

Thérèse Coffey MP

Newsletter



Please find below my latest newsletter covering issues I've been dealing with and events I have attended since March. I also update my website www.theresecoffey.co.uk and [Facebook](#) regularly. If you no longer wish to receive the newsletter, there is a link to unsubscribe below.

1. Coronavirus

Vaccines: Over 87% of East Suffolk residents have now received their first jab and crucially, 71% are now fully vaccinated. My grateful thanks go to the doctors, nurses, surgery staff and many volunteers who are continuing to work flat out to ensure as many of us are vaccinated as quickly as possible. Especially the teams at Saxmundham Health and the Grove in Felixstowe East - who were first and third in the league table for the whole of the UK. Brilliant work. I'm so proud and so grateful.

Roadmap: Whilst there is currently concern about the Delta/Indian variant pushing up case rates, the vaccinations are working – with hospital admissions and deaths still very low. The Prime Minister has, however, announced that Step 4 of the Roadmap will be delayed until July 19th. While this will have been disappointing for many, by being cautious now we have the chance to fully vaccinate many more people and keep the virus at bay. Please do encourage everyone you know who is not yet vaccinated to get the jab. Vaccinations are now available to all UK adults and can be booked here - <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/book-coronavirus-vaccination/>

For the latest information on the restrictions and help and support available for businesses please see - <https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/coronavirus-covid-19-uk-government-response>.

2. Energy/Environment

Sizewell C: The formal planning process for the construction of Sizewell C has now started and I have been contributing to the hearings. EDF made some significant changes to its approach following the pre-application consultation and whilst late in the day, I broadly welcome those changes. Particularly in relation to transport mitigation and the fact that they are now pursuing a predominantly marine & rail-led approach to bringing freight to site during the construction phase, rather than a road-led strategy. There are some major environmental impact changes too and whilst these changes are welcome, I'm concerned that our environmental regulators will not have sufficient time to consider all the impacts of the new proposals. Especially in relation to flood risks, coastal processes changes and water supply. A key aspect of the new marine-led approach is the need for a second beach landing facility the impact of which needs to be properly assessed. That's why I have suggested there should be an extension to this process to the Planning Inspectorate and to the Secretary of State. You can read all my comments on the application at www.theresecoffey.co.uk/sizewell-c.

Scottish Power Renewables: I spoke, once again, at the Planning Inquiry determining Scottish Power Renewables' application for huge substations at Friston and the associated cabling corridor from Thorpeness. If approved, the proposal would have a devastating impact on the local area including elements of the AONB. I reiterated the government's emerging policy framework, which commits to greater offshore coordination to protect our environment. I'm firmly of the belief that the onshore aspects of these projects must be rejected in favour of a grid connection that offers the capacity to integrate multiple projects without having a devastating impact on local communities and our precious landscapes.

Integrated Energy: I attended meetings with Energy Ministers, Kwasi Kwarteng and Anne-Marie Trevelyan as well as Ofgem and National grid on the Offshore Transmission Network Review to promote the integration of grid connections on renewable energy projects.

Wangford Quarry: Following Suffolk County Council's recommendation for refusal, Breedon has now withdrawn their applications to extend Wangford Quarry. Alongside local residents, I made strong representations at the Examination in Public in 2019 to protect the land at Lime Kiln Farm in Reydon, situated within the Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB. Following the Inspector's recommendation, it didn't appear in the Suffolk Minerals & Waste Local Plan when it was adopted by the County Council last year. There were, however, two planning applications that were submitted prior to the hearing that remained to be determined but I'm pleased they have now been withdrawn.

3. Health & Care

NHS Briefings: I've attended further briefings from the Chief Executive of Ipswich Hospital and the head of our local NHS Commissioning Group on coronavirus.

NHS Dentists: The lack of NHS dental provision has become an increasing issue and I've escalated my concerns to the Primary Care Minister and fellow Suffolk MP, Jo Churchill. At the beginning of the year, I met NHS England's Head of Commissioning. We discussed NHS England's plan for a new dental strategy which, in the long-term, will increase access to dentists. Following notification that the MyDentist in Leiston planned to close its doors, I was also promised that NHS England would be providing additional contractual activity to other nearby dental practices to enable them to see displaced patients. I'm disappointed that this has not yet happened and have made my views clear to the Head of Commissioning and the Health Minister. I will keep pressing the case until capacity has been increased locally.

ECCH: I met the new Chief Executive of East Coast Community Healthcare to talk about local services.

Ambulances: I organised the latest briefing for regional MPs on the performance of the East of England Ambulance Service. These meetings will now become more frequent so directors can update us by-monthly, after each of their board meetings.

