

County Council report – December 2025

Suffolk County Council announces £63m A12 highway improvement proposals

Suffolk County Council has unveiled a full planning application for a package of highway improvements worth in the region of £63 million along the A12.

The works will be between the A12/A14 Seven Hills Junction and Woods Lane junction north of Woodbridge.

They aim to enhance transport connectivity, safety, and accessibility for all users, including motorists, cyclists, pedestrians, and public transport passengers.

Suffolk County Council is responsible for this section of the A12, and the proposals feature significant upgrades to the 6.8-mile (11km) stretch.

Key elements of the scheme are:

- Highway upgrades to improve traffic flow and safety, including enhancements to seven road junctions.
- Construction of a mobility hub at Adastral Park, designed to support sustainable travel options and improve public transport integration
- Replacement of the Martlesham footbridge with a new non-motorised user's bridge to improve accessibility for pedestrians and cyclists
- New signalised bus link junction north of Anson Road, connecting the A12 and Main Road via Portal Avenue
- Dual carriageway upgrade between the A12/B1438 Ipswich Road junction and the A12/B1079 Grundisburgh Road junction, including a new layby, shared use footway/cycleway, and agricultural accessway
- New shared use footway/cycleways at Portal Avenue and north of A1152 Woods Lane, along with improved crossing facilities at key junctions
- Additional highway features, such as maintenance bays, traffic signs, upgraded signals, and pedestrian crossings

New Armed Forces Covenant for Suffolk

As Britain prepares to honour its war dead in Remembrance Week a new pledge to support our serving and former personnel has been signed by Suffolk County Council.

The council is a signatory to the Armed Forces Covenant, a formal pledge by the nation to ensure that members of the military community—those who serve or have served, and their families—are treated fairly and with respect.

Launched in 2012, the original Covenant pledge focused on integration and shared armed forces community/civil society joint benefit projects.

It also set out the conditions to deliver the covenant locally such as the creation of an Armed Forces Covenant Partnership Board and the appointment of a politically independent Armed Forces Commissioner for Suffolk.

The new Covenant better reflects the engagement, learning, legislation, and delivery that has taken place since the original pledge signed by most local authorities, including Suffolk, since 2012.

It was signed Councillor Matthew Hicks, the leader of Suffolk County Council, supported by council chairman Councillor Jessica Fleming and Suffolk Armed Forces Commissioner Andrew Smith.

Council fears Sunnica is to become a 'Trojan horse' for new large infrastructure projects

Sunnica Ltd is a joint venture between Tribus Clean Energy and PS Renewables. They are hoping to extend the provision in their agreed planning permission, to secure 'future value-adding flexibility', as stated in their letter to government:

“To provide the Scheme with sufficient future value-adding flexibility in relation to adjacent land that may be subject to planning applications in conjunction with the Scheme.”

These changes would enable them to integrate future proposed developments that come forward, by allowing local planning applications to overlap with the entire boundaries of the Sunnica scheme.

It means that new, vast projects such as data centres could cover many hectares of land, on top of that covered by the already-agreed solar panels, battery storage and associated infrastructure.

A consultation on these proposed changes will begin in due course. However, while the proposal sets out a limited number of consultees, it is very important to recognise that any relevant party will be able to respond.

Councillor Richard Rout, Suffolk County Council's Cabinet Member for Devolution, Local Government Reorganisation and NSIPs, said:

“I stand by my previous comments that Sunnica is the poorest infrastructure application that I have ever dealt with.

“In a similar vein, we now learn that they want to move the goalposts on their application, to allow them to sweep through even more potential developments associated with the scheme. For example, this could be large data centres, potentially covering even more land.

“It appears to me that the Sunnica solar farm is a Trojan horse - a devious way of introducing even more infrastructure into our county which is lucrative only for the developer and landowners while our communities and landscape pay a heavy price. “The approach Sunnica is taking shows complete contempt for residents and communities.

“I strongly encourage all parishes, organisations, and individuals, who believe they may be affected by the proposed changes to respond to the consultation, when it commences.”

17 November 2025: Since the publication of this news story, Sunnica Ltd has announced that it does not intend to proceed with the change concerning the 'future value-adding flexibility'. The consultation will solely focus on the amended Order Limits surrounding Burwell substation.

Discover Suffolk through 'Wonderlust by Bus'

“Wonderlust by Bus” is a new map, featuring many popular tourist locations across the county, helping visitors to plan their journeys through passenger transport and active travel options.

A play on the word Wanderlust, meaning a desire to travel, “Wonderlust by Bus” showcases all of the Wonders that can be seen when travelling across Suffolk.

The map features bus route and timetable information via Suffolk Onboard and directs people to Good Journey, for walking and cycling routes, a cycling journey planner and discounts on entry to Good Journey destinations such as cafés and gift shops, for visitors who have travelled using sustainable transport.

The interactive map can be viewed online at: www.wonderlustbybus.co.uk

Residents and visitors to Suffolk can also pick up a copy of the map from more than 900 locations across the county, including libraries, local shops, rail stations, hotels and leisure centres.

The map is also displayed in the reception of the council’s head office, Endeavour House, via a 2-metre x 3-metre mural on the wall.

“I’m delighted to launch the “Wonderlust by Bus” map, which we hope will make it even easier for people to plan their journeys and discover some of the most exciting and inspiring locations Suffolk as to offer. Through Suffolk on Board and Good Journey, “Wonderlust by Bus” highlights discounts, route information, and active travel options, making travel across the county simpler, and more sustainable.”

Cllr Chris Chambers, Cabinet Member for Transport Strategy, Planning and Waste

The map has been designed by Steamboat Creative, led by Reb Capper, a Felixstowe-based design studio with a deep passion for illustration and cartography - using beautifully crafted visuals to highlight key information and uncover the “wee wonders” across Suffolk and beyond.

Reb Capper said: “When Suffolk County Council discovered Steamboat’s work through the *Suffolk Map of Mystery*, it felt like pure kismet: a shared belief that creating something bespoke, intricate, and fun could help bring Suffolk Onboard - and all the places it connects - to life.

“The resulting maps and supporting website are not only useful, but they also celebrate the rich variety of experiences Suffolk has to offer. The map demonstrates that by exploring some of these destinations by simply hopping on a bus, the journey itself can become part of the sight-seeing adventure. It’s an experience people can enjoy both on their phones and as a beautifully crafted physical map. It’s something to open, explore, and return to time and again.

“We hope to keep adding more marvels and helpful nuggets along the way - from practical service information to hidden gems, as we continue expanding Suffolk OnBoard’s very own mini-universe across the county.”

As part of the *Wonderlust by Bus* project, Ascender Creative — the marketing partner for the Enhanced Bus Partnership — worked closely with Suffolk Onboard and Steamboat Creative to deliver the project’s online experience. This collaboration includes the development of all functionalities behind the **wonderlustbybus.co.uk** website.

Ascender Creative and Suffolk Onboard plan to expand and enhance the “Wonderlust by Bus” platform, with eight additional Suffolk locations set to launch soon.