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New website opens the door to a summer of fun



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03 Jul 2007

Archived press release.

A flick of the mouse will reveal lots of reasons why children and young people in Suffolk Coastal should not be glued to their couches this summer.

A special website, www.coastalpotato.co.uk has gone live to breathe fresh life into local youngsters as it is packed with activities for the summer holidays and beyond.

"Suffolk Coastal in partnership with the extended schools officers in the district have been working to set up this website which has been backed with funding from my youth locality budget and Felixstowe Leisure Centre," said Cllr Doreen Savage, Cabinet Member for young people.

"The design and naming of this website is the result of work by the district's new youth forum, Suffolk Coastal Teen Voices (SCTV) who wanted to make the website both fun and attractive to young people. Mind you, older people should find it enjoyable and informative as well!

"There will be lots going on in Suffolk Coastal during the holidays from cooking courses, to mobile skateparks, days out at Felixstowe Leisure Centre to Hip Hop dancing in Yoxford. This website is designed to help young people and parents find out what is going on at just a click of a button. The simple message this summer is, don't be a couch potato but a coastal potato by clicking on to the website and find something to do," added Cllr Savage.

Each week throughout the summer holidays, there will be the chance via the website to win one of the following prizes – a Nintendo Wii, Gambrelle day care for one week, theatre tickets, swimming tickets, and a one-hour windsurf lesson.

The website will be officially launched on Monday July 9, at 5.30pm at Woodbridge Youth Club, Kingston Rd, Woodbridge. A special guest will be there and the Council's mobile skatepark will also be there for young people to try out.

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Chance to help create a brighter future for Felixstowe



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10 Jul 2007

Archived press release.

At a special event this weekend, people in Felixstowe can share their thoughts and views on how to create a brighter future for Felixstowe's resort and town centre.

On Friday (July 13) and Saturday (July 14) everyone is invited to the Felixstowe Leisure Centre to play their part in helping draw up a blueprint that will shape the future of their town.

This public consultation event is the latest part of the scheme to draw up a Felixstowe Master Plan, and will focus particularly on the seafront area from Cobbold's Point to Landguard Point, and significant parts of the town centre and surrounding areas.

"This Master Plan could be the key to unlocking a much brighter future for Felixstowe but we want it to be based on what those who live and work in the town think. It is their town and their future and we want them to help come up with the ideas on the best way forward," said Stephen Bracewell, Chairman of the Felixstowe and Trimleys Peninsula Futures Group.

"These two days are an excellent opportunity for the public to have a look at some of the ideas that have already been put forward and to give their views on them. Delivering a new-look Felixstowe will only occur if all the relevant partners work together to make the most of the opportunities now on offer, but the most important partner in this process has to be the local community who need to share and agree the way ahead," added Mr Bracewell.

The event will be open between 1pm and 6pm on Friday, and 10am to 4pm on Saturday, and members of the Futures Group will be on hand to answer any questions.

Display boards will give a broad outline of the projects already under consideration for the final Master Plan, and there will be comments sheets so people can give their views and express their preferences.

Leading planning consultants David Lock Associates have been commissioned to produce a Master Plan, which will contain a number of proposals to rejuvenate the town as a seaside resort, enhance the shopping environment and provide improved access between the seafront and the town centre. Work on the Master Plan is expected to be completed in the autumn of this year.

For anyone unable to go to the Leisure Centre in Undercliff Road West, the material on show will also be on the Felixstowe Futures website.

Comments can be emailed to felixstowe@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk or by post to Felixstowe Futures, Suffolk Coastal District Council, Melton Hill, Woodbridge, IP12 1AU.

*This press release was issued by
the Felixstowe and Trimleys Peninsula Futures Group*

Last updated: 14/01/2010 12:19:24





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Readers have helped create a new-look Coastline



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16 Jul 2007

Archived press release.

Local residents are this week receiving a new-look version of Suffolk Coastal's quarterly magazine, Coastline, which is packed with news and information about the district.

The summer 2007 Coastline has been redesigned to give a fresh look after Suffolk Coastal asked its residents for ideas on how they could improve the magazine.

"We know from surveys that the preferred way for our residents to find out about this Council is publicity produced by us and for 10 years Coastline has been our most regular and reliable method of contacting them," said Cllr Mary Neale, Cabinet Member for Rural Issues/Community Development.

"We thought that the old Coastline was beginning to look a bit stale, so we asked our readers in the last edition for ideas on how to improve it, and their suggestions have helped shape the summer edition.

"Thanks to their input, we have cut down the number of words by nearly a third, while including more news stories, with a layout that I think makes it much more readable and clearer. I hope that residents enjoy the new-look Coastline when it drops through their letterboxes this week," added Cllr Neale.

