

June 2025 report for SCC Martlesham Division

Council reorganisation affects us all - so have your say today

A new survey giving residents the opportunity to shape the future of councils and public services in Suffolk has been launched.

It's part of the Government plan to reshape and streamline councils in Suffolk to save money, reduce confusion and improve public services for residents.

The survey only takes about 10 minutes to complete, and can be done online at www.suffolk.gov.uk/devolution, by emailing devolution@suffolk.gov.uk or by calling 0345 603 1842 where a member of Suffolk County Council's customer services team can help residents to complete the survey.

People can also visit any of Suffolk's 45 libraries to complete the survey online.

It asks questions about local democracy – such as how you raise issues that need addressing, local decision making – such as how you might want to get involved and about the specifics of council reorganisation itself.

The survey is open for eight weeks – until 4 August 2025.

The survey will play a part in helping Suffolk County Council to develop a comprehensive business plan that looks at the best way to organise councils and deliver public services in Suffolk – so that the Government has all the information it needs to decide which proposal(s) to put out to public consultation.

New Strategy Launched to Tackle Violence Against Women and Girls in Suffolk

While Suffolk remains a safe county in which to live, work, and visit, the reality is that Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence continue to affect too many people. These crimes are often driven by harmful attitudes and gender-based stereotypes that disproportionately impact women and girls. However, the strategy recognises that anyone, regardless of gender identity, can be a victim and that support must be inclusive and far-reaching.

The new Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Strategy places the experiences of victims and survivors at its heart. Shaped through extensive engagement with victim-survivors, support services, and frontline professionals, the strategy sets a clear and ambitious vision:

For everyone in Suffolk to play their part in preventing and identifying Violence Against Women and Girls, creating the safety we all deserve.

To achieve this vision, the strategy is built around four key ambitions:

- Stop the abuse before it starts
- Support every survivor
- Hold abusers accountable
- Build a united front

In March 2025, the Suffolk Safer and Stronger Communities Board formally endorsed the strategy, marking an important milestone in the county's coordinated response to Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence.

Help is available, whether you are currently experiencing abuse, have recently left an abusive relationship, or are concerned about someone you know, you are not alone. A wide range of local, specialist support services is available [Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls \(VAWG\) | Suffolk Constabulary](#)

For more information, and to read the full strategy, visit: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/asset-library/Suffolk-VAWG-Strategy-2025-28.pdf>

Popular outdoor festival returns this August to celebrate the Brecks

55 events, many of which will be free, will take place over the fortnight, recognising the work of the Brecks Fen Edge & Rivers Landscape Partnership Scheme.

The festival will launch on 9 August at an event in Brandon Country Park, with opportunities to meet a range of local groups and organisations working with nature in the Brecks, as well as activities, storytelling and the chance to start your very own seasonal sketchbook.

Other festival events will include guided walks, creative activities, outdoor yoga, family activities and trails, outdoor swimming, fishing and more:

- **Explore the River Thet:** Explore Thetford from a different point of view and try canoeing or stand-up paddle boarding with support and guidance from a trained and knowledgeable instructor.
13, 16, 20 August, Thetford
- **Mildenhall Drovers Challenge Walk:** An exclusive route through a classic Brecks landscape of river, sandy droves and pine lines. How many droves can you walk down in one day?
23 August, West Row
- **Thursday Social Off-Road Cycle Ride:** A social bike ride to explore the landscape of Brandon Country Park and Thetford Forest. All abilities welcome, difficulty and distance determined by riders on the day.
14, 21 August, Brandon Country Park
- **The Nine Stiles Walk & Steel Band Performance:** A walk in the heart of the Brecks with no stiles! Follow part of the historic 'beating of the bounds' route and end with music from steel band Panache!

The Brecks Fen Edge & Rivers Landscape Partnership Scheme began in 2020, following a five-year grant of £1.97 million from The National Lottery Heritage Fund. Using the money raised by the National Lottery players, the project has been creating positive and lasting change for people and communities in and around The Brecks.

A small partnership delivery team hosted by Suffolk County Council has facilitated successful management of the project, bringing together more than 60 local, regional and national groups, as well as many volunteers - all with a central vision and plan.

The Brecks is an invaluable part of the UK's landscape, covering nearly 400 square miles:

- Over 40% of the landscape is covered by conservation areas
- Nearly 13,000 species have been recorded in the area
- 28% of the UK's rarest species are found there
- It contains Thetford Forest and Kings Forest, making the largest lowland forest in the UK
- It is home to eight registered parks and gardens, 157 scheduled monuments and over 1,000 listed buildings

The festival runs from 9 to 24 August 2025, the full programme of events can be found at www.brecks.org

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Local businesses celebrated for carbon reduction achievements

The Carbon Charter was set up in 2010 by Suffolk County Council and the Environment Agency. Since then, over 500 businesses of all sizes have received Carbon Charter awards for taking on climate action, by reducing their carbon emissions, supporting their local community and developing green spaces.

This year's event was hosted by long-standing Carbon Charter members, Home Farm Nacton. They use the latest farming technologies, robots and AI to produce organic vegetables, Red Tractor certified and LEAF marque crops.

Attendees enjoyed speakers from CNH Tractors, Groundwork East and Home Farm Nacton, as well as a tour of the farm and seeing its droid robots in action. Carbon Charter Awards were presented to:

Suffolk Chamber of Commerce

Shepherd Engineering

Kelling Heath Holiday Park

Woodhill Park

Local businesses at any stage of their carbon reduction journey can benefit from the work of the Carbon Charter, whether they are not sure where to start, or are looking to take their efforts to the next level.

For more information on the Carbon Charter, visit www.carboncharter.org

Set Sail on a Journey Through Suffolk's Maritime Past with Suffolk Archives

Running from 27 June to 27 September at The Hold in Ipswich, the exhibition explores Suffolk's deep connections to the sea from smuggling and sea rescues to shipbuilding, coastal communities, and

historic ports.

This free exhibition features fascinating contributions from local museums and organisations including the Felixstowe and Offshore Radio Group, Ipswich School, East Anglian Traditional Arts Centre, Lowestoft Maritime Museum, and the RNLI Archives. It is supported by Associated British Ports.

To accompany the exhibition, Suffolk Archives has launched a packed programme of talks, walks, workshops, and family events offering something for curious minds of all ages. Young explorers can dive into storytelling adventures with The Yarnsmith of Norwich, Grethe Jensen, and Hannah Brailsford, who will bring to life tales of sea monsters, pirates, treasure and more.

Families can also drop anchor at Let's Get Crafty workshops taking place at The Hold in Ipswich and at venues across the county including Newmarket's National Horse Racing Museum, Haverhill Library, Stowmarket Library, Lowestoft Library, Eye Library, and Moyses Hall in Bury St Edmunds. These creative sessions are a fun and engaging way to explore maritime myths and legends.

Also on tour is Following the Fish, a travelling exhibition telling the powerful and often overlooked story of the Scotch Girls, women who followed the herring fleets from Scotland to Suffolk and Norfolk. A collaboration with High Life Highland's Archive Service, Tasglann nan Eilean, and the Norfolk Record Office, and supported by the Lloyd's Register Foundation, the exhibition visits towns where their story once unfolded.

So, whether you're a seasoned history buff or just looking for a fun family day out, chart a course to Suffolk Archives this summer where there's something for everyone to discover.

For more information and event listings, visit www.suffolkarchives.co.uk.