



FELIXSTOWE
TOWN COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT 2025-26



[felixstowe.gov.uk](https://www.felixstowe.gov.uk)



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A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR



It has been an absolute privilege to serve as your Mayor and Chair of the Town Council. Felixstowe is defined by its extraordinary community spirit, and this Annual Report offers a transparent overview of how the Council has managed public finances, protected local assets, and delivered services over the 2025/26 municipal year.

Through community collaboration, we have invested CIL and grant funding to upgrade Cavendish Park's play facilities and support capital projects for our vital youth hubs and sports clubs. Looking forward, we are excited to see the positive impact that Pride in Place funding will bring to Western Felixstowe. It has been a remarkable year of milestones. Together, we united around our creative "Town of Culture" bid and were deeply honoured to be named the national runner-up in the

NALC Star Council Awards at the House of Lords for our pioneering climate response work. As we face upcoming Local Government Reorganisation, I reassure residents that Felixstowe Town Council remains unchanged; we will continue to stand as a steady, dedicated voice representing our electorate.

My sincere thanks go to my fellow Councillors, our Town Clerk and staff, my Mayoral charities - the Felixstowe Opportunity Group and St Philip's Community Hub - and, most of all, the people of Felixstowe for your enduring support.

Cllr Corrine Franklin
Mayor of Felixstowe 2025-26

Town Councillors 2026

Mayor of Felixstowe: Cllr Corrine Franklin

Deputy Mayor of Felixstowe: Cllr Darren Aitchison

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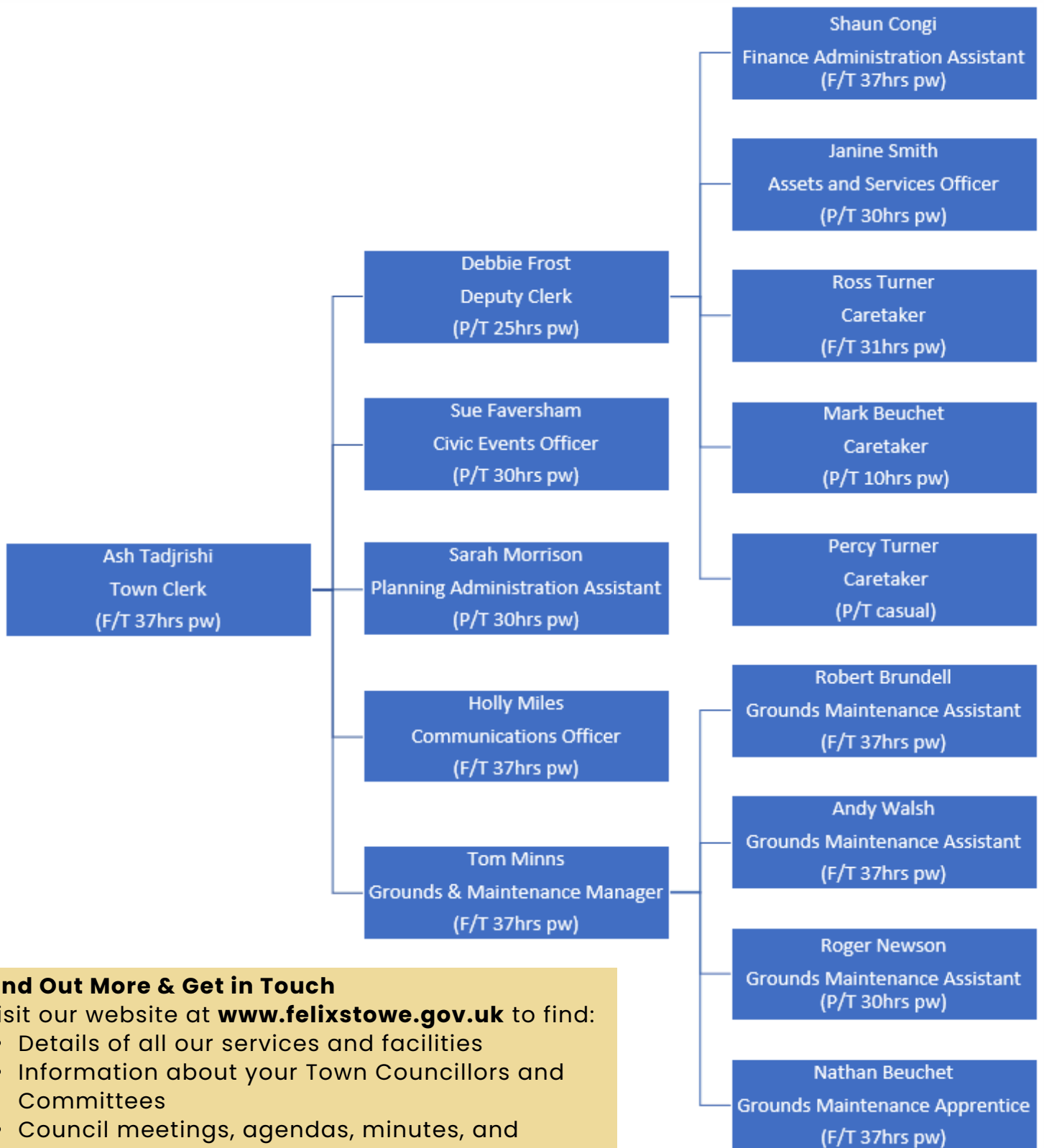
Key

* Councillor is also a Member of East Suffolk Council

** Councillor is also a Member of Suffolk County Council



STAFF STRUCTURE



Find Out More & Get in Touch

Visit our website at www.felixstowe.gov.uk to find:

- Details of all our services and facilities
- Information about your Town Councillors and Committees
- Council meetings, agendas, minutes, and policies
- The latest community news and updates

Contact Us:

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FINANCE & GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN 2025-26: CLLR MIKE DEACON

Considers and monitors the finances and governance of the Council.

Audit and Accounts

External Audit: The 2025/26 audit will be undertaken by PKF Littlejohn LLP in summer 2026. The audited accounts will be available to view from September 2026.

Internal Audit: The Finance and Governance Committee receives six-monthly Internal Audit reports. The Town Council successfully passed its Internal Audit for the 2025/26 financial year.

Earmarked Reserves: Council holds ring-fenced funds for future projects and contingencies. These reserves are reviewed at least annually to ensure appropriate provisions remain in place.

Budget & Precept Outturn

Income Outturn: 106.29% (exceeded budget estimates)

Expenditure Outturn: 97.09% (below budget estimates)

Despite increased operational costs this year, such as plant machinery hire and health and safety equipment, expenditure pressures were successfully managed and the Council has made further, proactive, long-term efficiency measures:

- **Energy Efficiencies:** The installation of solar panels, battery storage, and air-source heating at Walton Community Hall.
- **Utility Procurement:** Securing stable, long-term utility contracts to protect against volatile energy markets.

Understanding Your Council Tax

Following a period of maintaining a 0% increase, high inflation required a 5.54% adjustment to the Town Council's portion of the council tax (the precept) for 2024/25. For the 2025/26 financial year, Council agreed a modest 3.2% increase.

Council Tax Breakdown (Band D Equivalent)

- 2024/25 Annual Cost: £74.80
- 2025/26 Annual Cost: £77.19

Felixstowe Town Council's proportion is just 3.5% of your total annual council tax bill.

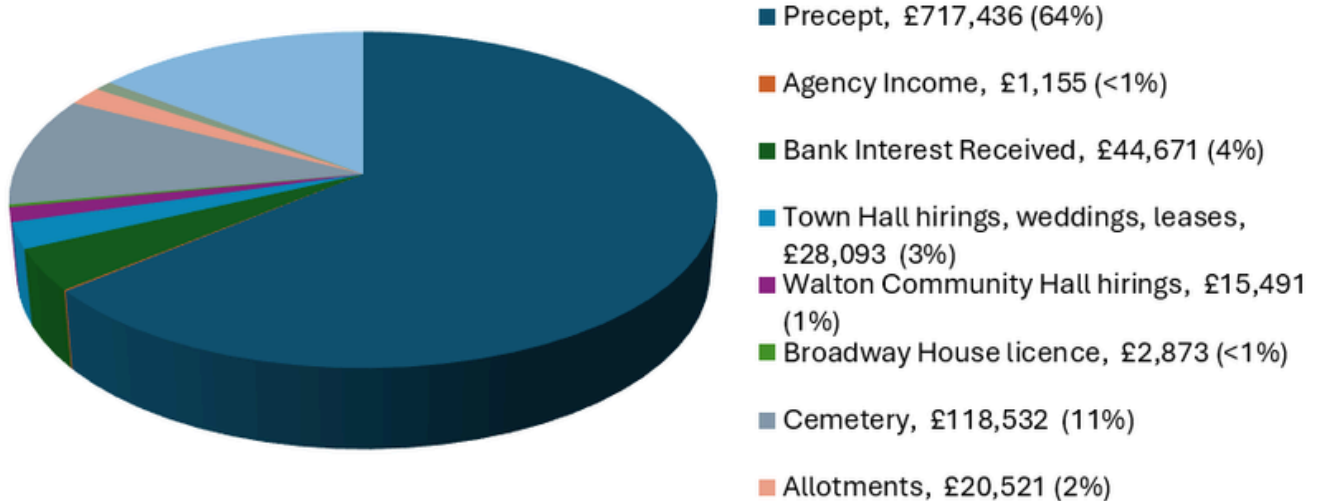
The remaining 96.5% is split between Suffolk County Council, East Suffolk Council, and Suffolk Constabulary.



