



Parish *Bulletin*

Summer 2009



Suffolk Coastal is one of best 10 places to live

The latest national survey of residents has placed Suffolk Coastal as the equal seventh best district in England with 92.1 per cent of local residents saying they were satisfied with it as a place to live.

Suffolk Coastal's residents also gave the Council the highest ranking in Suffolk, and 55th best out of 340 nationally, for satisfaction with their local council, and ranked it narrowly the second best in Suffolk for providing value for money services.

"This is the latest thumbs-up for Suffolk Coastal for the way that we are working to maintain and improve the quality of life in our district, and because it reports the views of our residents it is probably the most important one," said Councillor Doreen Savage, Cabinet Member for Customers and Partners.

"The survey shows that we are scoring highly on many of our services and we will continue to do all we can to make further improvements.

"I think it is the combination of clear and locally relevant priorities set by councillors, with a committed workforce and a commitment to involve our customers in shaping our services, that is helping us deliver so successfully what our residents want and deserve - good, efficient services across our district," added Cllr Savage.

The Place Survey is a major national survey initiated by the Government to find out what the public think of where they live and their local council. Visit

www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/placesurvey2008 for full details.

The results for Suffolk Coastal showed that 92.1 per cent of residents were satisfied with the area as a place to live, with only 2.7 per cent dissatisfied, while 52.4 per cent were satisfied with the way that Suffolk Coastal runs things and only 14 per cent dissatisfied.

Among the other detailed results, 64.7 per cent of residents were satisfied with the way public land was kept clear of

litter and refuse, 80.9 per cent were satisfied with refuse collection, 67.8 per cent were satisfied with doorstep recycling, while only 8.5 per cent think that anti-social behaviour is a problem in their area.

The independent Audit Commission reported in January that residents are receiving good access to the Council's services and gave the Council a two star rating - one of only four nationally in the last 12 months.

The Audit Commission praised the Council for having invested significant resources to effect improvement in customer services and its website, for working hard to address issues arising from rural isolation and meeting the needs of both older and younger residents, and being aware of where it needs to improve and having plans in place to address these.

The Council also had a successful Investors in People inspection which said that our workforce 'are genuinely committed to the success of the organisation and are proud to work for the Council', while it was recently again in the top 10 of councils nationally for efficiency savings.

Local Government Review put on hold

Following Suffolk Coastal's successful legal challenge about the Boundary Committee for England's failure to consider the case for three unitary councils in Suffolk, the Government announced on July 14 that the Review had been put on hold. For full details see July's special LGR edition of Parish Bulletin or visit

www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourcouncil/future

Suffolk Coastal strives to become even more efficient

Included in the rest of this issue of Parish Bulletin

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Sorry, the spring edition of Parish Bulletin did not appear but there should be an autumn edition appearing in September / October.

This is your publication, if you have any items you would like included that would be of interest to other Towns and Parishes please contact the Communications Team on 01394 444361 or email communications@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk

Despite having saved over £8 million since 2001 and once again being listed among the most efficient councils in the country, Suffolk Coastal has set itself the target of achieving a further 20 per cent reduction in its costs in three years.

The Council wants to save a further £1m in each of the next three years and has begun an update of its priorities, followed by a top to bottom review of all its services and their costs.

Town and Parish Councils are being asked to play their part in helping the Council achieve its aim, and a series of focus groups and workshops are planned. A detailed information pack will be sent to all town and parish clerks in August, and it is hoped that all the councils will be able to discuss the budget decisions facing Suffolk Coastal during their September meetings.

“This is an ambitious challenge but the financial realities facing virtually all councils means that we must renew our efforts and begin planning now to ensure that we can continue to provide all our important services and keep our Council Tax low,” said Councillor Ray Herring, Leader of Suffolk Coastal.

“The impact of the national economic downturn has hit our income and increased demand for some of our services, and will also inevitably mean even lower financial support from central Government.

“We estimate that the gap between our current spending and income will grow by £3 million and it is unthinkable to pass that bill onto our Council Taxpayers so we must find ways to cut the costs of our services by 20 per cent over the next three years. It will be a tough challenge as we have consistently been among the councils achieving the biggest efficiencies in the last few years but we must be ready to make some difficult decisions,” added Cllr Herring.

Suffolk Coastal’s recent record for delivering efficiencies has seen it consistently achieve budget savings including £1m in 2005/06, £850,000 in 2007/08, and £950,000 in 2008/09, against a background of Council Tax increases below five per cent since 2001. Indeed, this year its Council Tax rose by only eight pence a week for a Band D house.

However, the impact of fewer planning applications and land searches, along with increased workloads for its housing benefits team, is hitting the Council’s finances, which have also been adversely affected by the drop in interest rates.

“We are now urgently looking again at whether all of our services need to be carried out in the same way or whether some are less important than the others, or indeed if some need even more support to help our residents get through these tough times.

“After virtually eight years of constantly trimming costs, there is very little slack left in our services but I am confident we can become even more efficient by changing the ways some things are done, or indeed deciding they need to be done less often.

“Over the next few months we will shine the spotlight on every aspect of the services we provide and their costs, and begin the process of wringing out every last possible saving from them. By being open to change, we have successfully delivered savings every year while still improving our key services and we know we must keep an open mind to meet our future challenges,” added Cllr Herring.

Get advice before doing work on your historic home

Residents of Suffolk Coastal’s historic buildings who want to carry out repairs, renovations or demolitions are urged to check if they need planning consent before they call in the builders.

If a home is officially listed or situated in one of Suffolk Coastal’s 34 conservation areas, it is likely to be protected by extra rules to safeguard the architectural features of buildings that contribute to the district’s character.

“We have well over 3,000 listed buildings in our district, with over 300 in Woodbridge alone, and I would warn the owners of such buildings that this Council takes the protection and preservation of our heritage very seriously,” said Councillor Ivan Jowers, Chairman of the Development Control Committee.

“There are understandably very strict rules when it comes to making any changes to a listed building. For something to have gained that status they have had to be recognised as being historically important, and it is the current owner’s responsibility to protect those qualities for future generations to enjoy.

“Our conservation team are there to help people through the complicated maze of what they can and cannot do, and their advice is free. Ignoring their advice, or not getting any Council permission, can mean people end up with two bills rather than one - one for the unauthorised work, and another quite often large one to put things back to the way they should be,” added Cllr Jowers.

The importance of adhering to the rules was highlighted recently by the case of Maxwell Hembry, who pleaded guilty to one charge of executing demolitions or alterations to Burkitt House in Woodbridge without listed building consent at South East Suffolk Magistrates’ Court on Wednesday, June 24. He was ordered to pay a £14,000 fine as well as £2,690 in court costs.



It emerged that Mr Hembry had demolished internal walls in the coal cellar of the Grade II* Listed building (pictured above) without official approval. A newly built extension and cart lodge were also bigger than had been agreed.

“Our initial investigations at Burkitt House were as a result of a tip-off from a member of the public, and we inevitably rely on their vigilance, and that of town and parish councils, to back up the Council’s fight to preserve the best of our district’s architectural heritage.

“I hope Burkitt House will be a warning to others who may be tempted to ignore planning laws when it comes to listed buildings that they will get caught out and that we are ready to take whatever action we need, including if necessary pursuing the more serious offences through the Courts. No-one can afford to try and flout the laws as we will be ready to enforce them for the good of our district,” added Cllr Jowers.

Anyone in a Conservation Area needing advice about repairs, renovations or demolitions can visit www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourdistrict/planning/conservation or call 01394 444296 or email conservation@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk

New conservation area for Felixstowe

Suffolk Coastal has agreed to give 13.75 hectares of south Felixstowe official conservation area status.

The new conservation area is the 34th in Suffolk Coastal and the first to be designated in 19 years. It extends from Lincoln Terrace and South Hill down to Buregate Road and from Langer Road to the seafront, including Martello Tower Q

“Suffolk Coastal believes that Felixstowe’s seaside resort heritage is absolutely worth protecting, and granting conservation area status to this part of the town will make it easier for residents, businesses and us to work together to ensure the unique character of south Felixstowe stands the

test of time,” said Councillor Andy Smith, Cabinet Member for Planning.

Visit www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourdistrict/planning/conservation/felixstowesouth/ for more information or contact Robert Scrimgeour, on 01394 444616 or email conservation@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk

A survey of estate agents in the East of England by English Heritage shows that people value conservation areas because of their special character and appearance, that they are prepared to pay higher prices for properties in well-kept conservation areas and that they want this local heritage to be protected for their own and future generations to enjoy.

Seafront gardens project receives lottery grant

Felixstowe is now one step closer to a £2 million grant for repairs and improvements to its historic Seafront Gardens, thanks to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) awarding £152,300 to Suffolk Coastal to develop proposals for a multi-million pound restoration project.

The Council has been awarded the second-largest development grant from the HLF's Parks for People programme because it is convinced that the Felixstowe Seafront Gardens project is worthy of significant investment.

"We are delighted that the HLF has recognised the enormous potential of the Felixstowe Seafront Gardens project by giving Suffolk Coastal the means to finalise its plans, along with the opportunity to bid for funding from a multi-million pound pot," said Councillor Mary Neale, Cabinet Member for Leisure and Countryside.

Having been successful in the first round, the next stage involves putting forward more detailed proposals and bidding for a further £1,819,000 within the next two years.

"In an ideal world we would like to be awarded just under £2 million in total, so we will now be working with Felixstowe Town Council, the Friends of the Seafront Gardens and the local community to transform the ideas currently on the drawing board into a working blueprint for the future of the Gardens that represents the best use of public money," added Cllr Neale.

The renovation of the Seafront Gardens is one of the flagship projects of the Felixstowe and Trimleys Peninsula Futures regeneration programme, which has the backing of Suffolk Coastal, local businesses, community groups and the East of England Development Agency (EEDA).

"Two major local organisations are already demonstrating their commitment to the project by pledging financial support. I would like to thank Cllr Colin Hart for agreeing to invest £325,000 of Suffolk Coastal's Local Authority Business Grant Initiative money in the Gardens, and the Haven Gateway Partnership for its £150,000 contribution, which



will strengthen our case when we submit our next application to the HLF," added Cllr Neale.

The aim is to revamp the historic Gardens so they can offer residents and visitors a range of attractions, which are likely to include a visitors' centre explaining the history of the Seafront Gardens, an open-air performance venue, an adventure play area and an elevator from the cliff top to the Spa Pavilion below.

Restoring the Gardens to their former glory is another priority and this will be achieved by dealing with overgrown areas, recovering period features such as the Cliff Shelter and improving paths to make them more accessible, particularly to those with disabilities.

For more information on the Felixstowe Seafront Gardens project, call Caroline Driver, on 01394 444239, email caroline.driver@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk or visit www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourdistrict/seafrontgardens

To find out about the Friends of Felixstowe Seafront Gardens community group, call its Chairman Rev Chris Leffler on 01394 672279, email chrisleffler@uwclub.net or visit www.onesuffolk.co.uk/FriendsofFelixstoweSeafrontGardens

Help us improve our services

Suffolk Coastal is holding its annual Customer Focus Groups to help it keep in touch with what people feel about the district, the services run by the Council and other important things that matter to you and us!

We would like to hear from anyone willing to attend a group to put forward their views. Because we want to ensure that all sections of the community have their voice heard, we are particularly hoping to hear from anyone who considers themselves to: live in a rural area, have a disability, be a migrant worker, be older or retired, be younger, or be a benefit recipient.

If you would like to be part of one of our Focus Groups, or would like to be included in any future consultation, please call 01394 444205 or email sandra.lewis@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk

Because your views are important, we are prepared to pay travelling expenses and anyone taking part will be given a free swimming voucher.

Last year's feedback helped the Council revamp its Customer Service Standards and create a new Customer Access Strategy, and was an important factor in Suffolk Coastal gaining one of the top national rankings for customer access to services.

Have your say on how your coast is managed

Local residents have been given a chance to help shape the new Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) that will set the goals for the next 100 years from Felixstowe's Landguard Point up to Lowestoft Ness. The new draft SMP has been split into seven sections covering seven different parts of the coastline.

"The Suffolk SMP identifies the current situation with our coast and considers how we can best manage the risks of coastal flooding and erosion in the future. We need a plan to help us deal with and manage the changes that are already affecting our coast and the changes we anticipate occurring over the next 100 years," said Councillor Andy Smith, Suffolk Coastal's Deputy Leader and Chairman of the Suffolk SMP Members Group.

"We need to involve as wide an audience as possible in the finalising of the SMP as we have to get an increased understanding of the future challenges and the options that can help maintain defences in a changing climate," added Cllr Smith.

The SMP is being reviewed by Haskoning Ltd for Suffolk Coastal which is acting as the lead organisation for the Environment Agency and Waveney District Council who are all responsible for managing the coastline covered by the plan. Natural England and Suffolk County Council are also supporting the project.

As well as identifying the risks and how to reduce them, the SMP develops policies on how the shoreline should be managed, taking into account the social, financial and environmental costs and the adverse impacts.

Over the last few months, the draft has been drawn up after contacts were made with nearly 200 organisations that have an interest or role in this part of the coast, with many of them attending workshop sessions when they could feed in their views.

Four coastal defence options are available to the SMP and it has to agree a policy for each area based on the following



four policy options:-

- hold the line, which means maintaining or improving existing defences;
- advance the line, which is building new defences in front of existing ones;
- managed realignment, which allows the shoreline to retreat in a controlled or managed way,
- no active intervention which involves no investment or commitment to providing or maintaining defences.

"It has become increasingly clear that there needs to be more joined-up planning of coastal management. In the past, there was not adequate account taken of what the impact of another part of the coastline would be if some defences were put in elsewhere.

"A new SMP will be an important part of the process of making sure that future decisions are all linked to an agreed over set of goals, which will also help ensure that funding is prioritised to where it will have the greatest benefit.

"Getting all the relevant organisations to work together is a major step forward, but equally important is the involvement of and ownership by our coastal communities in the final version of the SMP," added Cllr Smith.

Detailed information can also be found on the special SMP website www.suffolksmp2.org.uk where there is also an online questionnaire so people can give comments by the closing date of September 30.

Engelandvaarders honoured at Sizewell

The bravery of 1,700 Dutch people who escaped to England to join the allied forces during the Second World War was honoured in a special ceremony in June.

