

## **TOP-TEN REPORT FOR BUNGAY AND THE VILLAGES (JULY 2023)**

**East Suffolk Councillors Toby Hammond and Anthony Specca**

1. A lot of our focus in July was drawn by the VC Cooke incinerator, which is proposed in the Ellough ward just outside of Beccles, near to residential areas and several primary schools. Suffolk County Council unfortunately granted planning permission for this in April, but it is East Suffolk Council's formal role to issue the environmental permit which would allow it to operate. Parish and Town Councillors from Barnby, North Cove and Bungay made huge efforts to bring this to residents' attention through a widely distributed leaflet. We have been seeking detailed legal advice on our options and on the technicalities around the associated air emissions, and have advised VC Cooke to apply for the permit before they spend a lot of money on building the facility.
2. VC Cooke are holding a public meeting at 6pm on 21st August at the Beccles Public Hall, and we strongly encourage any residents concerned about this proposal to attend.
3. On 2nd July, East Suffolk Services Ltd launched. This is a new company wholly-owned by the council which will operate our refuse collection, recycling, grounds and street cleaning. Moving away from the previous outsourcing arrangement, and bringing these vital services back under direct control of the council should give us more control, transparency and value for money.
4. Toby appeared on BBC Look East on 5th July to discuss the commencement of the regeneration of Lowestoft seafront, which is the first stage of a larger £25m investment scheme in the town being led by East Suffolk Council
5. Anthony, in his role as Council Chair, represented East Suffolk at the Ipswich Suffolk Pride event, and the Bungay Pride event.
6. On 11th July our East Suffolk Cabinet approved a ground-breaking new two-year pilot to improve access to private rented housing, which has been developed by the Housing Team. A new company owned by the Council, East Suffolk Lettings Ltd, will offer a rent guarantee, and a financial incentive to landlords letting their houses at a slightly lower rate through the scheme.
7. Toby attended the July Planning North committee to consider a small number of applications relating to Kessingland and Blundeston. Although the majority of planning applications are determined by ESC officers, we have the option to refer controversial ones to be considered at committee. Accordingly, if you would like to draw our attention to any particular planning application of concern in your parish, please do get in touch with either of us.
8. Repairs to the failing Bungay Staithe bridge finally got underway at the end of July, which is the access point to the river for the Scouts, Canoe Club, Riverside Centre and a popular route to Falcon Meadow. These major works are being funded by the private bridge owner, but with a contribution from East Suffolk Council. More work on the access arrangements is ahead but we congratulate all those involved in getting to this milestone on this complex and controversial project.
9. On 23rd July, Bungay was recognised as a 'Dementia Friendly Community' by the Alzheimer's Society. The Bungay Dementia Project was formed by officers from East Suffolk working with various town groups including Bungay Community Support and ESC's former councillor Judy Cloke.
10. Stage 5 of the Tour of Britain cycling competition will start and finish from Felixstowe on Thursday 7th Sept, passing through Framlingham and Woodbridge and is supported by East Suffolk Council amongst other sponsors. More details on where to spectate are at [tourofbritain.co.uk](http://tourofbritain.co.uk)