

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT – SEPTEMBER 2025



Cllr Stephen Burroughes - Framlingham Division

• **WARNING OVER RED LIGHT RACERS ON GULL WING BRIDGE**

Motorists using the landmark Gull Wing Bridge in Lowestoft are being urged to stop at red warning lights as concerns grow over vehicles racing through to avoid a journey delay by it being raised. There have been 112 breaches of the red safety lights, which signal the imminent lowering of the gates and raising of the bridge, between March and July.

Bridge operation staff began recording breach numbers from March after noticing incidents were becoming more frequent. Breaches are recorded manually by staff in the bridge control tower and then checked against CCTV. Recording of breaches began in March after staff noticed they were becoming more frequent. On Friday June 20 there were two breaches in one day.

A van raced through and collided with the barrier, leaving it inoperable and needing urgent repairs to prevent disruption to both road and maritime traffic.

Fortunately, a temporary fix was able to be implemented, avoiding the need to close the bridge to either highway or maritime traffic while awaiting the delivery of replacement parts for a permanent repair. The council is now pursuing a claim for the costs of the immediate, temporary repair and a new replacement barrier against the company that owned the van. Later that day a private car also raced through, this time without incident. The most recent breach, which involved a van narrowly avoiding the barrier, occurred on Wednesday July 17.

Under the Highway Code, flashing red lights are used at locations such as lifting bridges, level crossings, and airfields, and motorists MUST stop. Failure to do so can result in penalty points on your driving licence, lead to a fine or, in serious cases, especially if it leads to an accident or endangers others, could result in disqualification or even criminal charges.

No legal action for the Gull Wing infringements have been issued yet, but bridge bosses are now considering introducing tougher measures that could include installing ANPR cameras. The Gull Wing bridge spans Lake Lothing and opened to the public on September 7, 2024, being officially opened by Her Royal Highness the Princess Royal on November 19.

Costing around £146 million the bridge, delivered by Suffolk County Council with Farrans Construction as the main contractor, has significantly reduced congestion and improved connectivity between the northern and southern parts of the town. Spanning 345 meters in total, the bridge features a main bascule span that is 39.5 meters long, 22 meters wide, and 35 meters tall. When raised it can accommodate marine vessels up to 32 meters wide.

• **NEW BOUNDARY PROPOSALS MEAN 3 COUNCILS, 3 SETS OF SALARIES AND THE SAME OLD STORY FOR SUFFOLK**

- District and borough councils' new boundary proposals criticised as costly and unworkable
- Creating 3 new councils in Suffolk would lead to increased costs and carry safeguarding risks
- One new unitary council for Suffolk is best for county

The proposed map comes following repeated calls from Suffolk County Council for clarity on how the districts suggested 3-council model will be formed. The map is essential information for Suffolk residents to

understand their proposals thoroughly. Under their suggested boundaries, Ipswich would form a unitary council with Hadleigh, Kesgrave and Felixstowe (known as South Suffolk); Bury St Edmunds would be grouped with Sudbury, Haverhill, Newmarket and Brandon (known as West Suffolk) and Lowestoft would find itself with Woodbridge, Eye and Stowmarket (known as East Suffolk).

Alongside the map, the districts and borough have not released any information of what impact these proposed boundaries would have on council tax rates – with Ipswich residents currently paying the highest rate of district or borough council tax across the entire length of the whole country.

Residents are being encouraged to have their say on the future of councils and public services in Suffolk by [completing Suffolk County Council's survey](#). You can also complete the survey by visiting a Community Library or by calling **0345 603 1842**. The survey takes about 10 minutes to complete.

Responses will inform the One Suffolk business case, which will be submitted to Government in September.

• **FORMER AGENCY SOCIAL WORKER SENTENCED FOR FRAUD**

Beatrice Eduah pleaded guilty to one offence of fraud by abuse of position between June and November 2023. In short, she committed Job contract fraud in that whilst working for SCC she was also being paid to work on multiple dates for other Local Authorities. The Judge was scathing of her in his sentencing comments today and referred to her as a fraudster and a thief. He also made reference to the victims of the fraud namely the Local Authority but more importantly vulnerable adults.

He has deferred sentence until 13 February 2026. In that time, Ms. Eduah must acquire paid work and set any salary aside in a separate bank account with such funds being utilised to repay SCC. If she is unable to obtain work, then she must bring documentary proof of every role she has applied for and the corresponding rejection letters. The Judge pointed out that the Court were becoming experienced in defendants who supply false documentation produced via AI and said that independent checks would be made of any documentation supplied to ensure its veracity.

She pleaded guilty on 19 May 2025 at Cambridge Crown Court to one charge of fraud, contrary to Section 4 of the Fraud Act 2006, over the period June 2023 to November 2023; namely dishonestly abusing her position as an agency staff member of Suffolk County Council with the intention of making a gain, by omitting to declare that she was working full-time for two other Local Authorities, representing that she had the capacity to work for SCC full-time basis when she did not.

Concerns were raised by a recruitment agency who contacted the Council in November 2023 to advise that Eduah had a placement with Suffolk County Council and one other local authority, both full time with Eduah submitting timesheets to both authorities for the same hours.

