



August 2026



Welcome to the August edition of my monthly newsletter.

It's been an incredibly memorable month here in Suffolk Coastal. While Parliament has now risen for the summer recess, there's certainly been no slowdown in constituency work.

Much of the past week has understandably been dominated by the ongoing Dunwich Heath wildfire. Myself and my team have been working closely with the emergency services, local resilience teams and affected residents and visitors throughout the incident, and I have been so proud to see our communities come together to support one another. The response from firefighters, volunteers, local businesses and residents has been nothing short of extraordinary, and you'll find a fuller update later in this newsletter.

It has also been a significant month for me personally, as I was honoured to be appointed Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Nature and Rural Affairs at the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA). Rural communities and our natural environment have always been at the heart of my work as your MP, so it is a real privilege to take those priorities into government while continuing to champion Suffolk Coastal.

Alongside this, I've continued to spend time across Suffolk Coastal meeting residents, holding public meetings and coffee mornings, supporting local campaigns and working on the issues that matter most to our communities. From road safety and flooding to community events and local services, there has been plenty happening over the past few weeks.

As always, if there's something you'd like to raise with me or my team, please don't hesitate to get in touch. I hope you enjoy the rest of the summer, and thank you, as ever, for your continued support.

Jenny

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jenny', written in a cursive style.

Dunwich Wildfire



Like so many people across Suffolk Coastal and beyond, I have been deeply saddened by the devastating wildfire at Dunwich Heath. While the situation has thankfully stabilised, it remains an ongoing incident and firefighters continue their incredible work to fully extinguish the fire.

Throughout the incident I have been receiving regular updates from the emergency services and local resilience teams, and I have been working with my team to support residents affected wherever we can.

I want to say a huge thank you to everyone involved - our brilliant firefighters, emergency services, volunteers, local businesses and the many residents who opened their

homes, donated supplies and helped neighbours in need. It has been a remarkable community effort, and I have been incredibly proud to see Suffolk Coastal come together in such a difficult situation.

The impact on this special landscape has been heartbreaking, but I know our communities will continue to support one another as the recovery begins. Please continue to follow the advice of Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service and avoid the area while their work continues.

Ministerial Appointment to DEFRA



In July, I was incredibly honoured to be appointed Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Nature and Rural Affairs at the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA).

Over the past two years, I've worked hard to champion the issues that matter most to Suffolk Coastal - from supporting our farmers and rural communities, to protecting our natural environment and standing up for our coastline. To now have the opportunity to help shape Government policy on many of these issues is a real privilege.

When speaking after my appointment, I said that while Andy Burnham talks about applying the "Makerfield test" to Government policy, for me it will proudly be the "Suffolk Coastal test" - making sure we deliver better for rural communities, and better nationally and internationally for nature.

While I'll now have additional ministerial responsibilities, my commitment to Suffolk Coastal remains unchanged. My constituency team and I will continue supporting residents, progressing local campaigns, and working hard to make sure our communities have a strong voice both locally and in Government.

Thank you to everyone who has sent such kind messages following the announcement. Your support has meant a great deal, and I'm looking forward to getting started in this new role.

Leiston Community Day



I'm delighted to be hosting my first ever Leiston Community Day on Saturday 5th September, from 12pm to 4pm at the Long Shop Museum.

The afternoon will bring together local charities, community groups, businesses and advice organisations, alongside free activities for families and children. Whether you're

looking to find out what's happening locally, discover new groups to get involved with, or simply enjoy an afternoon with family and friends, I'd love to see you there.

The event is completely free, and everyone is welcome.

Grange Farm Community Fun Day



Following the success of last year's community day on Langley Avenue in Felixstowe, I'm delighted to be bringing the event back for 2026 - with a bigger afternoon of activities, food and community connection.

Last year's event brought together local residents, families, charities, community groups, advice services and local businesses for a brilliant afternoon. Families enjoyed

free activities, games and food, while also having the opportunity to meet organisations offering advice, support and opportunities in the local area.

This year, I'm excited to build on that success and welcome residents to Grange Farm Community Day on Saturday 12th September, from 12pm to 4pm at Felixstowe Rugby Club.

Felixstowe West Pride in Place will also be there hosting our "big community brainstorm" where you get to share your ideas on how you would spend £20million to improve Felixstowe West.

The event is completely free to attend, and everyone is welcome. I hope to see you there.

Summer Work Experience



Last month, I welcomed 10 young people from across Suffolk Coastal to take part in my first summer school programme, giving them the opportunity to learn more about politics, Parliament and community campaigning.

The first part of the programme took place in Westminster, where the group had the chance to go behind the scenes of Parliament, visit No.10 Downing Street, tour the estate and hear directly from Lord Deben - who was my own MP when I was their age - about his experiences in both the House of Commons and the House of Lords.

The second part of the programme is taking place here in Suffolk Coastal, where the young people will be learning more about the work I do campaigning on local issues. They will be speaking with residents to understand the issues that matter most locally, analysing the feedback they receive, and using what they learn to develop a small campaign.

If you would be happy to share your views and take part in a short phone call with one of the young people, please register your details

here: <https://getcampaing.co.uk/suffolk-coastal/s/summer-school-calls> Your feedback will help them (and me) understand the priorities of our towns and villages and how campaigns are built around the issues people care about.

Suffolk Coastal's 'Bus Desert'



Recently, I hosted my Big Bus Discussion in Saxmundham, bringing together residents, bus operators, Suffolk County Council and community representatives to discuss the future of bus services across Suffolk Coastal.

The meeting followed months of conversations with residents and responses to my Better Buses for Suffolk Coastal survey, which highlighted concerns about unreliable services, reduced routes and communities feeling increasingly disconnected.

There was a huge amount of passion in the room, with residents sharing their experiences of how poor bus connectivity affects everyday life. We heard from people struggling to access healthcare, education, work and essential services, as well as from many residents in villages where there is no regular bus service at all.

A key message from the evening was clear: people want to use buses, but services need to be reliable, better connected and designed around the needs of local communities.

I was pleased that First Bus committed to looking further at the potential for a coastal bus service and to reviewing where existing routes could be improved. Suffolk County Council also highlighted that residents and parish councils can submit requests for new services or improvements to existing routes through Suffolk On Board

- <https://www.suffolkonboard.com/ways-to-travel/bus/report-apply-or-request/>

I will shortly be publishing my report on the findings from my Better Buses for Suffolk Coastal campaign, bringing together the experiences and suggestions shared by residents across the constituency.

There is still time for residents and parish councils to contribute. If you would like to share your experience of local bus services or suggest improvements, you can take part here:

Residents: <https://getcampaigning.co.uk/suffolk-coastal/s/buses>

Parish and town councils: <https://getcampaigning.co.uk/suffolk-coastal/s/parishbuses>

Felixstowe Flooding



Earlier this month, I brought together residents, local councillors and key agencies for a flooding forum in Walton to discuss the ongoing issues affecting High Road West, Church Lane and surrounding areas.

Flooding has been a long-running concern for many residents, with repeated incidents causing disruption and frustration for households and businesses. I have been raising these concerns with the organisations responsible, but it was important that residents had the opportunity to hear directly from those involved, share their experiences and ask questions.

The meeting brought together representatives from Suffolk County Council, Anglian Water, the Environment Agency, Suffolk Police and local councillors to discuss the causes of flooding, the response so far and what more can be done to reduce future risks.

A number of actions came out of the discussion, including further investigations into drainage and gully maintenance, work by Anglian Water to model options for managing surface water, and follow-up on longer-term flood prevention measures. Agencies also

committed to providing further information on reporting routes, emergency planning and potential funding opportunities.

My team and I will continue to follow up on these actions and make sure the concerns raised by residents are not lost. I will keep working with the relevant organisations to push for practical solutions and better protection for communities affected by flooding.

Felixstowe Carnival



Last weekend marked one of my favourite weekends of the year - Felixstowe Carnival.

Every year, the carnival brings together the very best of Felixstowe, with local charities, community groups, sports clubs, dance schools and organisations coming together to take part in a brilliant programme of events for residents to enjoy.

From the procession through the town on Saturday, to the activities and performances taking place across the weekend, it was fantastic to see so many people getting involved and celebrating everything that makes Felixstowe such a special place.

What makes the carnival even more impressive is that it is organised and delivered entirely by a dedicated group of volunteers who give so much of their time and energy to make it happen. Bringing together such a large-scale event for the whole community is no small achievement - a huge thank you to the carnival committee, volunteers and everyone who took part in making the weekend such a success.

B1125 Rat Run



I recently brought together residents, parish councils, Suffolk County Council, Sizewell C and other partners for a roundtable discussion about ongoing concerns around road safety, speeding and increased traffic on the B1125.

The meeting, held in Middleton, gave communities from Blythburgh, Westleton and Middleton the opportunity to share their experiences directly with the organisations responsible. Residents raised concerns about increased traffic, speeding, the challenges of managing a rural road and the potential long-term impact of changes linked to Sizewell C.

It was a constructive discussion, with a number of actions agreed, including further work on traffic monitoring, sharing data and modelling, and clearer information from Suffolk County Council about the process for considering speed limit changes and road safety measures.

I will continue to work with residents, parish councils and the relevant authorities to ensure these concerns are properly heard and that communities have the evidence and support needed to secure appropriate action.

Community Coffee Mornings



Thank you to everyone who came along to my latest village coffee morning in Knodishall.

My village coffee mornings are held in communities across Suffolk Coastal, with invitations delivered to every household in the village. They are an opportunity for residents to meet with me in an informal setting, raise local concerns and discuss the issues that matter most to their community.

In Knodishall, we had some really useful conversations, with roads and education among the main topics raised. Hearing directly from residents helps me understand the challenges communities are facing and ensures I can continue raising these issues with the relevant organisations and in Parliament where appropriate.

My next village coffee morning will be taking place in Sutton this September, and I look forward to meeting residents there.

Rubbish Bin Roll Out



I know many residents have continued to experience frustration with the rollout of East Suffolk Council's new waste collection service, with some households facing missed collections, delays receiving new bins, and confusion caused by unclear or changing information.

Since my last update, East Suffolk Council has publicly apologised for the disruption and acknowledged the scale of the issues. There have been some improvements, and I know some residents who had been waiting for collections have now had their bins emptied, which is welcome.

However, I am still hearing from residents who are experiencing problems, including missed collections and delays receiving new bins. Some people, including vulnerable

residents, have faced particularly difficult circumstances after going weeks without a collection.

I will continue to raise these concerns with the Council and push for improvements.

If you are still experiencing problems, you can report the issue directly to East Suffolk Council here: <https://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/rubbish-recycling-and-waste/household-bin-collections/missed-bin-collections>

If you've done this but still having issues or have not received a response you can also log the issue with my office who will liaise with ESC on your behalf:

<https://getcampaing.co.uk/suffolk-coastal/s/bincollections>

Contact

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