

County Councillor Report



March 2021

Palgrave Parish Council

Councillor Jessica Fleming, Hartismere Division, Suffolk

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COVID-19 testing in Suffolk if you don't have symptoms. Community testing is aimed at people who have to leave their home during lockdown, for example due to work or caring commitments, or for essential shopping. There are centres at Elmswell, Stowmarket and Eye Town Hall. To book a slot, visit: [COVID-19 testing in Suffolk if you don't have symptoms | Suffolk County Council](#)

Business Assistance – Suffolk authorities continue to support businesses through various packages including, but not limited to:

- *Local restrictions support grants (LRSG).* Visit: [Funding | Suffolk Growth](#) to find out more.
- *Additional Restrictions Grant.* Visit: [Funding | Suffolk Growth](#) to find out more.
- *Suffolk Inclusive Growth Investment Fund.* Intended to help Suffolk's business recovery. Round-2 announcement is due 26 March 2021. [SIGIF Funding | Suffolk Growth](#)

Suffolk County Council Budget Agreed – The Council at its February meeting announced a budget of £597.9million - an increase of £41million (7.4%) on 2020/21. About £15m is allocated to ongoing pandemic responses. Council tax will increase by 3.99% of which 2% is dedicated to social care.

Opt-in Open for Council funded school travel for 2021/2022 - If eligible for funded school travel you will be contacted by 15 May 2021, earlier if starting secondary school, but everyone using the service must opt in each year by 31st May. Please refer to <https://www.suffolkonboard.com/schooltravel/>

Plug In Suffolk - is offers grants for installing Electric Vehicle charging points at non-profit locations such as community centres, car parks and village halls. Visit [Green Suffolk's website](#) or contact Suffolk County Council's environment strategy officer Peter Frost (ESO) Peter.Frost2@suffolk.gov.uk

Recycling – Get Recycling Right Campaign! Locally, around 150 tonnes of nappies (about 3,000) end up in Suffolk recycling bins each year needing to be removed during sorting. This truly unpleasant job needs to be done by hand by staff at Suffolk's Material Recycling Facility in Gt Blakenham.

For bulky items, contact Mid Suffolk for collection. It costs **£42.50** for up to 5 separate items, or 10 bags of household refuse/garden waste. Be cautious about handing over to independent traders which may fly tip the materials collected.

The Suffolk Waste Partnership has a designated website on lessons and fun games for children - <http://www.suffolkschoolsrecycling.org.uk/>