A criminal investigation was launched by the Council's Counter Fraud Service which found that during Eduah's employment at Suffolk County Council, she had also worked full-time for one other local authority, and for a period of three weeks had been employed for full-time work at Suffolk County Council and two other local authorities. Timesheets were submitted by her for each of these roles, which showed that the same hours had been logged across the authorities. Neither authority was aware that she held an additional employment at each authority. The investigation also found that when Eduah applied for the role with Suffolk County Council, she omitted from her CV the fact that she was already employed full time with two other local authorities.

In order to facilitate her fraud, Eduah dishonestly communicated with her line manager about the need for unpaid time off from her Suffolk role on five separate occasions when in fact she worked full-time at another local authority during these absences. This included stating that she was abroad due to a family members' death when in fact she was in the UK working for the other local authority.

● **GUIDE PUBLISHED TO SUPPORT DEVELOPERS IN SUFFOLK**

Suffolk County Council has updated its “[Developers Guide to Infrastructure Contributions in Suffolk](#)”, following a consultation over the summer. It has been updated and redesigned in line with the feedback and takes account of legislative and policy changes.

The guide is there to support developers appreciate the myriad ways which a new project will affect local communities and its financial implications on local authorities.

● **NEW AND IMPROVED BUS SERVICES COMING TO SUFFOLK THIS MONTH**

These routes have all been suggested by the community through the council’s “scheme on a page” initiative and have been funded through the 2025/26 Local Authority Bus Grant from Department for Transport. The grant is made up of £2.8m revenue for delivering these new or enhanced services and a further £5.3m capital for new and improved bus stops, bus stations, bus priority measures or vehicle upgrades.

Among the services launching on 1 September, is the enhanced First number 70 route, which currently operates between Orford and Grundisburgh. The enhanced service will improve journey options from Sutton Heath and Melton to several locations including Grundisburgh, Woodbridge and Rock Barracks:

- The number of daily journeys provided for Grundisburgh will increase and include an hourly off-peak service and a later journey back from Ipswich at 19:40.
- The number of daily journeys provided for Rock Barracks will also increase, with an hourly off-peak service including a later journey back from Ipswich via Grundisburgh at 19:40. This will provide the planned influx of personnel at the base with much needed travel options.

The funding has also enabled the council to introduce new services in areas which had seen local bus services cancelled or reduced.

Members of the community can suggest ideas for new or enhanced bus routes, or infrastructure projects such as bus stop improvements, for consideration at: www.suffolkonboard.com/news/2024/06/bus-service-improvement-plan-where-should-the-money-be-spent/.

A full list of the new and enhanced services funded through the Local Authority Bus Grant 2025/26 can be seen below:

Operator	Number	Route	Change	Commencing
Ipswich Buses	1	Waitrose - Greenwich Town Centre	- Addition of Sunday service	31/8/25
Ipswich Buses	3E	Town Centre - University of Suffolk - Nacton Road - Greenwich	- Addition of Sunday evening service	31/8/25
Ipswich Buses	92	Ipswich - Holbrook - Brantham - Manningtree	- Planned reduction in service withdrawn, new peak AM journey from Brantham to Manningtree	1/9/25
Ipswich	93	Ipswich	- planned	N/A

Buses		Capel St Mary - East Bergholt - Colchester	reduction in ongoing service withdrawn.	
Ipswich Buses	4	Town Centre - Broke Hall - Bixley	Increased peak-hour frequency	1/9/25
Ipswich Buses	5	Town Centre - Foxhall Road - Ipswich Hospital	Increased Mon-Fri frequency	1/9/25
Ipswich Buses	7, 16	Ipswich Town Centre - Dale Hall - Castle Hill - Anglia Retail Park and Ipswich Town Centre - Belstead Road - Halifax	Increased peak-hour frequency, additional trips	1/9/25
Ipswich Buses	15/15A	Town Centre - Station - Maidenhall - Pinewood - Chantry	Increased frequency	1/9/25
Chambers	Was 90, 91, now 50	(Ipswich -) Hadleigh - Sudbury	New Sunday - Sudbury - Ipswich service plus additional Sudbury - Hadleigh Mon-Sat journeys	31/8/25
Chambers	Was 84, 753, 784, now 43/X43	Bury St Edmunds - Sicklesmere - Lavenham - Acton - Sudbury - Great Cornard - Leavenheath - Stoke-by-Nayland - Nayland - Colchester	New Sunday and evening journeys for Sudbury - Colchester section. Daytime Mon-Sat services retimed to give better frequency for Stoke By Nayland and Leavenheath. All journeys via West Suffolk and Colchester hospitals.	31/8/25
Chambers	49	Acton Lane (near Health Centre) - Tesco - Chaucer Avenue bus gate - Town Centre	New Sudbury town service	1/9/25
Chambers	Was 375, now	Sudbury - Alpheton	Upgrade from Weds only	1/9/25

