



**FELIXSTOWE**  
TOWN COUNCIL

# ANNUAL REPORT 2024-25



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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

A Message  
from the Mayor **03**

Councillors  
2023-27 **03**

Staff Structure **04**

Finance &  
Governance  
Committee **05**

Planning &  
Environment  
Committee **08**

Climate  
Emergency **09**

Assets &  
Services  
Committee **11**

Civic &  
Community  
Committee **14**

# A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR



I am delighted to present the Annual Town Report for 2024-25, highlighting the accomplishments and efforts of Felixstowe Town Council over the past year.

It has been an honour to serve as Mayor of Felixstowe and Chair of the Town Council. This report reflects our collective achievements. I set the theme of service for this Mayoral Year and throughout the year I have seen so many examples of people serving others and it is this that makes Felixstowe such a thriving community. I was proud to recognise some of those who have given 'service' to others and Felixstowe at the Annual Town Meeting and Civic Awards Ceremony on 14 May.

I extend my sincere gratitude to Deputy Mayor Councillor Corrine Franklin, my fellow Councillors, and the dedicated staff of Felixstowe Town Council for their support during my Mayoral Year.

An enormous thank you to the Mayor's Charities Breast Friends CIC and Landguard Trust. You deserve every pound that we have raised but most importantly we had great fun in putting on the charity events. Finally, I thank all the community groups, organisations, businesses, volunteers, and residents of Felixstowe for what you do to ensure Felixstowe is such a great place to live.

**Cllr David Rowe**  
**Mayor of Felixstowe 2024-25**

## Walton Ward



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**Corrine Franklin**  
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07703 575 121

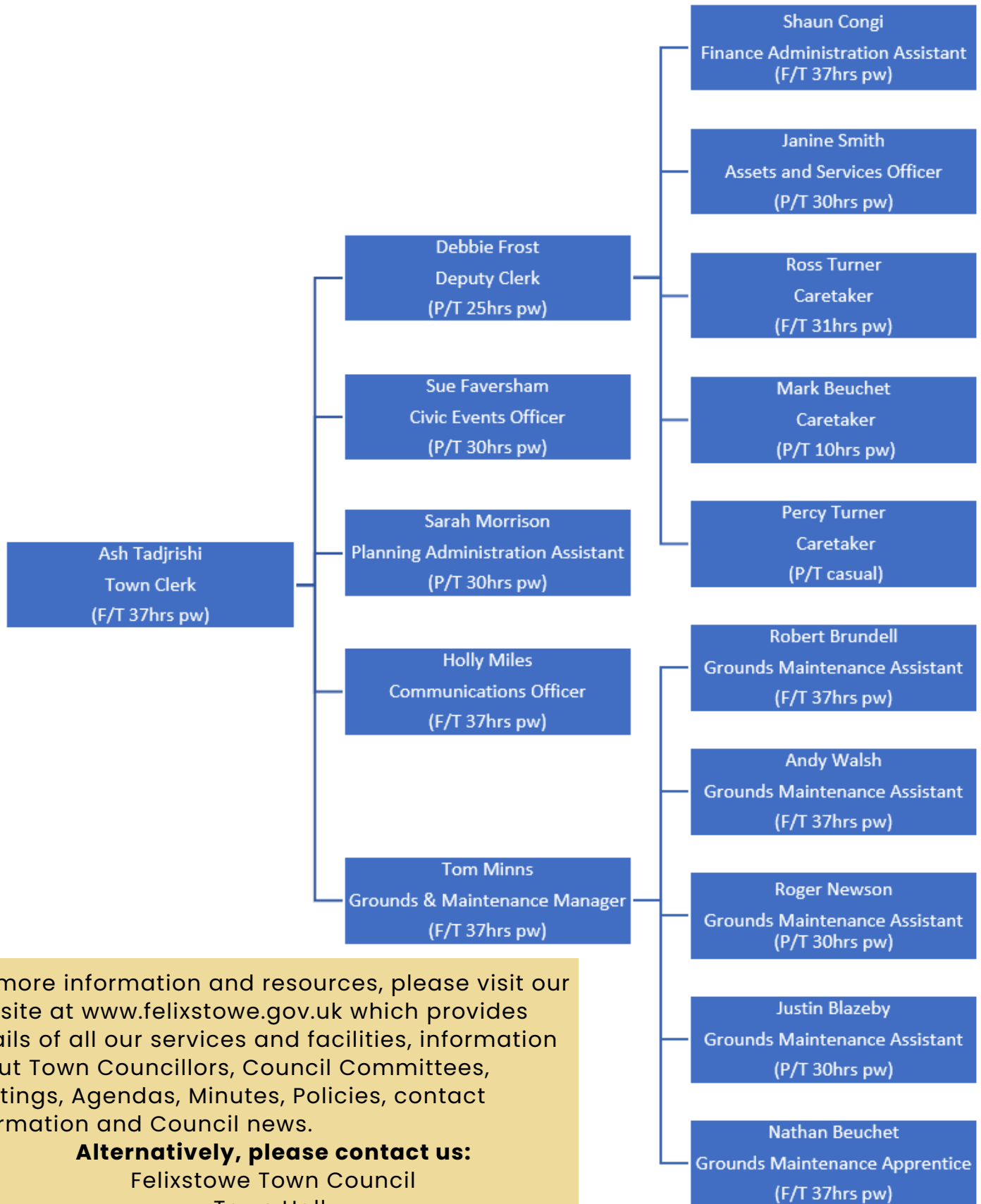
### Key

\* Councillor is also a Member of East Suffolk Council

\*\* Councillor is also a Member of Suffolk County Council



# STAFF STRUCTURE



For more information and resources, please visit our website at [www.felixstowe.gov.uk](http://www.felixstowe.gov.uk) which provides details of all our services and facilities, information about Town Councillors, Council Committees, Meetings, Agendas, Minutes, Policies, contact information and Council news.

**Alternatively, please contact us:**

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# FINANCE & GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN 2024-25: CLLR MIKE DEACON

***Considers and monitors the finances and governance of the Council.***

## Audit and Accounts

The 2024/25 Audit will be undertaken by PKF Littlejohn LLP in June 2025, and the audited accounts for 2024/25 will be available from September 2025. Finance and Governance Committee receives six-monthly Internal Audit reports. In 2024/25, the Internal Auditor found Council's procedures to be all in order and made some helpful recommendations.

## Business Plan

The Business Plan for 2024-2028 was approved by Council on 15 May 2024 and is available to view online at [felixstowe.gov.uk/Business-Plan-2024-28](https://felixstowe.gov.uk/Business-Plan-2024-28)

## Budget and Precept

At the close of the 2024/25 financial year, Felixstowe Town Council recorded an income outturn of 102.0% against budget estimates, with expenditure at 96.9% of the approved budget. This was achieved despite increased costs in certain areas, including PPE, skip and digger hire, and rising utility expenses such as Town Hall electricity and water supply at the allotments.

After several years of maintaining a 0% increase in its portion of the council tax, followed by a 5.54% increase in 2024/25, the Council agreed that a further 3.2% increase would be required for the 2025/26 financial year. This means that the annual Band D equivalent charge will rise from £74.80 to £77.19—representing just under 3.7% of the overall council tax bill.

The remaining 96.3% is shared between Suffolk County Council, East Suffolk Council, and Suffolk Constabulary.

## Reserves

The Council also maintains financial reserves to ensure sound fiscal management. These are made up of both General Reserves and Earmarked Reserves. General Reserves are held to cover between 3 and 9 months of operational costs, providing a financial safety net for unforeseen circumstances. Earmarked Reserves, meanwhile, are allocated for specific future projects or unexpected repairs not covered by the annual budget.

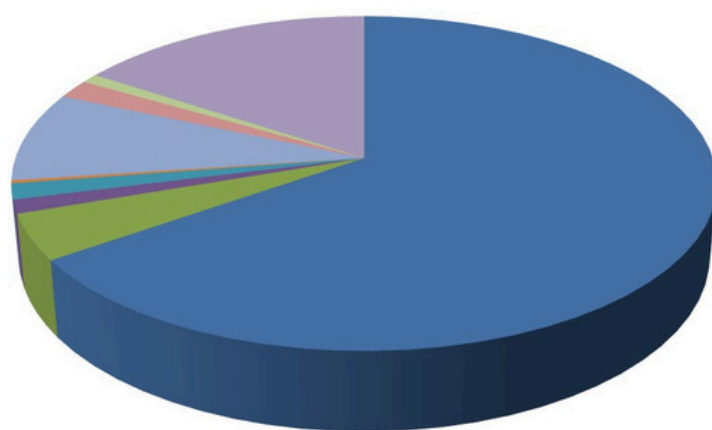
Some reserves are time-limited and ring-fenced for specific use, for example, Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funds. Others are broader in purpose, such as reserves set aside for the Town Hall, Cemetery, or other areas of service provision. The Council reviews its reserves at least once a year to ensure adequate provisions are in place and aligned with its strategic priorities.



