

TOP-TEN REPORT FOR BUNGAY AND THE VILLAGES (SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER 2024)
East Suffolk Councillors Toby Hammond and Anthony Specia

1. Anthony has been busy giving radio interviews and touring schools to encourage youth to stand for the new East Suffolk Youth Council. He's now personally visited nine schools up and down the District, including our own Bungay High School, and our impressive new Castle EAST School. More than 30 youth have now been elected, and Anthony is looking forward to inducting them as the first East Suffolk Youth Councillors later in November.
2. As reported recently in the *Beccles & Bungay Journal*, owners of The Mayfair cafe and cocktail bar in Bungay have applied to extend opening hours to 9.00 pm. The situation is unusually complex, involving noise, heritage and planning issues, and Anthony and Toby are working to help all parties reach a mutually satisfactory outcome for the benefit of the town.
3. VC Cooke's controversial waste incinerator in Ellough is still yet to be built. Anthony, Toby and ESC officers continue to engage with carbon consultants and with the applicant to ensure that the tough restrictions we placed on the permit are heeded. Meanwhile, after negative BBC reports, there appears to be growing interest in Westminster for national policy change on waste incinerators. We believe they have no place in a cleaner energy system.
4. Various parishes have been in touch with us for help with Speed Indicator Devices (SID), and with tackling the problem of speeding on our rural roads. Although as district councillors we have no jurisdiction over speeding, we continue to encourage Town and Parish Councils/Meetings across our ward to collect and share data, and to build a more comprehensive picture of the problem for Suffolk County Council's attention. Mayor Jordan Hindes in Bungay has long offered free technical advice on SIDs, and to act as a central point for collaboration.
5. As winter approaches, we will all need to be on guard again against potential flooding events. Our rural roads also often deteriorate at this time of year, and the Suffolk County Council Highways Reporting tool remains the best place to report potholes and other problems.
6. Anthony and Toby have continued to disperse their Enabling Communities Budget to local projects, most recently supporting the Bungay Folk Festival with a grant for their 2025 event, and the Bungay Community Hub with a Christmas toy and book project. We have limited funds remaining for this civic year, so we'd encourage anyone with a suitable community project to come forward with an application sooner rather than later.
7. East Suffolk Council has approved amendments to 'Article 4 Directions' in the Homersfield Conservation Area. These amendments are designed to cut red-tape for Homersfield residents. Certain minor property works that don't affect heritage aspects of the village are now excluded from planning requirements, such as installing satellite dishes and painting external walls.
8. We encourage all Town and Parish Councils/Meetings to take part in Suffolk County Council's annual Rural Transport Survey. Anthony and Toby often hear from residents about the poor state of rural transport, and this survey is one way for Town and Parish Councils/Meetings to make their views known. To take part, visit <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/suffolkruraltransport2024>.
9. As Chair of Council, Anthony has been privileged to be able to drop the starting flag on the Men's Tour of Britain, and to represent East Suffolk at the Suffolk Harvest Sunday Service. He has also congratulated the new Mayor of Ipswich and the new Chair of West Suffolk Council at their annual Civic Services in Ipswich and Bury St Edmunds.
10. Toby met ESC officers and Flixton Parish Cllr Ken Warne at St Felix Rise, a social housing asset owned by East Suffolk Council. A seemingly straightforward problem with ad-hoc parking and unauthorised use of certain areas of land has been unresolved for many years, to the understandable frustration of Cllr Warne. With new senior officers brought in to deal with the problem, we hope that this can now be resolved.