

March 2023 Melton Parish Report East Suffolk Council GLI Group – Councillor Update

Parking enforcement

ESC Parking have informed they intend to clamp down on parking on grass verges at the end of Dock Lane on both the Antique Shop and other school side, issuing warning notices this week and possibly next **but** they assure me they won't issue fines – not in the first instance. I have informed residents via NextDoor as it came too late for my latest newsletter.

Planning applications – update

Colleague David Beavan on Scrutiny Committee had win earlier this month – controversial planning applications will now need to be heard by a democratic committee. On 1st March ESC Scrutiny Committee recommended by 7 votes to 4 that local parishes should be able to bypass the referral panel which delegates decisions to officers – as you know. So far whats been occurring is if a Parish disagrees with officer opinion to approve, is set before a referral panel of the chairs and vice chairs of both planning committees – north and south – all Conservatives, to decide whether it be delegated to officers or seen by Committee with Ward Members allowed to attend but unable to express an opinion.

East Suffolk Blooms

Voluntary and community groups are being encouraged to join the campaign by applying for bundles of bulbs to plant locally in time for next spring. In previous years, East Suffolk Council has gifted bulbs to a number of groups in the north of the district, via commercial partner East Suffolk Norse. For 2023, the scheme will be opened up for any voluntary and community group across the entire district to plant bulbs on public land. East Suffolk Blooms officially gets underway in February – with groups required to complete a simple application form by 31 May, ahead of a decision panel meeting to determine applications in June. Successful groups will then be invited to collect their bulbs from depots in either Ufford or Lowestoft in early November.

To apply, please visit: my.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/service/Bulb_planting_scheme

Voter ID

The UK Government has introduced a requirement for voters to show photo ID when voting at a polling station at some elections; this will apply for the first time in England at the local elections on Thursday 4 May 2023. Some acceptable forms of ID include:

- Passport
- Driving licence (including provisional license)
- Blue badge
- Certain concessionary travel cards
- Identity card with PASS mark (Proof of Age Standards Scheme)
- Biometric Immigration document
- Defence identity card
- Certain national identity cards

You are not required to provide photo ID for postal voting. If you do not have an accepted form of photo ID, you can apply for a free Voter Authority Certificate. To do so, contact your local council, or visit: **voter-authority-certificate.service.gov.uk**

If you have any questions, or wish to find out more information, including the full list of accepted forms of photo ID, visit:

0800 328 0280 / electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID

For the most up to date information regarding East Suffolk Council, please visit:

www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk