

County Councillor Report – Harry Richardson

September 2026

A143	The surface dressing and 'LockChip' have now been completed, which represents the permanent repairs to the road surface after it repeatedly failed over the summer. The temporary speed limits remain in situ for the time being to ensure the new surface settles; Highways will return at a later date to reinstall the white lines.
Dunwich Heath wildfire	The major incident was stood down on 10 August after a sustained multi-agency response. Around 600 Suffolk firefighters attended during the incident, supported by crews from 18 other fire and rescue services. Road and footpath restrictions remained while hotspots were monitored and the site made safe; the incident was formally closed on 21 August. Residents were reminded to avoid the area during operations and to follow countryside fire-safety advice.
Home energy support	Two initiatives were announced to help residents reduce energy use and modernise home heating. Homeowners can apply for loans towards eligible energy-efficiency improvements through a county council partnership. Suffolk's public-sector organisations also launched a free proposal service to help households assess options for replacing ageing gas, oil or other heating systems.
River Gipping path	The full 17-mile Gipping Valley River Path reopened following major repairs and improvements at two key locations. The work restores the complete riverside route for walkers and reconnects communities along the valley, improving access to green space and supporting active travel and leisure.
Adult learners	Suffolk's adult learners were recognised at an awards ceremony at Portman Road. The event celebrated individual achievement and the contribution of adult learning to skills, confidence and opportunity across the county.
Adult social care reform	The council highlighted the importance of technology and artificial intelligence in national adult social care reform. Its position was that digital tools should support earlier intervention, more personalised care and better use of staff time, while keeping people and safeguarding at the centre of service design.
Suffolk in Motion	Families were invited to a free Suffolk in Motion travel experience day taking place in the autumn. The event will showcase practical and sustainable ways to travel, giving residents opportunities to explore alternatives for everyday journeys and encouraging healthier, lower-carbon choices.

Cllr Harry Richardson

E: harry.richardson@suffolk.gov.uk

T: 01359 265089