The summer edition includes features on how people can become more energy efficient and an update on the district's Local Development Framework, as well as news about Suffolk Coastal Teen Voices and contact details for local district councillors.

Among the changes that have been introduced by the Council, thanks to the input of local residents, are a new what's on column, more information aimed at young people, a better, clearer layout, and tips on how to recycle and help the environment.

One lucky reader who sent in her comments, Laura Bishop of Hollesley, was this weekend at the sold-out Latitude festival after she won two tickets thanks to Mean Fiddler, the organisers of the event.

"By involving the people who matter most, our local residents, we have been able to come up with a Coastline magazine which is a better service and even better value," added Cllr Neale.

The new-look Coastline can also be seen on www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/news/coastline/ where a large print version can also be found. Any partially-sighted or blind resident wanting a large print, tape or CD version can call 01394 444345.

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Volunteers gather in the heather



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19 Jul 2007

Archived press release.

Last weekend, 30 Suffolk Coastal Community Conservation Volunteers and Parish Tree Wardens met in Wenhaston to share their experiences and views on managing their local environment.

This Conservation Volunteers Training Day was the first of a series of bi-annual events to bring together people that give their free time to work with Suffolk Coastal's Countryside and Open Space team carrying out conservation management including tree and hedge planting and protection.

In the morning David Mason from the Suffolk Wildlife Trust told the audience about the pressures facing the remnants of the 'Suffolk Sandlings' heaths, and current heathland management techniques, including grazing by Dartmoor ponies. Presentations followed from the Wenhaston and Westleton Conservation Groups giving a more local perspective.

An afternoon walk around Blackheath Common gave the participants an opportunity to appreciate the achievements of the Wenhaston Conservation Group in restoring heather to areas previously overgrown with gorse and bracken. This work has resulted in the added benefit of increasing the population of the rare 'silver studded blue' butterfly.

"It is fantastic that so much great work is being carried out around the district by such dedicated people. The Conservation Volunteer Groups in parishes such as Wenhaston, Westleton and Middleton and our 75 Parish Tree Wardens are greatly appreciated and we know that the effectiveness of our work in the countryside would be much reduced far less effective without their support," said Cllr Kevin Keable, Cabinet Member with responsibility for Community Well-Being.

"Hopefully, bringing these groups together on a regular basis will give them more opportunities to learn from each other and perhaps combine their strengths to further contribute to making our district an even more beautiful place in which to live," added Cllr Keable.

The next Conservation Volunteer Training Day is planned for late October, when Britain's leading authority on the history of trees in our landscape, Dr Oliver Rackham, will be giving a presentation.

Anyone interested in joining a Community Conservation Volunteer Group or becoming a Parish Tree Warden, can email joanna.payne@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk or write to Joanna Payne, Suffolk Coastal District Council, Melton Hill, Woodbridge IP12 1AU.



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Book your place now in Suffolk Coastal's food and drink guide



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23 Jul 2007

Archived press release.

The closing date is approaching fast for those local businesses who want to advertise in Food and Drink on the Suffolk Coast, which is Suffolk Coastal's new improved version of the popular, free booklet Where to Eat.

The first edition is being drawn up now and people have until August 10 to book their place in the guide which will be available at the district's three tourist information centres (TICs) and 25 other information points in post offices, pubs, restaurants and local shops, as well as TICs across Suffolk.

"We have decided to expand the scope of what has always been a very popular item with residents and visitors wanting to find out more about places to eat in our area. The new edition will also include local food producers and providers, farm shops and markets. We hope it will be even more useful for visitors and residents looking to enjoy some of the best local food in Britain and reduce their 'food miles'," said Cllr Colin Hart, Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Tourism.

"This district is blessed with more than its fair share of first-class local food producers plus fine restaurants, excellent hotels, pubs and cafes. Our new guide will make it easier for visitors and residents to choose the type of food they are looking for whether it be a celebration meal, a pub lunch, or food to buy for entertaining family and friends at home." added Cllr Hart.

The guide will list various types of eating places from hotels and restaurants to tea rooms and pubs and also give information on whether an establishment has disabled access/facilities, and for how many it can cater. It will also be available on the Council's website – visit www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk

Anyone that would like to have an entry in the guide can call the Council on 01394 444538 or email nicky.corbett@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk for further information, or can download an application form from the website address above.



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Children get top marks for recycling



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23 Jul 2007

Archived press release.

Two local schools have taken part in a special initiative to encourage recycling and to make sure that the right items are being put out for collection.

The Perfect Bin Scheme was organised by Suffolk County Council and Viridor Waste Management Ltd, with local help from Suffolk Coastal, and children from Hollesley and Peasenhall Primary Schools joined seven others across the county.

“The scheme showed the children what materials they can recycle from their own homes and how important it is to make sure that they are putting out perfect bins, those which only have those items that can be collected,” said Cllr Andrew Nunn, Cabinet Member for the Natural Environment.

“A competition was held as a fun way to get the children involved in taking responsibility for the waste from their house. It is never too early to learn how important it is not just to recycle, but to do it properly,” added Cllr Nunn.

To enter the competition, the children needed to present their home recycling bins as ‘perfect’ and attach a bin hanger with their details on it. Suffolk Coastal Services collection crews checked the bins and if they met the ‘perfect’ test, the entry was included in the prize draw, with eight children winning prizes from Peasenhall and Hollesley.

“The response from the children was excellent, and we had loads of potential winners, but the reality is that we are all going to be the winners if we can improve our recycling habits. It will save us the earth if we can both increase the amount we recycle and by making sure we do not mix up our materials with waste that cannot currently be recycled,” added Cllr Nunn.

Every home in Suffolk Coastal can currently put out their newspapers, magazines and junk mail out for collection every fortnight, and every home also has a brown bin for garden waste, all food waste, cardboard and shredded paper. In addition, from this month there are now 14,000 homes that have blue-lidded wheelie bins for recycling plastic bottles, paper, cardboard, cans, tins and foil.

Suffolk Coastal’s residents have got the best record in Suffolk for not mixing up their recycled waste. All recycling loads received at Blakenham have been classified as grade A excellent.

Suffolk Coastal’s recycling rates hit 40 per cent last year, but it is estimated that if the current amount of household waste continues to be taken to landfill sites, the cost to Council Taxpayers could rise by £9 million a year by 2017.

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Grants agreed to help local community groups



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24 Jul 2007

Archived press release.

Grants from Suffolk Coastal totalling over £45,000 are set to be shared among 17 local voluntary organisations that are providing social, artistic or sporting facilities and services to local residents.

Applications for capital grant aid from across the district were recently considered by the Grants Task Group and its recommendations have now been approved by the Council's relevant Cabinet Member.

"These grants are targeted at projects that are available to the general public as a whole, and can often be vital in helping these groups successfully attract much larger sums of funding from the various branches of the National Lottery," said Councillor Mary Neale, Cabinet Member for Community Development/Rural Issues.

"There is a wide range of organisations, mainly run by volunteers, whose efforts are helping to improve the quality of life of our residents. Our capital grants are there to support the purchase of important equipment or the building of new facilities.

"This Council is under severe financial pressure but we recognise the importance of supporting our local voluntary organisations, the so-called 'third sector' and I am pleased that, in this our 25th year of grant aid, we will again pay out over £100,000 of capital and revenue funds to those who need it most," added Councillor Neale.

The recommended grants were:-

- £7,500 to the Blaxhall Village Hall Management Committee towards the cost of a new kitchen and toilets and other facilities.
- £1,000 to Butley Village Hall Committee for replacement tables and chairs.
- £5,000 to Felixstowe Old Peoples Welfare Association towards the cost of installing new kitchen facilities at The Hut, the seafront hall used by many elderly and disabled residents and visitors.
- £4,000 to Leiston St Margaret Football Club towards replacing its clubhouse roof.
- £400 to Martlesham Bowls Club towards buying a secure metal store to contain machinery used on the bowling green.
- £3,000 to Martlesham Youth Football Club towards fencing around the playing field to protect it from animals and vandals.
- £2,000 to Martlesham Heath Pavilion towards a heating and air condition system.
- £3,000 to Monewden Village Hall towards replacing the hall floor which was riddled with dry rot.
- £548 to the WI Trust Hall, Shottisham towards replacing the lath and plaster ceiling, and tackling rotted door and window frames in the 16th century building.
- £800 to Thorpeness Sports and Social towards a new more accessible club entrance.
- £3,000 to Trimley Memorial Hall Management Committee towards new radiators, safety flooring and chairs.
- £3,000 to Trimley St Mary Welcome Hall towards a disabled toilet and improved access to the hall.
- £2,000 to Woodbridge Community Hall to help refurbish its main toilets.

A grant of £2,000 to Grundisburgh Tennis Club for flood lighting on two courts was agreed subject to planning permission being granted, while £1,000 to the Knodishall Village Hall Trustees will be paid if they are successful in purchasing land next to the hall, while £4,000 will go to the Red Rose Chain Theatre Co to buy some grandstand seating for their events in Rendlesham Forest if they agree to lend the seating three times a year to other local groups. Yoxford Arts Festival Ltd will receive £996 if it agrees to allow other groups to use the PA system it wants to buy, and a grant of £2,000 may also be paid to Melton Parish Council to resurface two tennis courts once further information is received.

