



The Wastre North February 2021



Visit suffolk.gov.uk/coronavirus for health advice, service changes, business support and schools' guidance.

We STILL need to be careful

Suffolk's current COVID infection rates, as reported on 27th January are going in the right direction:-

Suffolk Cases

As of the 27 January there have been **25,142** total lab-confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Suffolk. In total there have been 3,302.3 cases of COVID-19 per 100,000 people. This is the lowest overall COVID-19 case rate in the East of England.

District case rate as of 27 January 2021

Area name	Daily Cases reported	Weekly Cases reported	Weekly case rate*	Wk on wk trend*	Cumulative cases	Cumulative case rate	National Rate Rank (of 315)
Babergh	18	190	240.1	↓	3,437	3734.40	261
East Suffolk	58	604	278.6	↓	7,359	2950.00	291
Ipswich	60	486	368.1	↓	6,219	4542.30	205
Mid Suffolk	15	228	253.1	↓	2,808	2702.70	298
West Suffolk	51	476	277.0	↓	5,319	2970.80	290
Suffolk	202	1,984	286.2	↓	25,142	3,302.3	
East of England	2,467	21,821	396.6	↓	329,696	5,286.9	
England	22,914	190,545	386.6	↓	3,248,215	5,770.8	

A number of local vaccination hubs have been in operation – Woolpit Health Centre has been at the forefront of vaccinations for most people in the Thedwastre North area but there are also vaccination hubs in Stowmarket, Ipswich, Newmarket and Bury St Edmunds.

In addition to the vaccination hubs there is also a new **Covid-19 rapid testing centre** targeting people who unwittingly have the virus and do not show symptoms. It will begin operating at West Suffolk College in Out Risbygate, Bury St Edmunds, from Monday February 1.

The centres use lateral flow testing to identify people who may have coronavirus but who are asymptomatic – crucial in arresting the spread of the virus. The Bury St Edmunds centre will be available to anyone living or working in the town and surrounding area who is unable to work from home.

Employers are also being urged to book their staff in for testing. The Bury St Edmunds launch follows the opening of the first centre at the University of Suffolk in Ipswich at the start of January. Lateral flow testing involves taking a swab from the throat and nose to see whether coronavirus is present in the body. The person tested will then receive a text message giving the result within an hour. Anyone giving a positive test will be told to self-isolate and advised on what to do next. People are being asked to get tested twice a week, three to four days apart, as part of their weekly routine.

Anyone receiving a negative result needs to continue to follow the social distancing guidance as they may only be at the early stages of developing the virus. This is in case levels of the virus in a person at the earlier test were too low to be detected at that time.

Even those who have had the vaccination need to still be following the guidelines – while they may not get it themselves they can be carriers.

New recycling campaign

I, and many others, received a leaflet through the door last week about what can, and can't, be put in the recycling bin. This is all part of a new campaign that has been launched to help people get their recycling right.

Each year more than 10,000 tonnes (about 20%) of recycling from Suffolk homes is rejected due to the wrong items being placed in Suffolk's recycling bins. This is the same as 1 in 5 lorries full of recycling going to waste. The cost of sorting and disposing this spoiled recycling is more than £1million.

The leaflet went to all households and has the do's and don'ts of what can easily be recycled at home, plus tips on how to recycle other items not accepted in home recycling bins. The campaign will be supported on the Suffolk Recycling website and social media channels.

More information on what can and cant be recycled can be found on the www.suffolkrecycling.org.uk website

Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) on visits to Suffolk's recycling centres

Suffolk County Council has announced it will use the installation of Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras alongside an automatic entry system at its recycling centres to improve customer experience and plan for future demand.

A booking system was introduced at Suffolk's recycling centres in May 2020 when sites reopened following closure at the start of the first Covid-19 lockdown and saw 14,000 visits per week during the summer. This can rise up to 27,000 per week in normal times, without current social distancing rules.

The project aims to improve the efficiency at the recycling centres by linking the online booking system with automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) technology and automated entry barriers. The council is now looking to use the technology to further improve the current booking system for residents wishing to visit the centres and make the most of the technological opportunities.

The cameras give an accurate count of vehicle numbers and also record how much time each vehicle is on site. This will allow Suffolk County Council to maximise site availability and to develop new and existing sites to better meet the needs of the increasing population of Suffolk. Data from the system could also assist in identifying rogue traders fraudulently using the free household waste service to dispose of trade waste. The system also has the facility to link to the DVLA database and identify the type of vehicle and registered keeper details if necessary.

Council budget proposals

The council's scrutiny committee considered the budget at its meeting on January 7th and made recommendations which were approved by the Cabinet at its meeting on January 26th. Many of these recommendations were based on encouraging the Council to look at the ways of working and maximise the savings from working at home. There was also a recommendation to encourage data sharing between Adult Social Services and the Health sector (CCG's etc). In addition there was a section on topics to write to Government Ministers about – including that 'the Committee considered that the business rate system should be reformed to fairly reflect the emergence of businesses with an online presence and the financial difficulties recently experienced by those that are unable to operate online.'

The budget for 2021/22 will now go for full council decision on February 11. The agenda for the meeting along with a link to the papers can be found on the SCC website (council & democracy and then committees). It will also be webcast.

Jane Storey

1st February 2021