

GREAT BLAKENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Gt Blakenham Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 12th June 2025 at Parish Rooms.
Present: Chair Cllr Nick Leonard, ,Cllr Matt Powell, Cllr Will Durrant , Karen Grimwood (Parish Clerk), SCC
Cllr Chris Chambers, MSDC Cllr Marriott and 2 representatives of the GBVH Committee.

MINUTES

1. To receive and approve any apologies for absence. **Cllr Wheeler & Cllr Kemp**
2. Declaration of any pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests – **None**
 - a. Councillor's declaration of interest appropriate to any item on the agenda.
 - b. To receive written requests for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary interest (if any)
 - c. To grant any requests for dispensations as appropriate.
 - d. Co-option of parish councillor(s) / to sign declaration of acceptance.
3. Public Forum
 - a. To receive the report from the County Councillor – **See attached report.**
Waste - During June and July, the Waste Analysis Company will conduct anonymous sampling of random bins in Suffolk. This initiative aims to gather insights into the contents of residents' bins, which will be valuable for future waste management strategies.

Masons Landfill - Cllr Chambers has received information from SCC indicating that their investigation concluded the landfill site is adhering to its operational conditions. However, Cllr Chambers does not fully agree with this assessment and encourages anyone who observes any activities that appear to violate these conditions to take a photograph and report it to the parish council.
 - b. To receive the report from the District Councillor – **See attached report**
 - c. To receive questions from members of the public –
Why has GBPC not had an article in the Intouch magazine ? We encountered some instances where our articles were not published due to unexpected issues, along with some challenges related to their volunteer distribution. However, we are pleased to report that these matters have now been resolved.
Any updates for No 88 Bus route? Cllr Chambers has indicated that an update will be provided once all necessary support for the routes has been secured.
4. To approve the Draft Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 8th May 2025. **Approved**
5. To note the Clerk's update from previous Meetings.
 - a. Shades Home Maintenance have accepted the contract offer for the maintenance tenders. **Noted**
 - b. Gipping Valley Bowls Club expresses its gratitude for the support received in constructing the new pavilion. They would like to extend an invitation to the councillors for another visit to see the progress firsthand.- **Clerk to arrange a visit**
6. Planning
 - a. To consider the following planning applications. m

DC/25/02395	7 Moses Walk, Great Blakenham, Ipswich, Suffolk IP6 0GT	Installation of four rapid electric vehicle charging stations and ancillary equipment within the car park of Blakenham Stores No objections
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D Kemp
10.7.25

- b. To note any planning determinations.

DC/25/01400	21 Hood Drive, Great Blakenham, Suffolk, IP6 0NP	Erection of single storey rear extension and two storey front extension Granted
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7. Growth, Highways, and Infrastructure

- a. Note Travel behaviour survey report for Suffolk – **Noted**
- b. Note Publication of the Baylham Neighbourhood Plan Exam Report – **Noted**
- c. Port One – **A meeting took place with Port One on May 28, 2025, where they shared their vision for the proposed expansion area extending to Blueleighs and the Great Wood, and further to Circular Road, pending the approval of planning applications. The presentation detailed the potential developments and transformations that could arise if the project proceeds. Council members were presented with various options highlighting possible benefits for the village.**
- d. Offer of alternative allotment land – **The land agent has proposed an alternative site for the allotment, located opposite the junction of Meadow Drive. They provided a concept of how the land could be developed, along with the potential for a long-term lease or outright sale. The clerk will inquire about the costs associated with the lease before any decision is made.**