A unique sculpture of three bronze paddles, one snapped, was unveiled at Sizewell beach by representatives of the 'Engelandvaarders' who travelled from the Netherlands to witness the event, which will also marked the start of the week leading up to Armed Forces Day.

"The tales of the Engelandvaarders is an astonishing one of courage and commitment and I am proud that we will have this unique memorial in our district which symbolises those young Dutchmen who tried to row across to England to join the fight against the Nazi occupiers of their homeland," said

Councillor Stephen Burroughes, Chairman of Suffolk Coastal.

"Thirty-two men set out by kayak to reach our shores and only eight actually got here, with two brothers successfully making it to Sizewell after a 56-hour crossing from Katwijk in the Netherlands. The bronze paddles will mark their heroic efforts, with the broken one being a poignant symbol of all those who failed," added Cllr Burroughes.

The initiative for a memorial came from Henri Peteri, one of the two brothers who sailed their kayak to Sizewell in September 1941. Henri died in 2007 but his widow, Betty Peteri-Peet, officially unveiled the sculpture donated by Quooker UK Ltd, a subsidiary of the company started by Henri Peteri.



Another chance for views on where future homes should go

Residents across the district are being given the chance to comment on the latest version of Suffolk Coastal's proposal on where new homes should be shared out between now and 2025.

"I would like to thank all those who have taken one of the many opportunities to help shape our Core Strategy which will help meet the needs of our district's residents for homes, jobs, shops and leisure while safeguarding our communities and our valued environment," said Cllr Andy Smith, Suffolk Coastal's Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Planning.

"Following the public consultation earlier this year, and also taking account of the changing economic circumstances, the updated Core Strategy that was proposed to the Local Development Framework Task Group and recommended by them to Cabinet involved a significant change in the distribution of housing, most notably in Felixstowe and Martlesham.

"Cabinet recognised that the changes to the distribution of housing are significant enough that we should take the opportunity to give everyone the opportunity to understand and comment upon them.

"We have to plan carefully for the future, to ensure as much as possible that we maintain and enhance our excellent

quality of life, while making it possible for our people to find the jobs and homes that are needed to stop our district stagnating. We believe that our latest proposals are the best way forward and I hope people will take this latest chance to give an informed opinion on them. The final decision, taking account of feedback from the new consultation, will then be taken later this year," added Cllr Smith.

The number of new homes required in the district by 2025 remains at 7,710. There are already outstanding planning permissions for 1,780 of those and another 1,850 are expected to be accommodated within existing built-up areas, or areas already identified in the existing Local Plan. The remaining 4,080 will require new areas of land to be allocated, and it is the broad locations of those which are to be the subject of the new round of consultation.

The updated housing distribution contained in the latest version of the Local Development Framework's Core Strategy will be the subject of further consultation with the community once all the relevant background evidence is available. This is likely to start in late summer and run for eight weeks. When the details have been finalised, there will be full information on www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourdistrict/planning/review/corestrategy and further publicity at that time.

Sit up and take notice of public art in Leiston

Leiston's Old Post Office Square now has a new seating area which doubles as a piece of public art, created by local artist Les Bicknell with the help of the town's young people.

The seating represents the artist's interpretation of Leiston's rich heritage and is triangular in shape, with three cylinders at each point. It is made of light-coloured, recycled, sand-blasted granite with wooden slats for extra comfort.

"The eye-catching new seating area will provide a place for people in Leiston to sit, relax and take in the scenery, but it will also be an attractive artistic monument to the town's past," said Councillor Mary Neale, Cabinet Member for Leisure and Countryside.

Conventional benches were ruled out because they could damage the roots of nearby trees, so Suffolk Coastal was awarded £6,500 by the county council to provide a piece of functional public art to attract visitors and residents alike to Leiston's Old Post Office Square.

"Year seven students from Leiston Middle School have taken



part in workshops led by the artist and have helped to design patterns for the seat's surface, inspired by artefacts from Leiston's Long Shop Museum, which occupies the site of the Richard Garrett Engineering Works and specialises in local industrial and social history," added Cllr Neale.

The battle of the ballots - elections round-up

Back in June, when 15 seats were decided across the district, the Conservatives held the vacant Felixstowe South East seat on Suffolk Coastal. In the other elections, the Conservatives also won the by-election to Felixstowe Town Council, and there was no change in the 13 County Council seats, with the Conservatives winning 12 and the Liberal Democrats one. A further by-election was held in July to fill the vacant Walberswick and Wenhaston seat on Suffolk Coastal, and this was also held by the Conservatives.

Jan Garfield (Conservative) won both vacant Felixstowe South-East seats while Peter Austin (Conservative) won the Walberswick and Wenhaston seat.

The overall turn-out across the district for the County Council elections was 43%, ranging from 34.2% in Kesgrave and Rushmere St Andrews, to 48.9% in Wilford.

The winning County Council candidates were:-
Aldeburgh and Leiston - * Ron WARD (Conservative)

Blything - * Rae LEIGHTON (Conservative)

Carlford - * Peter Robert BELLFIELD (Conservative)

Felixstowe Coastal (two seats) - Nick BARBER (Conservative) and * Graham Leslie NEWMAN (Conservative)

Felixstowe North and Trimley - * John Ernest Robert GOODWIN (Conservative)

Framlingham - * Colin Richard Campbell HART (Conservative)

Kesgrave and Rushmere St Andrew (two seats) - * Steven Courtenay HUDSON (Conservative) and * John Thomas KLASCHKA (Conservative)

Martlesham - * Patricia Margaret O'BRIEN (Conservative)

Wickham - Michael Noel BOND (Conservative)

Wilford - * Rosie CLARKE (Conservative)

Woodbridge - *Caroline Anne PAGE (Liberal Democrat)

Those marked with an * above were seeking re-election as a County Councillor. The successful candidates are due to be elected for a four-year term but the County Council could yet be abolished as part of the currently stalled Local Government Review of Suffolk.

The overall state of power at the County Council is now Conservative 55, Liberal Democrats 11, Labour 4, Green Party 2, Independent 2, and UKIP 1.

The seven elected MEPs for the Eastern Region who will serve for the next five years were Geoffrey Van Orden (Conservative), David Bannerman (UKIP), Robert Sturdy (Conservative), Andrew Duff (Liberal Democrat), Richard Howitt (Labour), Victoria Ford (Conservative) and John Agnew (UKIP).

The five parties that came out top of the votes in the European elections in Suffolk Coastal alone were Conservative (13,198), UKIP (8,342), Liberal Democrats (5,769), The Green Party (4,421) and Labour (3,078).

Grants on offer to help the outlook for local businesses

Businesses, community groups and town and parish councils are urged to apply for a grant from Suffolk Coastal's Economic Development Support Fund (EDSF) to kick-start projects promoting growth and the district's economy.

The deadline for the next round of grant applications is the end of September, and funding rounds will be held quarterly up to March 2010 or until the £150,000 available has been allocated.

"With the recession continuing, we are keen to do all we can to boost the district's economic prospects, which is why Suffolk Coastal is using part of a one-off windfall payment to fund the EDSF," said Councillor Colin Hart, Cabinet Member for the Economy.

"EDSF grants could be used by local businesses, town and parish councils or community groups to run projects that will strengthen the local economy, regenerate the district and improve residents' quality of life.

"Groups might look at innovative ways to improve customer footfall such as holding a food festival or other special event, develop business-to-business links or share expertise by running a mentoring programme or work together on making physical improvements to their town centre or an industrial estate," added Cllr Hart.

The EDSF is part of Suffolk Coastal's two-year programme to promote economic vitality in the district. The funding comes from the Local Authority Business Growth Incentive (LABGI) scheme, which gives money to local authorities based on the amount they have collected from business rates.

In order to be eligible, groups must be based in towns or villages in Suffolk Coastal, excluding Felixstowe and Woodbridge which are being supported by other initiatives,

and offer projects that meet at least two of the following objectives:

- Improve the area as an inward investment location.
- Improve the area as a tourism destination.
- Improve the area as a retail destination.
- Strengthen local business associations.
- Contribute to town centre management.
- Improve the physical infrastructure in a town centre or industrial estate.
- Improve local supply chains.
- Promote local food.
- Encourage collaboration between businesses to improve profitability / share knowledge and skills.

Any group that meets the criteria can be awarded up to 70 per cent of the cost of their project. The maximum grant on offer is £15,000, though in certain circumstances, for example if the proposal is backed by more than one organisation or is set to be of unprecedented benefit to the community, exceptions can be made. Evidence of match-funding from other sources will also be looked upon favourably.

"I hope that this fund will help stimulate some exciting projects that will give our district a significant boost and I would urge people to draw up their plans now," added Cllr Hart.

Anyone interested in applying should call assistant economic development officer Sonia Lambert on 01394 444625 or email sonia.lambert@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk for more information or to request an application form, or visit www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/helpingpeople/communitygrants/supportfund for a downloadable version of the application form and eligibility criteria.

Businesses urged to tap into Government grants

Small and medium-sized businesses could be eligible for a financial support from the Government thanks to the Grants for Business Investment (GBI) scheme, which is managed in this region by the East of England Development Agency (EEDA).

This grants scheme could give Suffolk Coastal's businesses the opportunity to put any long-cherished proposals into practice, creating jobs, attracting further investment and helping to regenerate the district.

GBI grants are aimed at small or medium-sized businesses with large projects in the pipeline that have exhausted other funding sources. Whether they are launching a new business, updating existing technology, developing new products,

improving staff facilities or taking on new employees, businesses in Suffolk Coastal could get a percentage of the cost paid for by the Government.

Small businesses in the district could receive grants for a maximum of 20 per cent of project costs, and local medium-sized businesses can apply for grants of up to 10 per cent. However, female entrepreneurs, who are recognised by the Government as being under-represented in business, can apply for GBI to cover up to 35 per cent of the start-up costs of a new business, or no more than £858,300.

