



The Waste North November 2020



Visit suffolk.gov.uk/coronavirus for health advice, service changes, business support and schools' guidance.

Keep up to date on the latest guidance on Covid-19 from central government here: www.gov.uk/coronavirus

Here we go again....

While Suffolk County Council did not provide the Government-funded vouchers to schools for Free School Meals over the half term week, they were keen to support families and children in need so that no child would go hungry.

I have already sent out to Parish Councils the list of activities and funding that SCC passed on to the residents of Suffolk but in summary:-

DEFRA awarded Suffolk County Council £770,000 as its share of the hardship grant. Suffolk Public Sector Leaders provided further match funding of £800,000.

So far, the Suffolk system has spent £600,000 and this covers:

- The Local Welfare Assistance Scheme that funds supermarket, food and fuel vouchers; school uniforms; essential furniture items; white goods; and oil heating refills.
- The Suffolk Advice and Support Service phonenumber.
- A donation of £100,000 to the Suffolk Community Foundation to provide grants to organisations to help communities with immediate hardship.

Suffolk County Council has committed £250,000 to Suffolk Foodbanks and awarded a further £60,000 to the Suffolk Community Foundation's emergency hardship fund.

The Suffolk Support and Advice Line has been set up to help address issues regarding finance, housing etc . It can help with debt advice, budgeting, mortgage,

rent or credit card problems and employment queries. The number is **0800 068 3131** and is manned Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm. People can also go to: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19/suffolk-advice-and-support-service/>

Suffolk Community Foundation

The Suffolk Community Foundation has many grants available that are there to help community groups (charity and volunteer groups) and also to provide grants for any number of consequences of Coronavirus, for all types of organisations. It is well worth looking at their website if you are aware of a group or organisation that could benefit. www.suffolkcf.org.uk

Adopt East launches

14 October marked the launch of Adopt East, a regional adoption agency which has been established to recruit adopters across the East of England.

Adopt East will work across local authorities in Southend, Thurrock, Essex, Suffolk, Norfolk, Hertfordshire, Bedford and Luton to find families for children who are waiting to find their forever home. Adoptionplus, Barnardo's, and Adoption UK are also part of the partnership.

The Adopt East alliance will deliver the highest quality adoption service to children and families throughout the region by bringing together the expertise and skills of all its partners.

The scale of the organisation means that adopters will have access to a larger number of children waiting for adoption. This will help partners to match children with the right family for them, at the earliest opportunity.

As someone who has always taken a great interest in the children who come into the care system of SCC, even to the extent of providing supported lodging, it is good to know that all these partners are working together to provide 'forever' homes and that Adopt East is committed to providing good quality adoption support services to support all families with their adoption journey.

Councils ready with Test and Trace Support Payment for most vulnerable

Councils in Suffolk are helping administer a Government scheme to provide financial help to those on low incomes and benefits who must self-isolate.

If you have been contacted by NHS Test and Trace and told to self-isolate, you are under a legal obligation to do so, and could be eligible for a £500 Test and Trace Support Payment.

Those who are eligible will need to meet all the following criteria:

- Told to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace.
- Employed or self-employed.
- Cannot work from home and will lose income as a result.

- Currently receiving at least one of the following benefits: Universal Credit; Working Tax Credit; income-based Employment and Support Allowance; income-based Jobseeker's Allowance; Income Support; Housing Benefit; and/or Pension Credit.

Applications are made for one person only and any further applications within the same household must be made by each individual. Payments are subject to tax but not National Insurance. People must make the application within 14 days of the last day of their NHS test and trace self-isolation period.

If asked to do so by Test and Trace, you must self-isolate by law. Failure to do so will mean you are no longer eligible for the payment and steps will be made to recover the funds.

Please visit the [NHS Test and Trace](#) website for more details of the NHS Test and Trace self-isolation requirements for those:

- Testing [positive](#)
- Those who have been in [contact with someone](#) who has tested positive and now has been told to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace.

Visit Mid Suffolk District Council website for details on how to apply for the £500 Test and Trace Support Payment: www.midsuffolk.gov.uk

Post COVID – if only!

As we go into lockdown again I want to pay tribute to all those members of our communities that went above and beyond during the previous lockdown and who are preparing to do the same again. I hope it will be just for the 4 weeks and because we are in a low risk area we will be in Tier 1 again and ready to get into Christmas preparations.

Locality Budgets

We have only 6 months until the County Council elections in May. There will be a 6 week moratorium period before the election. Some parishes have bids in to the Locality Budget process already. The budgets are unlikely to be carried over so I would request that bids are put in as soon as possible.

Jane Storey

2nd November 2020