8. Governance

- a. GBVH funding request – **The Village Hall committee has requested funding to upgrade their intruder and fire alarm systems to meet safety standards and comply with insurance requirements. The estimated cost for this project is around £8,000. Recognising the village hall's importance as a community asset, the councillors have agreed to contribute up to £6,000, while the committee will seek additional funding from other sources.**
- b. Gipping Meadows Management Plan - **The report seeks to preserve the site's natural character, enhance its ecological significance, and ensure ongoing public access. To achieve this, MSDC has enlisted the expertise of an ecology consultant to evaluate the site and develop a management plan. This plan will focus on identifying key ecological features, outlining strategies for their enhancement, and integrating these efforts with the needs of public access and recreational activities. Clerk to enquire how ponds will be maintained and whether a elevated walkway will be included in the plans.**
- c. Consultations from BMSDC on Licensing policy, Community Governance Review, CIL Charging Schedules, Listed Buildings -**Noted with no comment**
- d. Local Government Reorganisation - Town and Parish workshops and survey **Noted**
- e. CIL expenditure report – **Report was approved by councillors . Clerk to submit to MSDC**

10. Village Maintenance

- a. Speed Device – **The speed monitoring device on Gipping Road is believed to be malfunctioning due to vandalism. Parish Council are currently investigating whether it can be repaired by an electrician or if it needs to be returned to the manufacturer .**

11. Churchyard and Cemetery .None

12. Training and Development for Councillors and Clerk - None

D. Kemp
10.7.25

13. Finance

- a. To consider approving and making the following payments: **Approved**

Suffolk County Council	Bacs	Yearly street light maintenance – Inv 9555629	£1680.19	LGA 1972 s111
Payroll	Bacs	Ending 31.5.25	£1050.22	LGA 1972 s111
Shades	Bacs	Street Cleaning as per tender Inv 2681	£1316.67	LGA 1972 s111
Shades	Bacs	Hackneys Corner as per tender Inv 2683	£197.00	LGA 1972 s111
Shades	Bacs	Grounds maintenance as per tender Inv 2682	£507.50	LGA 1972 s111

- a. Payments outside of meeting

Three	DD	Council phone contracts	£48.84	LGA 1972 s111
Nest	DD	Month 2 Ending 31.5.25	£50.61	LGA 1972 s111
Unity Trust	DD	Bank Fees	£6.00	LGA 1972 s111

- b. Income received

Bank Balance @ 31.05.2025

Unity Trust Current Account Balance - £185,037.71

Unity Trust Saver Account Balance - £12,032.47

Total - £197,070.18

14. Reports -To receive reports from Councillors assigned to the following:

- a. Village Hall representative – **Cllr Karen Wheeler has volunteered for this role . Clerk to inform GBVH secretary.**
- b. Village Hall update - **The hall has recently appointed Steve Plume as its new chair, alongside some adjustments in trustee roles. The accounts have been submitted to the charities commission accurately and punctually. A new website is currently in development, and profits have shown a positive trend. To meet mandatory standards and insurance requirements, there are plans to upgrade the fire and intruder alarm systems. Event bookings remain strong and consistent, and there is an ongoing search for more volunteers to assist with various hall activities.**

15. Correspondence

- a. Boardly & Roberts Land– **We have received several complaints about the business next to and owned by Boardly and Roberts , highlighting concerns about its proximity to residential areas and the unsuitability of the access road to Plummers Dell for heavy goods vehicles and coaches, as indicated by the signage. There are also issues regarding the presence of large vehicles, measuring 12 meters and weighing up to 15 tons, which raises safety concerns for both pedestrians and other vehicles. Additionally, the site appears to be inadequately developed for such operations, lacking necessary wheel stop provisions for nearby residents, and floodlights have been installed without the required planning permission. The Clerk will contact MSDC regarding these planning issues, while Cllr Marriott and Cllr Chambers will investigate further.**

16. Future meetings

- a. To note invitation for items to be considered in the next meeting.
- b. To note the date of the next scheduled Meeting on 10th July 2025 and any items for the agenda.

Clerk to Great Blakenham Parish Council

Phone: 07463329570

Email: clerk@greatblakenhamparishcouncil.gov.uk

D. Kemp
10.7.25



Cllr Chris Chambers

**Gipping Valley
Division**

www.chrischambers.uk

**June 2025
Report**



/gippingvalleychris

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Proposal to create one new council for Suffolk reaches latest milestone

Work will continue on proposals to scrap Suffolk's six councils and replace them with a new, single, fit for purpose, authority delivering all public services - after the Government encouraged further work on the plan.

The proposal, which independent analysis by accounting firm PwC shows would save over £104 million in just five years and £26 million a year thereafter, has been reviewed by the Government. The money saved could be reinvested in vital public services. Ministers have urged the proposal to be developed further ahead of the final plan being signed off in September 2025.

Councillor Richard Rout, Suffolk County Council's cabinet member for devolution, local government reform and NSIPs, said:

"The Government is encouraging all councils in Suffolk to continue to develop proposals for reorganisation. It's clear from their interim feedback that our single unitary council for Suffolk proposal best meets the criteria, and any alternatives will have to work hard to justify the risks of breaking up critical services like social care, creating new council boundaries and smaller population sizes.

"This is all quite apart from the significant extra cost of having more than one council. All the evidence shows that one council for Suffolk is the only viable option to deliver significant savings that can be reinvested into frontline services. In the first five years, early independent figures suggest a single council will save £104 million, while breaking Suffolk into three, as the districts and borough suggest, will cost taxpayers an additional £52 million. To be clear - their proposal would cost more than the current 50-year-old system!

"The savings from creating a single unitary council can be reinvested into frontline public services that benefit residents and ensure their council tax is as low as possible. The funding could be reinvested in services like pothole repairs, waste collection and disposal, housing, social care, planning, parks and leisure, supporting town centres, school placements and travel and street cleaning.

"But this isn't just about money, it's about people too. A single council will absolutely be able to reflect and serve the whole of Suffolk, rural and urban, and our plans will clearly show how local priorities and residents' voices can and will be central to decision making.

"If we're going to create a truly sustainable and effective council structure for Suffolk, then one new council is not just the only viable option, but also the best one."

More than one council would cost more

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Creating two or even three councils for Suffolk, including a Greater Ipswich, has also been proposed by the five district and borough councils in Suffolk. If three were created, it would mean expanding Ipswich's current boundaries to include areas like Felixstowe, Woodbridge and possibly even Needham Market – as well as the villages in between. But having multiple councils would actually cost money, not save it, and the costs will take years to get back. A key part of this calculation is the cost of breaking up critical public services such as social care. The national report by PwC has shown that the financial cost of breaking up services into three councils would be over £150 million, not to mention the risk to vulnerable people caused by the upheaval.

It's time to shine the light on communities in Suffolk

The Suffolk Community Awards 2025 will recognise and celebrate all those who have improved the quality of life for communities across Suffolk.

The Suffolk Community Awards, now in its sixth year, is brought together by Community Action Suffolk, Suffolk County Council and Suffolk Association of Local Councils. This year's award ceremony is set to be another prestigious, heart-warming event showcasing the excellent work and achievements of individuals and groups across Suffolk, being recognised by 18 awards, including a new entry which will recognise one local councils' response to climate change.

Other award categories range from youth participation and young person of the year to community building, contribution to volunteering, most active communities and council, councillor, young councillor and clerk of the year.

Nominations are now open and must be made by **Sunday 13 July** at www.suffolkcommunityawards.co.uk

Once received, all nominations are carefully considered and judged by an expert panel before being announced at the award ceremony which will take place on Tuesday 23 September from the Museum of Food in Stowmarket. The event will be hosted by former BBC Radio Suffolk breakfast presenter, Mark Murphy MBE.

David Hepper, Winner of last year's Councillor of the Year, said:

"I have always tried to involve myself in the various concerns in the village, because I firmly believe that by doing so you get much more out of life – to be part of a community, rather than just being a resident. Being a Parish Councillor is part of that, and it was flattering to be recognised, and the award gave me confidence that I must be doing something right."

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The Suffolk Community Awards event organisers said in a joint comment:

“Volunteers, community leaders and organisations across Suffolk are the beating heart of the county. Their hard work, dedication and innovation makes Suffolk a better place to live and work. Our 3 organisations greatly value the massive contribution that the voluntary and community sector makes to our wonderful county. That is why we work together to host these awards. To recognise and celebrate their outstanding contribution to Suffolk life.”

Councillor Philip Faircloth-Mutton, cabinet member for Equality and Communities at Suffolk County Council, said:

“I am incredibly proud that Suffolk County Council is once again supporting the Suffolk Community Awards.

“These awards are a vital opportunity to shine a light on the remarkable efforts of our volunteers, community leaders, and local organisations. Their dedication continues to make Suffolk a fantastic place to live and work, and it’s a privilege to recognise their exceptional contributions to our communities.”

To make a nomination for the Suffolk Community Awards, go to www.suffolkcommunityawards.co.uk

Suffolk must avoid a “postcode lottery” of services and create one new council

Creating a new, single council for Suffolk will eliminate the risks of a postcode lottery of essential and life-saving public services, the Leader of Suffolk County Council, Cllr. Matthew Hicks, has said today.

Speaking at the county council’s Annual General Meeting, Cllr Hicks criticised proposals to create two or even three councils – which he argued would lead to “artificial borders” within the county. He said:

“Any suggestion of disaggregating or creating artificial divisions within this single market—leading to a postcode lottery in care services or pitting one side of the county against another—is not something we should pursue with any seriousness. The only option is for one Suffolk, and this is coming over loud and clear as we talk with people across our county.

“Now is not the time to create postcode lotteries of essential services, with authorities squabbling over finite pools of financial and human resources.”

He emphasised that Suffolk had secured the opportunity to choose a bold new future that generations can be proud of and warned about throwing this opportunity away. He said:

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Opening at 10:00am with a short welcome from:

- Gareth Everton, Executive Director for Adult Social Care
- Eugene Staunton, Deputy Director, SNEE ICB

Speaking about the Dementia Marketplace's return, Cllr Beccy Hopfensperger, Cabinet Member for Adult Care said:

"I am pleased to see the Dementia Marketplace return this year, as it is an important event that truly showcases the incredible support available for people living with dementia, as well as their families and carers. With an ageing population here in Suffolk, it is absolutely essential that we continue to do all we can to help people find the support they need to live well with dementia—and events like this play a key role in making that happen."

Cllr Beccy Hopfensperger, Cabinet Member for Adult Care

Event Details:

Venue: Trinity Park, Ipswich, IP3 8UH

Date: Wednesday 25th June 2025

Time: 10:00am – 3:30pm (drop-in)

Entry is free, [please book your ticket today via Eventbrite.](#)

Suffolk is open for business

Last week I joined business and public sector leaders from across Norfolk and Suffolk at UKREiF - the UK's Real Estate Investment & Infrastructure Forum. This three-day event in Leeds brought together thousands of investors, developers, and policymakers to share ideas and build the partnerships that will shape the UK's future.

I was proud to be part of a panel of local leaders flying the flag for Suffolk, making the case for why this region is one of the best places in the UK to live, work, invest and grow.

And my message was clear: Suffolk is open for business.

Suffolk is already a national powerhouse. We have a £21billion economy and are home to more than 35,000 businesses, many of them world-class and countless others ready to grow.

Our region is seeing huge amount of investment in the energy sector, with Sizewell C and offshore wind leading the way. We need to harness this investment, deliver high quality jobs, and true legacy benefit, whilst ensuring projects are coordinated and our rural communities and landscapes are protected.

We're leaders agri-food and advanced manufacturing and our ports, led by the Port of Felixstowe, handle 36% of the UK's containerised trade, making us a vital gateway to global

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"We cannot afford to throw this opportunity away by choosing to recreate multiple layers of bureaucracy and complexity, with unnecessary multiple local authorities. We cannot risk the disaggregation and dismemberment of our adult social care services from the essential economies of scale it needs to continue to provide good quality care and support services to our most vulnerable residents. We cannot afford to throw away hundreds of millions of pounds of efficiency savings which could be used to invest further in essential services."

Closing his speech, Cllr Hicks recommitted himself, and his administration, to lead Suffolk through to a bold new future, saying:

"Now is the time for visionary leadership. This council has a responsibility to get this right for the people of Suffolk, to create a future that we and future generations can be proud of - and that's what this administration will do."

You can read [his full speech](#) and watch the full council meeting on the councils' [YouTube channel](#).

Dementia Marketplace 2025

On Wednesday 25th June 2025, Care Development East, in partnership with Suffolk County Council and the Suffolk and North East Essex Integrated Care Board (SNEE ICB), will host the third annual Dementia Marketplace—a free, one-day event offering practical advice, support, and information for anyone affected by dementia.

Held from 10:00am to 3:30pm at [Trinity Park Conference & Events Centre, Ipswich](#).

Dementia is the UK's biggest health and social care challenge—and it's growing. One in three people born in the UK today will develop dementia in their lifetime. By 2040, 1.4 million people are expected to be living with the condition. Early diagnosis is key—it unlocks treatment, support, and care that can make a real difference.

What to Expect:

- Marketplace – Information and advice from over 40 dementia-related services and support groups
- Expert Speaker Sessions – Short, accessible talks throughout the day
- Innovation Room – New for 2025, come see, and try out a range of equipment and digital care technology to help keep people as safe and independent for as long as possible. It will also include the launch of Reverie a new cutting-edge Virtual Reality (VR) app designed with and for people with dementia featuring customised Suffolk film content
- Supervised Activities Room – A safe space for people with dementia while carers explore the event

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DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT JUNE 25

Free tree for every Babergh and Mid Suffolk baby born in 2025

Applications for a popular free tree scheme are now open for families in Babergh and Mid Suffolk celebrating new arrivals.

The Tree for Life scheme is open to all families across the districts who have welcomed, or are set to welcome, a newborn baby or adopted child during the 2025 calendar year.

The initiative, which runs every year, gives parents the opportunity to mark their child's arrival by planting a fruit tree, which can then grow alongside them.

Parents that may have lost a child during the same period are also able to apply for a memory tree as part of the scheme.

Since its inception, the councils have given out well over two thousand trees, with 300 hundred families applying last year alone.

As well as helping families mark special milestones, Tree for Life also has the added benefit of increasing tree coverage across the districts and encouraging more people to get interested in the environment. To nurture this interest, each applicant is given a choice of which tree they would like when they go to collect it, as well as expert information about how to plant, pick and care for it.

Tree for Life applications can be made via the councils' websites at www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/

Farming Equipment and Technology Fund 2025 launched

On 7th May the government announced that farmers in England will be able to apply to grants totalling £50 million to improve access to new technology able to increase productivity, profitability and food security.

The [£46.7 million Farming Equipment and Technology Fund](#) will support farmers with three types of grant, worth up to £25,000 each, to invest in day-to-day equipment to increase productivity, manage slurry or improve animal health and welfare.

In addition, the £5 million Investor Partnerships programme will give farmers and food producers faster and more widespread access to state-of-the-art innovation

Shaping the future of Suffolk consultation

Suffolk's five district and borough councils are launching a county-wide survey asking people for their views on the future of vital local government services:

<https://midsuffolk.govocal.com/en-GB/projects/have-your-say-suffolk>

Parish clerks have been sent related promotional materials.

Councils restate commitment to Armed Forces Covenant

Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils have restated their commitment to the Armed Forces Covenant. This covenant sets out the actions the council will take to support Armed Forces personnel and their families.

This covenant ensures that no-one with armed forces connections is disadvantaged in any way due to their services. This might apply, for example, to a need for housing by armed forces personnel moving to the area after being based abroad. They and their families would be given special consideration in this instance.

Improving services for social housing tenants

Housing teams at Babergh and Mid Suffolk have worked to address issues which led to the councils having to refer to the Social Housing Regulator in 2023. The councils have restructured their repairs and maintenance services and their asset and compliance services. They have reviewed their processes, policies and how they engage with tenants and have introduced a new Complaint Task Force. Tenants' overall satisfaction levels have climbed from 23/24 levels of 59% in Babergh and 65% in Suffolk to 73% for each council. Based on feedback from tenants the councils are concentrating on

- Providing timely appointments
- Keeping tenants continuously updated
- Keeping the work area clean and tidy
- Being respectful and friendly
- Delivering high-quality workmanship

Reminder: Pathways to Work consultation

On 7 April, the government launched

[a consultation on the government's proposals to help ensure that sick and disabled people have the same opportunities to work as anyone else.](#)

The government is urging those likely to be affected by the changes – either individually or through disability charities and organisations – to have their say through the consultation, ensuring their views help shape the proposed changes.

The consultation closes on 30 June.

Independent evaluation of Elections Act measures at the 2024 UK Parliamentary general election published

On 15th May the government published the Electoral Integrity Programme Evaluation Report on the 2024 UK Parliamentary general election. This meets the statutory commitment to evaluate the impact of the voter identification measures at the first set of local elections and the first two general elections following implementation.

The government has welcomed the report's findings from the independent evaluator, IFF Research, that the July 2024 UK Parliamentary general election was well-run; findings which are consistent with those of the Electoral Commission.

The [report](#) has been published on GOV.UK. For questions about this report or the implementation of the Elections Act measures, please contact Elections@communities.gov.uk.

Reminder: Funding to protect historic buildings

Last month (2 April), the government announced that communities in England can now apply for a share of almost £20 million to help care for historic buildings and heritage sites in their local area.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/local-heritage-to-be-protected-with-20-million-of-funding>

The new £4.85 million Heritage Revival Fund is currently accepting applications for projects that will help to rescue and repurpose neglected historic buildings, like theatres, department stores and former banks. It will do this by supporting community organisations, charities and social enterprises in England to take ownership of these sites for community uses.

The programme will be delivered by the Architectural Heritage Fund and will run from 1 April 2025 until 31 March 2026. The deadline for expressions of interest is 27 June. The deadline for Capital Grant applications is 29 September, for a decision in December 2025.

Disabled Facilities Grant for 2025-26 update

Government funding for the Disabled Facilities Grant for 2025-26 will be paid out to councils in England in late June.

In two tier areas, Tier 1 councils will need to pay the allocated amounts to named Tier 2 councils in their area by late July. The date will be specified in the forthcoming grant determination.

PLANNING

Biodiversity Net Gain

The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Development is currently seeking views on whether to weaken the BNG mandate requirements for property developers delivering sites of up to nine homes. These small sites account for around 70% of the residential planning developments in the UK each year. Additionally the Government wants to introduce a new 'medium-sized site' for developments of between 10 to 49 homes with less stringent BNG requirements than those for larger sites.

A consultation on these proposed changes will be open for eight weeks (until 24 July).

<https://consult.defra.gov.uk/defra-biodiversity-net-gain/improving-the-implementation-of-biodiversity-net-g/>

Reform of planning committees online survey

On 28 May, the Ministry of Communities, Housing and Local Government launched a consultation seeking views on proposals to modernise planning committees. This would include the national delegation of planning functions, the size and composition of planning committees and mandatory training for members of planning committees.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/reform-of-planning-committees-technical-consultation/reform-of-planning-committees-technical-consultation>

Please read the consultation document for more detail on the proposals before you share your views.

