Suffolk County Council - Member Update

For Moulton Parish Council, Monday 16 November 2026, 6:45pm

Cllr Adrian Whittle, FCIPD
Suffolk County Council | Newmarket & Red Lodge Division
Deputy Cabinet Member for Efficiency

West Suffolk District Council | Newmarket East Ward
Leader of Reform UK Group - West Suffolk

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1. Highways

Moulton Road across Warren Hill

I attended a road safety on Tuesday 3 November to review Moulton Road across Warren Hill with Suffolk County Council Highways officers (Highways liaison officer and Highways Safety officer). Also in attendance was Cllr Philippa Winter, Mayor of Newmarket Town Council, and Cllr Edge (Cambridgeshire County Council for section of road in his Division); Cambridgeshire County Council's Highways officer did not attend. The purpose of the visit was to observe if there was any speeding vehicles at the location of the horse crossing and up Warren hill.

Observations.

- No speeding vehicles observed along length of Moulton road at the time of our visit. Recent speed monitoring records show that excessive speeding is a rare occurrence along this section of Moulton road (Newmarket side of Warren hill).

- None of the various road crossing marshals (provided by local horse training yards) were wearing any high viz clothing (e.g., gilets). Highways safety officer recommend that hi-viz orange reflective clothing should be worn by people operating in the highway. It is the most effective measure to be visible to other road users. I have written to The Jockey Club Estates to pass on this simple road safety recommendation.

- SCC's Highways team confirmed that there is already a speed camera post on Suffolk's section of the highway (leaving Newmarket towards Moulton) that Newmarket Town Council can use to mount their mobile speed camera devices. Newmarket Town Councillor present was not

aware that the post was installed specifically for mounting mobile speed monitoring equipment.

- Cambridgeshire County Council section of Moulton road continues to have lots of road defects.

20 MPH Speed Limits

Moulton Parish Council asked whether there has been a change in Suffolk County Council's approach to reducing speed limits.

The recently adopted 20mph policy (2026) introduces a more flexible approach, with 20mph limits generally likely to be approved where average traffic speeds are below 28mph, while roads with average speeds between 28mph and 32mph may require additional measures such as gateway features or traffic calming, and roads above 32mph typically require more substantial interventions before a reduction would be considered.

Suffolk County border signs

There is ongoing confusion over which County Council is responsible for roads near Moulton. Some people raise concerns about Norwich road, near the Well bottom road, School road crossroads. The reality is that the majority of Norwich road is in Cambridgeshire. Unfortunately, because the county border is unclear, members of the public wrongly assume the road is within Suffolk. Any road defects or road safety measures on Norwich road are the responsibility of Cambridgeshire.

Because Suffolk County Council receives significant number of complaints about Norwich Road, in Cambridgeshire, I have therefore ordered Suffolk County border signs to be fitted so that everyone is clear which County Council is responsible for road maintenance, and road safety.

2. **Suffolk County Council Update: School Nursing Services**
I welcome the recommendation to protect frontline School Nursing provision following Suffolk County Council's Healthy Child Programme consultation. The original proposals included significant changes to School Nursing services, but feedback from frontline staff, families, schools and service users made a strong case for maintaining this vital support.

This is positive news for children, young people and families across Newmarket, Moulton, Kentford, Herringswell and communities across all of Suffolk. School Nurses provide important support for safeguarding, wellbeing, early intervention and partnership working with schools.

The outcome demonstrates the value of listening to those who deliver and rely upon services. It is particularly welcome given the significant financial pressures facing Suffolk County Council. Suffolk currently receives just £49 per resident in Public Health Grant funding, compared with an East of England average of £60 per resident.

Suffolk also receives the lowest Public Health Grant allocation in the East of England and ranks as the 20th lowest-funded authority out of 151 councils nationally, placing it in the bottom 13% of councils for public health funding.

Against this backdrop, I believe this recommendation strikes the right balance. While the Council must continue to spend taxpayers' money wisely and focus resources on its statutory and highest-priority services, protecting effective early intervention services such as School Nursing is both good value for money and the right thing to do for children and families.

Suffolk County Council is lobbying the Government for fair funding for Suffolk.

3. **Update on Newmarket Household Waste Recycling Centre**

I listened to residents who wanted the Newmarket Household Waste Recycling Centre reopened. At my request, Suffolk County Council officers thoroughly investigated every practical option — including part-time opening, a reduced service model, and alternative operating arrangements.

Officers have concluded that reopening the site is not financially viable. The site will not reopen.

Additional regulatory requirements have driven up the cost of running household waste recycling centres, while income from recyclable materials remains at historically low levels. Reopening would require a significant ongoing subsidy from Suffolk taxpayers. We will not back financially unviable projects.

This will disappoint many residents. The previous administration decided to close this site in 2011 — and six other recycling centres across Suffolk — as part of its savings programme. The last operator, Newmarket Open Door, later confirmed it could not continue on a sustainable basis and closed the site in 2018. In May 2026 the new administration inherited both those decisions and a constrained budget. We have confirmed we will not reopen a site that the previous administration closed when the numbers said it cannot pay its way.

Recycling arrangements have changed significantly since the site closed. Most households across West Suffolk now have enhanced kerbside collections,

making it far easier to recycle a wider range of materials from home. For larger items that cannot go in the bins, residents can use West Suffolk Council's bulky waste collection service.

I believed every realistic option should be properly examined. That has now been done. Suffolk County Council's approach is clear: we prioritise value for taxpayers' money and will only support services that are practical, cost-effective, and deliver real results. We will not commit public funds to projects that officers have shown are financially unviable.

The site is owned by West Suffolk Council. I have written to the relevant Cabinet Member asking them to explore options for making use of their asset and to relinquish the current licence with Suffolk County Council, which runs until March 2028.

4. **Purpose**

I attended a round-table stakeholder meeting held in Newmarket last week regarding vital rail infrastructure improvements and to outline key opportunities to support economic growth through improved regional rail connectivity.

Key points:

- Rail network improvements are needed for economic growth across Suffolk and the wider East of England
- Protection of the horseracing industry from excessive HGV container journeys
- Improved connectivity between Cambridge, Newmarket, Ely and Ipswich
- Enhanced rail freight links from Felixstowe to the Midlands
- Reduced pressure on the A14 corridor

5. **Priorities for this year**

Core services first: Work is underway to redirect resources to core frontline services.

Financial discipline: Achieving £21m savings through efficiency and waste reduction — not service cuts to residents

Next steps

I will continue to send regular, straightforward updates to this Council.

Please feel free to contact me with any local issues or feedback.

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