

**East Suffolk Blooms community wildflower growing scheme returns:** A flourishing environmental scheme, encouraging people in East Suffolk to grow beautiful, pollinator-friendly wildflowers, is returning for 2024.

Each year, East Suffolk Council distributes free packs of bulbs to town and parish councils, community groups and organisations to plant locally as part of the East Suffolk Blooms campaign. The planting efforts of last year's successful applicants are already being rewarded with colourful narcissus displays.

This time, in tandem with the East Suffolk's Amazing project to promote an all-round effort to keeping the district clean and attractive, and to provide greater benefit to pollinators, East Suffolk Council will be offering blends of native bulbs that appeal particularly to bees and butterflies.

East Suffolk Council's Public Realm Contracts Manager, Laura Hack said: "We were thrilled with the level of interest in last year's scheme and we're looking forward to receiving applications for East Suffolk Blooms in 2024". "We expect to have enough bags of bulbs to distribute one to each of 50 groups across the district." Packs of bulbs will be available to collect in the autumn, around October, from two locations in the district.

A 'Bees Mix' of bulbs flowers from February to May and includes crocuses, chionodoxas, scillas, muscaris and naturalising tulips, while the 'Butterfly Mix' flowers between May and July and comprises camassias, nectaroscordums, irises and alliums. The scheme is funded by East Suffolk Council's trading company and services operator, East Suffolk Services Ltd, and from the Enabling Communities Budget scheme.

An application form will be available to complete online until 30 June, before a judging panel meets to decide the successful applicants, with additional consideration given to groups reapplying after missing out last year. Applicants will then be informed of the decision by August. To view the application form, visit: [my.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/service/east\\_suffolk\\_blooms](https://my.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/service/east_suffolk_blooms)

**East Suffolk's Amazing:** We invest every single penny we can in services to help maintain the beauty & cleanliness of East Suffolk but sometimes admit that it can never necessarily be enough.

A cross-party working group of councillors is already working on different ways we can work to maintain the beauty of East Suffolk, which includes encouraging more residents to take active pride in their local area. This includes reducing fly-tipping, recycling properly & even, where possible, looking after the spaces outside your own property. We are also working closely & collaboratively with Suffolk County Council who have responsibility for weeds on roads & pavements, potholes and road signs.

There is already an incredible network of volunteers who work to help keep our district beautiful, with regular litter-picks, planting, and an all-round effort to keep their local area clean. If East Suffolk matters to you, if you want to play your part we would love you to get involved. East Suffolk's Amazing... let's keep it that way! For information on community litter picks, recycling, community composting schemes and reporting issues, please visit: [www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/waste/litter/amazing/](https://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/waste/litter/amazing/)

**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/](https://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/community/squeeze/)

For the most up to date information regarding East Suffolk Council, please visit: [www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk](https://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk)