

EYKE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT 2022-2023

In setting out its 2021 business plan for the next few years, the council's priorities are to:

- promote and support the health and wellbeing of all people in Suffolk
- strengthen the local economy
- protect and enhance the environment
- provide value for money for the Suffolk taxpayer.

Below are just some of the initiatives taken by SCC in the last year. More details may be found on the county council's website www.suffolk.gov.uk.

- April 2022**
- £350,000 funding dedicated to Suffolk's Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy.
A 3 year strategy to reduce and prevent this type of crime
 - Suffolk Highways resurfacing 150 miles of roads at 173 different sites in 2022/23.
Resurface and Surface Dressing Treatments expected to last between 5 and 20 years
- May 2022**
- Suffolk County Council plants 198,547 trees across Suffolk in the last 2 years.
£400k spent to absorb CO2 equivalent to 8.8m miles in a typical petrol car
- June 2022**
- New scheme based in Felixstowe reuses over 800,000 tonnes of water.
Drainage water pumped inland conserving saltmarshes + refilling 14 irrigation reservoirs
 - Funding for second phase of £45 million five-year project for SEND places agreed by Cabinet.
Target to create 898 places to support growing number of children with SEND
- July 2022**
- Essex and Suffolk Councils unite condemning proposals for a 180km network of 50m tall electricity pylons.
National Grid - East Anglia Green from Norwich via Bramford to Tilbury - outdated + damage to countryside. Support for undersea cable routes
 - Suffolk County Council and East Suffolk Council secure £180m commitment from EDF for mitigation and compensation from a future Sizewell C project.
SCC is disappointed that several key issues could be still be improved on e.g. removal of Sizewell link road, blight of additional pylons, unnecessary outage car park Goose Hill.

Andrew Reid
County Councillor - Wilford Division
24th April 2023

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- A new map for hauliers plotting journeys across Suffolk has been drawn up.
Utilising new bypasses Beccles, Eye and Haverhill.
Downgrading routes near Leiston.
- A u g u s t 2022** - The council submitted a bid of £1,362,000 to the Department for Transport, as part of the Local EV Infrastructure (LEVI) pilot scheme.

Commercial funding brings total to £2.75m to improve existing sites and add a further 30 sites in addition to the existing 100 charging points.
- S e p t e m b e r 2022** - Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) speed indicator devices rolled out.
10 rotating devices display drivers speeding and results in follow up letters and visits from the police for persistent offenders. 2 year programme extended in March 2023.
- O c t o b e r 2022** - Work on a major expansion of the Foxhall Recycling Centre near Ipswich to begin.
£7.8m to be spent on improving access. Foxhall accounts for 19% county recycling
- £3m of further new funding to provide places for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) was agreed.
This provides a further 42 additional spaces on top of the 898 after the funding in June
- N o v e m b e r 2022** - A project with the aim of replacing all 43,400 streetlights across Suffolk with sustainable, longer-lasting, and cost-saving LED bulbs nears completion.
The switch to LED lighting was aiming to save 76% in costs, but the total saving has exceeded 77.6% so far.
- Ground-breaking new guidelines for developers to help them design sustainable and low-carbon neighbourhoods have been launched by Suffolk County Council.
Suffolk Design Streets Guide prioritises walking and cycling over cars for developers.
- A new initiative named Multiply Suffolk, which will offer adults an opportunity to improve their numeracy skills, has launched in Suffolk.
Free courses are available for adults who do not have GCSE grade C/4 or higher including Money Management for Parents and Carers

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**December
2022**

- A landmark devolution deal, which puts money and power over building, regeneration and skills into the hands of leaders in Suffolk was signed.

An initial £500m investment fund over 30 years will be made available to drive growth and plan for the long term.

**February
2023**

- Adult care services and children's services receive £47m more funding as part of Suffolk County Council's £685m budget proposals in 2023/2024.

SCC has managed to preserve services across its activities, finding savings of £15m with a resulting increase in council tax of 3.99%.

- Suffolk County Council has reduced its carbon emissions by 15% in the last 2 years.
Progress is being made towards the ambitious target to be a Net Zero county council by 2030, with a £13m spend to save project decarbonising its buildings
- Milestone Infrastructure, part of M Group Services, has been awarded Suffolk's new highways services contract, which will begin on 1 October 2023.
The new contract partnership may be in place for up to 20 years and will be worth up to £1bn.
- Suffolk Fire and Rescue Community Risk Management Plan was brought to Cabinet for approval for its adoption from April 2023.
The plan is designed to identify known and foreseeable risks and the optimum deployment of its resources.

