

Walton & The Trimleys County & Town Councillor Report for

July & August 2026

During the month of July & August, the following have been achieved:

1. We Had the horrendous fire in Dulwich that lasted several weeks. Putting it out, along with the dampening down of hot spots that kept bursting into flames due to the fire going underground, meant that the fire service was on sight for weeks afterwards. It was an extraordinary warm month coupled with a long period of no rain which contributed to the perfect conditions for the fire to take hold of the oily landscape of heath land. The report from the investigation of the fire is due to be published soon and there has been a huge amount of learning that has come from a fire of this magnitude. We would all like to thank our Fire & Rescue Service along with all the other multi-agency workers that came to the aid of the residents in the area. We are very fortunate to be the only wildfire in the UK this summer that has managed to preserve all buildings in the vicinity of the fire - the coastguard cottages are heritage buildings that the fire swept within 10 feet of. A lot of feedback the administration has received was around our policy to remove the Climate Emergency declared by the former Conservative administration. We are not denying that the climate is changing, this is a fact. I will take this opportunity to state that the rescinding of the Climate Emergency would not have stopped a fire of this nature taking hold, there will be a learning account from this fire that will eventually be produced. The County Council will, and does, engage with Climate Change where we need to put mitigating measures to ensure that we protect our Suffolk Countryside. Education is key to how we manage our countryside in the ever-changing climate, and we must fight to provide the resources that we need for our emergency services who keep us all safe. The unprecedented El Nino weather pattern that comes every 5 to 7 years and causes the extreme weather patterns is upon us and we will be expecting a larger rainfall in the Autumn and Winter. Our services are looking into this, to better prepare ourselves with what is to come. More information can be found at the following link:

[The Met Office Report on 2026 El Nino](#)

2. The administration is still engaged in conversations with regards to Devolution for Suffolk and Norfolk. The discussion has progressed and Suffolk alongside Norfolk are working out how this could work, whilst securing the investment and services that Suffolk has. More details will be disclosed as and when decisions have been made.

3. The County Council has recently been informed that the Judicial Review (JR) for Local Government Reform (LGR) has been put back by the government and will now be heard by the court in December. This will compress the timeline greatly for next year's elections and still leaves us in a void of the unknown. On my next months report, I will provide a breakdown of the pro's and cons of what LGR will mean for the constituents in the parishes.

4. The County Council has been trialling a pothole pro from JCB which came with a 2-day free trial to see if this would be a benefit to Suffolk in the battle against all potholes. The reports are still being investigated before any decisions can be made. Should the pothole pro be of some value to the county, one option would be to lease them instead of purchase as we do not know where the county will be if LGR goes ahead.

5. As your County Councillor, I was approached by the police with regards to updating and investing in more speed limit signs in Trimley St. Martin, outside and around the school. I have authorised for these to be done and paid for it through my Highways Budget. The signage should be completed in around 12 weeks.

6. A good news story on the back of the roll out of the new waste collection and new bins that we all received. East Suffolk Council are responsible for the bins themselves and the collections, Suffolk County Council are responsible for the disposal and recycling of all the collected waste. Last month we are proud to say that the total amount of waste that went to landfill was 0%. All collected waste was recycled or used to provide energy through the Bramford incinerator.

7. Further to the reporting tool for reporting issues relating to Highways that are controlled by Suffolk County Council, there is also a further reporting tool if the problem related to National Highways. We have limited road in our area that come under this, however, from the dock spur roundabout to the port and also the A14 are both reported on this platform. The links below will take you to the different reporting tools, should you see something that needs to be registered in the community. If you report an issue, it is highly recommended to upload a photo of the issue which will help the assessment team who visit the sight.

Reporting a Suffolk County Council maintained road is on the following link:

[Suffolk County Council - Report It](#)

To Report a National Highways issue (If you are on a mobile phone - it will initially come up with page not found – press the report button at the top and it will take you through to the relevant area), use the following link:

[National Highways Report a problem](#)

8. The County Council Leader met with Unity Schools Partnership that oversees Felixstowe High School and had a very positive meeting. Going forward, there will hopefully be more positive news to report on post 16 education in Felixstowe. It is early days and discussions are taking place to try and offer something for the children. When there is more to relay, it will be announced in due course.

9. The Reform UK Strategic Statement has now been finalised and is available for the public to see. This is a document that we needed to get right, and it has been worked on for months by the Joint Leadership Team within the County Council. I have put the link to it below.

[Putting Suffolk Communities First: Our Strategic Priorities](#)

For constituents that wish to get in contact with myself, my email address is tristan.gale@suffolk.gov.uk and is the preferred method of contact, phone number is 07860 910565 which is a SCC phone that is not always monitored.

Councillor Tristan Gale

County Councillor for Walton & The Trimleys Division
Cabinet Member for Planning, Devolution & The Fire Service
Felixstowe Town Councillor for the Walton Parish Ward