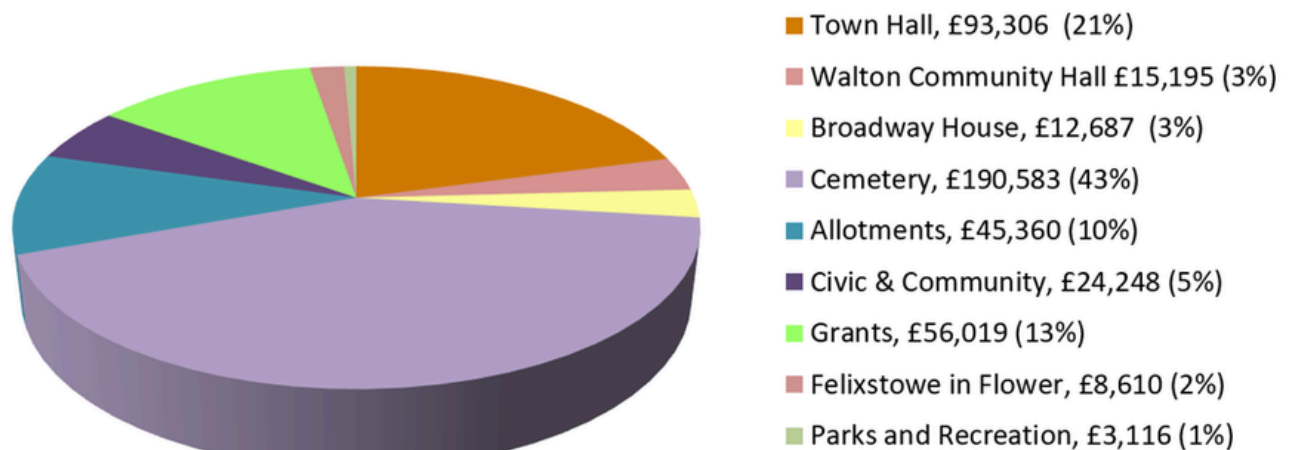
Financial Summary: Income, Expenditure & Balances

	2024/25 Actual	2025/26 Actual	2026/27 Est
Balance at 1 April	£1,289,724	£1,328,665	£1,453,385
(of which Earmarked Reserves)	(£952,450)	(£984,068)	(£1,057,642)
Total Income	1,028,285	1,176,193	£962,902
Total Expenditure	989,332	1,051,473	£970,640
Closing Balance at 31 March	£1,328,665	£1,453,385	£1,445,647
(of which Earmarked Reserves)	(£984,068)	(£1,057,642)	(£893,635)

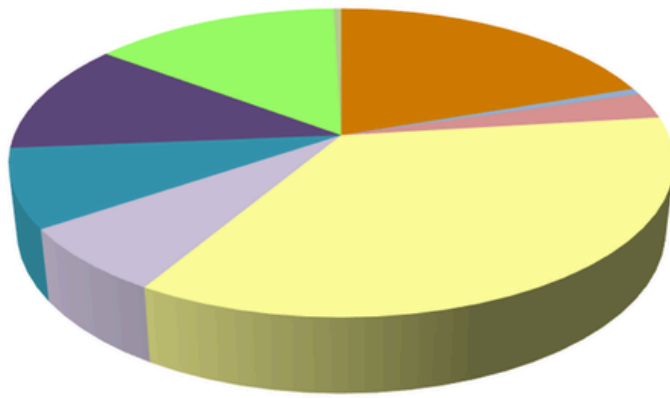
Sources of Income 2025/26



Net Expenditure 2025/26



Net Budget 2026/27 (Estimate)



- Town Hall, £78,570 (20%)
- Walton Community Hall, £2,536 (1%)
- Broadway House, £11,100 (3%)
- Cemetery, £141,616 (35%)
- Allotments, £27,702 (7%)
- Civic & Community inc Xmas Lights, £32,980 (8%)
- Parks and Recreation, £46,512 (12%)
- Grants, £56,992 (14%)
- Felixstowe in Flower £1,750 (>1%)

Strategic Governance & Operations

Budget Monitoring & Efficiency

The Finance & Governance Committee closely monitors and reviews the Council's financial position throughout the year. Towards the end of 2025/26, the Committee established a Budget Working Group. The Group's primary aim is to identify all opportunities for operational efficiency and potential savings, supporting robust, informed decision-making by the Committee moving forward.

