Hello! Welcome to our June update. We will continue to send through the energy updates as and when possible and hope that you are finding the information useful. Please do send any emails regarding Sizewell C onto: sizewellc@eastsuffolk.gov.uk and continue to copy us in.

We also wanted to pre warn you regarding a change to planning notifications (‘The government issued some further changes to procedures for Site Notices and other matters on the 13th May. As a result, the council will not be required to put up a Site Notice on any site.’) so that you could all think about the best way for you and your community to find put about planning applications - eg a “no comment” Facebook page, on your websites, notice boards etc. if you have another idea about how this could happen please do let us know so that we can share the information with other town & parish councils within our ward. If you could also ensure that you let us know regarding any comments that you do make online please so that we are up to date and can then help in any way possible.

As you know from our past reports, we are encouraging all communities, where possible, to register on the planning portal so that you can view, comment and keep up to date. You can view applications and register at: https://publicaccess.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/online-applications/

As many of you are holding virtual council meetings now please be aware that we will attend where possible as home schooling/other meetings and internet connection can hinder some participation.

Once again, thank you to everyone who is supporting their community during the pandemic, there are too many people to thank by name but please know that you are all appreciated.

**Home schooling**

East Suffolk has designed some lessons for home schooling.

Lessons include problems of plastic pollution and engagement on the importance of clean air. These lessons can be found on the East Suffolk webpage:

www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/environment-learning-zone

**Applications open for popular apprenticeship scheme**

Applications are now open for a successful apprenticeship scheme which helps young people kick-start their careers in local government. Applications are now open for the East Suffolk Council apprenticeship scheme. Five opportunities are available in a number of teams, including Communities, Customer Services, Elections, Private Sector Housing and Property Information.

Cllr Colin Hedgley, Chairman of East Suffolk Council said: “Our apprenticeship scheme is always very popular and offers a route into employment with plenty of additional benefits. We are committed to offering local young people opportunities to grow and fulfil their potential and with this in mind, we felt it was important to continue with the scheme, even during these uncertain times. More than 80% of our apprentices stay on with the Council once their apprenticeship is complete and continue to have long and varied careers in local government. I would encourage anyone interested to apply for these exciting opportunities.”

Apprenticeships roles offer a host of benefits, including a fully funded qualification, invaluable workplace skills, training and development opportunities and generous annual leave entitlements.

Applications close on 12 July and due to the current situation, interviews will take place virtually. Successful applicants will start in September, although this will be regularly reviewed to reflect the latest government guidance.

The apprenticeship scheme gives young people a clear pathway from education into work and teaches them key skills which are essential for employment, such as questioning and listening, giving feedback and managing relationships. The scheme also benefits existing council staff by developing their supervisory and management skills, as well as enabling them to become mentors.

After their apprenticeship is complete, the apprentices are encouraged to apply for alternative roles within the Council. This gives them the opportunity to secure permanent employment and also creates a vacancy for a new apprentice. Full details of all the apprenticeship opportunities and details on how to apply: https://www.suffolkjobsdirect.org/EastSuffolkCouncils/SearchResults.aspx?ocg=1758

**Extra support now available for small businesses**

East Suffolk Council is now processing the discretionary business grants for local businesses provided by the Government in response to the COVID-19 outbreak.

On 2nd May 2020, the Government announced that extra funding would be made available to local authorities to enable them to support small businesses outside the scope of the existing business grant fund scheme.

East Suffolk Council has been allocated £3,866,250 to fund the discretionary business support grants, and eligible businesses can now apply for grants of up to £10,000.

Due to the limited funding available and the need to assist as many businesses as possible, the Council will not be paying grants above £10,000 initially, however, this may be reviewed as the scheme progresses.

The Council has identified six areas as priorities at this stage, aimed at businesses which were not eligible for the Small Business Grant Fund or the Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grant Fund, in line with the Government’s requirements. These are:

· Businesses in shared spaces, such as within larger businesses units, office parks or incubation units, where their lettable space would have the equivalent of a rateable value of less than £15,000

· Permanent market traders on a market in the East Suffolk area

· Charities that were previously ineligible for support under the Small Business Grant Fund because they receive mandatory charity relief, rather than Small

Business Rate Relief, and were not eligible for the Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grant Scheme, but have premises with a rateable value of less than £15,000

· B&Bs which pay Council Tax instead of business rates

· Businesses that have significant premises costs and which are crucial to the local and regional economy

· Additional small and micro businesses with fixed costs

Eligible businesses must have less than 50 employees, have been trading on 11 March 2020, and be able to demonstrate that they have seen a significant drop in income as a result of the COVID-19 restriction measures.

We know it has been exceptionally tough for those businesses which have been ineligible for any grants or funding so far. While this money is very welcome, it is limited, and we know it will be a lifeline for many small businesses. Therefore, we have taken the decision to cap grants at £10,000 initially to ensure we are able to help as many businesses as possible. This may be reviewed as the scheme progresses, but right now our main priority is to get this much needed financial help to our small businesses as fast as possible.

The online form and full details about how to apply with full eligibility criteria can be found online at: https://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/business/covid-19-business-grant-funding/

**Delivering green homes in East Suffolk**

East Suffolk Council has launched a new Strategy to deliver more environmentally friendly homes as it continues its work to address climate change. In July 2019, East Suffolk Council voted unanimously to declare a climate emergency as part of its commitment to reduce its own carbon emissions and to encourage local communities to help fight climate change.

Now the Council’s first Housing Enabling Strategy has been approved by Cabinet and will play a key role in achieve its green commitments, while recognising the importance of enabling housing developments across the District.

The Strategy is a joint effort between the Council’s Housing and Planning teams, and delivers a shared vision for development in the district which adds to and supports existing measures already in place, locally and nationally, including the Council’s commitment to be carbon neutral by 2030.

