THEBERTON AND EASTBRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE THEBERTON AND EASTBRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT JUBILEE HALL, THEBERTON ON WEDNESDAY 14th OCTOBER 2026 AT 7:00 PM

1. Attendance and apologies

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

Apologies for absence:
District Cllr. Katie Graham
County Cllr. John Matthews - apologised
District Cllr. Sarah Whitelock
Cllr. Nat Bacon – apologised
Cllr. Daryl Ash- apologised

Members of the public:
One member of the public was present

In attendance:
District Cllr. Tom Daly
Honor Houlding- Clerk/RFO

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

None.

3. To receive a report from Sizewell C Richard Knight regards to upcoming road closures affecting the Parish and the B1125 closure from 9th November 2026 to 26th March 2027.

Sizewell C presentation slides are attached as **Appendix I.**

ACTION: Richard Knight to send 24th October meeting presentation slides to clerk

Richard Knight provided an update on current and upcoming Sizewell C and Essex & Suffolk Water infrastructure works and road closures.

Richard informed the council that biweekly coordination meetings are taking place with SZC and ESW to align works. The Essex & Suffolk Water community event at Middleton only covered directly affected villages. Scottish Power is undertaking junction improvements at the B1069/B1094 and reducing the speed limit on the Snape to Aldeburgh Road at the southern end of the B1122.

Kier are progressing works with the SLR, prioritising works to the Pretty Road bridge, the railway bridge and installation of the haul road which will be used to keep construction traffic from using the B1122 during construction. The aim is to keep Moat Road open for as long as possible while constructing the new George Road to Moat Road connection.

ACTION: Richard to arrange attendance of SLR project manager to parish council meeting on 11th November 2026.
ACTION: Clerk to add project manager of SLR to November's meeting.

North and South Park and Ride capacity is increasing and workers compliance is being consistently being monitored. Working hours, rest periods and breaks remain subject to health and safety requirements.

The number of 4x4s using local roads is being reduced. Blue stickers are being replaced with black badges for vehicles permitted to access the site. Improved internal site roads allow buses to operate and there is no business case for small vans and 4x4s to access the site. Contractors are increasingly working within designated construction areas as opposed to using the local road network.

Cllr. Stephen Brett asked where passing places would be provided on the realigned Eastbridge Road.

ACTION: Richard to report back to the parish council confirming where the passing places will be situated on the new Eastbridge Road once the realignment work is complete.

The level crossing barriers have been installed at Abbey Road and Buckleswood Road reducing pressure on the B1122. Further resurfacing is planned, alongside works at Lover's Lane, including the Leiston Drain Bridge, a new access to the ACA site and improvements to the recycling centre junction. Bridleway 19 has been diverted and it is believed that drainage pipes are being installed along the route.

ACTION: Richard to confirm which utilities are being installed underground beneath Bridleway 19 and provide a timeline for work completion and reopening of the route

Eastbridge Road is due to close for three weeks from Monday 19th October, although the planned closure the weekend of 16th October has been cancelled. Cllr. Stephen Brett raised concerns about deliveries to the pub and grain deliveries for cattle in Eastbridge.

Richard will discuss arrangements for deliveries and diversion signage around Church Road, Onner's Lane and Potter's Street.

ACTION: Richard to check suitability of Onners Lane, Church Road, Potter's Street as a diversion during Eastbridge Road realignment works.

URGENT ACTION: Richard to arrange communications with Eastbridge Road management and Cllr. Stephen Brett for reopening the road for accepting deliveries to Eastbridge Farm and the Eel's Foot.

Cllr. Robert Flindall asked whether the B1122 would remain open during the Eastbridge Road closure. Richard confirmed that it would.

Concerns were raised about the Westleton/Eastbridge rat run while the B1125 and Eastbridge Road are closed. The unsurfaced track is shown as a registered road but is largely impassable to most vehicles in winter. The alternative route via Minsmere's private road requires permission and is unsuitable for two way traffic.

URGENT ACTION: Richard to raise concerns with Essex & Suffolk Water and Minsmere regarding the Westleton/Eastbridge rat run as a potential vulnerability during B1125/B1122 and/or Eastbridge Road closures. Parts of the route are in correctly shown as a road despite being an unsurfaced track that is largely impassable to most vehicles during winter. The alternative route via Minsmere's private road would require permission and is unsuitable for two way traffic.

ACTION: Richard to introduce the clerk to Essex and Suffolk water contacts

The Yoxford B1122 resurfacing is ongoing until 6th November, Monday to Thursday nights between 8pm and 5am.

B1125 works are being coordinated to maximise the use of road closures. Mitigation measures for Westleton will include routing Essex & Suffolk Water construction traffic from the north rather than along the B1122. Access to the B1125 at Blythburgh will also be closed.

Cllr. Stephen Brett confirmed that road markings at Flash Corner have been completed and improvements to Potter's Street.

The B1122 is expected to be repurposed in early 2028 to provide a safer road for leisure use once the SLR is in operation.

ACTION: Richard to confirm when the SZC Main Site will be opened to visitors and arrange follow up tour for parish council.

ACTION: Richard to clarify SZC's position regarding Cakes and Ale Holiday Park, including the confirmation at the September meeting that SZC has no involvement or affiliation with the site and does not support its proposed expansion for SZC workers, despite reports that SZC has arranged minibuses to collect staff from the site. Please confirm whether these transport arrangements are in place and explain SZC's involvement?

4. Public Forum

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

There was one member of the public present at the meeting.

The Council had received an email from a resident regarding a change to the planning proposal for Glebe House. Cllr. Stephen Brett commented that the sui generis classification would be more appropriate as the HMO classification does not accurately reflect the use of the property, as the accommodation would not be the workers' main residence.
The Planning Committee meeting took place on 14th October and the application was still considered under the same rules as an HMO. A condition was imposed requiring Glebe House to be returned to use as a family home and restricting its use to Sizewell C workers only for the duration of the project build.

b) To receive a report from the County Councillor

County Cllr. John Matthews report is attached as **Appendix II.**

There were no County Councillors present at the meeting.

c) To receive reports from the District Councillors

The East Suffolk Council monthly report is attached as **Appendix III.**

District Cllr. Tom Daly began by summarising the ESC monthly report.

Cllr. Paul Collins raised concerns regarding the large storage facility believed to have been purchased from the High Speed 2 (HS2 project) which has appeared on the temporary construction area at the Sizewell C site. It was unclear whether planning permission had been sought and there was very little detail available about the intended use of the new building.

ACTION: Cllr. Tom Daly to check on planning permission for large HS2 storage on SZC temporary construction site.

5. Minutes and Matters Arising

a) To approve as accurate the minutes of the meeting held on 9th September 2026

It was proposed by Cllr. Stephen Brett and seconded by Cllr. Graham Ward and agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 9th September 2026 to be signed as a true record. All in favour.

b) Matters arising

None.

6. Energy Projects

a) To receive an update from Cllr. Paul Collins

Cllr. Paul Collins' October NSIPS report is attached as **Appendix IV.**

Cllr. Paul Collins summarised the October NSIPS report.

At the recent SZC Main Site Forum concerns had been raised with regards to the management of traffic on the B1125 by SZC at certain times of day. Traffic monitoring had identified a small increase in traffic on the B1125, with traffic now concentrated into two periods of the day. Much of the early years' traffic monitoring data remained incomplete and it was suggested that the impact of traffic calming measures should be reviewed in April, as the results were slightly higher than expected.

The meeting also covered progress on the reactor excavation, including the installation of a plastic wall around the excavation area. The jetty was 56% complete, with completion expected by Christmas, allowing loading operations to begin alongside progress on the beach landing facility. Objections had been raised regarding noise from the proposed steel bending facility and SZC intended to install rubber matting to address these concerns.

Campus phasing was also discussed, including whether the programme could be accelerated.

Cllr. Paul Collins summarised his proposed response to the SZC DCO non-material change consultation. Two proposals were highlighted as potentially significant, namely the use of Leiston railway and the steel bending facility, both of which were now proposed for permanent use. Suffolk County Council was questioning whether these changes could be considered non-material. Concerns were also raised that the environmental statement had not been reopened for consideration, despite breeding marsh harriers now being present at Aldehurst, where SZC had established a new nature reserve.

The possibility of a railway station in Leiston was also discussed, which could have a significant impact on the local population. This proposal had not yet been formally presented.

It was proposed by Cllr. Stephen Brett and seconded by Cllr. Robert Flindall to submit Cllr. Paul Collins' suggested response to the SZC nonmaterial change consultation. All were in favour.

ACTION: Cllr. Paul Collins to submit joint response to SZC DCO change

b) To discuss urgent requirement for workers accommodation and opening date for the SZC campus

Concerns were also raised about the demand for accommodation at the Sizewell C campus if worker accommodation in Leiston and Theberton are already in high demand.

Cllr. Stephen Brett reported on the Planning Committee meeting, where the priority of providing 1,200 rooms within the local community had been discussed. He noted that there appeared to be reluctance to refuse applications due to concerns about potential appeals and the associated costs. While there was considerable sympathy for the concerns raised, it was difficult to identify clear planning grounds for refusal.

Further concerns were raised regarding the slow progress on the campus amenity building and the construction of the HS2 facility, with questions raised about whether sufficient priority was being given to developments affecting the local community.

It was noted that planning decisions relating to Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) had been removed from local authority control and placed under central government. Discussions were ongoing to try to ensure local concerns were taken into account whilst maintaining objections where appropriate. It was felt that statutory planning control should remain with local authorities.

It was noted that the district accommodated fewer asylum seekers than other areas of Suffolk and that there should be a more balanced approach to housing provision. The importance of ensuring people were accommodated in locations with access to amenities and support, rather than isolated areas, was also highlighted.

c) SZC and ESC grants available for renovating properties to Houses of Multiple Occupancy

Cllr. Stephen Brett raised concerns regarding the approval of a five bedroom HMO and an 11 bedroom HMO in Theberton. With a village population of approximately 100 people, the additional 16 occupants could have a significant impact on the community. He noted that East Suffolk Council had received funding to encourage the provision of rooms for Sizewell C workers and questioned whether such accommodation should be directed towards areas better equipped to accommodate additional workers instead of impacting smaller villages.

It was noted that HMOs with three or fewer occupants do not require planning permission. However, even a small number of additional properties could significantly change the demographic of a small village. Concerns were raised about the impact on residents and the incentives for workers to use accommodation and transport provided by Sizewell C when they could instead commute from elsewhere, including Pakefield.