Business Plan

The Town Council's Business Plan 2024–2028 outlines our strategic vision and priorities. Approved by Council on 15 May 2024, the full document is available to view online: felixstowe.gov.uk/Business-Plan-2024-28.pdf

General Power of Competence (GPC)

Introduced under the Localism Act 2011, the General Power of Competence enables eligible local councils to do anything that individuals generally may do, provided it is not prohibited by other laws.

- **Our Status:** Felixstowe Town Council continues to meet all eligibility criteria.
- **Adoption:** Having first adopted the power on 15 May 2019, the Council formally renewed its commitment to using the GPC on 17 May 2023.

Financial Resilience & Policies

Managing Our Reserves

Careful budgeting in recent years ensures the Council's reserves offer vital protection against unforeseen variables. In March 2026, the Council reviewed and updated its Reserves Policy:

- **General Reserves:** Whilst national guidance suggests a broad range of 3–12 months of revenue expenditure, our updated policy sets a tailored, prudent target range of 3 to 6 months of Net Revenue Expenditure, reflecting our scale as a larger Town Council.
- **Earmarked Reserves:** These funds remain strictly ring-fenced for specified projects, asset maintenance (such as the Town Hall or Cemetery), or developer contributions like Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funds.

Late Payments & Debt Management

To strengthen credit control, the Committee oversaw the introduction of a new Debt Management Policy. From 1 April 2026, the Council will introduce late payment interest to invoices that remain unpaid after 90 days. For commercial tenancies and business transactions, this will be applied in accordance with the Late Payment of Commercial Debts (Interest) Act 1998, while non-commercial invoices will be managed in line with the Council's updated terms and consumer guidance.

IT Systems & Eco-Friendly Connectivity

Our modernised IT infrastructure continues to transform how the Council operates and connects with the community:

- **Public Accessibility:** High-quality digital conferencing services at the Town Hall enable seamless remote participation, making public meetings far more accessible to residents.
- **Flexible Working:** The transition to cloud-based servers, mobile hardware, and a software-based telephone system ensures staff are fully connected whether working from the Town Hall, remote sites, or home.
- **Environmental Impact:** Using these digital platforms for meetings reduces paper consumption and car travel, directly supporting the Council's green initiatives.
- **Future-Proofing:** In March 2026, the Committee approved a phased replacement programme for council laptops to maintain operational efficiency.

Adoption of a Digital Governance Framework

To meet modern audit standards and the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) digital compliance roadmap, the Council adopted a comprehensive Digital Governance Framework in March 2026. This suite of updated policies includes:

- **Enhanced ICT Security:** Formalising mandatory multi-factor authentication (MFA) for remote access, strict protocols for personal devices (including 5-minute auto-locks), and clear rules on the safe use of AI and the prevention of unauthorised software ("Shadow IT").
- **Data Integrity:** Reaffirming the exclusive use of official @felixstowe.gov.uk email accounts to prevent the co-mingling of personal and authority data.
- **Compliance Tools:** Implementing updated Data Protection and Data Retention policies alongside a new Information Asset Register and a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) Screening Tool.

Throughout the 2025/26 municipal year, the Council has continued to manage its financial assets with the utmost prudence and accountability. In strict compliance with our statutory Annual Investment Strategy, all treasury management decisions have systematically prioritised the Security and Liquidity of public funds over financial Yield. By maintaining robust capital controls, monitoring counterparty credit ratings quarterly, and ensuring our reserves are securely held within high-quality specified investments, we have successfully insulated public money from commercial market volatility while still generating vital investment income to support local services.



Going for Gold

The Council has confirmed that all criteria are in place to reapply for Quality Gold status in the Local Council Award Scheme (LCAS). Run by the National Association of Local Councils, this prestigious national framework celebrates local authorities that go above and beyond to deliver outstanding service.

Achieving the Gold standard, the highest tier of the scheme, demonstrates that a council is at the forefront of local government. To qualify, Felixstowe must prove excellence in three core areas:

- **Governance & Transparency:** Delivering robust financial management, clear accountability, and legal excellence.
- **Community Leadership:** Actively championing local causes and engaging deeply with residents.
- **Continuous Improvement:** Demonstrating forward-thinking performance and ongoing staff and councillor development.

In 2017, Felixstowe made history as the very first town council in Suffolk to achieve Quality Gold. Reapplying ensures our policies and practices remain at the highest possible national standard, giving residents full confidence that their council is run efficiently, transparently, and effectively.

PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN 2025-26: CLLR STUART BIRD

Safeguards our town's built and natural landscape by providing formal recommendations to East Suffolk and Suffolk County Councils on planning applications, development proposals, and strategic local policies.

Planning Applications & Local Strategy

As a statutory consultee, the Committee evaluates local planning applications to ensure that essential local knowledge, site history, and policy compliance are fully factored into the district's planning decisions.

During 2025/26, the Committee considered 165 applications. Out of the 125 outcomes determined by East Suffolk Council (ESC) during this period, ESC concurred with the Town Council's recommendations on 88% of occasions (110 of 125 decisions). In the 15 instances where views differed, an ESC referral panel reviewed our technical objections before a final determination was made. The remainder of the applications processed during the year included 5 that were withdrawn by the applicants and 30 that currently await an ESC decision.

The New Local Plan to 2044

Following ESC's 'Call for Sites' concluding in January 2026, proposed land submissions for housing and employment are now published on an [interactive map](#), laying early groundwork for the new Local Plan's adoption in 2029.

Neighbourhood Plan Update

In 2025, the Council set up a Working Group to evaluate whether Felixstowe should develop an independent Neighbourhood Plan, ultimately recommending a strategic deferral of the project. During its evaluation, Central Government announced it was withdrawing direct funding support for Neighbourhood Plans. With ESC's Local Plan Review and Local Government Reorganisation both underway, a

new multi-year project with uncertain value was not considered to be a priority. Instead, Council resources are being directed toward directly lobbying and influencing ESC's active review process. The door remains open to revisit a Neighbourhood Plan if planning frameworks shift.

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

In 2025/26, the Council received £163,604.23 in CIL payments from local developments. Managed by the Council's CIL Working Group, these ringfenced funds are directly channelled into community spaces.

💰 Funded This Year (£88,114.34)

- **Community & Youth:** Grant funding for Level Two Youth Project's new Digital Art Centre and a new website for the Felixstowe Charities Network.
- **Public Spaces & Heritage:** Vital drainage infrastructure grants for Landguard Fort, historic railing refurbishments at Allenby Park, and ongoing eco-upgrades at Walton Community Hall.

🕒 Approved Future Commitments

- **Sports Facilities:** Clubhouse contributions for both the Rugby Club and Felixstowe & Walton United FC (pending final planning and match-funding).
- **Infrastructure & Safety:** New Cemetery entrance gates, Cemetery extension planning, Cavendish Park play equipment upgrades (in procurement).

CIL Financial Summary

- Total CIL Funds Held: £486,244.06
- Allocated to Approved Projects: £197,645.50
- Unallocated Balance: £288,598.56

CLIMATE EMERGENCY

National Recognition: Star Council Awards



Runner-Up: 'Climate Response of the Year'

Felixstowe Town Council was incredibly proud to be named national runner-up in the Climate Response of the Year category at the prestigious Star Council Awards. Organised by the National Association of Local Councils (NALC), these awards celebrate outstanding innovation and leadership among parish and town councils across England.

Being shortlisted and named runner-up at a national level is a significant honour. It highlights our sustained, practical commitment to tackling climate change and reflects Felixstowe's continued leadership in sustainability.

Driving Local Action

The Council was recognised for a wide range of green initiatives implemented across our town, including:

- **Green Fleet:** Introducing our very first fully electric operational van.
- **Energy Efficiencies:** Completing extensive energy upgrades to the historic Town Hall and Walton Community Hall.
- **Biodiversity:** Launching local tree-planting and habitat restoration projects.
- **Water Conservation:** Implementing smart water-saving schemes to sustain our floral planting.

A Parliamentary Celebration

The awards ceremony took place at the House of Lords on 24 February 2026, bringing together civic leaders from across the country. The Mayor of Felixstowe attended the Parliamentary reception to accept the award, celebrate the town's achievement, and share environmental best practices with fellow local authorities. **If you are passionate about the environment and want to help shape a greener, more resilient future for our town, we want to hear from you!**





FELIXSTOWE TOWN COUNCIL

Taking action in the

CLIMATE EMERGENCY

Working together for a greener, healthier Felixstowe



Grant applications encouraged for local organisations who want to reduce their carbon emissions and carry out environmental projects.



Grants 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.



Small actions today, big impact tomorrow

Felixstowe Town Council is committed to a sustainable future for our town and for generations to come.



ASSETS & SERVICES COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN 2025-26: CLLR DAVID ROWE

Responsible for the care, maintenance, and community provision of the Council's key physical assets, including our community halls, local allotments, and Felixstowe Cemetery.

Civic Assets & Community Halls

Felixstowe Town Hall

The Town Hall continues to serve as a vital hub for local democracy, civic life, and community events. Key achievements this year include:

- **Preserving Our Heritage:** We undertook vital internal and external maintenance to protect the historic fabric of the building. This included essential guttering repairs to prevent water ingress and protect the structure.
- **Refurbishing the Courtroom Gallery:** The historic Courtroom Gallery was completely repainted, beautifully brightening the space for community groups and private hirers.
- **Energy & Heating Management:** The Committee proactively managed the building's heating infrastructure, resolving boiler issues and conducting efficiency assessments to ensure a comfortable environment for visitors and staff year-round.

Civic Licensing & Weddings

Following a successful inspection by the Registrar - where our rooms were showcased in their standard wedding layout - the Town Hall's wedding licence was officially renewed. Valid until June 2028, the new licence ensures the Town Hall remains one of the area's premier venues for weddings and civil ceremonies.

Walton Community Hall

Significant progress has been made to transform Walton Community Hall into a more sustainable, energy-efficient, and versatile space, heavily supported by a grant from East Suffolk Council's UKSPF Rural Business and Community Hub Fund.

As part of our commitment to local climate action and community provision, upgrades this year included:

- **Renewable Energy & Heating:** Installing rooftop solar panels, battery storage, and a modern air-source heat pump. This followed extensive pre-planning consultations to ensure the system was sympathetic to the building's historic character.
- **Expanded Facilities:** Creating a new, small upstairs room dedicated to private meetings, allowing us to accommodate a broader range of local hirers.
- **Digital Connectivity:** Launching free Wi-Fi access for all hall hirers and community groups.
- **Future Proofing:** Further insulation improvements are currently underway, including the phased replacement of old single-glazed windows with modern double glazing.

These enhancements have significantly improved the sustainability, efficiency, and comfort of Walton Community Hall, ensuring it remains a high-quality, inviting, and modern venue for our local community.

Partnering on Public Facilities

We worked closely with East Suffolk Council during their refurbishment of the public toilets adjacent to the Town Hall. By coordinating scaffolding plans and legal agreements, we ensured these essential community improvements proceeded smoothly without compromising wheelchair access or visitor entry to the Town Hall.

Broadway House

Broadway House continues to be a vital asset supporting Felixstowe Old People's Welfare Association and other community groups. This year, the Committee focused on maintaining the building's operational integrity to ensure the site remains fully accessible to all regular users.



Cemetery

The Council's Grounds Team manages the cemetery, focusing on dignity, environmental sustainability, and long-term capacity.

Cemetery Extension Project

Significant progress has been made on the Cemetery Extension Project. Key steps this year included establishing a detailed budget plan, obtaining pre-planning advice and commissioning land surveys to support the layout and future development of the new section. A full planning application will be submitted once all surveys have completed.

To complement this expansion, several infrastructure improvements were introduced this year to enhance the visitor experience:

- **Access & Security:** Visitors can now access the cemetery by car from both Grange Road and Mill Lane during standard opening hours.
- **Pedestrian Safety:** To ensure a tranquil environment for reflection and prevent vehicles from using the cemetery as a cut-through, the middle section of the cemetery road has been pedestrianised.
- **Reducing Anti-Social Behaviour:** New gates and managed road closures on the cemetery road have been implemented to deter anti-social behaviour while maintaining full pedestrian access.
- **A Welcoming Arrival:** As part of these ongoing infrastructure upgrades, new gates will soon be installed at the main entrance, creating a more formal and welcoming point of arrival.

Operational & Site Upgrades

- **Greener Fleet:** The Council has replaced its ageing diesel vehicle with a new Toyota Hilux Hybrid, providing a more reliable and environmentally considerate option for grounds maintenance. While our fully electric van remains the primary go-to vehicle, this new hybrid truck provides essential towing capability and operational flexibility.
- **Improved Amenities:** Upgraded facilities this year included the installation of a new shower unit for staff and automatic hand dryers in the public toilets for visitors.



Parks & Open Spaces

The Council is dedicated to providing safe, vibrant, and inviting green spaces for all residents. Over the past year, the Committee has focused on balancing high-quality, proactive maintenance with forward-thinking environmental stewardship across Felixstowe's public grounds. Ensuring our play areas and public grounds are secure and well-maintained continues to be a top operational priority.

- **Safety & Maintenance:** To ensure the longevity and safety of our community spaces, rigorous routine inspections and repairs were completed this year at both Allenby Park and Gosford Way Park. This included the full replacement of the climbing frame ladders at Gosford Way which had been damaged, swiftly restoring the equipment to full, safe use for local families.
- **Site Security & Access:** The entrance gates at Allenby Park have received a comprehensive facelift and are now securely back in place. This targeted physical upgrade directly addresses long-standing local concerns regarding site security, vandalism, and anti-social behavior after dark.
- **Biodiversity & Ecology:** In line with our climate and environmental commitments, a new Biodiversity Policy and a separate, bespoke Park Management Plan for Allenby Park have been developed. These frameworks introduce "controlled rewilding" zones, native planting schemes, and targeted habitat creation to protect and support local pollinators.



Allotments

Our allotments continue to be a thriving cornerstone of community life in Felixstowe, actively promoting resident wellbeing, local food security, and collective environmental stewardship.

- **Site Management & Technology:** To modernise the management of our growing allotment spaces, the Council commissioned professional drone footage this year. This high-resolution footage provides an invaluable aerial reference tool for site inspections, boundary monitoring, and plot identification across the 300+ active plots at Cowpasture and our other allotment sites.
- **Collaborative Security:** Enhancing security at our largest site remained a major priority. In a highly successful collaborative effort, a brand-new pedestrian gate was installed at the Cowpasture site. The gate was manufactured locally by Felixstowe Ironworks, while the Felixstowe Allotment Association (FAA) expertly coordinated the on-site work and generously contributed 50% of the project cost.
- **Record-Breaking Success:** The sheer dedication of our vibrant gardening community was highlighted by the 2025 Allotment Competition. The event saw a record-breaking number of entries this year, reflecting an exceptionally high standard of cultivation, biodiversity, and pride among local growers.
- **Revised Bonfire Policy:** Following representations from neighboring residents regarding local air quality and smoke nuisance, the Committee carefully reviewed its bonfire policy in November 2025. Rather than implementing an outright ban, the Council introduced stricter seasonal restrictions to limit the specific periods during which tenants are permitted to have fires. This balanced approach actively encourages a transition toward sustainable waste management. Committee is due to review the policy again in the next Municipal year.



Overseeing civic functions, driving community engagement, and delivering vital grant funding.

Council Communications & Democratic Engagement

The Council is dedicated to transparent, accessible communication. Daily, we connect with residents through our digital channels, publishing regular updates on town activities, events, and meeting agendas.

- **Digital Channels:** Visit our website (felixstowe.gov.uk) or find us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Bluesky](#).
- **Community Magazine:** Our quarterly seasonal magazine continues to be delivered directly to all households in Felixstowe to provide a physical platform for essential community news and seasonal highlights.
- **Public Meetings:** Residents and press are always welcome to attend our Council and Committee meetings, with a dedicated public question session held at the start of each meeting. Meeting dates and agendas are always published online and displayed on the noticeboard outside the Town Hall.



Annual Town Meeting & Civic Awards

The Annual Town Meeting, held each May, remains a major highlight of the municipal calendar. Unlike standard Council meetings, this unique forum belongs entirely to the electors of Felixstowe. It provides an invaluable, open platform for residents to raise local topics, ask direct questions, and engage face-to-face with their councillors. The evening also doubles as a vibrant community showcase, featuring interactive stalls hosted by local voluntary groups, charities, and organisations.

The centrepiece of the evening is the presentation of Felixstowe's Civic Awards by the Mayor. These awards shine a well-deserved spotlight on the unsung heroes of our town who selflessly give their time, energy, and talents to make Felixstowe a better, kinder, and more supportive place to live.

Celebrating Our Community Champions

- **The Mayor's Award:** Recognising five individuals who have made a significant, sustained contribution to local life.
- **The HMS Ganges Youth Trophy:** Awarded to an outstanding young person (under 21) for their achievements or service to the town.
- **The Community Award:** A special award to given to a local community organisation in recognition of exceptional service.



Grants 2025/26

Felixstowe Town Council remains committed to supporting and strengthening community groups across Felixstowe, to help local organisations make a positive difference across the town. Through its Annual and Occasional Grants Scheme, the Town Council proudly supported 46 local organisations and projects during 2025/26, awarding a total of £67,018 through grant funding and community partnerships.

Examples of organisations and projects supported this year include:

- Camping equipment for the 6th Felixstowe Scout Group
- Gardening tools for the Friends of the Seafront Gardens
- Materials for the Living Wall Project – Men's Shed

Grant applications continue to provide valuable support for community initiatives, with closing dates in 2026 on 31 May, 30 September and 31 January. More information and an application form can be found at www.felixstowe.gov.uk/grants.



Felixstowe Town Council in the Carnival Procession

The Town Council continued its growing support for The Carnival with a grant of £5,000. Staff and Councillors were also delighted to join this year's Carnival procession to celebrate 40 years of Felixstowe in Flower, sharing sunflower seeds with residents and visitors.

