

Framlingham Ward Newsletter – April / May 2026

Vince Langdon-Morris (District Councillor)

Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) in Suffolk

Central Government has accepted the **Three Councils for Suffolk** proposal, and the formation of 3 new unitary councils, [see map link](#).

These will replace the existing Suffolk County Council by May 2028.

Preliminary names are: West Suffolk, Central and East Suffolk, and Ipswich and South Suffolk Unitary Councils. These names are still under discussion, but this gives you the general picture. New unitary councils will take on all functions for which Suffolk County Council is now responsible.

The timeline for the creation of these new Unitary Councils is:

- May 2026, Election of Suffolk County Councillors.
- May 2027, Election of 'shadow' Councillors for each new Unitary council.
- May 2028, Devolution, election of Norfolk and Suffolk Mayor. The new Unitary Councils will then take over from existing County, District and Borough Councils, which will be dissolved.

Our current County, District and Borough Councils will assist in developing and transferring all governance responsibility to Unitary Councils by May 2028.

The Deben Climate Centre (DCC) 4 Rivers Project on the Ore River



The river testing team has completed its first [Ore River Water Test Report](#). I hope you are able to access this link to see the document.

This is our first attempt at developing a detailed report, we will be further reviewing and updating the content. Suggestions are welcome on how we can improve the detail / content.

If you are interested in joining the River Ore water testing team to assist with ongoing water testing, please contact framoreriver26@gmail.com.

Framlingham Flood Resilience, Recovery Working Group

The Environment Agency has arranged to meet with Framlingham Town Council and the working group members on Monday May 11th at the Council offices. In my view, this meeting is partly due to the enormous efforts made by the working group, to research, document and propose solutions for the wider management and future resilience of the Ore River Catchment to flooding. See link to the [Fram Town Council website](#) for work completed and list of documents submitted to government agencies, incl. the Environment Agency.

Greener Fram | Action for a positive future

Splash of Colour: Sam and I have again expanded the wildflower growing areas along our grass verges this year. All we need now is a spot of rain to get the seed to germinate. Watch out for Greener Fram News at the end of this month for more information on this and other initiatives.

An important film date for your diaries, the ['People's Emergency Briefing'](#) and discussion [please scan the QR code on the GF website for a free ticket] on Saturday 30th May [2.15pm – 4.30pm] in Castle Community Rooms (doors open 2pm).

See a trailer for the film [here](#). This is a screening of a powerful new film, with leading UK scientists, explaining the latest evidence on the climate & nature crisis, what it means for food, health, weather and the cost of living and why it matters.

Framlingham Neighbourhood Plan Review / Future Housing

The review of the towns Neighbourhood Plan (NP) is ongoing, notwithstanding the removal of the finance allocated by central government to complete these plans.

Central government is amending planning law, see link to the [NPPE](#). These changes, soon to be implemented are leading to the imposition of much higher new housing targets, and also the delegation of planning powers / authority / decision making to planning officers [*rather than planning committees*] to significantly speed up the planning / decision making process.

East Suffolk Planning has now completed and published its 'call for sites' [East Suffolk Local Plan Call for sites - All sites submitted](#). Central Government has created two new buzz phrases, 'Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Development' and 'Tilted Balance'. Both basically mean the same thing, more new houses and far more rapid, devolved planning decision making. Call for sites are at this stage merely suggestions / proposals and require scrutiny, but this could lead to a very large expansion of house building in the near future.

East Suffolk Council Helpful Information

Support with budgeting, debt, bills:

- **Citizens Advice East Suffolk:** providing support on different things including benefit entitlement, debt and budgeting. Advice line 0808 278 7866 open Mon to Frid 10am to 2pm; can also email on advice@caes.org.uk
- **East Suffolk Council's Community Help Hub:** providing support on health & wellbeing and helping you budget and see what you're entitled to. You can self-refer at https://my.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/service/Community_Help_Hub_referral or call East Suffolk Council's Customer Services Team, ask for Community Help Hub - 0333 016 2000
- **Suffolk Coastal Poverty Action** focus on poverty & debt, call 07942 359865 or help@scpa.uk

Food:

- **Waveney Foodbank:** serves Framlingham; call Citizens Advice, East Suffolk 0808 208 2138
- **Lowestoft&District Foodbank:** covers Wickham Market; email: info@lowestoft.foodbank.org.uk
- **Heating your home:** If you are finding it difficult to heat your home, please reach out to the organisations listed above, who can see how you may be able to be helped. There are also Warm Welcomes running at all libraries; free support spaces to do activities or just 'be' if you prefer.
- **Hour Community** (Framlingham area) call 01728 440511 or email: admin@hourcommunity.co.uk
- **Connection and socialising:** If you're not able to see friends, family or neighbours as often as you'd like, Silver Line is run by Age UK free and is a confidential telephone service for older people. They provide friendship, conversation and support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Call for free on 0800 4 70 80 90. Your local library or coffee morning is also a good place to go to chat with others.
- **Ease the Squeeze on Cost of Living:** Are you, or someone you know, worried about the increasing cost of living? We understand the pressures faced by many people today and we are working closely with key partners to ensure support is available to help ease the squeeze for households in East Suffolk. To make it as easy as possible for you to access the services and support available, locally and nationally, we have gathered information about them in one place: [Ease the Squeeze on cost of living » East Suffolk Council](#)