

# East Suffolk Conservative Manifesto

## Towards a thriving East Suffolk

A Conservative Election Manifesto

2nd May 2019



Promoted by Mark Bee on behalf of East Suffolk Conservatives, both at Heathlands, London Road, Kessingland, Suffolk, NR33 7PJ

## Enabling Communities to thrive

“We care about your quality of life and are committed to enabling and supporting thriving communities. Helping keep people connected, particularly the more vulnerable, is essential for flourishing communities.”



# East Suffolk Conservative Manifesto

## So, a Conservative-run East Suffolk Council will:

- Roll out 'Community Enabling Budgets' across the whole East Suffolk area – each of the 55 councillors will have £7,500 to spend directly in the local community.
- Use a £110,000 community initiatives fund to deliver flagship projects across East Suffolk.
- Use our new £250,000 rural broadband fund as creatively as possible to ensure that the roll-out of superfast broadband reaches the more remote parts of East Suffolk.
- Provide £200,000 to support free Wi-Fi provision in our market towns.
- Create new Community Partnerships, allowing you to take back control of a range of issues that affect you and your community, each with a budget of £25,000.
- Work with schools and colleges to encourage them to open up facilities, such as halls and sports facilities, to the local community.
- Through our Community Safety Partnership, continue to work with the police to tackle the causes of crime and anti-social behaviour, including developing and enabling youth projects and educational programmes that address some of the underlying causes.
- Continue to support Felixstowe Forward, Leiston Together, Lowestoft Rising and the Citizens' Advice Bureaux in East Suffolk to build and enable communities that work for everyone.
- Work with the county council to support the provision of community transport schemes, filling the gaps and helping keep people connected.

## Homes for East Suffolk

“We want to enable more people to own their own home. This means ensuring enough houses are built in the right places.”

“Building homes, whether to rent or buy, must always be done while respecting our unique, beautiful landscape.”



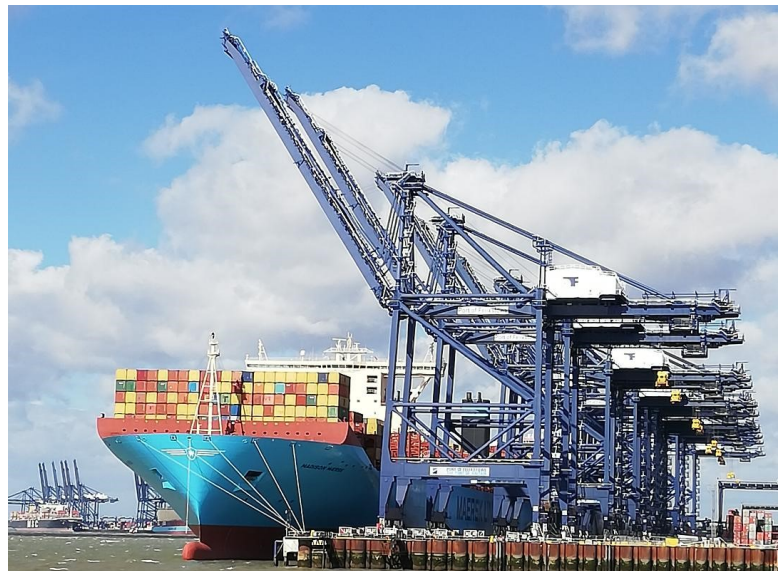
# East Suffolk Conservative Manifesto

## So, a Conservative-run East Suffolk Council will:

- Work to secure infrastructure alongside housing – new housing must be supported by appropriate infrastructure, and we will work with the county council and others to put in place the roads, schools, surgeries, broadband and other infrastructure needed to support new housing.
- Enable provision of local homes for local people - supporting the excellent work of Community Land Trusts and housing associations, to ensure that housing is developed organically, from the ground up, built to meet our local needs.
- Enable a 'Rent-to-buy' scheme, where housing is made available at below-market rents, enabling tenants to save and put money towards the deposit for the house.
- Build and deliver new, affordable homes to meet increasing demand. Over twenty new, high-quality affordable homes have been built over the last two years with tenants now in occupation. A further sixty new homes will have been completed by the end of March 2019. Further council housing developments are underway in Lowestoft and Southwold, soon to be matched in other parts of East Suffolk.
- Provide help for self-builders so they can fulfil their dream.
- Help speed up house-building by lobbying the government to allow us to charge council tax on the homes the developer has permission for, but has failed to deliver.

## Jobs for East Suffolk

“We want to make East Suffolk the best place in the region for business, job creation and developing skills, particularly for young people. It is vital we do this in rural areas as well as in our towns.”



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## So, a Conservative-run East Suffolk Council will:

- Roll-out an East Suffolk Youth Employment Service to help young people into employment or training, while working with employers to help overcome barriers to recruiting young people.
- Investigate using disused buildings for new and developing businesses.
- Work with businesses to help and support the creation of additional apprenticeships in East Suffolk.
- Work with schools and colleges to push the development of vocational education to help give our young people the skills they need for the high-value jobs being created.
- Seek the opportunities of new technology to help drivers find parking spaces more easily, helping businesses and shops by improving efficiency of parking spaces and increasing the through-put of customers.
- Work with local businesses to help nurture flourishing town centres and High Streets.
- Jobs without travel: lead the way in helping people to work without the need to travel, and by supporting business to develop more flexible working arrangements wherever possible.
- Lobby the bus and railway companies to produce more joined-up timetables.
- Work to unlock the potential for business development in Lowestoft.
- Continue to support the Port of Felixstowe, worth hundreds of millions of pounds a year to our local economy, wherever we can: through our planning system, developing skills, lobbying government, and through continued investment in our Port Health Authority.
- Support the re-birth of Lowestoft Port as a base for the offshore wind industry, and seek other new diverse uses.
- Work with the county council, the government and rail operators to improve the East Suffolk line and keep pushing on the improvements to the Felixstowe-Nuneaton freight line.
- Continue the push for the four-villages bypass along the A12.

## Leisure, Culture and Health

“We will continue to support and encourage the provision of easily-accessible leisure and culture across East Suffolk, broadening the range of opportunities, while also recognising the physical and mental health benefits these activities can bring.”





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## So, a Conservative-run East Suffolk Council will:

- Complete our refurbishment of key leisure facilities across the district, starting with Leiston Leisure Centre, which will be open for business this summer. Felixstowe is next in line for new, state-of-the-art facilities.
- Provide activities and facilities for young people. We will work with community organisations to promote a greater and more diverse range of activities for young people, helping them develop and maintain a healthy lifestyle.
- Support and encourage the provision of easily accessible arts, culture and leisure across the district. Work to accrue the benefits that these activities bring in improving the determinants of both mental and physical health.
- We will increase the number of beach huts along our coast, so that more people can enjoy the unique experience of the Suffolk coast.
- Work with the county council and NHS to develop an integrated health and wellbeing service, focusing on keeping vulnerable people safely housed and cared for.
- Help encourage cycling by using the latest technology to provide easy access to information on cycling routes, improved signage and cycle parks.
- Support the aims of the Suffolk Health and Well Being Board in seeking to turn strategies into actions for people, young and old, across East Suffolk.
- With our 'Period Poverty' scheme, work towards ending period poverty in East Suffolk. As well as raising awareness of our scheme, we want to work with businesses and organisations who are already supporting the various national schemes.

## **Managing our precious coast**

“Suffolk has a beautiful but dynamic and sometimes vulnerable coastline, and the people who live, work and visit deserve a well-planned future. We are committed to innovation and delivering new approaches to managing this coast. Striving energetically to achieve this will remain our vision.”



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So, a Conservative-run East Suffolk Council will:

- Work with our partners to manage the coastline effectively for future generations.
- Ensure the beauty of the area is preserved while providing a renewable energy source.



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## **Protecting our very special environment**

“We live in one of the most beautiful parts of the country with exceptional landscapes which need to be protected. We will continue to do our utmost to achieve that. We will also do all in our power to help people and communities to reduce use of plastics, to recycle everything possible and to reduce waste and energy usage.”



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## So, a Conservative-run East Suffolk Council will:

- Work to improve recycling rates. We have an excellent record in recycling, and will work hard to encourage increased rates over the next four years.
- Support efforts, wherever possible, to reduce the usage of single-use plastics in East Suffolk: eliminating it in our council offices and, through working with businesses, schools and other organisations, help find alternatives wherever possible.
- Three for free: develop a scheme for providing three re-usable essentials: shopping bag, water bottle and coffee cup and so help reduce plastic waste.
- Re-introduce a 'Village of the Year' for East Suffolk, encouraging and celebrating the pride that people rightly feel in their local area.
- Build new water fountains in public spaces, ensuring people have a place where they can re-fill water bottles, so helping to reduce waste.

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## Providing value for money

“We have a fundamental duty to use council tax-payers’ hard-earned money as carefully as possible and to give you, in return, the best-value services we can.”



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## So, a Conservative-run East Suffolk Council will:

- Do the basics well, providing value-for-money across the range of council services.
- Build on the creation of a new East Suffolk Council to seek out ever greater efficiency, using economies of scale to ensure a streamlined organisation working for you.
- Develop our investment strategy to bring income which can then be invested in the community and in keeping council tax bills as low as possible.

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