For all the information on GBI, or to download the application forms and review the application criteria, visit www.eeda.org.uk/Grant-for-Business-Investment.asp

Parish noticeboard

LSP can help you tackle climate change

Four small local community groups have already received a C-Change Coastal grant from the Suffolk Coastal Local Strategic Partnership to help them lead the way in reducing the use of fossil fuels and greenhouse gas emissions in their communities. Start-up grants of up to £2,000 are still available - for more information call Deborah Wargate on 01394 444747 or visit www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourdistrict/greenissues/cchange

Sporting heroes?

Nominations have opened for the annual Suffolk Coastal Sports Awards - to propose someone who you think deserves a special accolade visit

www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourfreetime/leisuredev/sportsawards before the August 17 closing date.

Ipswich hospital wants your help to shape its future

Ipswich Hospital's plans for the future is under the spotlight as it wants patients, visitors and residents to stand up and have their voices counted as plans for the hospital's next five years are drawn up.

Ipswich Hospital wants to become a foundation trust - part of the NHS but with their future driven more by local people and less by the Department of Health.

Copies of the hospital's consultation booklet including large print and alternate language formats, are available by calling 01473 704769. The booklet is also available online at www.ipswichhospital.nhs.uk/foundationtrust and the consultation formally ends on September 8, 2009.

Housing waiting list change

Suffolk Coastal's housing waiting list is now being managed at the Council's Melton Hill offices in Woodbridge. Anyone on the list now has a wider choice than before thanks to the Gateway to Homechoice partnership which means there is now a pick of council or housing association homes in seven council areas.

To find out more visit

www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourhome/housing/cbi or visit www.gatewaytohomechoice.org.uk or call 01394 444822.

Carton on to where you can recycle

There are now eight different places in the district where people can recycle paper-based cartons used to hold milk, fruit juices, wine or soup. Please rinse them out and squash them before dropping them into the special containers at Framlingham Sports Club in Badingham Road, the Quay Street car park in Orford, Wickham Market's Village Hall, the recycling site behind Woodbridge Community Centre, and Yoxford's Village Hall, as well as the Foxhall, Leiston and Felixstowe household waste recycling centres.

New reporter in area

After the early retirement of Richard Smith from the East Anglian Daily Times, Craig Robinson is now covering the district from Woodbridge northwards. You can call 01473 324737 or email craig.robinson@eadt.co.uk Richard Cornwell covers the south for both the EADT and the Evening Star - 01394 284109 or richard.cornwell@eveningstar.co.uk

Mobile youth centre is making its visits

A new travelling youth centre is visiting Wickham Market on Thursdays, Saxmundham on Fridays, Yoxford and Dennington on alternate Sundays, and various smaller towns and villages on Wednesdays from 7pm to 9pm. The Go With the Flow Youth Bus has funding from the National Lottery and Suffolk Coastal Local Strategic Partnership - visit www.gowiththeflowbus.com for more information or call Jon Denny on 07876 680909.

Latest recycling service expansion

From the end of July, another 6,000 homes in Felixstowe will have joined Suffolk Coastal's improved recycling service, bringing the total homes up to 48,000 or nearly 85 per cent of the district. The next roll-out is in November when 4,900 homes in Wenhaston, Blythburgh, Walberswick, Thorington, and parts of Aldeburgh, the Trimleys, Purdis Farm and Felixstowe will join up, with the district's remaining homes coming on board by March 2010.

Grants boost helps thirty local groups make a difference

A youth club, a theatre company and a domestic violence charity are among 30 groups in the district that have been awarded grants of nearly £60,000 in total by Suffolk Coastal.

“These groups are not-for-profit organisations, many of which are run by volunteers and reliant on grants to continue their good work, and giving them financial support means they can continue to make a big difference to the quality of life of people in the district,” said Councillor Mary Neale, Cabinet Member for Leisure and Countryside.

“Despite our limited resources we have given funding to over three-quarters of applicants, ranging from a £200 grant awarded to the Aldeburgh Carnival to hang and remove bunting, to a £9,000 grant for Felixstowe Citizens’ Advice Bureau to employ a Money Advisor for an extra year.

“Not only are the grants useful in themselves, they can be instrumental in attracting funding from other sources, such as the National Lottery, which often looks for evidence of local support and match funding when assessing grant applications,” added Cllr Neale.

Each application is considered on its own merits, and grants are only awarded if they will have a significant impact on the lives of people in the district and represent the best use of Council money.

