111
April Newsletter (double sided)	Leiston Press	£4.00	LGA 1972 s.111
Heritage Trail Event Donation	Theberton Community Council	£100.00	LGA 1972 s.139 (1)
Heritage Trail Event Leaflets (x50)	Leiston Press	£67.00	LGA 1972 s.144
Heritage Trail Event Leaflets (x100)	Leiston Press	£92.00	LGA 1972 s.144
Heritage Trail Event Foamex Board	Leiston Press	£84.00	LGA 1972 s.144

The clerk highlighted the choice as to whether to purchase 50 or 100 leaflets for the Heritage Trail Launch Event and explained the associated costs from Leiston Press shown above. It was proposed by Cllr. Nat Bacon and seconded by Cllr. Stephen Morphey and agreed to purchase 100 Heritage Trail leaflets for the event on the 20th of June 2026. All in favour.

Therefore, the payment of £67.00 to Leiston Press for purchasing fifty leaflets was not authorised.

It was proposed by Cllr. Nat Bacon and seconded by Cllr. Stephen Morphey and agreed the authorisation of the payments listed above with exception of the £67.00 to Leiston Press. All in favour.

14. Correspondence

To review the correspondence received between the 7th of April 2026 and 11th of May and take action as appropriate

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

[ACTION: Clerk to add Cllr. Hazel Collins report on SCC Highways Grass cutting and weed treating forum to June Agenda.](#)

[ACTION: Cllr. Hazel Collins to submit a report on SCC Highways Grass cutting and weed treating forum](#)

[ACTION: Clerk to add Leiston Library donation to June agenda](#)

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

Cllr. Stephen Brett raised the issue of WiFi and broadband provision for local villages and surrounding towns. It was noted that Openreach has already utilised its budget allocation to deliver superfast broadband improvements in Halesworth and Aldeburgh.

Members heard that discussions have taken place with SZC Dave Peacop and Openreach, who have indicated a willingness to attend a future Parish Council meeting to discuss local connectivity issues in more detail.

[ACTION: Cllr. Stephen Brett to organise a date with SZC with regards to meeting to discuss broadband within the parish.](#)

[ACTION: Clerk to add joint SZC/Openreach meeting to June agenda.](#)

Cllr. Stephen Morphey highlighted concerns regarding damaged, missing and unclean signage across the parish. Members noted that several signs appear to be in need of repair, cleaning or replacement in order to maintain a presentable appearance throughout the area.

[ACTION: Clerk to add parish signage to June meeting agenda.](#)

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 10th June 2026 at 7:00 pm at the Jubilee Hall.

Honor Houlding

Parish Clerk

Meeting Ended at: 21.42

**April 2026 Parish Report
East Suffolk Council GLI Group – Councillor Update**

Community Energy Launch 29th May. <https://eastsuffolkcommunityenergyprogramme.eventbrite.co.uk>

East Suffolk Council is inviting community energy groups to attend a free evening event to celebrate the launch of the new community energy programme, at East Suffolk House, Melton, IP12 1RT, from 5.30pm-8.30pm on Friday 29 May. The event will include:

- *An introduction to the programme and information on how to get involved*
- *Practical training on running community energy workshops*
- *Opportunities to connect with other groups and share ideas*

Reserve your free space here by visiting the [EventBrite webpage](#).

**Energy Projects Update – from GLI Cllrs Daly and Graham
Engagement Session with Town and Parish Councils**

In March, Cllr Daly hosted a session for Town and Parish Councils to discuss the potential Sea Link development and hear the aspirations of the local community regarding community benefits associated with the project. The meeting was well attended and a range of important areas for community benefits were raised.

These aspirations will be used to inform ongoing engagement with NGET regarding community benefits from the Sea Link project and will ensure that voice of the local community is heard during these discussions.

Co-Funding Support with Suffolk Association of Local Authorities

Elma Glasgow has recently joined the Suffolk Association of Local Councils (SALC) as their first NSIPs Community Engagement Coordinator. This role is jointly funded by East Suffolk Council, in conjunction with Local Authority Partners and NSIP developers. Elma has a background in communications and community engagement, and this role will provide guidance and support to communities during key phases of the NSIP development process, supporting Town and Parish Councils to engage with residents and businesses in areas impacted by NSIP developments.

The Energy Projects team were delighted to welcome Elma to East Suffolk House in March to give an introduction to NSIPs in the district, and share information regarding the concerns of residents. The team will continue to work closely with Elma to ensure that Town and Parish Councils in the district are fully supported in their engagement in the NSIP process.

The Sea Link Examination

The Examination for National Grid Electricity Transmission's Sea Link project began in November 2025. The Examination is the statutory period during which an independent panel of Planning Inspectors, known as the Examining Authority, scrutinises the application before making a recommendation to the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, who will make the final decision.

It is an intense period for East Suffolk Council members and officers. In recognition of the complexity and importance of the Examination, East Suffolk Council instructed Clyde & Co as its legal advisers, alongside Mark Westmoreland-Smith KC of Francis Taylor Building (ftb) Chambers. This highly specialist legal advice is invaluable in ensuring the Council can engage robustly, protect and promote community interests, and navigate the examination process effectively and lawfully.

The Examination is largely a written process, involving stakeholders on all sides making representations and responding to submissions from other parties, answering rounds of written questions issued by the Examining

Authority, as well as participating in a range of hearings- Issue Specific Hearings on a range of topics including ecology, coastal matters, environmental protections (to name a few), Compulsory Acquisition Hearings on land acquisition and rights, and Open Floor Hearings where people can register to speak.

Cllrs Daly and Graham both spoke at the Open Floor Hearings held in late March, and set out their serious concerns with the project. Cllr Daly raised serious concerns about NGET's engagement with East Suffolk Council as the Local Planning Authority, stating that unlike other promoters, NGET appears to assume its project will be consented regardless of constructive engagement or coordination with other schemes, to the detriment of local communities. He highlighted key issues of working hours and stressed the need for communities to have respite from Sea Link alongside several other planned and consented NSIPs in our area. Cllr Daly once again stressed the importance of coordination of all projects to minimise impacts on communities and the environment, stressing the necessity of proper assessment and consideration of cumulative impacts alongside the extensive other consented and planned energy development in the area.

Regarding post consent planning arrangements, Cllr Daly highlighted the importance of appropriate timings to manage these major works, stating that NGET is pursuing 35-day timescales for the Council to discharge post consent requirements, with a mechanism to grant deemed consent if no decision is made within this time. These timings present particular challenges for officers.

Cllr Graham emphasised the lack of strategic planning for energy infrastructure in east Suffolk, stating the application for Sea Link is reflective of the chaotic and careless approach of the developer-led transition. This approach has left the energy transition largely developer-led, creating poorly coordinated projects that burden communities and undermine public support.

Cllr Graham praised the communities, the town and parish councillors, the tireless campaign organisers, and the hundreds of residents who have given hundreds of unpaid hours to scrutinising a succession of complex and unconnected project proposals over several years. Our communities are the future inheritors of the energy transition and they have shown once again with the Sea Link examination their willingness to step up to share expertise, commission legal research, and appoint legal counsel to scrutinise these proposals and explore alternative solutions.

Cllr Graham recognised the many outstanding areas of disagreement between the applicant and East Suffolk Council, and repeated frustration about the applicant's position on opportunities for coordination, reluctance to align working hours with other projects, and cumulative impacts. Cllr Graham raised a central concern of the need case for the project, and called for further discussion and information.

Cllrs Daly and Graham repeated their desire for a constructive, productive working relationship with NGET, so that if consented, it can be delivered in the best interests of all involved, particularly our communities most impacted by so much at this time.

Council launches 2026 apprenticeship scheme to help grow local talent

East Suffolk Council is helping people unlock their potential with the return of its successful apprenticeship scheme.

There are six new opportunities available in a number of teams, including Coastal Properties, Communities, Finance, Private Sector Housing and Planning.

Potential apprentices can learn more about the scheme and about working for the Council by attending a special open evening, which will take place between 5.30pm and 7pm at East Suffolk House in Melton on Tuesday 12 May, and at Riverside in Lowestoft on Thursday 14 May. Please email HR@eastsuffolk.gov.uk to book your place.

Chris Bally, East Suffolk Council's Chief Executive, said:

"We are once again proud to see our apprenticeship scheme return for a fourteenth year. Each cohort is full of talented apprentices that bring unique qualities to the work they do. Apprenticeships provide the opportunity to gain workplace experience, high quality training, and a recognised qualification - all while in paid employment.

“Our apprenticeship scheme has no upper age limit, and we pride ourselves on being an inclusive employer. Prospective apprentices can be reassured that our supportive culture will enable them to get more out of their apprenticeship than just a qualification.

“I’m looking forward to welcoming the next cohort of apprentices and would encourage anyone to apply, as you never know what opportunities it may unlock.”

Keira joined East Suffolk’s Corporate Health and Safety Team as an apprentice in 2024 and is now working as a Support Officer in the Environmental Protection Team. Speaking about her apprenticeship, she said:

“My apprenticeship has really helped me improve my communication and social skills, as I have been involved in lots of big meetings. I’m also well connected with a lot of the other apprentices, meaning I can reach out for help whenever I need it.

“The biggest perk of doing an apprenticeship is gaining experience within the workplace whilst learning and earning. This isn’t something you would be able to do at university.”

Applications close on Monday 8 June, with all apprentices expected to start in September.

For more information, please visit: tinyurl.com/5fu5unv9

Council welcomes government coastal erosion report

East Suffolk Council has welcomed the publication of a government report outlining the wide-ranging impacts of coastal erosion on communities.

The report by the Environmental, Food and Rural Affairs Committee, published on 20 March, acknowledges that coastal erosion is “a cross-government challenge that touches housing, health, local growth, infrastructure, and community resilience.” The Committee also found that “rebuilding the relationship between coastal communities and the Government will require a coordinated response that recognises the lived experiences of affected communities and ensures they have a meaningful role in shaping future decisions.”

A number of recommendations to the Department for Environmental, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) were made, including strengthening Shoreline Management Plans, and the establishment of a long-term national strategy to provide financial assistance and relocation support for properties at risk of coastal change.

GLI Cllr Mark Packard, Cabinet Member for Planning and Coastal Management said:

“Councils simply cannot support communities at risk in isolation, without a co-ordinated national approach. Having provided evidence and information about the experience of communities in East Suffolk, including in Thorpeness, we are grateful that this report recognises the issues we face and makes recommendations that could help address the challenges we face in managing an eroding coast.

“We will continue to work with DEFRA and the Environment Agency (EA) on progressing the Resilient Coast project, which is part of the government’s £200m Flood and Coast Resilience programme. We look forward to embedding the recommendations into our new Coastal Adaptation Pilot bid for later in 2026.

“The wider recommendations regarding funding for the coast, and not just erosion frontages, are particularly welcome as we continue to identify a permanent solution to tidal flood risk in Lowestoft.

“We are also looking to undertake discussions with MHCLG and other government departments to demonstrate the value of the coast, despite climate change challenges - and the outcomes the coast can offer the nation in terms of sustainable growth, economy, green energy and the wider health and well-being.

“We anticipate that these recommendations will support strategic and local coastal management needs and deliver cross-government support and investments, which are needed to provide place-based solutions and adaptation to create a resilient coast, so that we can meet the needs of our communities.”

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 are working with one of our collaborators to look at the funding details following the FID closure and will update our findings once complete. We were hoping that the National Audit Office's review would be complete by now, but this now seems to be scheduled for much later in the year, so we are considering delaying publication of our review until such time as that is published.

Alison pressed SZC, through Dave Peacop and Nigel Cann, to get OpenReach to attend a T&E Parish Council meeting to explain what the plans for Full Fibre in the two villages given SZC's promise to connect local villages by Full Fibre which only resulted in Full Fibre being installed in Aldeburgh and Halesworth, which by any assessment would not count as "local" or being "villages". OpenReach have Steve Brett's contact details to arrange a suitable date.

2. TASC Biodiversity Net Gain SZC Visit

I will be accompanying TASC to a SZC arranged ecological site visit on Tuesday 12th May to the various "Wild" locations being created and maintained by SZC as part of the obligations and promises made in the DCO and Deed of obligation. I'll report on that in the next NSIP report.

3. East Suffolk Communities Energy Partnership

Nothing further this month.

4. B1122 planning discussions and SZC Deed of Obligation Forums

At the Northern Transport Forum on 6th May, I was informed that the Bridleway 19 diversion will not be completed until the end of the year. This is likely because part of the route has to traverse the "Plaza" roundabout at the top of Eastbridge Road. In terms of the request to extend the Bridleway down Eastbridge Road to the Lower Abbey Farm access road, there was a promise to look at this and discuss with SCC PRoW.

I was also assured that the public footpath diversions and proposals for the permanent routes following the creation of the Sizewell Link Road were now complete and have been assured that the plans will be made available to the Parish Council shortly.

Moat Road connection to the B1122 towards George Road will close permanently on 26th May and there will be a temporary closure of the Moat Road/George Road junction whilst the new route is established to the west of the existing T-junction.

Rebecca Quigg (SZC Transport Coordinator) will set up another B1122 Early Years group meeting with Middleton and T&E Parish Councils and include a briefing on the Sizewell Link Road.

The next Main Site Forum is on Wednesday 8th July 2026, Northern Transport Forum is on 5th August 2026 and Community Forum on 22nd October 2026.

5. Sea Link Interconnector, National Grid Electricity Transmission – DCO Examination

The Planning Inspectorate examination of the SeaLink DCO is now completed. The Examining Authority has 3 months to write their report and recommendation to the Secretary of State and then the SoS has a further 3 months to make the final decision.

The SoS may ask for additional submissions during his consideration of the report and any submissions that are made now will be forwarded to the SoS with the Examiners report and recommendation.

A spreadsheet is being maintained of all of the documents submitted to the Sea Link DCO hearing and is available at https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1d_v0-UE301clpsUyGnpPu5iCwOBACwhVI4xTITgnBIU/htmlview

6. Scottish Power Wind Farms and Friston Substation

Various preparatory works and archaeology are now being undertaken.

7. LionLink – National Grid Ventures

No further progress. Awaiting Development Consent Order application to the Planning Inspectorate.

8. Solar Farms/Battery Storage

- **Town Farm Solar Park**

[Town Farm solar park](#), close to the A12 and south of Yoxford next to the Sizewell Link Road roundabout (under construction, this small solar park is 21MW and consented under ESC planning. It is not large enough to be an NSIP.

- **Helios Energy Park**

This will yet another NSIP because of its size (250MW). Further details can be found at [SCC](#) and on the [SeaLink DCO website](#).

9. Hydrogen East/Capital Hydrogen

No further information at this time.

10. Suffolk Water Recycling and Transfer Scheme

Essex and Suffolk Water have just published the results to the initial consultation which can be found at <https://suffolkwaternetwork.co.uk/documents/yousaid.pdf>. The preferred routing and development characteristics will be published in the summer and an application for Development Consent Order (this is also an NSIP development) later in the year or early 2027.

Appendix III – May Speed Indicator Device Report

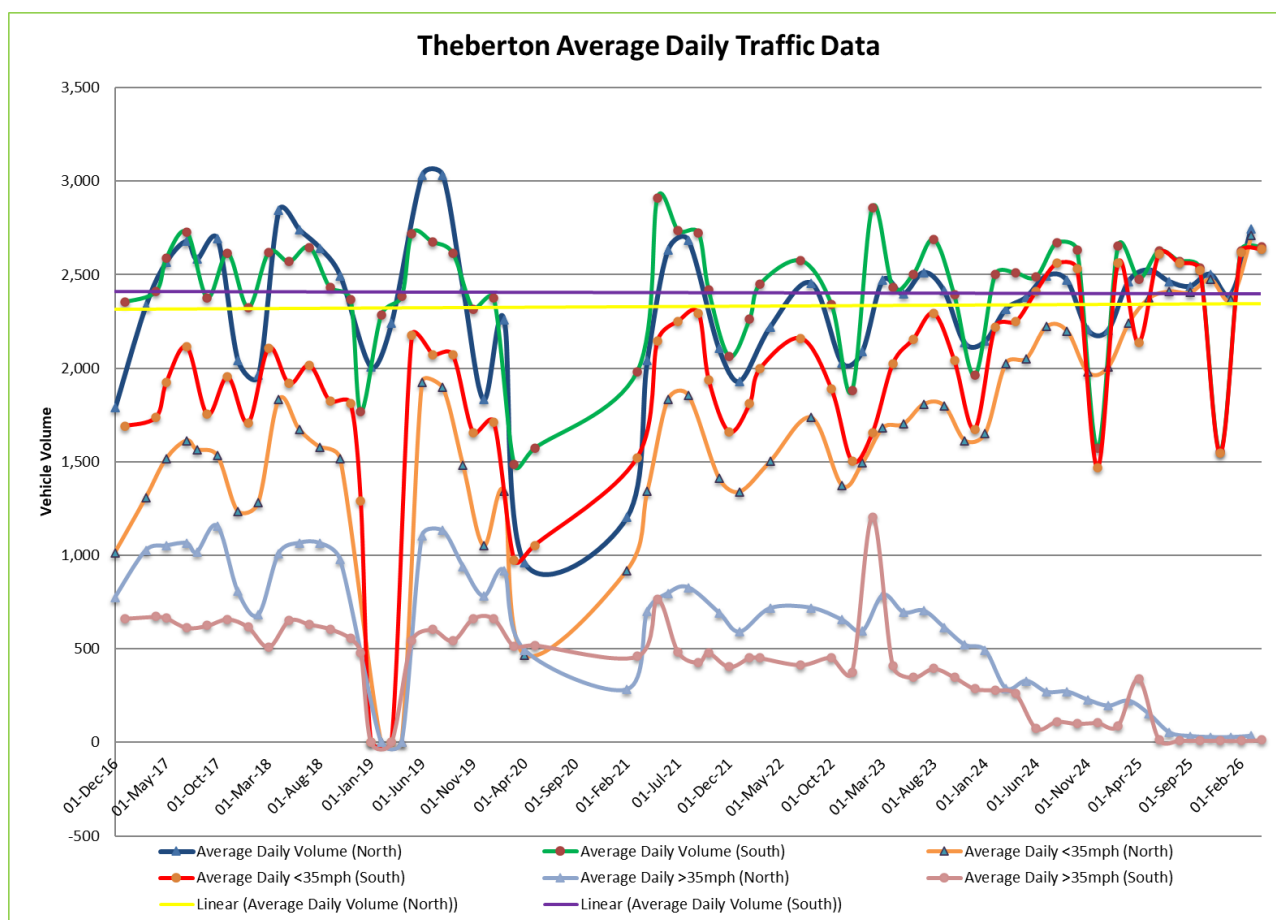
Theberton Speed Indicator Device Report 13th May 2026

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

The **85th percentile speed*** is **37.7 mph** from North and **35.4mph** from South when they enter the village. These averages are over the whole period from December 2016.

The average speed cameras are now resulting in significantly lower speeds. **The slow reduction in the long term 85th percentile value for traffic comes with the fact that this month only 0.5% of traffic from the South and 1.3% for the North was above 35mph compared to the long-term averages of 27.3% from the north and 18.1% from the south.** The fastest vehicle this month was 60mph on 23rd April at 15:45.