We are delighted to launch the first Housing Enabling Strategy for East Suffolk Council, which recognises the need to facilitate new developments to meet local demand for affordable homes that are energy efficient. It also sets out our commitment to encourage housing providers and developers across East Suffolk to strive for a greener approach to both existing accommodation and new developments.

The Strategy provides simple, concise information on best practices for developers seeking to mitigate the impact of the building industry on the climate change and measures to address the effect of climate change. This Strategy shows how serious we are about tackling climate change in East Suffolk, and the key role the environment plays in our decision-making. It is not just about the plants and grass outside – it is about ensuring that homes in East Suffolk are

energy efficient and built to environmentally sustainable standards. Changes to how we operate, big and small, will make a big difference over time and help build a legacy for future generations. View East Suffolk's new Housing Enabling Strategy. https://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/assets/Housing/Housing-Enabling-Strategy.pdf

**Garden waste**

Since the resumption of our garden waste service on Monday 25 May, our refuse crews collected 1,042 tonnes of garden waste from East Suffolk households in just the first 6 days. That's over 94 lorry loads!

**A message from Peninsula Practice – video and information**

“Due to the Pandemic, our service has had to adapt to keep both patients and staff safe, and to manage your medical care with responsiveness, professionalism and compassion.

Because of the rapidly changing directives we receive in relation to the pandemic, we are unable to inform patients via local newsletters of these changes to our service. Therefore all practice updates are posted on our website: www.thepeninsulapractice.co.uk/coronaviruscovid-19 and Facebook page www.facebook.com/peninsula.practice.5”

You will currently find on both these social media sites a video message from Dr Lindsey Crockett, our senior partner addressing:

· Why we are seeing most patients at Orford.

· Asking patients to attend Landseer Road for blood tests where possible.

· Particular reassurances for Aldeburgh patients. https://vimeo.com/422250290/d46ab74b45

Thank you to everyone that took the time to join in on the Practices Zoom meeting. If you are able to share the updates and information to others via your conversations, notice boards, websites, social media pages etc then please do so.

**11th June deadline for SPR questionnaire**

COVID-19 – EA1N & EA2 Preliminary Meeting & Hearings: Currently the Planning Inspectorate is proposing ‘virtual’ meetings and hearings for EA1N & EA2 DCO’s. If you have registered your email on the PINS website you should have received an email requesting your views via a questionnaire, and have until 5pm on 11th June to complete the questionnaire, and link to this follows: https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=mN94WIhvq0iTIpmM5VcIjVhG9Fuq\_qRGqeaSXKX2cWNUMjVSR0ZGSzZOSllKRzU3UDhQVzY0NFpXQy4u

**NHS Test and Trace**

Now the NHS Test and Trace Service is in operation, it is perhaps sadly inevitable that some potentially fraudulent emails are currently being investigated.

In the event you are contacted by the NHS Test and Trace service, you will NOT be asked:

· for bank details, or payments

· for details of any other accounts, such as social media

· to set up a password or PIN number over the phone

· to call a premium rate number, such as those starting 09 or 087

You WILL be asked to sign into the NHS Test and Trace website. On the website, you’ll be asked for information including your name, date of birth and postcode. If you are unable to use the website, you will be asked for this information over the phone.

Calls will come from 0300 0135 000

**Should you have any fraud concerns over this matter or any other fraud issue please contact fraud@eastsuffolk.gov.uk . Tel: 01394 444444**

# Where you can be tested for coronavirus in Suffolk next week (EADT article)

## **Mobile testing units are continuing to visit towns across Suffolk and north Essex to provide coronavirus testing.**

The testing centres, organised by the Ministry of Defence and Suffolk Resilience Forum, will run alongside the permanent drive-through testing centre at Copdock, near Ipswich.

**Where will the testing centres be?**

■ Haverhill – Meadows Car Park – Monday, June 8 and Thursday, June 11.

■ Leiston – Leiston Leisure Centre, Red House Lane – Monday, June 8 and Thursday, June 11.

■ Lowestoft – Waterlane Leisure Centre, Rotterdam Road – Tuesday, June 9 and Friday, June 12.

■ Newmarket – Newmarket Leisure Centre, Exning Road – Tuesday, June 9 and Friday, June 12.

■ Bury St Edmunds – Disused recycling centre in Rougham Hill Road – Wednesday, June 10 and Sunday, June 14.

■ Eye – Hartismere Hospital – Wednesday, June 10 and Saturday, June 13.

**Who is eligible for testing?**

In England, anyone showing coronavirus symptoms – including fever, a persistent cough and losing senses of taste and smell – is eligible for testing.

Tests can be booked for yourself or any member of your household.

Tests are available at the regional centre in Copdock, the mobile centres and also via home testing kits.

All tests must be booked – there are no walk-in or drive-in appointments.

**How do you book a test?**

Tests can be booked via the [government’s online portal](http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/ask-for-a-test-to-check-if-you-have-coronavirus/) or by calling the new dedicated 119 number.

Essential workers can also book for priority testing, alongside those working in care homes – including asymptomatic carers.

In Waveney, tests for key workers such as teachers and those working in transport are eligible for free testing outside of the government’s testing capability.

The tests, offered by Norfolk and Waveney Clinical Commissioning Group, can be applied for via its [website](https://www.norfolkandwaveneyccg.nhs.uk/coronavirus-testing).

Government guidance states tests need to be carried out within the first five days of symptoms appearing in order to be the most effective.

*As always, please do not hesitate to get in touch if we can help in any way. Please stay up to date on the website. We do attempt to monitor, intervene and share news on social media where possible.*

*TJ and Jocelyn*