ACTION: Cllr. Stephen Brett to write to ESC representative who manages HMO/Suis Generis incentive scheme

ACTION: Cllr. Tom Daly to report back to parish council on discussion with planning and ways of supporting small villages on HMOs/Suis Generis planning applications, changing the characteristics and demographic of small rural villages.

7. Planning

a) Planning Application: DC/26/1229/FUL, Glebe House, Leiston Road, Theberton

Cllr. Robert Flindall and Cllr. Stephen Brett attended the Planning Committee North meeting on Tuesday 13th October 2026 on behalf of Theberton and Eastbridge Parish Council. The committee approved the planning application.

The committee discussed Houses of Multiple Occupation (HMOs) and East Suffolk Council's intention to amend its planning policy to address accommodation for Sizewell C workers. The current Local Plan was considered out of date and a statement addressing the housing of SZC workers within local communities was expected to be published in January.

Concerns were raised that the planning department's focus on meeting the demands of the SZC Development and they did not adequately recognise the unique circumstances of villages such as Theberton which are significantly impacted by the development.

b) Council to discuss questions for ESC planning officer with regards to DC/26/1229/FUL – Cakes And Ale Caravan Park, Abbey Lane

URGENT ACTION: Cllr. Robert Flindall to write questions for planning officer with regards to DC/26/1229/FUL – Cakes And Ale Caravan Park, Abbey Lane

8. Clerk/Councillors' Reports

a) Community Council

None.

b) The purchase of the new parish tractor

The clerk informed the council that the final measures for completing the grant requirements were underway. A meeting has been scheduled with Sizewell C Community Fund to discuss the findings from the October newsletter survey and encouraged parish councillors and residents to complete the survey before the end of October.

i) Insurance for the new village tractor

The clerk highlighted the key features of the new tractor insurance report which has been previously circulated with the parish council and detailed the difficulties found in providing companies to provide quotes to insure the new vehicle. The Clerk and Cllr. Nat Bacon discussed the polices on Monday 12th October where Cllr. Nat Bacon offered to speak to his NFU representative to see whether a quote could be provided.

ACTION: Clerk to arrange extraordinary meeting to discuss tractor insurances on Monday 26th October (and publish Agenda on or before 20th October)

ACTION: Extraordinary meeting to take place on Monday 26th October 4pm (attendance by 5 councillors)

ii) Selling of the Dexter tractor at auction

ACTION: Cllr. Stephen Brett to speak with local auction with regards to selling the parish Ford Dexter tractor.

c) Sizewell C Community Fund Large Grant Application:
i) Electricity and water supply to Eastbridge Burial Ground and Theberton Playing Field

The clerk confirmed that the application to the SZC Community Fund for the installation of electricity and a water supply had been marked as received. However, no further correspondence had been received regarding the progress of the application.

The council discussed potential projects, including the Neighbourhood Plan, and the need to identify suitable times over the coming months for groups to meet and establish a structure for delivering the projects.

d) To receive a report from Cllr. Graham Ward with regards to Community Renewable Energy presentation held on 8th October 2026

Cllr. Graham Ward introduced ESC's Energy Programme, a community energy initiative led by a climate change charity, through an 18 month project launched in May 2026. The programme supports locally led and owned renewable energy projects, including solar panels and wind turbines, helping communities reduce energy costs and generate income that can be reinvested locally. Workshops will help communities identify suitable sites, develop projects and overcome barriers to implementation, supporting the target of 95% clean power by 2030.

The council discussed potential opportunities for smaller parishes, including installing solar panels on the village hall or amenity building and exploring whether the community could benefit from a share of the income generated.

e) The purchase of Poppy Wreaths from RBL

The clerk summarised the costs of purchasing two poppy wreaths to commemorate Remembrance Day 2026. In 2025, the council purchased two Type B poppy wreaths at a total cost of £40.00. The price has increased by £3.00 per wreath for 2026, bringing the total to £46.00.

Alternative options were considered, including two Type L small layered poppy wreaths at £18.00 each which would incur an additional £4.00 delivery, at a total cost of £40.00.

The council discussed the options and agreed to purchase the same Type B poppy wreaths as in previous years.

It was proposed by Cllr. Vanessa David and seconded by Cllr. Stephen Brett to purchase two Type B poppy wreaths from the Royal British Legion at a total cost of £46.00. All in favour.

ACTION: Clerk to purchase two Type B poppy wreaths from the RBL website.

f) To agree the 2027 parish council meeting dates

The clerk summarised the proposed parish council meeting dates for 2027. The council discussed the dates and noted that holding eleven meetings per year, with no meeting in August, had worked well over the past two years.

It was proposed by Cllr. Stephen Brett and seconded by Cllr. Graham Ward to hold eleven monthly meetings in 2027, omitting August. All in favour.

It was proposed by Cllr. Stephen Brett and seconded by Cllr. Graham Ward to adopt the proposed parish council meeting dates for 2027. All in favour.

