Suffolk County Council - Member Update

For Moulton Parish Council, Monday 21 September 2026

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**
   Following requests to me from residents, I have asked SCC's Highways team to improve our roads:

   - **Cambridgeshire's pot-holes - Moulton road**
     Residents are concerned that about pot-holes along Moulton road. Most people think that Moulton road is in Suffolk, the reality is that part of the road is within Cambridgeshire. When I inspected the road with a SCC's highways officer, it was clear that all the potholes are on the sections of the road that are the responsibility of Cambridgeshire County Council. I have asked SCC Highways team to partnership with their counterpart at Cambridgeshire County Council to fix their potholes asap.

   - **Horse crossing – Moulton road, Warren hill**
     Trainers have raised safety concerns about the quality of the road surface at the horse crossing point on Moulton road at the top of Warren hill. This crossing is in Cambridgeshire, so this is being escalated to Cambridgeshire County Council's highways team.

2. **Local Government Reorganisation and Judicial Review**
   I have continued to support Suffolk County Council's legal challenge against the Government's plans to abolish Suffolk County Council, together with Suffolk's five district councils and borough council, and replace them with three new unitary authorities. Following the council's judicial review challenge, the Government announced on 7 September 2026 that it was withdrawing its previous decision and reviewing the entire process. This means the proposal to abolish Suffolk's existing councils has been paused while the review takes place. The legal challenge has demonstrated the importance of standing up for Suffolk residents and local

democracy, and the council expects its legal costs to be recovered, protecting local taxpayers from the expense of the action.

3. **Higham village | housing development concerns**

I have also raised concerns on behalf of residents in **Higham** regarding reports of potential housing development around the village.

Following representations from local residents, I contacted West Suffolk Council to establish what information was available and whether any planning applications had been submitted. I was advised that no planning application had been received by the council in relation to the reported proposals at that time.

I also welcomed confirmation that an update would be provided to local parish councils so that communities are kept informed should any formal proposals come forward.

Local communities deserve transparency when significant development proposals are being considered, and residents should be properly informed before decisions affecting their area are made.

4. **Barnham village | concerns about housing undocumented immigrants in Suffolk**

On 16 September, I attended a local discussion in Barnham to hear Barnham Parish Councillors and residents' concerns and discuss the Government's consultation on plans for RAF Barnham.

Since the proposal was announced in June, local people have raised serious concerns about the impact of accommodating up to 1,250 asylum seekers in a small rural community with limited infrastructure and public services.

I previously attended the extraordinary meeting of West Suffolk Council on 1 July, where councillors unanimously agreed that RAF Barnham is not a suitable location for the proposal.

The Government has now escalated the process by submitting an Urgent Crown Development application, removing West Suffolk Council's ability to determine the planning application and transferring the final decision to the Secretary of State. While consultation is taking place, many residents understandably feel local democracy is being overridden.

I believe rural communities should not be expected to absorb national immigration pressures without proper consultation, transparency and a full assessment of the impact on local services, schools, infrastructure and community cohesion.

Barnham Parish Council is considering a symbolic referendum on leaving the UK, following a similar vote in Piddington, Oxfordshire, where approximately 90% of those voting backed a symbolic break from the UK in protest at Government asylum accommodation plans. Should local residents decide to pursue this course of action, I would support their right to make their views known and to send a clear message to Government about the impact its proposals could have on small rural communities

5. **Fixing pot-holes | assessing latest pothole repair technology**

On 1 September, I attended a demonstration of the JCB Pothole Pro, an innovative 3-in-1 pothole repair machine currently being trialled by Suffolk County Council. The machine is designed to cut, crop and clean potholes using a single piece of equipment, helping prepare repairs more quickly and efficiently.

The demonstration formed part of the council's efforts to explore new technologies and working methods that could help repair more potholes and improve road maintenance across Suffolk. The JCB Pothole Pro is being assessed alongside the council's existing repair methods to determine whether it can deliver better outcomes and improved value for money.

With residents rightly concerned about the condition of our roads, I welcome Suffolk County Council's willingness to examine all available options that could help repair more potholes, improve road surfaces and deliver the best possible value for local taxpayers

6. **Hatchfield 'farm', Fordham road, Newmarket | HGV concerns**

I attended a meeting of West Suffolk Council's Development Control Committee to speak on proposals for three large warehouse and commercial units at Hatchfield Farm, off Fordham Road, Newmarket. The development has the potential to create more than 600 jobs, but it has also generated significant concern regarding future HGV movements through the town.

During the meeting, I argued that if permission was granted, a condition should be imposed requiring HGVs to access and leave the site via the A14 rather than travelling through Newmarket along Fordham Road. I highlighted the risks to riders,

racehorses, pedestrians and motorists on routes used daily by horses travelling between training yards and the gallops. Evidence shows that horse movements are intensive during the early morning period, from 5.30am through to 1pm.

I also noted that Suffolk County Council, as Highway Authority, had sought an HGV Travel Mitigation Plan for the development. Furthermore, I highlighted that both West Suffolk Council's transport evidence and Suffolk County Council's lorry routing policies recognise the importance of managing freight movements appropriately and minimising impacts on sensitive locations. Given Newmarket's unique role as the headquarters of British horseracing, I argued that these principles should be applied to ensure HGVs use the strategic road network wherever possible.

Although the committee approved the application, it declined to impose the requested HGV routing restrictions. Similar concerns were raised by local councillors, representatives of the racing industry and Nick Timothy MP

7. Grenadier Guards bestowed Freedom of Town

I was honoured to attend the Freedom of the Town Parade in Newmarket on 12 September, celebrating the close links between Newmarket and the Grenadier Guards. The parade provided an opportunity to recognise the service and dedication of one of the British Army's most distinguished regiments and was well supported by residents and local organisations from Newmarket and surrounding villages.

8. Suffolk Energy from Waste Facility

On 16 September I visited the Suffolk Energy from Waste Facility at Great Blakenham, near Ipswich, to learn more about how Suffolk manages waste that cannot be recycled.

The facility processes around 287,000 tonnes of waste each year and generates approximately 210,000 MWh (210 million kWh) of electricity, exporting around 186,000 MWh to the National Grid, enough to power about 49,000 homes.

I was particularly interested to see how waste is converted into energy while reducing the county's reliance on landfill. The facility also recovers thousands of tonnes of metals for recycling and converts ash into construction materials.

The site operates under strict environmental controls, with emissions continuously monitored and regulated by the Environment Agency.

While the sale of electricity to the Grid helps offset costs, the facility remains part of Suffolk County Council's waste disposal service and is funded through the council's long-term contract arrangements. Any gap between operating costs and income is ultimately met through the council's waste budget funded by local taxpayers.

The visit reinforced the important role the facility plays in managing Suffolk's residual waste responsibly, generating electricity and helping keep waste out of landfill**.**

9. Back British Farming Day – 9 September 2026

I was pleased to attend local events marking Back British Farming Day 2026, organised by the National Farmers' Union to celebrate the contribution farmers make to our food security, economy and countryside. The annual campaign highlights the importance of British agriculture and the challenges facing the sector, including rising costs, weather pressures and the need to maintain a strong domestic food supply.

Agriculture remains one of Suffolk's most important industries, supporting jobs, businesses and rural communities across the county. It was valuable to hear directly from local farmers about the challenges and opportunities facing the sector and discuss the importance of backing British food production.
I continue to support policies that strengthen food security, support our farming communities and ensure that Suffolk's rural economy remains strong for future generations.

10. 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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