Andrew Reid
County Councillor - Wilford Division
24th April 2023

Good evening and first I just want to give my sincere apologies for not being with you this evening

That said your concerns and issues are important to me and I will of course pick up any questions you have if you can email them to me

I am delighted to be back as your district councillor , esp when the majority of suffolk coastal councillors lost their seats

**The council now stands as 16 green. 15 conservative , 12 labour, 11 lib dem and 1 independent
Greens and Lib dem are likely to be in coalition and we will see how that develops**

I will of course be keeping them in check esp in continuing the focus on the environment - water quality and biodiversity in particular

Over the last year I pushed hard to implement a number of important initiatives, small changes perhaps but the start of a bigger impact . Small electrical recycling bins , allocation of spring bulbs under our East Suffolk blooms campaign and an increase in the number of pardon the weeds sites

Much work continues in Lowestoft to deliver improvements – third crossing , sea defences and beach huts

I have been chair of the Suffolk Waste Partnership for a number of years and have worked hard with officers to investigate and prepare for new collection streams , bins and vehicles

One of my biggest changes I introduced was the move to hydrotreated vegetable oil as fuel for our refuse trucks

Reducing the carbon footprint for our fleet of vehicles by 90 pct and over 30 pct for the council - a really meaningful change

Your view and concerns are important and I will continue to offer guidance and sign posting and will articulate your views through the processes of east suffolk

Look forward to seeing you all at the next meeting

Thanks James

Councillor Mervyn Whitmore: February 1936 – April 2023 Tribute from Eyke Parish Council

Mervyn was a real stalwart of the council and the wider village. He was first elected as a councillor in 1971, and re-elected at every election since then. He attended his final meeting on 13th March this year, and it was only his increasing frailty which prevented him from standing again in 2023.

He was a familiar and popular face around the village, always there to listen to villagers' concerns, and do what he could to help. Ahead of his time, he was a committed recycler for many years, of his own and other peoples' goods. He raised a significant amount of money for good causes in this way.

For many years, he was to be seen, walking miles in and around the village collecting litter – so much so, that the Parish Council gave up being involved in the District Council's Spring Litter Pick Initiative: there was nothing left to collect!

He kept a close eye on the recreation ground. And when the Parish Council installed the children's play area, he meticulously recorded his weekly checks of the equipment.

Until recently, he was a regular attendee at Safer Neighbourhood Meetings in Woodbridge, reporting back to the Council on issues affecting the local area. Every year, he would be the Council's representative and lay a wreath on Remembrance Sunday, a role he took very seriously.

Mervyn was always on hand to do whatever he could, much of it unsung. He loved the village and the villagers loved him. When villagers got together to produce a book about Eyke to mark the Millennium, it was Mervyn who wrote the following in the introduction:

“Our village is akin to a family, its strengths lie within the residents, of which I am blessed to be one.”

Mervyn will be very sadly missed by us all, and our deepest sympathies go to his family.

Village Hall - Annual Update

The village hall committee would like to thank everyone who helped out in the last year, whether by giving their time or by donating to the refurbishment fund. For quite a time much of the work being done was not highly visible, but the results of all this effort are now, we hope, apparent.

Phase Two of the work is finished, and the hall is ready for use. The building has been refurbished inside and out, and the facilities modernised and upgraded to make it a welcoming, flexible space for all kinds of private and public events. The major new additions include a new porch, doors and windows, new toilets (including disabled facilities), a brand new and fully equipped kitchen, new electrical fittings and WiFi, modern lighting, heating and security, and the removal of the old stage in order to create space for a meeting room and other dedicated spaces.

We have exciting plans focusing on the outside area at the back of the hall, but this projected Phase Three depends to a great extent on whether we are successful in our current bid for National Lottery funding.

In the meantime, we are happy to have acquired a highly capable and committed management team in Lynn and Peter Rogers, who will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the hall as we go forward. This of course includes managing bookings for events. The scale of fees for such events, which we will be keeping under constant review, includes special discounted rates for residents of Eyke. We hope that the hall will thereby become the natural local choice for events such as birthday parties, social gatherings, craft shows, exercise classes and so on, and function as a real community hub.

Simon Sutch
Reeves Hall
Eyke IP12 2QE

15 March 2023

Eyke Charities, Treasurer's Report year ending 31 December 2022

The charities gifted £340 in cash to Eyke +80s/widow/widowers last December and £124.65 in the form of books to Eyke Primary School leavers last summer.