The Town Council's electric van was transformed into a colourful float, complete with flower fairies and vibrant floral displays, helping to bring extra colour and community spirit to the celebrations.



Mayor's Cadet

The past year marked the welcome return of the Mayor's Cadet scheme. At the Annual Council Meeting, Flight Sergeant Frazer Lack of the 356 (Felixstowe) Squadron Air Training Corps (ATC) was officially appointed as the Mayor's Cadet for the 2025/26 term.

Throughout his tenure, Flight Sergeant Lack provided impeccable ceremonial support to the Mayor at high-profile civic functions, standing as a prominent ambassador for Felixstowe's youth cadet forces at key town engagements. A new cadet will be appointed from a different local unit each year, creating broad opportunities and strengthening the Council's connections with Felixstowe's young people.



Blue Flag & Seaside Awards: Our Award-Winning Coastline

Felixstowe's beaches were once again awarded the prestigious Blue Flag and Seaside Awards, presented by the environmental charity Keep Britain Tidy. This marks an incredible sixth consecutive year that the town's coastline has achieved this international standard.

- **The Blue Flag Standard:** To secure this status, our beaches must pass strict criteria covering environmental education, beach management, visitor safety, and exceptional services.
- **'Excellent' Water Quality:** The companion Seaside Award recognises the highest standards of beach management. Felixstowe consistently achieves the strict criteria for "excellent" international bathing water quality standards.
- **A True Community Effort:** Retaining these awards requires massive collaboration. The Council extends its sincere thanks to Visit Felixstowe, East Suffolk Council, and the dedicated army of local volunteer litter-pickers whose ongoing commitment keeps our beaches clean, safe, and welcoming.



Remembrance

The Council and the Felixstowe Branch of the Royal British Legion partnered to support several commemorative events during the year, including a torch procession marking the 80th Anniversary of VE Day.

In the lead-up to Armistice Day on Tuesday 11 November, a collaborative road sign project with Felixstowe Remembers and local businesses saw poppies installed across the town and signs erected in 66 roads to recognise the 212 residents lost to war. The annual Remembrance Sunday service was once again a typically well-attended event.



Flood Memorial

The anniversary of the 1953 Floods was marked with a short service at the Felixstowe Flood Memorial on 31 January 2026, bringing the community together to remember the 41 local lives lost.

Flag Flying

In accordance with the Council's flag flying policy, the flagpole outside the Town Hall was used to mark a variety of important civic occasions and celebrations throughout the municipal year. Flags were raised for Pride Month, Suffolk Day, Armed Forces Week, Commonwealth Day, Merchant Navy Day and Fairtrade Fortnight. The Felixstowe flag and Union flag were also flown regularly throughout the period.

CCTV Provision

The Town Council has worked closely with East Suffolk Council to upgrade and expand the town's public-space CCTV network. This project follows a sustained period of collaborative planning and formal consideration by the CCTV Working Group, the Civic & Community Committee, and Full Council.

The approved scheme significantly increases security coverage across Felixstowe to address identified community safety priorities. The expansion scales provision up to 39 cameras, a substantial increase from the 23 initially proposed and the 15 previously in place. The Town Council has contributed £42,000 toward the capital costs of this infrastructure, which is scheduled for delivery during June 2026 in readiness for the summer season.



Felixstowe in Flower

The Town Council's Felixstowe in Flower initiative has fostered civic pride across the resort since 1985, marking its landmark 40th anniversary in 2025.

This year's scheme launched on Saturday 6 June at the Triangle. Local residents, businesses, and organisations wishing to sponsor a floral basket or planter, or enter any of the annual competitions, are invited to contact the Town Hall for details. The Town Council extends its sincere thanks to the Felixstowe Ferry Golf Club for its continued support in supplying non-drinking water to sustain the town's displays.

Christmas Lights Funding

The Council continued its support by providing increased annual funding of £8,000 to the Lions Club of Felixstowe for the provision of the Town Centre's Christmas lights.



UK Town of Culture 2028 – Expression of Interest

Felixstowe Town Council led the development of the town's submission to the UK Town of Culture 2028 competition, coordinating a collaborative approach rooted in community engagement. Working closely with local groups, charities, cultural organisations, businesses, and wider stakeholders, the Council facilitated consultation activities to shape a shared vision for the town's future. The final submission centred on the theme "Felixstowe: Where the World Arrives", exploring the distinct elements defining local identity: port, fort and resort. It celebrated Felixstowe as a place of industry and leisure, heritage and change, local pride and global connections, reflecting its resilience and ambition for all.