The deadline for receiving the next round of grant applications will be the end of September. For more information call 01394 444320, email committee.section@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk or visit www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/helpingpeople/communitygrants/councilgrants The full list of grants was as follows:-

- £200 to Aldeburgh Olde Marine Regatta and Carnival.
- £350 to Art on the Prom, to fund workshops linked to the event in Felixstowe schools.
- £500 to Coastal Accessible Transport Services (CATS), which helps members of the community unable to use public transport to get to various locations, such as the shops or hospital.
- £1,500 to DanceEast, to run activities and an outreach programme, on the condition that their Spiegel Tent offers dance workshops and performances at Easton Farm Park and dance taster sessions are held in Felixstowe.
- £2,500 to Deben Swimming Club to continue training sessions and classes for swimmers, and other water sports, including water polo and synchronised swimming.
- £2,000 to the Disability Advice Service (East Suffolk), to continue providing free, impartial advice to disabled people on the range of help, support and benefits available to them.
- £550 to the East Anglian Sailing Trust for regular, accessible sailing sessions at Levington aimed at disabled children.
- £1,000 to Eastern Angles Theatre Company, to support performances in the district.
- £9,000 to Felixstowe and District Citizens’ Advice Bureau, to employ a Money Advisor for an extra 12 months.
- £500 to Felixstowe and District Council for Sport and Recreation, which brings together representatives from sports clubs in the town and surrounding area and forges links between clubs and schools.

- £500 to Felixstowe Area Community Transport Ltd, to continue providing dial-a-ride and community car transport services.
- £3,500 to Framlingham Area Youth Action Partnership to support a drop-in youth facility and Friday night youth club.
- £500 to Homestart Suffolk Coastal, to continue supporting families with one or more children under five who are having trouble coping due to isolation, bereavement, lack of experience, single parenthood, or any other reason.
- £500 to Ipswich and Suffolk Council for Racial Equality, which supports victims of race, age, gender, sexual orientation, disability, religion, belief or human rights discrimination.
- £5,000 to Ipswich Women’s Aid Ltd, which offers advice, information and temporary refuges for victims of domestic abuse and their children.
- £5,000 to Just 42, which runs youth groups in parts of the district where there is little for young people to do, such as Hasketon, Melton, Rendlesham and Grundisburgh.
- £1,500 to the Landguard Fort Trust, which maintains the Grade I listed ancient monument and opens it to the public.
- £1,500 to Leiston Day Club, which provides elderly residents with the opportunity to socialise, take part in activities and eat a two-course meal.
- £5,000 to the Long Shop Project Trust, to contribute towards the employment of a Partnership Officer to develop and manage externally-funded projects.
- £1,000 to the National Coastwatch Institution, which staffs a lookout post in Felixstowe.
- £500 to Pisces Swimming Club, a swimming club for disabled people of all ages, their families and friends.
- £8,000 to Rochford Trust for the running of Rochford House, a safe, supportive place for young people to go that aims to help them improve their prospects and realise their potential.
- £600 to the Rose and Sweet William Club, which holds social afternoons for people over 65 in Leiston.
- £1,800 to the Rural Coffee Caravan Information Project, which aims to provide people in isolated rural areas with information and advice, as well as a place to socialise.
- £1,000 to Saxmundham Arts and Recreation Trust, for an arts festival at the end of October.
- £1,000 to the Suffolk Accident Rescue Service, which is staffed by doctors who volunteer to provide medical assistance to anyone involved in an accident or medical emergency in Suffolk.
- £500 to Suffolk Artlink’s Culture Club, a theatre group for older people based in Felixstowe Library, led by an artist and run in partnership with the New Wolsey Theatre.
- £1,000 to the Suffolk Association of Voluntary Organisations (SAVO) for the Suffolk Coastal Resource Network (SCRN), which supports voluntary groups in the district and helps them expand their services and gain funding.
- £1,000 to the Poetry Trust, to fund free and family events at the 21st Aldeburgh Poetry Festival.
- £1,000 to Volunteer Centre - Framlingham and District, which provides second-hand furniture and white goods to disadvantaged people in the local area.

Basketball takes off at Wickham Market

The Wickham Market Partnership is delighted to confirm the completion of a new full size outdoor public basketball court.

This project grew from the small Millennium area being used by an increasing number of young players. Further proof of interest and demand was also obtained in the 2006 WMP Taste of the Future survey, involving over 300 pupils.

Bryan Hall, lead basketball project Partnership Trustee, said "I am delighted that we have been able to provide another first class sporting facility for young people from Wickham and surrounding parishes to add to the new tennis courts.

"This is a further fine example of real community partnership working, and has involved many sponsors, donors and local business support."

He added that "Plans are also well advanced for 8 coaching classes to be held in the autumn for 9-16 year olds, these



classes being provided under the Sport Unlimited programme, sponsored by Suffolk Sport."

Sponsors & Donors include Wickham Market Partnership, Wickham Market Parish Council, Suffolk County Council (Locality Budget), Suffolk Coastal District Council (Outdoor Playspace Fund & grant for litter bin), Foundation for Sport & the Arts (Littlewoods), Quilters Haven (donation from exhibition weekend), Adnams Charity, and Private Donations

Fun fair survey launched

A review of what people think about fun fairs in the district is being carried out by Suffolk Coastal to see if any improvements can be made to help resolve any problems local residents may have with the events.