	45	Shimpling - Bury St Edmunds	to run Mon-Sat, route change to cover West Suffolk Hospital	
Mulleys	M40	Thurston - Great Barton - Bury St Edmunds	New hourly service	4/7/25
Mulleys	M77	Marham Park - Westley Estate - Bury Town Centre	Extension of existing town service to run earlier and later plus covering Marham Park.	4/7/25
BorderBus	521	Aldeburgh - Thorpeness - Saxmundham - Halesworth	Increased Saturday frequency and extended to Beccles	TBC
Dan's Coach Travel	DB1	Stowmarket - Bury St Edmunds	Addition of Saturday service	TBC
The Voluntary Network	NTC	Exning - Studlands Estate - Newmarket Town Centre - Railway Station	New Mon - Sat service	15/9/25
The Voluntary Network	225	Newmarket - Dullingham - Thurlows - Haverhill	New Mon-Fri service converting current demand responsive option to scheduled route. Also provides peak journey on new NTC town service above.	15/9/25
The Voluntary Network	TBC	Linking High Lodge, the Town Centre and Country Park with the housing areas	New three day per weeks service linking estates, town centre, country park and High Lodge	15/9/25
Simonds	72	Gislingham - Diss	New Friday shopping service	5/9/25
Fareline	460	Gislingham - Stowmarket	New Thursday shopping service	TBC
Hadleigh Community Transport	461, 462	Hadleigh - Whatfield - Bildeston - Stowmarket	Increase to daily operation and add more journeys	TBC
TBC	482	Framlingham	New Mon-	TBC

- Stradbroke - Sat service
Eye - Diss

First	800	Ipswich Park & Ride	Revised route in Ipswich taking in University of Suffolk and Ipswich Hospital (Garrett Anderson Centre rather than Woodbridge Road). Some journeys extended to Adastral Park. 1 journey per hour extended to Rendlesham via Martlesham, Woodbridge and Melton.	1/9/25
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First	70	Orford – Sutton Heath – Melton – Woodbridge – Grundisburgh – Ipswich.	Additional journeys from Sutton Heath and Rock Barracks to Melton and Woodbridge with connections onwards to Ipswich.	1/9/25
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First	TBC	Lowestoft town service	Resumption of service to Gunton area withdrawn in 2019.	2/11/25
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• **SUFFOLK COMMUNITIES HELP FIRE SERVICE RAISE OVER £13,000 FOR FIRE FIGHTERS CHARITY**

This impressive total — smashing the original £10,000 target — was achieved by full-time and on-call firefighters at 16 stations, who together washed around 1,000 cars as part of a national campaign promoted by the charity, which provides vital physical, mental, and social support to UK fire service personnel and their families.

Amounts raised at each station:

- Brandon - £727.37

- Bungay - £750.41
- Bury St Edmunds - £841.12
- Clare - £640.55
- Elmswell - £530.00
- Eye - £471.00
- Hadleigh - £781.23
- Halesworth - £673.57
- Haverhill - £639.00
- Lowestoft - £1,263.42
- Newmarket - £861.76
- Orford - £630.44
- Stowmarket - £902.00
- Sudbury - £484.36
- Wickhambrook - £450.00
- Wrentham - £415.60

There was an additional £1,154.55 donated via QR code and £1,000 sponsorship from Bury St Edmunds-based brewer, Greene King.

For more information about the Fire Fighters Charity, visit www.firefighterscharity.org.uk.

- **COUNCIL REMAINS OPPOSED TO PYLON PROJECT, AS APPLICATION SUBMITTED**

Primarily, the county council maintains that offshore and undergrounding solutions should be priorities for the scheme, not 114 miles of pylons cutting through countryside, sensitive landscapes and communities in Norfolk, Suffolk, and Essex. Previously, SCC has formally and strongly requested that National Grid pauses the Norwich to Tilbury proposals, to allow for effective consideration of offshore alternatives.

The application for the Development Consent Order - essentially planning permission - was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) by National Grid on Friday 29 August. PINS has 28 days to determine whether or not to accept the application. Should it be accepted, full details of the project will then be published, with the six-month Examination period likely to begin in early 2026. If consent was then granted, construction could begin in 2027.

Councillor Richard Rout, Suffolk County Council's Cabinet Member for Devolution, Local Government Reorganisation and NSIPs, said:

"In its current guise, the Norwich to Tilbury pylon project is not suitable. The less damaging alternatives, such as offshore transmission or high voltage direct current undergrounding, have never been fully considered.

"Such a significant and impactful project should not be determined simply for being the cheapest and fastest solution. The Hiorns Report concluded that proposals were premature and would not be needed until the mid-2030s. "When the full details of National Grid's application are published next month, we hope they reflect many of the concerns raised by us, and local communities, from consultations and discussions. We have highlighted the need for numerous local mitigations, issues around airfields, construction traffic, public rights of way, removal of existing pylon lines, the list goes on.

"For example, we consider there to be a robust case for undergrounding where the line crosses the Waveney Valley – only to be told earlier this year, that this was not going to happen, and that was that without any alternative mitigation proposed."

Suffolk County Council's response to previous consultations for the Norwich to Tilbury project can be found at suffolk.gov.uk

Cllr Stephen Burroughes

County Councillor for the Framlingham Division

Suffolk County Council