

WEST SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCILLOR SUSAN GLOSSOP
Annual report to Risby Parish Council 7th May 2026

Committees on which I serve.

Development control
Overview and scrutiny committee
Officer's appeal committee
Staff consultive panel
West Suffolk Rural Bus Service panel

Outside bodies

West Stow Anglo Saxon Village Trust
Feoffment Trust

100 % Attendance record for all Council meetings

Council tax April 2026- 2027

West Suffolk Council Band D increase	2.96%	to £209.70
Suffolk County Council increase	4.99%	to £1,731.69
Police and Crime Commissioner increase	5.16%	to £304.47
Town and parish average increase	5.22%	to £105.61

Local tax reduction scheme

This scheme will be extended for another year from the 1st April 2026. This is a means tested scheme that aims to support residents in financial hardship considering the cost-of-living crisis. The reduction is a 100% on the Council tax reduction scheme and lasts for one year only.

Locality budget spends April 2025-April 2026

Risby Village Hall	Toilet refurbishment project	£ 800.00
Suffolk Wildlife Trust	Lackford Lakes Handwashing project	£ 800.00
West Stow Park Run	Pilot Park Run	£ 800.00
Culford Village Hall	Refurbishment of toilets	£ 1,200.00

Planning Applications

Planning applications are of importance to residents several individual planning applications have been submitted. Most applications have been approved enabling people to build extensions or make alterations to their property. Not all applications go smoothly however, and I would strongly advise people wanting

to put in an application to talk to the Parish Council who make comments pertinent to each application. It is worth having pre-application advice from Planning Officers. I am also readily available to discuss any individual plans with anyone and I frequently act as a go-between between resident and Planning Officer to try to resolve any problems on an informal basis.

Risby has had many planning applications submitted which have been approved smoothly whilst some have caused the community concern. The Steel Stock application which was refused by the District Council only to be approved by the planning inspectorate albeit with a very long list of conditions which have not been agreed with the local planning department to date.

Garden Waste Collection

The cost of a brown bin £53 per year for 2026

link for signing up on line: www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/gardenwaste

Issues raised by the Community

There was a meeting held for the parish councils with the Police and the MP Nick Timothy to discuss the use of motorbikes using the A1101 as a speed track especially at weekends SCC were asked to cut back the vegetation which was obscuring the signs. Since the seasonal closure of the byways to protect them there has been a decrease in the bikes.

Many of the issues have been highway issues which the Suffolk County Councillor are responsible for. There has been concern raised about the speeding of the traffic and the very large lorries using the roads through the villages and not the directions diversion routes when the A14 has been having refurbishing work carried out overnight.

Fly tipping

Maintenance of public rights of way

Dog fouling

Flooding has been a big issue

Public footpaths overgrown with weeds

The use of the byways by 4x4's and motor bikes

Flooding has been a major problem with need for better management of ditches and drains being maintained to deal with the excessive water.

Pot holes

Unitary Councils in Suffolk

The Government has taken the decision that Suffolk will be served by three unitary councils West Suffolk, East Suffolk, South Suffolk and Ipswich from 2028.

West Suffolk will cover existing West Suffolk Council area, Babergh and Mid Suffolk

East Suffolk will include the current East Suffolk council and parts of Mid Suffolk South Suffolk and Ipswich will cover existing Ipswich Borough council parts of Babergh and parts of East Suffolk.

Timetable

Elections for SCC Councillors 7th May 2026

Elections for the Shadow authorities May 2027 these will prepare for the new councils in April 2028

From 2027 to 2028 the District Councillors and the SCC Councillors will carry out the day-to-day functions of the Councils and the new shadow Councillors will carry out the preparation work for 2028.

