

Sep 2024 Blyford Parish Report East Suffolk Council GLI Group – Councillor Update

Ring-Go App now charging 20p

As many of you will have discovered, when using the RingGo app to park across the district, there is now a 20p surcharge. When RingGo was adopted under the previous East Suffolk Council (ESC) administration it was decided to absorb the cost per transaction, which works out about £200K per year. This was weighed against the ongoing costs of paying for cash to be collected from car parks across the district by security vans.

Unfortunately, under a change in national government rules before the recent election, ESC are now longer allowed to absorb these costs, hence the appearance of the 20p fee per transaction. ESC has recently joined the National Parking Platform which means in addition to RingGo, you can now use PaybyPhone, JustPark, ApplyParking+ and APCOA Connect. As you might expect, each operator has its own pros, cons and fees. You can also continue to pay by cash if preferred.

I completely understand the frustration of the additional 20p charge but unfortunately, when using services offered by app providers, there is often a cost involved so the company can run, offer customer services, tech updates etc.

I hope this explains why the fee has appeared and why we're unable to change it as a district council.

<https://www.eadt.co.uk/news/24334230.east-suffolk-council-joins-national-parking-platform/>

New Development Charter for ESC

At the quarterly Strategic Planning Meeting from East Suffolk Council (ESC) held in July the creation of a new Development Charter was unveiled.

Local government has surprisingly little power over building developers, with most of the legislation tied to planning policy that is brought into law by Westminster. The new Development Charter, whilst not being legally binding, will help influence developers to conduct more community outreach, include environmental aspects in their building (solar, air source heat pumps etc), provide increased landscaping and more.

Both the planning team at ESC and local councillors want to see developers engaging with communities both before and during the development process, in addition to including building policies that align with the feelings and ethics of local residents.

Cost-of-Living Community and Warm Welcome Grants Now Open

Cost of Living Community Grants

Grants of up to £2,000 for a wide range of community-led projects – as long as they support multiple individuals and families to keep people warm, well, fed and connected to others in the community this winter. This could include smaller Warm Welcomes/Warm Spaces that want to open less than 8 hours a week.

Warm Welcomes Grant Scheme:

Grants of up to £3,000, depending on ward size, for groups to run a Warm Welcome for at least 8 hours per week between November 2024 and March 2025. In addition to offering a warm space,

Warm Welcomes should ideally offer support around the cost of living and inequalities, access to free or reduced-cost food, activities to reduce social isolation, improved wellbeing and a warm community welcome.

Ease the Squeeze on Cost of Living

Are you, or someone you know, worried about the increasing cost of living? We understand the pressures faced by many people today and we are working closely with key partners to ensure support is available to help ease the squeeze for households in East Suffolk.

To make it as easy as possible for you to access the services and support available, locally and nationally, we have gathered information about them in one place:

www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/community/squeeze/

For the most up to date information regarding East Suffolk Council, please visit:

www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk