

Date: 2nd October 2022

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For information on local support during the Cost-of-Living Crisis, visit: [Cost of living support | Suffolk County Council](#)

Latest SCC COVID information is available here: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19/>

For information on supporting Ukrainian refugees in Suffolk, email: refugeesupport@suffolk.gov.uk or ukrainesupport@communityactionsuffolk.org.uk

The County Mourned for the Death of Her Majesty

Cllrs within our Group attended Proclamations throughout the County. The news of Queen Elizabeth II's passing meant the Council was in a time of mourning. Many meetings, including Cabinet were cancelled. Group members attended ceremonies in their divisions for the funeral.

Open Letter sent by GLI Leader to Conservative Councillors

Cllr Andrew Stringer, our Group Leader, has sent an open letter to all Conservative Councillors at SCC. The letter asks this Council to disassociate itself from the policies outlined by PM Liz Truss and Chancellor Kwasi Kwarteng.

Cllr Stringer states the government's approach - scrapping planning rules, ripping up environmental protections, and reopening fracking sites - will cause irreversible damage to nature and Net Zero.

Cllr Stringer asks the Leader of the Conservatives to make a public statement, and implores the Council to instead support investment for nature recovery, renewable energy, and insulating homes.

Suffolk in talks to become investment zone

SCC has let it be known that it has agreed to start discussions with Government to become an investment zone as part of the PM's new growth and investment strategy.

Our political group has gone on record in the media that we are opposed to the idea since the Government says it wants to remove environmental controls and planning controls within these zones. Since the council began talks, the RSPB, National Trust and the Wildlife Trusts, including Suffolk Wildlife Trust have all described the plans, announced in Kwasi Kwarteng's mini budget, as "an attack on nature".

It is not yet clear which parts of Suffolk the council wants to be in the zone. The current Freeport East Zone, (investment zones are designed to replace Freeport zones) extends from the coast 50 miles inland to Sudbury and includes almost all villages in Babergh.

Warm Homes Suffolk Fund – Access Free funding and Advice

Suffolk's councils have joined together to establish Warm Homes Suffolk. The service will offer expert advice on reducing energy bills and usage, as well benefits you may be entitled to during this crisis.

The fund is open to homeowners, renters, and landlords and will target homes that need insulating and more efficient heating.

For more information, visit: www.warmhomessuffolk.org, or call 03456 037 686.

Suffolk GLI Respond to Cancelled Taxi Contracts

One of the big stories in the local news has been the increase in taxi companies cancelling SCC contracts to provide school transportation. Young people and children, including those with SEND needs, have once again had their education and development disrupted.

Reports from EADT and BBC News state that the rise in fuel prices and cost of living has forced many companies to cancel contracts. EADT further reports suggest district council policy, stating taxi vehicles can be no older than eight years, has forced taxi companies to cancel contracts.

Suffolk GLI responded to the news article. While our Group is supportive of promoting cleaner transport, taxi companies need to be properly supported to transition to Net Zero. For more on what we said, visit our website (link at the bottom of the report)

SCC Unveils First of their EV Fleet

The first delivery of 16 electric vehicles (EVs) will be in November, as the council begins its program to upgrade all existing pool cars.

The Renault Zoe has been chosen as the first of the new vehicles, with 10 MG ZS to arrive in April 2023. The aim is to completely electrify the fleet by 2024.

EV Charging – Expression of Interests!

SCC have been successful in a bid for funding towards new EV charging infrastructure. The £2.75m funding will focus on community-owned car parks, where charging can be accessed 24/7.

If you wish to express interest and make the Council aware of your area, please contact Peter Frost, Environment Strategy Officer - peter.frost2@suffolk.gov.uk

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Website - [Suffolk Green, Liberal Democrat and Independent Group – The GLI Group at Suffolk County Council \(suffolkgli.wordpress.com\)](http://SuffolkGreen.LiberalDemocratandIndependentGroup-TheGLIGroupatSuffolkCountyCouncil.suffolkgli.wordpress.com)

Simon Harley

Suffolk County Councillor for Peninsula Division