

Full BPC APM Chair Report 2024-2025

Meetings:

We have held 6 Council meetings with full attendance by our Clerk, and a good attendance of councillors at each.

In addition IA organised a meeting with residents to update the Parish Plan

Finances:

These have remained healthy due to careful budgeting and planning, and all the legal requirements required by the independent audit by SALC have been met.

Support from Key Partners:

Andrew Reid, County Cllr, continues to support us over the long-standing concerns over the safety of the A1152

James Mallinder, our Deben Ward Member at East Suffolk Council:

Continues to be very accessible for advice and support when needed

Appreciates concerns re: rural isolation, poor mobile phone signal reduction in bus services, run-off from fields causing road flooding and mud,

Grateful thanks for granting funds from his Enabling Budget to facilitate the renovation of the Bromeswell Bus Shelter, and for the multi-purpose bin (to include dog waste) which will be installed outside the Village Hall

His ongoing support and advice re: various Planning and Enforcement issues is very welcome, in particular ENF to stop motorbikes using an area on The Walks which is a SSSI.

Currently working alongside MP Jenny Riddell-Carpenter re: housing developments, traffic and speed issues, and areas of flooding.

VHMC continue to provide good facilities for the local and wider community and to maintain the village hall which is a valuable asset.

SWT continue to successfully manage Bromeswell Green which is flourishing under its expertise. They have been helping us monitor illegally parked vans at the site. Community Police have been asked to do a drive by from time to time - no further action necessary to date.

Andrew Reid, James Mallinder, SWT, Suffolk Coast and Heaths National Landscape (formerly AONB) provide regular reports and we appreciate the information and support that they provide/

Planning

(a) Planning Applications

BPC responded to 7 Planning Applications of which 5 were approved, 1 was withdrawn, and 1 is still awaiting a result.

(b) Planning Enforcement Issues

There were 6 such issues. One was resolved after being granted retrospective planning permission, 3 enforcement issues were upheld (unauthorised use of holiday let, unauthorised use of track by motorbikes, incorrect siting of sign) 2 still await a decision (The unauthorised landing at Wilford Bridge remains under discussion with the Environment Agency and National England, the storage containers at Church Barn, Sandy Lane are awaiting a decision)

Consultations, Surveys, Conferences and Other Communications

1. Suffolk Devolution Proposal: Residents were encouraged to respond to the questionnaire by 26 May 2024. The plans mean that there will be a directly elected Mayor to serve both Suffolk and

Norfolk together with replacement of the existing council structures with a streamlined unitary council

2. Travel Behaviour Survey: from transport East to understand how people in Suffolk travel (bike, walk bus, car, train, taxi etc) and to see how they can improve access to work, education, health services and opportunities for socialising

3. SALC AGM: Attended by BPC member and details circulated to all Cllrs

4. East Suffolk Blooms - we applied for the free bulbs again, but were unsuccessful this year , however we were given some wildflower seeds that will be sown around the bus shelter

5. Sizewell C: BPC was represented at the Annual Community Forum in April 2024. There are ongoing concerns about private rental costs, roadwork and traffic challenges. It was noted that it will take up to 10 years to get the project in place from Planning Consent to securing the funding

6. Campaign on safety of lithium batteries. Letter of support sent from BPC

7. ESC Planning Forum: attended where possible. Meeting notes distributed to all Cllrs

8. SALC conferences. Attended where possible, Meeting notes distributed afterwards to all Cllrs

9. National Planning Policy Framework consultation responded to.

10. ESC Consultation on Pre-Application Advice Service responded to

11. Annual report of Suffolk Police and Crime Panel distributed to all Cllrs.

12. Community Rest Centre Training offered to all Cllrs

13. Suffolk Rural Transport Survey - completed by BPC and details displayed on both parish noticeboards and published in The Warbler for villagers to comment

14. Local Transport plan for Suffolk. Public consultation .Details displayed on both parish noticeboards and published in The Warbler for villagers to comment

15. Green Suffolk Survey - completed by BPC (BPC involved in litter picks, thermal imaging projects, facilitated waste clothing bin, works with SWT to protect local green spaces)

16. DAS funding request. Declined.

17. SALC Planning consultation circulated to all Cllrs giving clear guidance on responding to Planning Applications

18. Police and Crime Plan Survey completed by BPC

19. Loft Insulation for residents: details displayed on both parish noticeboards and in published The Warbler for villagers to access if needed.