## Summary of Council's Balances, income and expenditure:

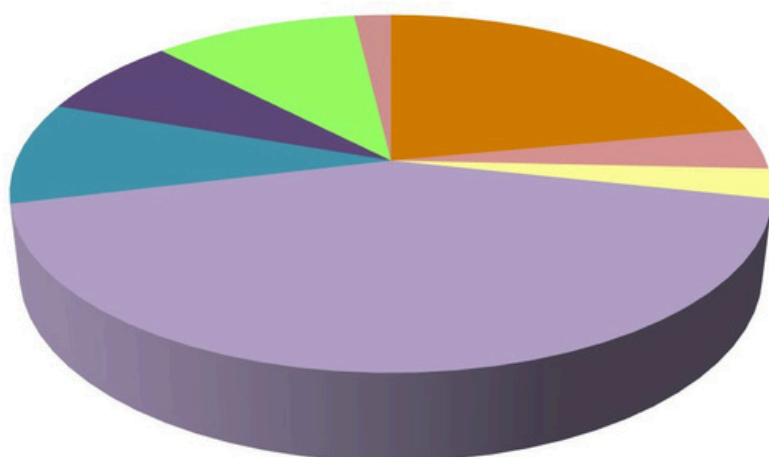
	2023/24 Actual	2024/25 Actual	2025/26 Budget
Balance at 1 April	£1,264,677	£1,289,724	£1,328,665
(of which Earmarked Reserves)	(£873,849)	(£954,450)	(£984,068)
Total Income	£964,679	£1,028,285	£909,037
Total Expenditure	£939,643	£989,332	£913,616
Closing Balance at 31 March	£1,289,713	£1,328,677	£1,324,086
(of which Earmarked Reserves)	(£952,450)	(£984,068)	

### Sources of Income 2024/25



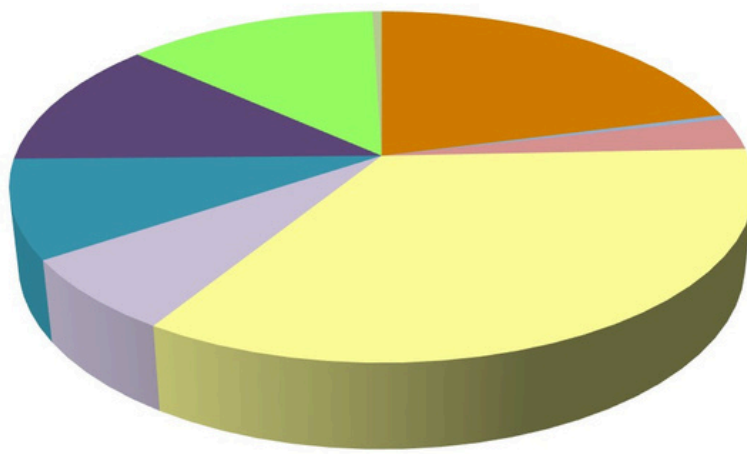
- Precept, £664,727 (64%)
- Agency Income, N/A (0%)
- Bank Interest Received, £45,045.88 (5%)
- Town Hall hirings, weddings, leases, £13,438 (1%)
- Walton Community Hall hirings, £15,478.53 (2%)
- Broadway House licence, £2,750 (<1%)
- Cemetery, £88,421 (9%)
- Allotments, £18,534 (2%)
- Donations & sponsorship, £9,100.06 (1%)
- Community Infrastructure Levy, £160,151 (16%)

### Net Expenditure 2024/25



- Town Hall, £90,827 (22%)
- Walton Community Hall £15,454.31 (4%)
- Broadway House, £11,069.25 (3%)
- Cemetery, £176,545.05, 679 (43%)
- Allotments, £38,154.17 (9%)
- Civic & Community, £30,489.63 (7%)
- Grants, £42,707.45 (10%)
- Felixstowe in Flower £7,726.31 (2%)

## Net Budget 2025/26 (Estimate)



- Town Hall, £76,287 (21%)
- Walton Community Hall, £1,438 (>1%)
- Broadway House, £10,778 (3%)
- Cemetery, £125,545 (35%)
- Allotments, £24,684 (7%)
- Civic & Community inc Xmas Lights, £32,980 (9%)
- Parks and Recreation, £43,184 (12%)
- Grants, £46,992 (13%)
- Felixstowe in Flower £1,750 (>1%)

## Budget Estimates

Council's Finance & Governance Committee closely monitored and reviewed the financial position regularly. Due to careful budgeting in recent years, the Council's reserves are able to offer some protection against unforeseen variables.

## General Power of Competence

The "General Power of Competence" was included in the Localism Act 2011 (Part 1, Chapter 1, ss 1-8). This power was brought into force by SI 965 The Parish Councils (General Power of Competence) (Prescribed Conditions) Order 2012 in April 2012. The power enables eligible councils to have "the power to do anything that individuals generally may do" as long as they are not prevented from doing so by other laws. The Town Council continues to meet the criteria for eligibility and adopted the use of the General Power of Competence at its Annual Council Meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2019, renewing this again on 17 May 2023.



## Local Council Award Scheme

Committee considered Council's re-accreditation for the Quality Gold Award, noting that Felixstowe Town Council was the first of 424 parish and town councils in Suffolk to achieve this status in 2015. Re-accreditation will be pursued in 2025/26 to reflect on Council's commitment to excellence and transparency

## Parish Basic Allowance

Felixstowe Town Council has, to date, chosen not to offer a Parish Basic Allowance (PBA) to its Councillors, with all Members continuing to serve the community on a voluntary and unpaid basis. In recent years, however, the Council has periodically reviewed this position, recognising that for some Councillors, a basic allowance could help offset costs associated with their role—particularly in light of the rising cost of living.

Committee provided evidence to East Suffolk Council's Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) to support the Panel in making recommendations applicable to all town and parish councils within East Suffolk. The IRP's recommendations are intended to serve as a consistent framework for any council considering the introduction of a basic allowance for elected members.

The establishment of a formal recommendation by the IRP gives the Council the flexibility to revisit the matter in future, should circumstances or local priorities change.



# PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN 2024-25: CLLR STUART BIRD

***Makes recommendations to East Suffolk Council, Suffolk County Council and other authorities on planning applications, proposals and policies affecting local development.***

## Planning Applications

During 2024/25 the Planning and Environment Committee considered a total of 184 local planning applications. Committee noted that on 86.3% of occasions (113 of 131 reported decisions) East Suffolk have concurred with the Town Council's recommendations.

Of those cases where there was contrasting view, a referral panel at East Suffolk Council reviewed the Town Council recommendations before deciding whether to refer the application to the District Council's Planning Committee for determination. Of the 184 applications considered, four plans were refused by both East Suffolk and Felixstowe Town Council; two which had been recommended for approval by Felixstowe Town Council were refused by East Suffolk; and, 16 were approved which Felixstowe Town Council recommended to be refused. eight applications were withdrawn and 45 are still awaiting a decision from East Suffolk at this time.

Among these was the change of use and redevelopment of the former East of England Coop store on Hamilton Road, in advance of Sainsbury's moving to the site. This included alterations to signage, rear access for delivery vehicles, and adjustments to car parking arrangements.

The Committee also responded to a number of consultations from East Suffolk Council and Suffolk County Council, including proposals for walking and cycling improvements on Maidstone Road and Grange Road, which remain under discussion.

Members welcomed the installation of National Landscape highway signs near Felixstowe Ferry Golf Club, which inform visitors about the significance of the landscape by the River Deben. Similar signs are due to be installed in Waldringfield.

In line with this, the Committee also noted the official opening of the King Charles III England Coast Path, extending from Shotley Gate to Felixstowe Ferry.

## Neighbourhood Plan Feasibility Working Group

In February, the Committee established a Working Group to explore whether Felixstowe would benefit from developing a Neighbourhood Plan. Meetings have been held with expert input from planning consultants, East Suffolk Council, Kesgrave Town Council and Lowestoft Town Council—offering contrasting but equally valuable perspectives.

The Working Group will report its findings back to the Planning & Environment Committee following its evaluation of the benefits of a Plan and what the key drivers might be for undertaking the work.

## Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

Council received CIL payments from East Suffolk Council totalling £158,651.02 in 2024/25. These funds are held in separate Earmarked Reserves and are ringfenced to support appropriate projects within a five-year timescale allowed by legislation. Consultation has taken place to identify suitable projects and a Parish Infrastructure Investment Plan (PIIP) has been drawn up to prioritise these in advance of delivery.

This year £100,000 has been granted towards refurbishment of Walton Recreation Ground and Seaton Road Park play equipment, and £7,650 out of an allocated £15,000 towards the refurbishment of the Allenby Park Gates from previous CIL money received during the period 2020-2023.

£30,000 has also been ring-fenced towards the Level Two Music Digital Arts Centre which has recently received planning permission.



# CLIMATE EMERGENCY

Council requires Councillors and staff to consider climate, air pollution and nature plans in all their decision-making processes. Since Council declared a Climate Emergency in July 2019, the Climate Emergency Working Group meets regularly to review processes, services, products and actions and aims to raise awareness locally through the Town Council Magazine and social media. A wider 'Climate Action Group' with key stakeholders, including the Port of Felixstowe, BID, Chamber of Commerce, Felixstowe Community Nature Reserve and Litter Free Felixstowe among others have met to discuss Climate Action in the town. The latest meeting included local developers, where environmental benefits for new build developments were highlighted. A wider group meeting is currently being planned for September 2025.

## Calculating our Carbon Footprint

Council had Energy Performance Certificates and Display Energy Certificates carried out in 2020 and have used these as a baseline for improvement, alongside regularly calculating its carbon footprint.

In 2019, the Council's carbon consumption stood at 43.37 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>, decreasing to 23.5 tonnes in 2020, and further down to 17.89 tonnes in 2023 this decrease was attributed to the adoption of electric vans and tools.

Source:

[www.carbonfootprint.com/businesscarboncalculator.html](http://www.carbonfootprint.com/businesscarboncalculator.html).

## Actions we've taken so far include...

- Grant applications encouraged for local organisations who want to reduce their carbon emissions and carry out environmental projects.
- Grant given to support environmental projects in the town including to the Edible Felixstowe initiative and to the Lions Club towards changing Christmas lights to LED. Another grant to the Lions Club supported improvements to local school gardens.
- Electric van used as a 'first resort' vehicle wherever practicable (except for towing).
- Replaced the majority of garden tools with battery rechargeable power tools.
- Council now creates all its own compost and is helping the Felixstowe Allotment Association become a 'Champion' for composting.
- Supported the 'Love Green Felixstowe' festival and 'Edible Felixstowe' to encourage community planting around the town.
- Single use Plastic Policy adhered to for all events.
- Cycle to Work Scheme expanded, with several employees now cycling to work.
- Car-sharing and holding more meetings online.
- 'No Idling' campaign via the Youth Forum promoted in schools.
- Re-wilding along Langley Avenue.
- Encouraging Wildlife at the Cemetery.
- Reducing use of herbicides and pesticides.

- Created a Green Management Plan improving the natural environment including creating new pathways in Town Council owned parks.
- Provided community allotments for the Grove Surgery and Level Two Youth Project to encourage participation in local food growing.
- Nursery created to help establish saplings and maintain plants
- Further separation and recycling of waste.
- Replacing all lights at end of their life with LED.
- Insulated to 270mm in uninsulated areas.
- Used 100% renewable energy suppliers – this will be continued when the contract ends.
- Grey water used for watering Felixstowe in Flower baskets – with thanks to Felixstowe Ferry Golf Club!
- Over 70 trees planted as part of the Queen's Jubilee, and over 300+ as part of the Woodland Trust scheme.
- Refurbishment of Town Hall windows using highly efficient innovative glass with a very low thermal transmittance of 0.7 w/m<sup>2</sup>.k.
- Created a community orchard (micro woodland) at Cowpasture meadow.

## Plans For the Future

In 2024/25, Felixstowe Town Council successfully secured a grant from East Suffolk Council's UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) Rural Business and Community Hub Fund. This funding will support a major environmental upgrade to Walton Community Hall, aimed at significantly reducing its carbon footprint. Planned works include the installation of a new air conditioning/air source heat pump system for the main hall, solar panels with battery storage, and replacement of the last remaining single-glazed windows with double glazing. These improvements will create a warmer, more energy-efficient space—helping to lower running costs and enhance usability for community groups year-round.

A new Cemetery Extension Project Group has also been established to explore options for future burial provision. Proposals under consideration include green burials and the implementation of a borehole to support water conservation. For the planned new buildings, sustainable features such as green roofs and grey water systems are being investigated to align with the Council's environmental commitments.

The Council remains committed to supporting environmental initiatives in partnership with local organisations.

Through the Occasional Grants Scheme, community groups are encouraged to apply for funding for environmental improvements. Guidance is also provided via the Council's website to help organisers deliver sustainable events, with key considerations including:

- Waste Management – recycling, composting, and waste minimisation
- Digital Communication – reducing the use of printed materials
- Water Management – refill stations and water-saving practices
- Food and Drink – sustainable catering, reducing single-use plastics, and avoiding food waste
- Product Purchasing – using eco-friendly materials for signage and promotional items
- Travel – encouraging public or active transport
- Venue Choice – considering energy efficiency and accessibility

The Climate Emergency Working Group will continue leading the Council's environmental response, working with the Felixstowe Youth Forum to involve local students in climate action. It is also partnering with Felixstowe BID and the wider Climate Action Group to help reduce the town's carbon footprint.



# ASSETS & SERVICES COMMITTEE

**CHAIRMAN 2024-25: CLLR DAVID ROWE**

***Oversees the management and provision of Council's assets and services such as our halls, allotments and cemetery.***



## **Town Hall**

Extensive refurbishment works were carried out during the year to address longstanding damp issues affecting several areas. The programme included external repointing, internal waterproof plastering, and redecoration, resulting in a significant improvement to the overall condition, appearance and usability of the building.

Council also approved the replacement of the lift motor after a fault was identified during routine servicing to ensure continued safe operation.

Accessibility has also been enhanced with the installation of a new, more durable ramp at the rear disabled entrance—an upgrade that has been well-received by users and community groups.

Routine maintenance ensures that the Town Hall continues to be well-used as a civic and community space, with a steady number of public and private bookings throughout the year, including weddings, civic functions, and numerous local events and meetings.

## **Broadway House**

Broadway House continues to serve the local community through its lease to the Felixstowe Old People's Welfare Association (FOPWA), which was successfully renewed for a further five years. New signage has been installed in the foyer to highlight Broadway House's connection to Felixstowe Town Council and to identify the building as a Council-owned asset.

During the year, ongoing issues with the heating system led to the urgent replacement of the ageing boiler, following repeated faults and a report indicating that key components were no longer serviceable. The new boiler was installed to ensure reliable heating for the building's users and residents.

## **Walton Community Hall**

Walton Community Hall remains a vibrant and well-used facility, welcoming new groups for our growing list of regular hirers. A small roof leak identified earlier in the year was swiftly addressed, and internal repairs were completed with minimal disruption to users.

A key achievement this year was the successful approval of a grant application for environmental improvements at Walton Community Hall. Funding secured via the East Suffolk Rural Business and Community Hub Fund will enable plans to proceed for heating upgrades and wider energy efficiency measures. These works include replacing the ageing air conditioning unit and improving insulation, forming part of a holistic approach to reducing the building's carbon footprint.



## Asset of Community Value Submission – The Grove and Eastward Ho

Committee submitted an application to East Suffolk Council to designate The Grove and Eastward Ho as an Asset of Community Value (ACV). These much-loved areas provide vital green space, recreational facilities, and habitat for local wildlife in north Felixstowe. The application followed extensive community support and aims to help protect the site from future development. The submission reflects the Council's continued commitment to safeguarding valued local spaces for future generations.

### Allotments

Allotment management has remained proactive, with regular inspections resulting in the prompt issuing of cultivation orders where necessary. Over the winter, two large vacated areas at the Railway Hill and Ferry Road sites presented opportunities for improvement and reconfiguration.

At Railway Hill, extensive clearance and maintenance work was undertaken on dense overgrowth bordering two plots. This significantly opened up the area and enabled the creation of two additional standard plots. Meanwhile, at Ferry Road, a similarly sized area—equivalent to four standard plots—was thoroughly cleared and reconfigured into eight new 'microplots', building on the success of the 'Alittlements' scheme at Cowpasture. These smaller plots continue to prove popular, offering a more manageable option for new and less experienced tenants.



### Cemetery

In response to requests from visitors, additional taps were added to the newer areas of Felixstowe Cemetery to allow for water to be accessed when maintaining loved one's graves.

After concerns were raised regarding motorbikes and scooters using the Cemetery road, a cut through barrier was installed by the grounds team at the pedestrian entrance to discourage the use of the road by motorbikes and scooters.



### Tree Planting

The Grounds Team continued the annual tradition of tree planting, once again supported by trees supplied through The Woodland Trust. This year's efforts focused on extending the native hedge along Langley Avenue and enhancing various other locations, including the Allotments, where whips were planted to strengthen and fill existing hedgerows.

A small selection of whips from each batch were also planted in a designated nursery area at one of the allotment sites. These will be nurtured to a more substantial size for use in future projects requiring more mature specimens.

In addition, five semi-mature trees salvaged from the Laureate Fields housing development were successfully replanted at the Mill Lane end of Langley Avenue, ensuring they continue to benefit the local environment.





## Allenby Park Gates

Following recommendations from the A&S Committee, the feasibility of refurbishing the gates at Allenby Park was explored and, in March, Kingdom Forge was selected to carry out restoration work on the gates. This has involved removing the gates and adjoining railings so they can be shot blasted and then new metal welded in before finally painting and reinstalling them at the park. The restoration is expected to be complete by June 2025.



## Landguard Restoration

The Town Council's Grounds Team carried out restoration at Landguard Nature reserve in December 2024 to refurbish and replace the access steps on the rifle butts.



## New Apprentice Post

In October 2024 the Town Council recruited a new Apprentice to the Grounds Team.

## Gosford Way/OFCA Path

In response to a concern raised by a member of the public and as part of our ongoing commitment to enhancing public spaces,



a new path was installed at the entrance of the Gosford Way Play Area, besides the OFCA car park, allowing unbroken pedestrian access from Margery Girling Residential home to the Old Felixstowe Community Hall and to access the play area without having to walk through the car park.

## Compost

In 2024, the Grounds Team began to investigate whether a high-quality compost could be made in-house for use within the planters used for Felixstowe in Flower. Compost was made at the cemetery where horse manure, collected from a local stable, has been mixed with fallen leaves and grass clippings collected from the Cemetery.

The first batch has been a success and is being used in the planters as well as some being donated to the Level Two Allotment. The Grounds Team aim to produce all compost needed in-house going forward. This has reduced costs as we avoid the need to buy in compost and further reduce the Town Council's environmental impact.







# CIVIC & COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN 2024-25: CLLR MICHAEL SHARMAN

***Considers our civic functions, community engagement, partnership working and grants.***

## Council Communications and Meetings

The Council engages directly with its residents, via digital platforms such as the Council's noticeboard, website [www.felixstowe.gov.uk](http://www.felixstowe.gov.uk), and Facebook page [facebook.com/FelixstoweTownCouncil](https://facebook.com/FelixstoweTownCouncil).

Following the Council's decision to suspend its use of X (formerly Twitter), it recently adopted the use of Bluesky and Instagram, to broaden its digital reach.

A quarterly seasonal magazine is delivered to all households in Felixstowe, giving a broader platform for community and Council news, as well as seasonal highlights throughout the year.



Details of all Town Council Meetings and forthcoming events are displayed on the noticeboard outside the Town Hall. Members of the public and press are welcome and regularly attend our Council and Committee meetings and a public question session is held at the beginning of each meeting. Members of the public who are unable to attend in person, can join the meeting online via a link provided on each agenda.

## Civic Awards 2024/25

The Mayor presented the Civic Awards at the Annual Town Meeting in May, recognising outstanding service and contributions to the community. Five Mayor's Awards were presented to individuals who have gone above and beyond in support of Felixstowe.

Congratulations to Tim Clarke, Liss Coates, Liz Day, Celia Page and Christine McIntyre!

The Community Organisation Award celebrated the achievements of Manna Pop Up Shop for the exceptional support it provides to families and individuals in need.

The HMS Ganges Youth Award was given to Cdt Sgt William Farrow for demonstrating exceptional commitment and community spirit.

The Annual Town Meeting also provided an opportunity for local electors to raise topics of interest, ask questions of elected representatives, and engage with stalls hosted by a wide range of community groups and organisations.



## Grants 2024/25

Felixstowe Town Council is committed to supporting the many local organisations and community groups that contribute to the wellbeing and vibrancy of the town. Through its Annual and Occasional Grants schemes, the Council awarded funding to 43 local organisations and projects during 2024/25, totalling £54,257.45.



These are just a few of the organisations helped this year:

- Felixstowe Opportunity Group - Essential Repairs and Redecoration (£1,500)
- Edible Felixstowe - 2025 Celebration Event for Harvest Festival (£750)
- Lions Club of Felixstowe - School Garden Improvement Project (£500)



The Civic and Community Committee increased its grant fund for 2025/26, adding a third round of funding. The deadlines for Grant applications in 2025/26 will be: 31 May, 30 September and 31 January. Details on how to apply can be found at [www.felixstowe.gov.uk/grants](http://www.felixstowe.gov.uk/grants).

## Felixstowe in Flower

Council's Felixstowe in Flower initiative has contributed towards civic pride in the town since 1985. The launch event for the 40th Anniversary will take place on Saturday 7 June from 10 – 12 noon at the Triangle. If you or your organisation would like to sponsor a basket or planter – or would like to enter one of our competitions – please contact the Town Hall.

The Town Council gives thanks to the Felixstowe Ferry Golf Club for providing grey water run off, which is used to water the flowers, saving fresh drinking water.



## Christmas

Funding was awarded to the Felixstowe BID (Business Improvement District) for the fourth year running towards the provision of a Christmas Ice Rink. The Council continued to support the Lions Club with annual funding of £8,000 towards the provision of the town centre's Christmas lights.



## Blue Flag

The Town Council was delighted that Felixstowe South and Pier were, once again, recognised as two of the country's best beaches, being awarded a Blue Flag and Seaside award by the environmental charity Keep Britain Tidy. In order to receive the Blue Flag award beaches must comply with several criteria covering environmental education and information, water quality, environmental management, safety, and services.

Felixstowe consistently meets the criteria for 'excellent' international bathing water quality standards and, until January 2022, was the only beach in Suffolk to meet this exacting standard.

Our thanks to all the volunteers, residents and staff who contribute towards keeping the beach clean and helping the town maintain this significant award which acknowledges our well cared-for beaches.



## Remembrance and VE80

Felixstowe Town Council, in partnership with the Felixstowe Branch of the Royal British Legion, supported several commemorative events in 2024/25.

Residents, veterans, and civic dignitaries gathered at the War Memorial at the annual Remembrance Sunday service and parade in November 2024 to honour the sacrifices of the Armed Forces. Wreaths were laid on behalf of the community, and a two-minute silence observed in tribute to the fallen.

On 8 May 2025, to mark the 80th anniversary of VE Day, the Council raised the VE80 flag, held a wreath-laying service with the Royal British Legion and hosted a moving Torch Parade and Beacon Lighting, delivered in conjunction with Felixstowe Remembers.

The Torch Parade featured 112 Torch Bearers, each representing a life lost to Felixstowe in the Second World War. As they processed past the War Memorial, each bearer extinguished their torch in a powerful act of remembrance.



## CCTV Provision

The Town Council has continued to press for improvements to the town's CCTV provision. In 2024/25, the Council wrote to East Suffolk Council and Suffolk Constabulary to express its disappointment at the lack of progress in upgrading the quality and monitoring of the CCTV network.

The Council remains committed to working with partners to ensure that the town's CCTV system is fit for purpose and contributes effectively to public safety.

## Flood Memorial

The anniversary of the North Sea Floods was marked on 31 January 2025 with a commemorative service at the Felixstowe Flood Memorial.

The event paid tribute to the 41 lives lost in the 1953 tragedy and was attended by members of the community who came together in remembrance.



## Flag Flying

Throughout the year, a variety of flags have been flown on the flagpole outside the Town Hall to mark national days, community events, and significant commemorations.

Highlights included the second raising of the Progress Pride Flag during Pride Month in June, the Suffolk Day Flag on 21 June, the Armed Forces Flag for Armed Forces Week and VE80 to commemorate the 80th anniversary of Victory in Europe Day. In addition, both the Union Jack and the Blue Flag have been flown during the year in recognition of national pride and Felixstowe's award-winning seafront.

## Mayor's Cadet Policy

In 2024/25, Felixstowe Town Council introduced a Mayor's Cadet Policy to formalise the appointment of a young person from a recognised local uniformed organisation to support the Mayor during civic events.

The initiative aims to provide a valuable opportunity for youth engagement with civic life, offering the Cadet experience in public representation, community service, and leadership.