

# Parish Report – June 2021

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## SCC election results

Local elections took place on Friday May 6<sup>th</sup> for SCC's 75 county councillor seats, as well as several district councillor seats and the Police & Crime Commissioner. The Conservatives gained five seats and retain overall control of the Council, with a strong majority of 55 seats.

The Greens tripled their numbers to 9 seats. The Liberal Democrats have 4 seats down from 6, Labour have 5, down from 12 alongside 1 Independent and 1 West Suffolk Independent.

Suffolk County Council's annual general meeting took place on May 27<sup>th</sup>.

## GLI Group becomes official opposition

Following the recent election, the Greens, Liberal Democrats, West Suffolk Independents and Independents have formed a political Group. The Green, Liberal Democrat & Independent (GLI) Group has 15 councillors overall and will take on the role of official opposition at Suffolk County Council.

For the year 2021/2022 I will be the Leader of the Group.

Diverse views are so important in politics, and having different people working together will only make us more effective in a progressive way. The Green, Lib Dem & Independent Group is ready to hold the Conservative administration to account and challenge them on doing the very best they can for the people of Suffolk.

## Boundary Commission Review: consultation reopens

An additional phase of public consultation has opened in the Boundary Commission's review of Suffolk County Council's electoral arrangements. The consultation focuses on new proposals for council division boundaries. This includes removing Wetheringsett from Upper Gipping and adding Stowupland and Rishangles.

The consultation closes on June 21<sup>st</sup> and can be completed at the link below:

<https://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/eastern/suffolk/suffolk-county-council>

## Launch of The Queen's Green Canopy In Suffolk

The Queen's Green Canopy is a tree planting and preservation campaign commemorating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022. Partners including Suffolk County Council are working together to preserve and enhance existing woodland while increasing both canopy cover and access to green space.

Tree Wardens will work with communities and parish councils to link up existing woodland with woodland walkways and hedgerows as part of the Queen's Green Canopy. This tree planting will create natural corridors for biodiversity and link up existing footpaths and bridleways.

Different organisations are invited to get involved. Find out more at [www.suffolk-lieutenancy.org.uk/queens-green-canopy](http://www.suffolk-lieutenancy.org.uk/queens-green-canopy)

## Developers' Guide consultation open

Suffolk County Council has launched a consultation on an updated version of the Developers' Guide. The guide is a document to support all those involved in major planning applications in the county.

To make sure that new developments result in improvements to local communities, developers must make financial contributions to local authorities, known as Section 106 agreements, or through the Community Infrastructure Levy. The updated guide aims to support developers and make them aware of what they should consider with their plans. The consultation runs from 17 May to 28 June and can be filled out at the link below:

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/consultations-petitions-and-elections/consultations/developers-guide-to-infrastructure-contributions-in-suffolk/>

## **New electric taxi-bus service launches in East Suffolk**

Suffolk County Council has launched a 12-month trial of Katch – a new sustainable electric taxi-bus service running in East Suffolk. Katch provides a travel solution for local residents and visitors in Wickham Market and Framlingham, as well as for those who need to meet their rail connections at Wickham Market train station in Campsea Ashe. The service will be available seven days a week from 6.30am to 10.30pm on Monday to Saturday and 9am to 7pm on Sunday. All journeys must be booked in advance via the Katch App or telephone by calling 01728 55 44 55. The cost of a return journey is £7 and a single journey is £4. If successful and is regularly used by commuters and rail passengers, Suffolk County Council is keen to facilitate further schemes across the county.

For further information about Katch, please visit [www.katchalift.com](http://www.katchalift.com)