

## District Council Report November 2024

You will receive will be receiving information about the recycling and waste services which is legislated by the Environment Act 2021.

The new electric vehicle (EV) chargers were fitted at The Guineas Shopping Centre car park in Newmarket and Parkway car park in Bury St Edmunds in October.

This new infrastructure is part of a district-wide effort to meet the Council's strategic priority of supporting sustainable growth and a resilient environment and is funded by West Suffolk Council and the Office for Zero Emission Vehicles (OZEV). Through this project, residents living near the chargers who do not have access to off street parking have a solution to charging their EVs. The chargers can also be used by the council's fleet vehicles when working in communities and towns, for example car park patrol vehicles.

The Guineas Shopping Centre car park in Newmarket will have a total of four dedicated EV charging bays located near to the car park entrance, two of which replace those removed earlier in the year from the multi-storey car park. Parkway in Bury St Edmunds will also have four dedicated parking bays with EV chargers located on the surface car park behind Cineworld.

This work complements the launch of West Suffolk Council's new fleet of electric vans and sweepers, alongside the installation of electric vehicle chargers at West Suffolk Operational Hub and Haverhill House.

Funding is available as part of the Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF) provided by Defra to local authorities and West Suffolk Council has created a Communities Capital Grant Fund using its REPF allocation to support activities that specifically address the particular challenges faced in rural areas. The fund is available to our rural communities (in line with Defra guidance).

The application process will close on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2024 at 5.00pm. Grants of between £500 and £5,000 are available for capital projects. If you are aware of any community groups within your ward that are seeking capital funding then please do send the guidance and application form to them. We have also sent details, guidance and the application form to all parish and town councils today.

If you or any community group would like further information or a discussion about the fund then please do not hesitate to contact the Families and Communities

Team: [families.communities@westsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:families.communities@westsuffolk.gov.uk)

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