

STRADISHAL PARISH COUNCIL REPORT – WEDNESDAY 6TH MARCH 2023

FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLORS – Nick Clarke, Karen Richardson and Marion Rushbrook

Locality Funding / Coronation Events

Most (if not all) of our allowances have been spent in our 8 wards with parish / town council. The officer Jon Eaton is working through the final process for each of the applications.

The last of our funds have gone towards Coronation events. These events are seen as bringing communities together, celebrating communities and forging new relationships.

Voter ID

The UK Government has introduced a requirement for voters to show photo ID when voting at a polling station at some elections. This new requirement will apply for the first time in England at the local elections on Thursday 4 May 2023.

Which forms of ID can I use to vote?

You may already have a form of photo ID that is acceptable. You can use any of the following:

- Passport
- Driving licence (including provisional license)
- Blue badge
- Certain concessionary travel cards
- Identity card with PASS mark (Proof of Age Standards Scheme)
- Biometric Immigration document
- Defence identity card
- Certain national identity cards

For more information on which forms of photo ID will be accepted, visit electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID or call their helpline on 0800 328 0280.

If you don't have an accepted form photo ID

If you don't already have an accepted form of photo ID, or you're not sure whether your photo ID still looks like you, you can apply for a free voter ID document, known as a Voter Authority Certificate. You can apply for this at voter-authority-certificate.service.gov.uk.

Alternatively, you can complete a paper application form and send this to the electoral services team at your local council.

If you need any help with applying for a Voter Authority Certificate or want to request an application form, contact your local council. To find their contact details visit electoralcommission.org.uk/voter.

Find out more

If you have any questions or would like to find out more, go to electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID, or call their helpline on 0800 328 0280.

Cost Of Living

Link: [Cost of living \(westsuffolk.gov.uk\)](http://westsuffolk.gov.uk)

The rising cost of living pressures can affect any one at any time. If you, or someone you know in West Suffolk are struggling financially at this time, there is support and advice out there that can help.

The Government website has lots of resources and links to support you and your family at this time. [The Help for Households](http://helpforhouseholds.campaign.gov.uk) helpforhouseholds.campaign.gov.uk campaign has been launched to raise awareness of the support that is available nationally for those that need it most.

[Suffolk Infolink](http://infolink.suffolk.gov.uk)

infolink.suffolk.gov.uk/kb5/suffolk/infolink/family.page?familychannel=6

details all the support in your community which is local to you and through various national charities and organisations.

This is to update you all on the Government's Energy Bills Support Scheme Alternative Funding, who is eligible and West Suffolk's role in helping eligible residents to access this funding as swiftly and simply as possible.

You may recall that West Suffolk Council was one of four councils nationally chosen to pilot the scheme below on behalf of the Government's Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS). This was to a limited number of applicants so that we could feedback any issues.

West Suffolk Council was also the first in the country to go live on the pilot and also the first to put payments through.

Energy Bills Support Scheme (EBSS)

The EBSS Alternative Funding scheme is now being launched nationally.

About the scheme

The majority of households are already receiving the (EBSS) to help with the cost of their energy bills. They will be receiving this in the form of six instalments, paid through their electricity supplier from October 2022 through to March 2023. These six payments will total £400.

Councils are now working with the Government's Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) to contact and make payments of £400 to those households including vulnerable residents who have missed out on this funding because they:

- pay for energy through a landlord, housing manager or site owner
- live in a park home, houseboat or off the electricity grid

This may include:

- Care homes
- Park homes
- Caravan parks
- Moorings
- Some tenants of private and social rented homes
- Homes on a private electricity supply
- Residents of caravans and houseboats on registered sites
- Farmers living in domestic farmhouses
- Other off-grid households.
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How people apply

People should visit the Government website at www.gov.uk/ebss-alt-funding which includes more details. BEIS will then carry out some initial eligibility checks before passing applications back to us and Anglia Revenues Partnership to complete the verification and process. Payments will then be made within 30 working days.

Applications will close on 31 May 2023.

How are West Suffolk Council communicating this information

As well as writing to residents, West Suffolk Council (WSC) will also be working with The Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) to contact those identified as likely to be eligible including care homes, park home residents on our licensing team database, our landlords' forum, tenants in the houses of multiple occupation that we have on our register, people in temporary accommodation, and Suffolk County Council Adult Social Care.

WSC will also send a message to their town and parish councils, issue a media release and post and share messages on our social media channels to raise awareness and encourage take up particularly from those residents in private rented accommodation who we have no other way of identifying.

Help and Support

Anyone requiring help or support to either make a claim or progress an application, or discuss an outcome should be directed to the Government's helpline on:

Telephone: 0808 175 3287
Monday to Friday, 8am to 6pm