

Parish Councils, November 2024

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Buses – All parties concerned with the ‘Save Our Buses’ effort to prepare bids for continuation of the the 70 and 73/73A working party have been working on individual bids to be submitted this week. I will know more about this and about the continuity of services post January 2025 very shortly

County Council Consultation - the annual public consultation on Post-16 Travel Policy for the 2025/2026 school year is now open. It will close on Monday 16 December 2024. The proposal includes no increase to the annual post-16 travel charges for mainstream or Special Educational Needs and Disabilities students for the 2025/2026 school year. Refer to [Consultation on the post-16 travel policy for the 2025/2026 school year - Suffolk County Council](#). Complete the [online survey](#) or email comments to post-16travelconsultation@suffolk.gov.uk.

Local Transport Plan Consultation - The Transport Plan covers the period 2025-2040 with a long-term vision for transport in Suffolk. The document is available via www.suffolk.gov.uk/LTP and the consultation will close on Monday 25 Nov. 2024. The Local Transport Plan and its associated supporting plans (‘Area Transport Plans’ and a ‘Suffolk Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan’) will be presented to Suffolk County Council’s Cabinet in 2025.

Budget Consultation - Suffolk County Council is seeking feedback from residents, businesses and community organisations on which council services they have used recently, whether they support increasing Council Tax contributions, and areas they would like to see prioritised in the council’s budget-setting process. The consultation opens on 1st November and closes 16th December 2024. To participate, visit

www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/2025_26_budget

The results will be included in a final report when the budget is set in February 2025.

Warm Homes Interest-free Loans - Suffolk County Council is offering interest-free loans to help make residents’ homes warmer, safer and cheaper to run. Energy efficiency upgrades such as insulation, solar panels, batteries, glazing, or heat pumps are possible with loans from £2,000 to £15,000 to be repaid over a maximum of seven years – at 0% interest.

The £3 million project fully opened to homeowners across Suffolk on 1 November 2024, and applications can now be made at <https://www.lendology.org.uk/warm-home-suffolk-loan>

Culture Project Grants Reminder - This initiative is aimed at strengthening and supporting local arts and museum projects in our local communities across the county, particularly those affected by general reductions in arts funding. The fund offers three tiers of grants:

Small grants up to £1,500; Medium grants up to £15,000; Large grants up to £50,000

Eligible applicants include Arts and Museum organisations, skilled freelancers, registered charities, community interest companies, non-profits, and social enterprises based in Suffolk. The deadline for applications over £1,500 is 12 noon Thursday 29 November 2024. To apply, please book to speak to a member of Suffolk’s arts and museums team: <https://suffolk.gov.uk/culture-heritage-and-leisure/culture-project-fund/culture-project-fund-overview/booking-a-culture-project-conversation>

Highways Issues – please do report any highways or flood issues to the reporting web site in order to log the problem and enable a response, if a response is not satisfactory please contact me about it : <https://highwaysreporting.suffolk.gov.uk/>

NSIP Community Engagement Guidance - Suffolk County Council has produced guidance to help protect the wellbeing of local communities impacted by large Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs). The new guidance - [Community Engagement and Wellbeing Supplementary Guidance](#) - complements the council’s Energy and Climate Adaptive Infrastructure Policy, and is aimed at project promoters, parish councils and local communities.

Please get in touch with me if you have questions or comments: Jessica.fleming@suffolk.gov.uk Tel: 07714-597980
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