This combined expenditure of £464.65 exceeded our income of £341.56. This discrepancy is explained by our decision to raise the individual cash payments to £20.00 and a slight diminution of dividend yield from our investments. As matters stand at the moment, we will be able to maintain this year's expenditure level for two years from our current accounts' positions and anticipated future dividend income without having to draw any money down from our investments.

Total assets at year end were £12,845.87, an 8.7% reduction on our 2021 position. This is naturally disappointing but does reflect the global financial situation throughout 2022. With inflation still a real issue there seems little point in converting investments to cash whilst deposit rates continue to be low and the investments continue to produce a better yield. The economy is not particularly stable at the moment so we must anticipate further fluctuations in the months and years to come.

I have updated the Charities Commission's online financial records as required. A Charities Commission Registration Certificate is now in our files.

Thank you

Simon Sutch

Treasurer

Report by the Churchwardens & PCC for the year ended 31st December 2022

We continued to hold two services a month mostly taken by Re, Mandy Reynolds who until October was taking them in Sutton and Shottisham as well as Bromeswell, Rendlesham and Wantisden. However, in October another priest was brought into the benefice and the eighteen churches were broken into three groups.

The Village School attended at regular intervals during the year including at Easter, for Remembrance and Christmas.

We were able to keep the church open during the whole of the year.

We held one Baptism and although no Weddings were held there was one Marriage Blessing, also two funerals with the burial of ashes of one of them

Stephen Nicholls led our Stations of the Cross Service on Good Friday and Mandy a Service of Holy Communion on Easter Sunday. Both were well attended.

All Saints was well represented at the Service of Remembrance which this year was held in the Church of St Gregory the Great, Rendlesham. A PCC member, Mervyn Whitmore, read the names of the men of Eyke who had died in the two World Wars.

As mentioned previously the school came into church for Remembrance having created a wonderful display of poppies which were used to decorate the pulpit.

The PCC decided not to hold a Christmas Tree Festival this year but with Gill's encouragement a number of organisations, including the School, Millennium Group, and individuals did supply them. As a result the church looked well decorated during the Christmas period and beyond.

Once again Swann's Nursery provided a large tree for outside the church which the Millennium Group decorated.

We were able to hold our usual crib service and although numbers were down on previous years we still had a good turnout of adults and children. The crib was filled with the usual characters and animals and remained in place, along with the Christmas Trees, until into the New Year.

The collection taken raised £120.00 which was donated to the Pop-Up Shop at St Felix'.

In conjunction with the Village Hall Committee,, we were able to run a Summer Fete, thanks to the generosity of the Briginshaw family for the use of their garden. A total of just over £2300.00 was raised which was shared equally between the village hall and church.

We received a donation by the Parish Council which went a long way to keeping the churchyard grass cut and the hedges trimmed.

Our Parish Share this year was £10,900 which we were able to meet thanks mainly to the income received from our investments.

MJ F & GPN (Churchwardens)

Report from Eyke C of E Primary School 2023

It has been a busy few months at Eyke but ones that show our vision and key drivers - Aspiration, Enrichment and Global Citizenship - are at the heart of all we try to do in school. Music continues to blossom at Eyke and we now have 52 children playing a musical instrument: violins, violas, cellos, double bass, piano and voice, along with two choirs and a junior and senior ensemble. We have also started Mini Music sessions for local parents with pre-school age children – it's now so busy we are asking people to book in advance! Last summer we had our second celebration of music at Snape Maltings with soloists, ensembles and choirs performing in the Britten Pears Studio for their families, our supporters and sponsors and this year we are planning to do this again, showcasing our amazing music programme

On Friday our Music Director, Mrs Dobing and I are starting on an 86-mile journey across the country following Hadrian's Wall. We aim to cover the distance in 4 days and Mrs Dobing will be dressed as a violin. We are raising money to support our music programme. Back at school the children will be doing a sponsored walk on Friday dressed as music instruments – please do look out for them and visit our Just Giving page if you would like to contribute.

17th Century London and the Great Fire was brought to life in February for the children in KS1. The children joined the role play, as townspeople carrying their goods away, fighting the fire, or trying to find others to blame! Samuel Pepys also appeared to give his account of what happened. And also in February we celebrated Science Week. We had a Science Careers Fair in the hall for all the pupils in KS2. The children had the opportunity to learn about agronomy, film production, physiotherapy, software design for the transport industry, the pharmaceutical industry and power networks. Meanwhile on the playground an enormous tractor appeared for the children in KS1 to explore. The fun continued later in the week with a Forensic Science Workshops in the hall for both KS1 and KS2.

Our Eco Committee is very grateful for all the contributions of batteries we have received from the village. We now also have a collection box in Bromeswell Village Hall. Please do continue to drop your used batteries with us – we are trying to collect 98kgs!

We are still waiting with baited breath to hear about the Denbury Homes developments. I continue to be concerned about traffic, car parking and how children who walk to school, especially any coming from the new development, will be able to do so safely. I strongly believe that a development of the community car park, also using land Denbury has earmarked to gift to the school should be properly incorporated into the plans so it is not left as an afterthought.

As always budget challenges continue to restrict the strategic development of the school. Our pupil numbers are becoming more consistent but this academic year is last year of 5 classes at Eyke and from September we will move to 4 larger classes of approximately 30 pupils.

Eyke Millennium Group Annual Report: 22/23

In June 2022 the group hosted and funded a very well attended Afternoon Tea to celebrate Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee, and as well as enjoying all the usual fare, guests topped off the occasion with a glass of prosecco to toast Her Majesty.

A christmas tree was erected outside the church in early December, as has happened now for many years, and another inside the church to add to the festive atmosphere. As always, thanks go to Swanns, who supply the tree free of charge. For many years, Mervyn Whitmore erected and dismantled the tree for us; he will be greatly missed for his constant presence, and the group sends sincere condolences to his family.

In mid March, we held a Spring and Mothering Sunday Afternoon Tea on a slightly different basis from the last one: it was a fund-raiser for the Village Hall, so tickets were charged for, and those attending were asked if they could provide some food or a draw prize. It was a very successful occasion; the food was generously provided and delicious, and we had a table full of prizes! The Group provided the prosecco. We raised £562 for village hall funds, which was a great result.

The costs associated with maintaining the defibrillator have now been taken over by the Parish Council. Last year, the group paid £204 for a new battery which is not sustainable over a long period. This year, the Parish Council paid £120 for new pads, which, like the battery, need replacing every three years. The advantage with the parish council taking over the expense is that the VAT can be reclaimed and it means that a device available for the benefit of all villagers, is being contributed to by everyone through the council tax.

Eyke Recreation Ground Annual Report 22/23

This is another area where the sad loss of Mervyn Whitmore is being felt. For many years, he kept an eye on the rec, seeing that all was well with the play equipment, picking up rubbish and so on, and keeping a meticulous written record of this.

It is good to see that the children's playground is quite well used, and for the most part dog owners pick up after their dogs, and use the doggy bins provided.

After some years of unsatisfactory dealings with Ipswich Borough Council, who were contracted to carry out quarterly inspections of the play equipment, the parish council has now engaged another local company, who will be carrying out an annual inspection in June and then quarterly.

The council is also looking into the possibility of installing an ordinary litter bin in a convenient spot.

Thanks go to Cllr. Ron Cushing, who has carried out repairs to the bench in the play area.

TREE WARDEN'S REPORT TO EYKE PARISH COUNCIL'S
AGM 23rd MAY 2023

After the blazing heat and lack of water during the summer of 2022 we were launched into a colder, frostier winter. The result of both these seasons was the loss of some semi mature saplings as well as some young, self seeded ones. However, the losses were not great and the remaining saplings are doing well.

After several unsuccessful attempts at growing oak saplings from acorns at home we changed tactics last autumn. As most of you will know a seedling oak puts down a tap root which doesn't occur successfully with pot grown seedlings. So with that in mind, plus having discovered many self seeded saplings in the far side of the copse through the summer, we decided to think laterally and planted around two dozen acorns in scattered areas around the copse. We will find out if we have been successful later in the summer.

Our second attempt at receiving help from inmates at Hollesley open prison ended in naught. All arrangements had been agreed with the prison with the prisoners due to arrive the following Wednesday morning when I received an email from them simply stating that 'the prisoners will be unable to come'. I have no desire to approach the prison again.

I have started working in the copse with the usual strimming of nettles, strimming grass around the smaller saplings, as well as keeping brambles under control. If the summer isn't too dry this year we should return to seeing some beautiful butterflies and moths – we have already seen peacocks, small coppers and an orange tip and I am looking forward to the arrival of cinnabar moths. Many trees are growing on well and begin to look quite mature. Silver birch, hawthorne, hazel and sycamore seem to be happiest there with plenty of gorse and broom seeding themselves. I shall enjoy watching things grow during this summer and report to the Parish Council during the year.