The consultation closes on 23 July. If you have any questions, please email: planningcommittees@communities.gov.uk

Online survey: <https://consult.communities.gov.uk/planning/reform-of-planning-committees-technical-consultati/>

Consultation on implementing measures to improve Build Out transparency

The government wants to increase the rate at which planning permissions for residential development are built out. Their strategy is set out in the working paper which also invites views on further action the government could take to encourage a faster build out rate.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/planning-reform-working-paper-speeding-up-build-out>

On 25th May the government launched a consultation re the above

<https://consult.communities.gov.uk/planning/build-out-transparency-consultation/>

regarding

- The type of development these build out measures will apply to
- Introducing and implementing build out statements
- Implementing commencement notices
- Implementing development progress reports
- Sites where multiple developers are involved in build out
- Implementing the power to decline to determine applications
- Potential impacts of the proposed measures

Both consultations close on 7 July. If you have any questions, please contact: buildoutconsultation2025@communities.gov.uk and buildout@communities.gov.uk for the working paper.

Less paperwork, more chargepoints: making it easier, quicker and cheaper to switch to EVs

The Department for Transport (DfT) has confirmed that from 29th May more drivers and businesses will no longer need to submit a planning application to install public or private EV sockets.

With planning changes also applying to workplace and public chargepoints, businesses will be able to install new sockets faster and for less, helping increase the number of public chargepoints so that EV owners can charge more easily, wherever they live and drive.

Government support currently allows people renting or owning a flat and those with on-street parking to receive up to £350 off the cost of installing a home charger.

Public health update

Latest data on listeriosis

On 8th May the UK Health Security Agency announced that there were 179 cases of listeriosis reported in England and Wales in 2024.

Listeriosis is caused by *Listeria* bacteria and is usually contracted by eating contaminated raw, chilled, or ready-to-eat foods. Most people with listeriosis won't have any symptoms or will have mild gastroenteritis. However, the infection can cause severe illnesses in the elderly, immunocompromised or those with underlying chronic conditions. Infection during pregnancy can lead to miscarriage or stillbirth, or severe infections in newborn babies.

Those at higher risk from severe Listeria infection include:

- elderly people (risk increases with age)
- those with malignancies or undergoing immunosuppressive or cytotoxic treatments
- pregnant women and their unborn or newborn infants
- organ transplant recipients
- people with chronic kidney and liver diseases
- those with uncontrolled diabetes, HIV, alcohol dependency or iron overload

In most people, listeriosis has no symptoms or only causes mild symptoms for a few days, such as:

- high temperature
- aches and pains
- chills
- feeling of being sick or having diarrhoea

See <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/listeriosis/>

COVID-19 vaccination: spring 2025 vaccination programme leaflet – translations added

On 1 May, the UK Health Security Agency added [links to translations of a spring 2025 vaccination programme leaflet published on 19 March](#).

People aged 75 years and older, residents in care homes for older people, and those aged 6 months and over with a weakened immune system will be offered a dose of COVID-19 vaccine this spring.

Bird flu (avian influenza): latest situation in England

Yesterday (12 May), the government announced that [following ongoing monitoring using the latest scientific evidence and risk assessment, bird flu risk levels have been reduced](#). Therefore, mandatory housing measures for poultry and captive birds will start to be lifted across England from 00:01 on 15 May and birds can be kept outside unless they are in a Protection Zone or Captive Bird Monitoring (Controlled) Zone.

Mandatory stringent biosecurity measures will remain in place nationwide. As birds may have been housed for several months, there will be a seven-day transition period from 00:01 15 May until 00:01 22 May during which, where necessary, previously housed birds must be released gradually to minimise welfare issues.

Poultry keepers who intend to allow their birds outside are advised to use the upcoming days to prepare their outside areas for the safe release of their birds. This will include cleansing and disinfection of hard surfaces, fencing off ponds or standing water and reintroduction of wild bird deterrents.

The Avian Influenza Prevention Zone (AIPZ) mandating strict biosecurity will remain in place in England, Scotland and Wales. Bird gatherings also remain banned.

Councils are encouraged to share this information as appropriate.

Adrienne Marriott
Blakenham District Councillor
04/06/25