There will be town and parish elections in 2027

The election for the Mayor for Suffolk and Norfolk is due to be held on the 4th May 2028

Better Recycling in Suffolk

To start in June 2026 there will be additional bins to the blue and black bins

Brown bins are for garden waste and are a voluntary paid scheme at £53

New food waste caddies one small one for indoors and one for the weekly kerbside collection

New green lid for recycling paper cardboard newspapers egg boxes

Blue bins glass bottles, foil trays, tetra pack, plastic bottles, carry bags, tin foil, compostable food bags

Black bins nappies and such like and non- recycle items

There are new small recycling centres across Suffolk visit Suffolk recycling centres on line

There will be instructions delivered with the bins on what goes where and collection days.

Solar for business

We have made an agreement with Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils to offer companies in their area access to our successful Solar for Business initiative.

This is a pilot between the three councils to help support businesses save money, reduce their impact on the environment and of course provide an income to support council services.

Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils asked if we could extend our initiative into their area to support their businesses and their environmental ambitions. West Suffolk Council will retain the income from any projects delivered in their areas and, of course, the scheme remains open to West Suffolk businesses.

Businesses can reduce their carbon emissions and save money on energy bills by signing up to have solar panels provided and installed on their premises, for free.

Electricity generated by the panels is then sold to the business at a rate lower than their current tariff and help reduce energy bills.

Solar for Business has been running successfully in West Suffolk for nine years – helping more than a hundred companies to save a total of around £700,000 and 2,000 tonnes in harmful CO₂ emissions per year.

Businesses across Babergh and Mid Suffolk will now also be able to sign up to the scheme.

To be eligible, businesses must be within West Suffolk, Babergh or Mid Suffolk's district boundaries, and must have a minimum electricity consumption of 5,000kWh per year. For a firm paying 25p/kWh this would mean electricity bills of around £1250 per year.

To find out more about the scheme, businesses can email: environment@westsuffolk.gov.uk, call 01284 757631 or visit: www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/solarforbusiness

This pilot is a great example of councils working together and using our local knowledge and expertise to deliver initiatives tailored for our local businesses. It also is part of our strategic priority for sustainable growth and environmental resilience.

Housing Pathway Service

The aim of this service will be to help house and support vulnerable people and to further West Suffolk Council's work in preventing and reducing homelessness.

The West Suffolk Housing Pathway will be tailored to individual needs to help people who need support either in sustaining accommodation or to maintain independent living.

This will include support for people with learning difficulties or mental health needs, people battling drug or alcohol addiction, homeless people and ex-offenders. It will also help people who are working but who need additional support.

The launch of the new service by West Suffolk Council, follows directly on from the aims and actions set out in our [Housing, Homelessness Reduction and](#)

[Rough Sleeping Strategy](#), which was shaped through public engagement and adopted late last year.

We have secured 39 beds – all previously supported with Housing related Support (HRS). The new service will offer three levels of support from accommodation only through to high level care for people with complex needs who may pose a risk to themselves and others.

Our continued emphasis will be on homelessness prevention while also breaking the pattern of repeat homelessness that sadly happens for some of the people we help.

As agreed last year, the new housing pathway service is backed with £200,000 a year of funding from the council's housing reserves.

The new service follows on from changes by Suffolk County Council to only fund HRS for people to whom it has a statutory responsibility.

While the changes to HRS were initially due to take effect on 1 April 2024, Suffolk Public Sector Leaders provided interim funding for a year to allow time for the district and borough councils to look at alternative provision.

Through this new service we are helping the most vulnerable people in our communities while also working to deliver on some of the key aims set out in our strategy to tackle and reduce homelessness and rough sleeping.

The strategic priorities for the administration of West Suffolk Council

Affordable available decent homes

Environment resilience

Sustainable growth

Thriving communities

Work on the local plan for 2024 – 2040

The West Suffolk local plan was adopted in Summer 2025. The Government have asked that work on the next local plan to start straight away and to be completed in 30 months and the West Suffolk housing delivery per year has been increased from 750 to 1200 which will put a large burden on infrastructure. The process for calls for site has already started.

Contact details for your District Councillor

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