

## **Poslingford Parish Council – Wednesday 12 June 2024**

West Suffolk District Councillors Report: Nick Clarke, Karen Richardson and Marion Rushbrook

### **WSC food waste bin plan to meet Government's 2026 target**

Plans are in place for households in West Suffolk to have a separate bin for food waste, collected weekly.

The Government has ordered councils across the country to prepare for the introduction of the new food waste collection service in April 2026.

Under the Simpler Recycling policy, published in October, councils must also increase the range of recyclable items collected from people's homes, adding glass bottles and jars and cartons by March 31, 2026, and flexible plastics - such as bread bags and plastic film wrapping - by March 31, 2027.

Central government will allocate just under £1.7 million to West Suffolk Council to meet the cost of new refuse collection lorries and bins.

Councillors were told unprecedented nationwide demand for equipment such as lorries and bins was a major risk to meeting the Government's deadline. Most of the county's equipment requirements would be related to the new collection service for food waste, so Suffolk councils were being asked to take the relevant decisions early this month.

After hearing that the timescale for the manufacture and delivery of new bin lorries currently stood at 12 to 18 months, it was agreed to order the necessary equipment as soon as possible in order to be ready in two years time.

When the new food waste collections start, householders will be asked to separate their food waste into a council-provided bin of about 23 litres in size, less than a 10th the size of the standard 240 litre wheelie bins used by West Suffolk Council for general, garden and recyclable waste. The small bin, of a colour yet to be decided, will be collected from the kerbside along with the other bins.

A further caddy of five litres will also be provided for use in the kitchen, providing a convenient holder to store the food waste prior to collection.

### **Carers Week (10–16 June)**

This is an annual campaign to raise awareness of caring, highlight the challenges unpaid carers face and recognise the contribution they make to families and communities throughout the UK. It also helps people who don't think of themselves as having caring responsibilities to identify as carers and access much-needed support. The campaign is brought to life by thousands of individuals and organisations who come together to provide support for carers, run activities, highlight the vital role carers play in our communities and draw attention to just how important caring is.

This year the theme is 'Putting Carers on the Map' highlighting the invaluable contributions of carers across the UK and ensuring their voices are heard loud and clear. Together we want to help increase the visibility of the carers among politicians, employers and throughout our

communities. And by raising awareness we hope they will better recognise the challenges unpaid carers face and help them access the support they deserve.

[www.carersweek.org](http://www.carersweek.org)

### **New recruit in Families and Communities**

You probably have had contact/heard of Jon Eaton in the above department at West Suffolk Council. Chris Swarbrick has joined the team and will cover the Clare, Hundon and Kedington Ward. Jon will still be involved with us so do keep contacting him and we will hear more from Chris once he has settled in.

### **Locality Budget**

Every councillor has a locality budget. This is funding that councillors can use to support community groups in their wards. Each councillor had £2,800 to spend throughout the year (2024/25) on projects that benefit the community. This is easy to apply send us an email with details and we will check your request fits with the criteria.

### **Mental Health Awareness Week (13 to 19 May)**

Although this "week" has passed we thought it was important to make people aware of the support that is out there. The theme this year was 'Movement: moving more for our mental health'.

Being active is important for our mental health. But so many of us struggle to move enough. We know there are many different reasons for this, so we want to provide advice and guidance on how to find moments for movement in our daily routines. Going for a walk in your neighbourhood, putting on your favourite music and dancing around the living room, or chair exercises when you're watching television – it all counts, as even a short burst of 10 minutes' brisk walking can boost our mood and increase our mental alertness and energy. Movement helps us feel better about our bodies and improves self-esteem. It can also help reduce stress and anxiety and improve sleep.

If you'd like to get moving more, this guide will give you some ideas to get started, as well as tips on how to get the best mental health benefit from the movement you're doing.

[www.mentalhealth.org.uk](http://www.mentalhealth.org.uk)

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### **Find my nearest**

This is a really useful website containing lots of information for our area:

<https://maps.westsuffolk.gov.uk/>

If you ever forget which bin to put out this website will help you. Not just bins, also planning applications in the area, education provisions and lots more.

Finally, we look forward to working with Poslingford Parish Council for another year.