



September 2020

Welcome to my monthly newsletter

Communities and supporting residents

Government support for those shielding has now stopped meaning that people will no longer receive a free food box or prescription delivery but they will retain their access to priority shopping slots at local supermarkets. The Communities Team is therefore working with those referrals to try to ensure they have a sustainable source of support.

Grants, funding and business matters

Response

Applications for both the original business and more recent discretionary grants schemes has now closed . ESC has awarded grants totalling over £62.6m to 5450 businesses in East Suffolk. Feedback from the businesses receiving grants has been that they really are providing a lifeline and allowing them to continue trading and retain staff.

The ED team also continue to support safe town centre reopening with the roll out of the Reopening High Streets Safely Fund. Barriers and signage have now been provided to a number of towns and in collaboration with Environmental Health team we have now supported road closures/ highways changes in 5 towns to allow for the safe use of high streets.

Recovery

The ED team continue to develop the Council's Economic Growth programme so it can reflect the new economic environment following the lockdown. This adapted plan will continue to focus on supporting enterprise, growth in established businesses and attracting investment focussed in our key sectors. There will also be a strong focus on inclusive growth and ensuring our workforce has the right skills to take advantage of the employment opportunities available.

Environmental Health

Test & Trace

East Suffolk Council are leading the Suffolk Test & Trace workstream on complex workplaces and enforcement issues and chair weekly meetings with representatives from Environmental Health, Trading Standards and the Public Health Team. The group have links with the HSE and FSA who are the enforcing authorities in a number of these more complex work settings such as meat processing plants and manufacturing businesses.

Lessons are being shared nationally from outbreak investigations carried out in other parts of the country, for example, the 2 Sisters meat processing plant in Anglesey. The Food & Safety Team have written to our meat and fish processing premises with information and advice on Test & Trace, Covid secure requirements and cleaning arrangements and follow up calls will be made to these businesses to check their understanding of the Test & Trace requirements and discuss any particular risks with their workforce. The retail and hospitality sector have already received information and guidance from the team following the easing of restrictions and other complex work settings will be the focus of future engagement work.

Operational updates

Vehicles :



We are pleased to announce a number of new electric vehicles with our partners Norse. This is an important flagship initiative to meet our environment vision, policy implementation to meet the strategic plan and to implement practical measures to meet carbon neutrality by 2030 as a direct result of declaring a climate emergency.

Sizewell:

Early September an extraordinary meeting of the full council was called to discuss Sizewell.

The Council's priority is to ensure, should Sizewell C new nuclear power station be granted consent by the Secretary of State, that the best possible outcome is achieved for local communities, by virtue of maximising benefits, minimising adverse impacts, and achieving mitigation and compensatory measures for the district.

I spoke at length on environmental impact and in particular highlighted the pollution caused by a predominantly road orientated transport solution and negative effects from increased sea defences – both issues may cause concern for the Deben Peninsula.

You can view my speech :

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4cZQqjLQ2Zs>

I start at 22 mins

I arranged for a letter to be sent to our Mps expressing concerns of lack of legislation in dealing with the environment. In particular in planning and dealing with recycling / waste issues

James Mallinder
Deben Ward
Environment Portfolio holder