Three Council-owned sites in the district are hired out for use by the organisers of fun fairs at Aldeburgh and Felixstowe and although thousand of people enjoy the visits of the fun fairs the Council still gets some complaints from people living near to these fun fairs whenever they do come to town.

The survey asks people to give us their considered opinion about them, whether they should continue as an attraction for locals and visitors alike, or any ways they can be improved both for customers and nearby residents.

A short survey form has been delivered to homes and businesses in Felixstowe, an online version can be found on www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourcouncil/haveyoursay and printed copies are available at Aldeburgh and Felixstowe's tourist information centres.

The questions include whether people are aware or have visited any fun fairs in the district, whether they think they bring in visitors, should they continue and what type of changes they would like to see happen.

The results of the survey will be included in a report to Suffolk Coastal's Cabinet at the end of the summer, and people are asked to respond no later than August 21.

Give your views on policing

Residents across Suffolk are being urged to take part in a new public survey to help shape the policing of the county.

Suffolk Police Authority's survey for 2009/10 asks a range of questions from 'How safe do you feel in the area where you live?' to 'What should be the main priorities for police in your area?'

The survey, available online at www.suffolk.police.uk or www.suffolkpoliceauthority.org.uk (follow the link for 'Have Your Say'), is aimed at collecting the views of residents about policing in the neighbourhood in which they live. This is an opportunity for residents to voice views and opinions about the police; for instance, their views on how confident they feel in the services the Constabulary provides.

Gary Kitching, Assisant Chief Constable Suffolk Constabulary commented: "Survey results and feedback can significantly improve policing in your area and will assist your local police in identifying specific issues and challenges that you and your community faces. Results are continually fed back to local Safer Neighbourhood Teams so they can address specific and immediate problems."

Gulshan Kayembe, Chair of Suffolk Police Authority added: "Overall results are given to the Chief Constable and the Police Authority so that decisions can be made about the allocation of police resources and targets can be developed to underpin the Policing Pledge and operational control strategy which aims to tackle key problem areas and issues."

Help us tackle climate change

The first draft Climate Change Strategy for the district has been drawn up by Suffolk Coastal and views from across the district are wanted by August 14 on whether it is taking the right actions.

The strategy proposes three main objectives for the Council, and the communities, businesses and residents that make up the district. The targets are to reduce Carbon Dioxide emissions, prepare for climate change and reduce reliance on fossil fuels.

“I hope as many people as possible take the time to look at our draft strategy and our proposed action plan, and give us feedback on whether there are any improvements that we need to make,” said Councillor Andrew Nunn, Cabinet Member for the Green Environment.

“It is clear that global warming is already or will have an impact on areas of everyday life like our economy, agriculture and land use, sea levels and our coastline. We have to take action to tackle the challenges of climate change and this

strategy sets out some immediate goals for the whole district,” added Cllr Nunn.

The draft strategy, along with an online comment form, can be found on www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourdistrict/greenissues/ccs/ or can be seen in libraries, tourist information centres, and the Council’s Melton Hill offices.

As well as showing proposed future actions, the Strategy also outlines some of the actions already taken by the Council, including identifying energy efficiencies in its buildings, and helping residents and businesses reduce their energy consumption.

The Strategy includes requiring the Council to ensure that the issues of climate change become a central part of its decision making in the future, and that as a key member of the Suffolk Coastal Local Strategic Partnership it would work to ensure that climate change is taken account of by all the partner organisations as they draw up their future actions.

Parish tree scheme has taken root across the district



The Council’s Parish Tree Scheme has once again obtained funding for the 2009/2010 season. The scheme has been funded by Suffolk Coastal for over 30 years and has helped increase the length of hedgerows and the fauna and flora associated with these important habitats and green corridors.

In the last year we have supported hedge and tree planting in 19 parishes with 155 trees and 4,500 hedging plants totalling a fantastic 1,070 metres of hedgerow being

planted in the district. If there are areas in your parish that would benefit from some tree and hedge planting and contact your Tree Warden or Sam Mortlock, Suffolk Coastal’s green space assistant, on 01394 444557 or email sam.mortlock@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk

There is additional funding through the Tree Council and Trees For All for community planting so please discuss with your Tree Warden or contact Sam Mortlock,.

Upcoming events for Tree Wardens and Volunteers

- Saturday, October 10 - Create Your Own Tree Nursery at Foxburrow Farm - Anne Raymond, local horticulturalist.
- Saturday, November 14 - Aftercare of Young Trees at The Grove, Felixstowe.

If you are interested in any of the above events please contact Sam Mortlock.

For more information visit www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourdistrict/trees/treewardens or www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourdistrict/trees/treewardensparishtreescheme

Pictured top left are volunteers planting at Wickham Market’s tennis courts and left at Wenhaston.