ACTION: Clerk to publish the 2027 parish council meeting dates on the parish council website.

g) Eastbridge Playing Field

Cllr. Stephen Morphey confirmed that the Eastbridge Playing Field Goal Posts had been sanded and painted.

h) Theberton Playing Field Inspection

The clerk informed the council that the Theberton Playing Field Inspection had been delayed and was due to take place week commencing 12th October 2026.

i) Speed Indicator Device

Cllr. Paul Collins October Speed Indicator Device Reports is attached as **Appendix V.**

j) August Police Crime Report

The August Police Crime Report is attached as **Appendix VI.**

The clerk reported there was one instance of crime reported within the parish in August 2026 for violence or sexual offences.

k) Theberton and Eastbridge Newsletter

Cllr. Stephen Brett encouraged members of the public and Councillors to continue submitting suggestions and content to the Clerk for inclusion in the monthly parish newsletter.

ACTION: Clerk to circulate survey on October newsletter to PC

l) Development of a Parish Emergency Plan

ACTION: Clerk to circulate Emergency Plan with council.

m) Theberton and Eastbridge Village signs and landscaping

ACTION: Clerk to add Theberton and Eastbridge Village signs and landscaping to next month's agenda

n) Outstanding Actions List

None.

9. Parish Matters

a) None

None.

10. Administration

a) To conduct the annual review of the Internal Controls Statement

The council reviewed the Internal Controls Statement.

It was proposed by Cllr. Paul Collins and seconded by Cllr. Stephen Brett and it was agreed to approve the Internal Controls Statement. All in favour.

ACTION: Clerk to publish the Internal Controls Statement on the parish council website

b) To conduct the annual review of the GDPR Policy

The council reviewed GDPR Policy.

It was proposed by Cllr. Stephen Brett and seconded by Cllr. Paul Collins and it was agreed to approve the GDPR Policy. All in favour.

ACTION: Clerk to publish the GDPR Policy on the parish council website

c) To adopt the clerk appraisal policy

The council reviewed the clerk appraisal policy.

It was proposed by Cllr. Robert Flindall and seconded by Cllr. Stephen Brett and it was agreed to approve the clerk appraisal policy. All in favour.

ACTION: Clerk to publish the clerk appraisal policy on the parish council website

d) To note the clerks Q2 performance review

The council noted the clerks Q2 performance review.

e) 2026-2027 NALC Pay Awards and clerk salary review

The clerk summarised the NALC Pay Awards informing the council that the clerk's current rate of SCP16 £15.82 to £16.34 per hour.

It was proposed by Cllr. Stephen Brett and seconded by Cllr. Graham Ward and it was agreed to approve the NALC pay increase for the clerk and back date the increase to the 1st April 2026. All in favour.

Cllr. Vanessa Davies proposed a pay increase for the clerk to SCP 17 due to the additional pressures and work load the clerk is exposed to due to grant applications and impact of Sizewell C on the community. It was proposed by Cllr. Vanessa Davis and seconded by Cllr. Graham Ward to increase the clerk's pay rate from 15th October 2026 to SCP 17.

ACTION: Clerk to inform SALC of the agreement to the 2026/2027 NALC Pay Award and authorisation of back payment of the new hourly rate as of the 1st of April 2026.

ACTION: Clerk to inform SALC of council decision to increase clerk pay rate from SCP16 to SCP17 as of 15th October 2026

11. Finance

a) To note the latest financial position

It was proposed by Cllr. Paul Collins 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 note the budgeted versus actual income and expenditure for Qtr 2 2026/2027

It was proposed Cllr. Stephen Brett and seconded by Cllr. Paul Collins and it was agreed to approve the budgeted versus actual income and expenditure for Qtr 2 2026/2027.

c) To approve the banking reconciliation for Qtr 2 2026/2027

It was proposed Cllr. Graham Ward and seconded by Cllr. Paul Collins and it was agreed to approve the bank reconciliation for Qtr 2 2026-2027.

d) To note the receipt of the remaining half of the 2026 precept of £5,204.24

The council noted the receipt of second instalment of the precept from East Suffolk Council paid to Theberton and Eastbridge Parish Council of £5,204.24.

e) To note the receipt of the grant for purchasing the new tractor from SZC Community Fund of £28,085.00

The council noted the receipt of the payment from SZC Community Fund paid to Theberton and Eastbridge Parish Council of £28,085.00.

f) 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
Clerk's PAYE	HMRC	£325.77	LGA 1972 s.112
John Deere Tractor	Tuckwells	£33,701.85	PHA 1875, s.164
Tractor Insurance	MSIG Europe	£658.97	LGA 1972 s.111
Tractor Insurance	MS Amlin	£814.55	LGA 1972 s.111
Tractor Insurance	Equity Radar	£787.80	LGA 1972 s.111
Poppy Wreaths	Honor Houlding	£46.00	LGA 1972 s.138b
Poppy Wreaths	Honor Houlding	£40.00	LGA 1972 s.138b
Land Registry Title – Eastbridge Playing Field	Honor Houlding	£7.00	PHA 1875, s.164
Land Registry Title –Theberton Playing Field	Honor Houlding	£7.00	PHA 1875, s.164
12 months Payroll Services	SALC	£122.40	LGA 1972 s.111
Website Hosting	Community Action Suffolk	TBC	LGA 1972 s.142

The council reviewed the payments listed in the table and agreed to authorise the clerk's salary, monthly BT payment and HMRC invoice for the clerk's PAYE. The council also agreed to reimburse the clerk £40.00 for expenses incurred in purchasing the RBL Poppy Wreaths and the two Land Registry titles required for the recent Sizewell C Community Fund application.

It was proposed by Cllr. Graham Ward and seconded by Cllr. Stephen Morphey to authorise the above payments, excluding the new tractor purchase and associated insurance. These payments were not authorised at this meeting as further discussion and consideration of the tractor purchase and insurance arrangements were required. It was agreed that these matters would be discussed at an extraordinary meeting on 24th October 2026.

12. Correspondence

a) To review the correspondence received between 7th September 2026 and 7th October 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.

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

None.

14. 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 11th November 2026 at 7:00 pm at the Jubilee Hall

Honor Houlding
Parish Clerk
Meeting ended at: 21.23

Appendix I – Sizewell C Presentation Slides

Sizewell C Presentation Slides – October 2026

Appendix II – SCC – Cllr John Matthews Monthly Report

Proposed County Referendum on the Housing of Asylum Seekers

- The proposed motion will explore holding a Suffolk-wide advisory referendum on 6 May 2027, giving residents a direct say on the housing of asylum seekers in the county.
- The proposal follows Home Office plans to use RAF Barnham for asylum seeker accommodation for at least 10 years. Officials have stated the site would house men who arrived via small boats, predominantly single young men, with no maximum capacity confirmed.
- Local communities have been denied a meaningful voice on decisions that will have long-term impacts, West Suffolk Council unanimously opposed the Barnham proposal in July 2026.

Defeated Local Government Reorganisation

- The three unitary authority proposal has been **fully withdrawn**.
- The judicial review (JR) will cost Suffolk residents nothing.
- District and Borough elections are due to go ahead on existing boundaries in May.
- **Devolution is a separate issue**, positive discussions have been had, Suffolk County Council will only agree to a deal that protects Suffolk interests.

Created 648 New School and SEND Places

- **405** mainstream school places and **243** additional SEND places created through an **£8.6 million** investment across the county.
- "We're investing in school buildings and specialist provision today while also planning for future growth, so that Suffolk's education system remains strong, inclusive and able to support children and young people to thrive." – Councillor Tony Gould, Suffolk County Council's Cabinet Member for Education and SEND

Started Trial of New Pothole Repair Machines

- The JCB Pothole Pro - a specialist 3-in-1 machine designed to deliver speedy and permanent pothole repairs – **is on free loan from JCB.**
- The council is assessing the JCB Pothole Pro to see if it can complement its existing methods to mend the roads.
- A single operator can undertake much of the preparation work that would traditionally require several pieces of plant and more manual labour.
- Stoke-on-Trent Council, which helped develop the machine, reported a **750% increase in output** and a **97% reduction** in potholes requiring a return visit within six months, compared with traditional methods.

Backed study to strengthen A14 resilience around Ipswich and Orwell Bridge

- The study has received £300,000, funded from the Local Transport Grant **from Central Government** already earmarked for resilience work.
- Study will look at 6 options:
    1. Replacement or alternative crossing of the River Orwell, without determining at this stage whether this would be a bridge or tunnel
    2. Replacement or alternative crossing with a direct A12 link south of the A14/A12 Copdock junction
    3. Northern by-pass route for Ipswich
    4. Upper Orwell-style town centre crossing in Ipswich
    5. Resilience package, including local junction improvements, urban traffic management, incident management and operational measures
    6. Assess how many people must switch to public transport or alternative travel to reduce traffic pressure

Secured £564,000 for major bus franchising study

- Suffolk County Council has secured £564,000 in new Department for Transport (DfT) funding to conduct a full feasibility study into bus franchising across the county.
- Scenarios to be explored include:
    1. Single countywide franchise - one unified system covering all Suffolk
    2. Joint Suffolk-Norfolk franchise - exploring efficiencies and cross-border connectivity
    3. Three franchises aligned to Local Government Reorganisation - reflecting the proposed administrative boundaries
    4. Smaller, targeted franchises - focused on key towns, corridors, or demand hotspots
    5. Alternative hybrid approaches - ensuring no promising model is overlooked

Began Consultation: Healthy Child Services

- The areas covered by this consultation are:
    - Support to Young Parents (under 21): Family Nurse Partnerships and the Young Parent's Pathway
    - School Nursing
    - Health Visiting
- Consultation ends: 18 October 202

Major improvements to begin on Main Road, Martlesham

- Begins on Monday 19 October and will last for 20 weeks and will focus on the section between the A12 and Nunn Close.
- Temporary traffic management, including traffic signals, will be required to ensure the safety of both the public and the workforce.
- The scheme is part of the A12 Major Road Network (MRN) programme and forms part of long-term plans to improve connections between Martlesham, Ipswich and Woodbridge.

Appendix III – ESC monthly report

September 2026 Parish Report
East Suffolk Council GLI Group – Councillor Update

Council Celebrates National Environmental Protection Award Success

East Suffolk Council's Environmental Protection Team has been recognised in the RSPCA PawPrints Awards 2026, with three awards.

On Wednesday 3 September, the team were delighted to receive confirmation that they have been awarded both gold and silver recognition across three service areas:

- Gold PawPrints Award in stray dog services
- Gold PawPrints Award in kennelling
- Silver PawPrints Award in animal activities licensing

The Environmental Protection Team has previously been recognised in the stray dog services and kennelling categories. However, achieving the silver recognition for animal activities licensing represents a new achievement.