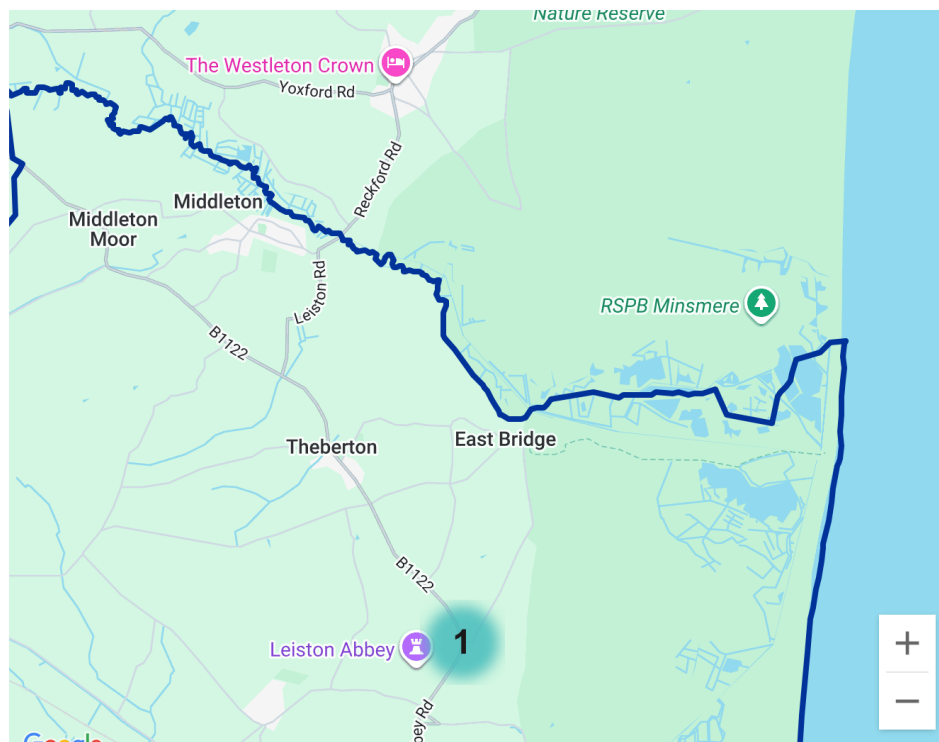
The two almost parallel straight lines at about 2400 vehicle volumes represent the long-term trend of traffic volumes since the start of monitoring in December 2016. As you can see overall volumes are in a slight decline (2-3%) to current day, even with SZC traffic.



SID Start Date	22-Apr-25	20-May-25	18-Jun-25	18-Jul-25	16-Aug-25	13-Sep-25	16-Oct-25	15-Nov-25	17-Dec-25	14-Jan-26	13-Feb-26	15-Mar-26	14-Apr-26
Average Daily Volume (North)		2,526		2,464		2,439		2,503		2,395		2,744	
Average Daily Volume (South)	2,478		2,627		2,573		2,535		1,555		2,628		2,648
Total Vehicles (North)		48,000		46,816		46,336		47,561		45,495		52,131	
Total Vehicles (South)	47,072		49,911		48,883		48,158		29,550		49,930		52,964
Total Vehicles <35mph (North)		45,121		45,820		45,700		47,026		44,962		51,469	
Total Vehicles <35mph (South)	40,589		49,596		48,676		47,964		29,349		49,757		52,710
Total Vehicles >35mph (North)		2,879		996		636		535		533		662	
Total Vehicles >35mph (South)	6,483		315		207		194		201		173		254
Average Daily <35mph (North)		2,375		2,412		2,405		2,475		2,366		2,709	
Average Daily <35mph (South)	2,136		2,610		2,562		2,524		1,545		2,619		2,636
Average Daily >35mph (North)		152		52		33		28		28		35	
Average Daily >35mph (South)	341		17		11		10		11		9		13
85th percentile speed North (mph)		32.7		29.9		29.7		29.5		29.5		29.7	
85th percentile speed South (mph)	29.9		28.8		28.8		28.8		28.8		28.8		28.8
% <35mph (North)		94.0%		97.9%		98.6%		98.9%		98.8%		98.7%	
% <35mph (South)	86.2%		99.4%		99.6%		99.6%		99.3%		99.7%		99.5%
% >35mph (North)		6.0%		2.1%		1.4%		1.1%		1.2%		1.3%	
% >35mph (South)	13.8%		0.6%		0.4%		0.4%		0.7%		0.3%		0.5%

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

Appendix III – March Police Crime Report



All Crimes (65)

March 2026

1 crimes were reported here in
March 2026

Public order 1