20 Air Quality Strategy Questionnaire completed by BPC

Joint Initiatives - engaging with other communities

1. JPTI meetings: regularly attended. Aim is to continue monitor traffic and resolve safety issues with ESC and A1152. An ongoing project

2. Melton, Woodbridge and Deben Community Partnership: We keep a watching brief on developments that may be relevant to Bromeswell.

3. Joint Deben ward Parish Meeting attended. It was agreed to submit ALL highways issues affecting Bromeswell and Peninsular Parishes to Highways on spreadsheet to categorise what needs to be done.

Highways:

1. There are ongoing concerns about speed and volume vehicles along A1152, and safety of people (especially children, the infirm, and disabled) trying to cross A1152 from School Lane to access the bus stop.

Options be put to Highways: a) Traffic Island (deemed to expensive and would be costly too near close to the the Eyke.Rendlesham/ Snape turnoff) to be safe)

b) Crossing - Too expensive

c) Slow, Children Crossing sign - no news yet

2. Since the no-overtaking hatchings were extended by Highways from Wilford Bridge Roundabout to just beyond Eyke/Rendlesham/Snape turnoff there have been no serious accidents reported.
3. Speed restriction along Wilford Bridge Rd to 30mph has been put in place.
4. There was concern over lack of notification of the closure of Sutton Road, causing major disruption with diversion through Butley Village. Highways apologised and have requested that their Communications Team remember to let us, and the villages on the Peninsula have advanced warning of future closures
5. A concern was raised as to whether possible poor visibility from the grass being too high at the junction of B1083 (Sutton Rd) and Hollesley Rd caused an accident. Highways did not find a problem
6. Flooding Sheepdrift Rd after heavy rain/irrigation. Reported to Highways
7. Poor visibility at junction of Orford Rd and Sheepdrift Rd due to overgrown foliage - landowner to be contacted to ask if can trim back

Other Projects

1. Renovation of Bromeswell Bus Shelter: further work needed on roof and removal of rotten wood. Quotes awaited.
Awaiting Highways to clear overgrown stretch of path by bus shelter as can be slippery when wet
2. Community Emergency Plan updated and distributed to all residents
3. Financial support for new storage shed Bromeswell VH
4. Thermal Imaging service offered again to enable people to find out if they are eligible for Energy Efficient schemes. Carried out on 13 properties this time.
5. Litter Pick Sat 8 March. well attended by 24 volunteers: a wallet and 25 bags of rubbish and several wheel hubs were gathered!
6. Provision of general litter/dog waste bin by Village Hall
7. Parish Plan informal meeting Bromeswell VH Sat 5 April

Thank yous:

1. To our County Cllr Andrew Reid for his ongoing support for local traffic initiatives, and for the work he carries out for the benefit of the wider Suffolk community.
2. To our Deben Ward Cllr James Mallinder for his tireless support over a wide range of local issues including planning advice, planning enforcement, local flooding issues, accident black spots. We are very grateful for his financial support through his Enabling Grant for the work carried out to renovate the Bromeswell Bus Shelter, and to provide a multipurpose rubbish.dog waste bin outside the Village Hall. Thank you for being so accessible.
3. Thank you to all the villagers who support us and provide the necessary input for the Parish Council to be able to serve you appropriately. We value your ongoing support.
4. Thank you to the Editors of The Warbler.

As ever, your endless patience, guidance and willingness to distribute essential information from the Parish Council to your e-subscribers, both in and outside of the monthly publication, has been immensely valuable.

5. Finally, but by no means least a huge thanks must go to our Clerk, Jenny, who has to filter large volumes of emails from so many sources, ensure we respond to Planning Applications and surveys in good time, and keep us updated on a vast range of updates, forums, etc.

Thank you also to the great team of Cllrs for their unified support.

As you can see, much work has been undertaken by the Parish Council on behalf of Parishioners and this has only been achievable by solid teamwork

Thank you all for enabling me to do my job effectively.

It has been a pleasure and privilege to work alongside you

Verity Brown
Chair May 2025