GLI Cllr Sally Noble, East Suffolk cabinet member for the Environment, said:

"I am delighted that the Environmental Protection Team has once again been recognised through the RSPCA PawPrints Awards. Achieving Gold Awards for stray dog services and kennelling, alongside a Silver Award for animal activities licensing, is a fantastic achievement and reflects the team's ongoing commitment to protecting animal welfare across East Suffolk. I would also like to thank the contractors and partner organisations we work with to deliver these important services.

"Furthermore, the new Silver Award for animal activities licensing highlights the team's dedication to working closely with licensed premises across the district, providing advice and guidance and supporting the highest standards of animal welfare."

Council Amplifies Call for National Climate Crisis Briefing

East Suffolk Council is urging the Government to deem climate change an issue of national security and answer calls for a televised emergency briefing.

In an open letter, GLI Councillors Tom Daly and Katie Graham – cabinet member and assistant cabinet member for Energy and Climate Change – underlined the need for a prime-time public service broadcast on the risks of climate and nature breakdown.

Other local leaders, cross-party politicians, public figures and campaigners have added their names to a parliamentary petition – launched by environmentalist and television presenter Chris Packham – calling for the UK-wide public briefing.

It follows community screenings of the People's Emergency Briefing – a 50-minute documentary, released earlier this year, examining the impacts of climate and nature crises on health, food security, the economy and national security.

Modelled after government updates broadcast during the Covid-19 pandemic, a briefing would bring together leading experts to explain the evidence and present strategies to adapt.

The open letter reads:

Councils are on the frontline of the climate and nature crisis. Together with our health service, our care and education sector, we are the boots on the ground when emergencies hit.

When Storm Babet raged through our parishes of East Suffolk in October 2023, we responded immediately with the creation of a new Resilience Fund, bringing immediate support to residents facing flood damage. And when accelerated coastal erosion due to climate change ravaged the sandy cliffs at Thorpeness, the council was on hand to support residents at risk of losing their homes, offering housing and financial assistance.

This summer, elsewhere in our district alone, catastrophic wildfires at Dunwich Heath made international headlines, as drought and extreme temperatures made an area of global ecological importance vulnerable to fire, wiping out the habitat of some of our country's rarest species. Farmers are reporting economically unsustainable yields and vulnerable and elderly residents have been suffering as hospitals warn of escalating impacts of the extreme heat across health and social care.

The scientific consensus is clear – climate change and nature breakdown are posing a major risk to the UK's food security, health, infrastructure, economy, and national security, with a recent government report warning that we are living in the least extreme climate we will know in our lifetimes.

Acting on this information, on 27 November 2025, leading experts from across the UK health sector, national security, food systems, economists and environmental scientists set out the evidence in a formal National Emergency Briefing at Westminster to 1,200 national decision makers from across government, the media, business, culture and faith sector.

However, despite record drought and extreme temperatures, and a new prime minister, there remains a lack of urgency in public messaging on the scale of the crisis, together with a lack of commitment to enable councils on the frontline of climate shocks to protect and support our residents.

Therefore, as elected representatives, we are taking this opportunity to join thousands of individuals across Suffolk and beyond in calling for a live, televised National Emergency Briefing to hosted by the Prime Minister Andy Burnham and the UK's Chief Scientific Advisor Prof Dame Angela MacLean, to be delivered by independent experts.

A televised National Emergency Briefing would not set out specific policies or be party political. It is a means for clear, evidence-based communication on the state of climate change and nature loss, so that citizens are equipped to engage with decisions that will shape the country's future. It follows historic precedents of public safety messaging such as those given during the Covid 19 pandemic, and in times of war.

We welcome the support for such a briefing already pledged by our district members of parliament Jess Asato for Lowestoft MP, and Adrian Ramsay for Waveney Valley MP, and call additionally on our Suffolk Coastal MP Jenny Riddell-Carpenter for Suffolk Coastal MP and Minister at the Department for Environment and Rural Affairs to join the campaign.

We also acknowledge support from MPs elsewhere in East Anglia, Clive Lewis for Norwich South, Terry Jermy for South West Norfolk; Charlotte Cane for Ely and East Cambridgeshire; Pippa Heylings for South Cambridgeshire.

We call on other representatives in the region to share in this growing public campaign for such a briefing: Ian Sollom for St Neots and Mid Cambridgeshire; Ben Obese-Jecty for Huntingdon; Steve Barclay for North East Cambridgeshire; Sam Carling for North West Cambridgeshire; Andrew Pakes for Peterborough; Nick Timothy for West Suffolk; Jack Abbott for Ipswich; James Cartlidge for South Suffolk; Patrick Spencer: for Central Suffolk and North Ipswich; Peter Prinsley for Bury St Edmunds and Stowmarket; Jerome Mayhew for Broadland and Fakenham; Rupert Lowe for Great Yarmouth; George Freman for Mid Norfolk; Steff Aquarone for North Norfolk; Jeff Wilds for North West Norfolk; Alice MacDonald for Norwich North, and Ben Goldsborough for South Norfolk.

As elected politicians across all levels of government, have a responsibility to be straight with our communities, show leadership, and work together so that we can be on the front-foot when crisis hits.

Free Classes to Help Older People Improve Their Balance

Older people in Suffolk are being encouraged to take part in free exercise classes to help improve balance, fitness and flexibility.