4. Education

Capital Funding: The Education Secretary announced that four schools in Suffolk Coastal have been successful in obtaining funding from the government's Condition Improvement Fund. Bramfield and Leiston Primary Schools will use the money for roof replacements, Causton Junior School in Felixstowe for a new boiler and Saxmundam Free School for a safeguarding fence. The £483 million fund is designed specifically to keep school buildings safe and in good working order.

Rendlesham Primary School: I joined year 3 and 4 pupils on a virtual visit to witness the award-winning Kickstart Money financial education programme.

5. Transport

Saxmundham Station: I expressed my disappointment about the further delay in restoring the ground floor of Saxmundham station, although I'm pleased work is now nearing completion. I also followed up on the lack of a northbound shelter. The good news is that has now been replaced.

6. Business

Freeport: The Chancellor confirmed a major economic boost for East Anglia by giving the go-ahead for Freeport East. The decision will enable the creation of a single customs zone alongside innovative plans for green energy. This is great news for employment and prosperity with over 13,500 jobs set to be created, many of which will be highly skilled.

7. Constituency & Suffolk Matters:

Suffolk Day: On Suffolk Day, Suffolk's seven MPs chose their winners of the 'Suffolk Heroes Awards'. The awards celebrate some amazing individuals and teams across Suffolk, who have given so much to their local communities during the pandemic. Details of the winners in Suffolk Coastal are available here - www.theresecoffey.co.uk/news/suffolk-mps-celebrate-local-heroes-inaugural-suffolk-day-awards

Local Elections: Thank you to everyone who voted in the local elections. Of the 12 County Councillors that serve Suffolk Coastal constituency, 10 were elected from my party but as ever I will work with all councillors in the interests of the people and communities. I will also continue to support Cllr Matthew Hicks in delivering their manifesto. Locally, we need to continue to progress on levelling up with good opportunities for everyone, particularly our young people.

Anti-social behaviour in Woodbridge: My congratulations too to Tim Passmore who was re-elected for a third term as Suffolk's Police & Crime Commissioner. Before the election, I welcomed him to Woodbridge to talk to me and local Town Councillor, Robin Sanders about the anti-social behaviour, vandalism and broken bottles that have been having a big impact on Elmhurst Park. Tim is committed to help tackle this and talked about the additional 160 police officers he plans to recruit over the next three years thanks to additional government resource, which will help increase visibility in the area.

Halesworth Campus: I met Cllr Tony Goldson in Halesworth at the future Campus and care home site. I have been supportive of this project for the last decade and I know Tony has been working tirelessly to get this legacy for the town, helping navigate it through many twists and turns. Now we have an ambitious proposal for this site in the planning process, with much consultation with the community over many years and the new care home key to making this all happen. If approved, it will bring a high-quality facility for people at all stages of retirement, good jobs and will unlock the development of the campus facilities.

Beach Clean: I took part in the Adnams organised beach clean in Southwold.

HRH Prince Philip: I represented constituents at the commemoration service for Suffolk, at St Edmundsbury Cathedral with the Bishop of Ipswich and St Edmundsbury officiating.

8. Parliament & Ministerial Matters

Kickstart: As Secretary of State for Work & Pensions, helping our younger generation get a leg up on the employment ladder is something that I've been concentrating on. Our fully-funded Kickstart programme is helping thousands of 16 to 24-year olds with six-month work placements that not only provide pay but experience, skills and confidence. Overall, nearly 200,000 jobs have been approved.

G20: I represented the UK government at the G20 (the international forum of the world's major economies) in Sicily and OECD (organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) discussions in Rome.

The Queen's Speech: Her Majesty opened Parliament outlining the government's packed legislative agenda for the forthcoming year: focussing on supporting the nation's recovery, backing the NHS, levelling up and spreading opportunity.

9. Other Meetings & Events

- Met the new Chair of the New Anglia LEP, C-J Green to discuss their priorities and economic development opportunities in Suffolk Coastal. Also attended a briefing update for Suffolk MPs.

- Attended a Sizewell C briefing hosted by EDF.

- Met the Environment Agency Area Manager for East Anglia for an update on their response to Sizewell C. I also had similar meetings with the Marine Management organisation and Natural England.

- I attended the Joint Local Authority Group on Sizewell C.

- Met the Managing Director of the Port of Felixstowe, Clemence Cheng to discuss Freeport East.

- Attended a Highways England briefing about improvements to the A14 Copdock interchange.

- Met County Council Leader, Matthew Hicks and SCC Cabinet Member, Andrew Reid to discuss A12 improvements.

10. Next Surgery

I've held a number of online surgeries throughout the coronavirus pandemic. To make an appointment please call my office on 0207 219 7164.