

TOP-TEN REPORT FOR BUNGAY AND THE VILLAGES (AUGUST & SEPTEMBER 2023)

East Suffolk Councillors Toby Hammond and Anthony Specia

1. We encourage all parishes to coordinate data on speeding and inappropriate HGV traffic in our ward. These problems impact us all, and we can make a stronger case for action by Suffolk County Council if we show how widespread they really are. Bungay Deputy Mayor Jordan Hindes has kindly agreed to serve as a focal point – jordan.hindes@bungaytowncouncil.gov.uk.
2. We've received V.C. Cooke's application for an environmental permit for their proposed waste incinerator at Ellough, which Suffolk County Council authorised in May. We encourage everyone to have their say in the public consultation – in person at Beccles Old Ambulance Station, 17th October 3.00 to 7.00 pm and 18th October 10.00 am to 12.00 noon, or by email to ep@eastsuffolk.gov.uk.
3. We've instructed East Suffolk officers to evaluate V.C. Cooke's application with great concern for the homes and schools nearby and downwind. We're also concerned about East Suffolk's climate commitments. V.C. Cooke intend to burn construction and demolition waste that, depending on the mix, contains plastics and other fossil-fuel products. Burning such waste can be like burning fossil fuels directly, and may be a negative step now that coal is phased out.
4. We've also examined another V.C. Cooke development – the King's Head Hotel, one of Bungay's most iconic buildings. We're keen to see the King's Head renewed with proper sensitivity to its historic and community significance. East Suffolk planning and building-control officers have charted a path for V.C. Cooke to do so, and we await their improved application. Regulatory investigations continue regarding works already undertaken.
5. We encourage all councils and residents to take part in East Suffolk's public consultation on the Draft Custom and Self-Build Supplementary Planning Document, so that local voices are heard in the development of planning regulations. Comments can be submitted online at <https://eastsuffolk.inconsult.uk/CSB0823DRAFT/consultationHome>.
6. We haven't yet received a permit application for the proposed Shipmeadow Solar Farm, and we're keeping a close watch on it. We continue to urge RES to respond to concerns, and to offer community benefit. We've connected affected groups with Community Energy South (CES) to explore community-based alternatives. We're grateful to Ilketshall St Andrew Parish Council for taking the lead on organising a community-energy workshop with CES.
7. We participated in the first joint Community Surgery together with Bungay Mayor Frances Betts, Bungay Councillor John Adams and Suffolk County Councillor Judy Cloke. We're grateful to Bungay Town Council for organising the joint surgery, and we look forward to connecting with residents at more such events in future.
8. We were delighted to allocate some of our Enabling Communities funding to help Redisham Parish Meeting to repair and improve their community 'phone-box' defibrillator installation.
9. Anthony continues to attend many civic events in his role as East Suffolk Chair, including the finale performance of *Call Me John* at the Fisher Theatre in Bungay, the Mid-Suffolk Chair's charity BBQ, the Royal Air Force Association Battle of Britain memorial service in Beccles, the Beccles Mayor's Civic Service, and the Ipswich Mayor's charity tea. He also joined the Mayor of Felixstowe to drop the flag to start Stage Five of the Tour of Britain cycle race.
10. Toby continues to keep busy as East Suffolk Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Transport, including oversight of town-by-town reviews of parking across the istrict. Dates for a parking review in Bungay are expected soon.