Delivered by East Suffolk, Babergh and Mid Suffolk and Ipswich Borough Councils, the 12-week Strength and Balance programme aims to improve the balance, co-ordination, flexibility and confidence of residents aged 65 or over who have had a recent fall or feel unsteady on their feet.

The strength and balance classes are aligned to an evidence-based programme called OTAGO, which is a mixture of both strength and balance exercises led by a qualified instructor in a safe space.

Classes take place each week over a 12-week period, and each class lasts approximately 60 minutes. The exercises are designed to help people feel more confident on their feet, to get in and out of a chair and provide an opportunity to socialise with other members of the community with a shared goal to increase activity.

GLI Cllr Sarah Whitelock, East Suffolk's cabinet member for Communities, Culture, Leisure and Tourism said:

"Keeping active is essential for all ages but especially important as we get older. Most falls can be prevented, and some simple strength and balance exercises make all the difference to your mobility and confidence. The classes are also a great way to meet other people in your community, and ahead of this year's Falls Prevention Week, I would encourage anyone over 65 who feels they may benefit from the programme to sign up."

The programme is open to those over 65 years old who are at risk of falls, or who have recently had a fall, and who are registered with a GP within the East Suffolk, Mid Suffolk and Babergh or Ipswich Borough Council districts.

Healthcare professionals are also able to refer patients to the classes.

The form is available at: tinyurl.com/yc45h5xa

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**

Appendix III – Cllr. Paul Collins' October NSIPS Report

1. TEAGS – Stop Sizewell C

Moving TEAGS Ltd to a community organisation is now complete and we have closed the Ltd company with Alison having been made redundant and her final salary paid. Our final report to Greenpeace Environmental Trust was submitted on 7th October following the end of the sponsorship arrangement.

Alison attended an ONR NGO meeting on 28th September in London.

2. East Suffolk Communities Energy Partnership

A response was submitted to the Secretary of State about SeaLink's failure to have a finalised and compliant design for the converter stations which is backed up by the recent OFGEM report, Sea Link: Project Assessment. This, essentially, contradicts the claims of NGET to have set out a plan for SeaLink as a well-designed and compliant functional grid reinforcement, adding to existing concerns about the overall efficiency, value for money and misplaced needs case for the Sea Link proposal.

3. B1122 planning discussions and SZC Deed of Obligation Forums

30mph roundels that are supposed to be applied to the B1122 road surface treatments at each end of Theberton village are still outstanding.

Works around Flash Corner and changes to junction priorities are due to be completed on 12th October.

SZC indicated at the last Northern Transport forum that these will be completed in "phase 2" of the Early Years works in September, although this now has slipped into October

SZC have created more informative diversion signs and deployed them at the B1122 entrances to Church Road, Onners Lane and Potters Street informing road users that there is no access to Leiston through these lanes whilst the B1122 is closed at the top of Eastbridge Road, for construction of the main entrance roundabout and its connections to the B1122. It hasn't completely stopped people still trying to get through to Leiston despite the warnings.

The next Community Forum on 22nd October 2026, Northern Transport Forum is on 4th November 2026 and Main Site Forum is on Wednesday 13th January 2027 – this latter to be confirmed but would clash with our monthly PC meeting.

4. SZC Non-Material Changes to the Development Consent Order

There are eight changes requested by SZC to the Development Consent Order (DCO) and one directly to the Deemed Marine License (DML) regulated by the Marine Management Organisation (MMO). We previously decided not to respond to this and await PINS and the Secretary of State's decision on these changes. However, Sizewell C and the Secretary of State have asked for our input, as well as from Minsmere Levels Stakeholders Group and Stop Sizewell C, so I have drafted a joint response from all three organisations, in the same manner that we approached the original DCO Examination. We have until 28th October 2026 to submit the response.

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

See item 2 above. The OFGEM consultation is now closed and we await their decision as well as the Secretary of State's decision on the project as a whole.

6. Scottish Power Wind Farms and Friston Substation

Development at the Friston substation and cable trenching from landfall at Thorpeness are now underway.

7. LionLink – National Grid Ventures

No further progress and we await submission of the Development Consent Order application to the Planning Inspectorate scheduled for Q4 2026.

8. Solar Farms/Battery Storage

- **Town Farm Solar Park**
  Town Farm solar park, is now under construction.
- **Helios Energy Park**
  This will yet another NSIP because of its size (250MW). Further details can be found at SCC and in a submission on the SeaLink DCO website.

9. Hydrogen East/Capital Hydrogen

No further information at this time.

10. Suffolk Water Recycling and Transfer Scheme

No further information at this time.

Appendix V – October Speed Indicator Report

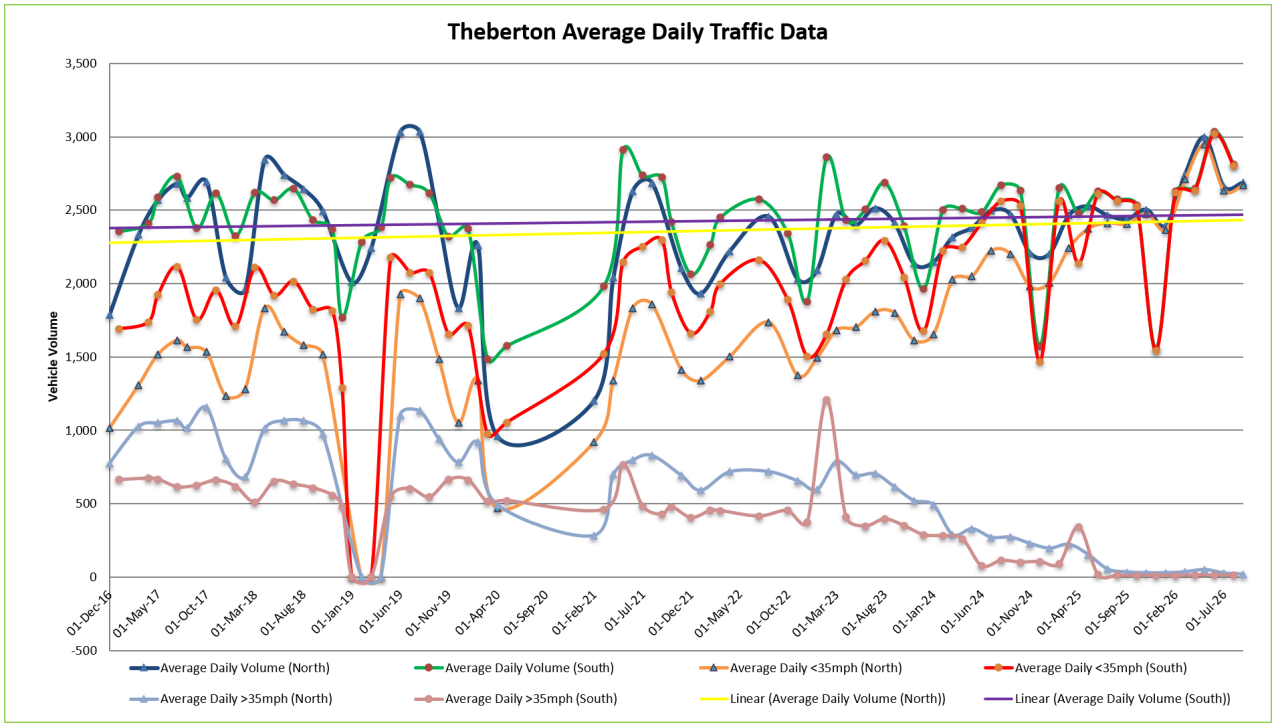
Theberton Speed Indicator Device Report 13th October 2026

The speed indicator device has been operational for one hundred and four ~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 **37.2 mph** from North and **35.2mph** 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 reduction in the long term 85th percentile value for traffic comes with the fact that this month only 0.4% of traffic from the South and 0.7% for the North was above 35mph compared to the long-term averages of 25.7% from the north and 17.1% from the south**. The fact that so few vehicles are now exceeding 35mph through the village means that the graph lines representing 'average daily volumes' and 'average daily volumes less than 35mph' are overlapping and pretty much indistinguishable from one another. The fastest vehicle this month was 65mph on 24th September at 15:40.

Whilst overall volumes had been in a slight decline (2-3%) to February, an increase in traffic volumes through the village from May to now looks to be a fact and running at between 8-10% compared to recent averages.



SID Start Date	13-Sep-25	16-Oct-25	15-Nov-25	17-Dec-25	14-Jan-26	13-Feb-26	15-Mar-26	14-Apr-26	14-May-26	13-Jun-26	14-Jul-26	12-Aug-26	07-Sep-26
Average Daily Volume (North)	2,439		2,503		2,395		2,744		2,997		2,660		2,687
Average Daily Volume (South)		2,535		1,555		2,628		2,648		3,034		2,812	
Total Vehicles (North)	46,336		47,561		45,495		52,131		58,432		53,201		51,057
Total Vehicles (South)		48,158		29,550		49,930		52,964		57,652		53,429	
Total Vehicles <35mph (North)	45,700		47,026		44,962		51,469		57,447		52,673		50,687
Total Vehicles <35mph (South)		47,964		29,349		49,757		52,710		57,418		53,218	
Total Vehicles >35mph (North)	636		535		533		662		985		528		370
Total Vehicles >35mph (South)		194		201		173		254		234		211	
Average Daily <35mph (North)	2,405		2,475		2,366		2,709		2,946		2,634		2,668
Average Daily <35mph (South)		2,524		1,545		2,619		2,636		3,022		2,801	
Average Daily >35mph (North)	33		28		28		35		51		26		19
Average Daily >35mph (South)		10		11		9		13		12		11	
85th percentile speed North (mph)	**29.7**		**29.5**		**29.5**		**29.7**		**29.8**		**29.6**		**29.5**
85th percentile speed South (mph)		**28.8**		**28.8**		**28.8**		**28.8**		**28.8**		**28.7**	
% <35mph (North)	98.6%		98.9%		98.8%		98.7%		98.3%		99.0%		99.3%
% <35mph (South)		99.6%		99.3%		99.7%		99.5%		99.6%		99.6%	
% >35mph (North)	1.4%		1.1%		1.2%		1.3%		1.7%		1.0%		0.7%
% >35mph (South)		0.4%		0.7%		0.3%		0.5%		0.4%		0.4%	

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

Appendix VI – August Police Crime Report



All Crimes (76)

August 2026

1 crimes were reported here in August 2026

Violence and sexual offences	**1**