Any local group or organisation that would like to apply for a grant can contact Christine Brain at Suffolk Coastal on 01394 444626 or email Christine.brain@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk



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Suffolks Pathfinder bid successful



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25 Jul 2007

Archived press release.

The Government has today announced the results of its long awaited consideration of the bid by seven Suffolk councils to create a Pathfinder Partnership.

The Government, as well as giving the go ahead for the Pathfinder bid has also announced that it has approved Ipswich's bid for unitary status.

"I am pleased that the Government has recognised the strength of the Suffolk Pathfinder bid and given us the green light to proceed to work even closer together, however the details from the Government are still fairly light on what support the Suffolk councils may get to help us press ahead with our plans. Our goal will be to press ahead with our partnerships, reviewing all aspects of our services and seeing how we can share knowledge and resources to deliver the efficiencies that our Council tax payers and residents expect," said Councillor Ray Herring, Leader of the Council.

"Ipswich's success in persuading the Government to grant the borough unitary status is not good news for residents in this district, or indeed anywhere else in the county other than perhaps Ipswich. My Council opposed this major and costly reorganisation. We fear it will cause confusion and difficulties with service delivery in those parts of our district that border Ipswich, but our main concern was the inevitably detrimental impact on the Pathfinder project. Not for the first time, I really cannot see the logic in a Government political decision. The ability of the Pathfinder project to deliver success will now be reassessed while Ipswich and the County Council enter into the lengthy and inevitably messy 'divorce' arrangement that will now take place over services provided in the borough's boundaries," added Councillor Herring.

The members of the Pathfinder Partnership are Suffolk Coastal, St Edmundsbury, Mid-Suffolk, Babergh, Forest Heath, Waveney and Suffolk County Council.

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Court deals with benefit fraudster



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30 Jul 2007

Archived press release.

A Kesgrave woman is counting the cost of her benefit fraud after appearing at the Magistrates Court in Ipswich last Monday (July 23).

Kim Williams, of Heath View, Kesgrave pleaded guilty to charges of defrauding Suffolk Coastal of over £1,500 in Housing and Council Tax benefits.

“Miss Williams found work in March 2006, but failed to inform the Council and continued to claim her Housing and Council Tax benefits. This fraud came to light as the result of co-operation between the Council’s fraud investigators and their colleagues in the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP),” said Cllr Chris Slemmings, Cabinet Member for Housing.

“Our highly professional officers work very closely with the DWP and other local authorities and are finding mistaken claims and payments more quickly and accurately. Where these errors are found to be due to fraud or deception, we will always take the appropriate action, including going to the Courts. This case should act as a warning to others that if they try to cheat the system they will be caught,” added Cllr Slemmings.

Miss Williams was sentenced to undertake 60 hours of community work. She was ordered to pay the Council £75 costs and the Council will require her to repay the £1,500 overpayment.

Anyone receiving benefits should notify the Council on 01394 444838 if there is any change in their circumstances – this can sometimes mean that they receive more, rather than less, benefit.

The Council’s Fraud Hotline for residents to call confidentially and report suspected benefit frauds is 01394 444444, available 24-hours a day, or they can email fraud.investigation@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk



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Pay online for all your plans



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30 Jul 2007

Archived press release.

The latest improvement to Suffolk Coastal's planning services means that anyone submitting a planning application can now pay online via the Council's website.

In 2005, the Council linked up with the Planning Portal so that people could make their planning applications online, as well as being able to view a wealth of material that could prove helpful, such as planning policy statements, including the Council's Local Plan, and research sources.

"However, the Planning Portal service did not offer people the chance to pay for their application online so they still had to send us a cheque. We have now set up a secure online payment facility which will save us lots of time having to link the cheques up with the relevant application," said Cllr Andy Smith, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for the Built Environment.

"I hope that people use this new service as it is much more convenient for them, and will mean that we can officially register applications earlier, so the whole process of consulting about and deciding an application can get underway quicker.

"The Council made it one of its top priorities to improve the speed in which our decisions were made and we have been able to deliver a better service and even better value," added Cllr Smith.

A visit to www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourdistrict/devcontrol/planningonline/ will open up a wealth of information, with the chance to do a quick search of the planning register to see all applications, decisions, appeals and appeals' decisions during the last 30 days.

Other options include monitoring the progress of planning applications and seeing who has been consulted, what responses there have been and if and when it will go to a committee for decision.

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Planning inspector imposes new rules on Orwell Crossing



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30 Jul 2007

Archived press release.

The results of the Government's planning inspector's inquiry into the Orwell Crossing has lifted some of the confusion on what are the rules about using the A14 facility.

Passing motorists will now be able to stop at the Orwell Crossing lorry park, but the owners, AE Rout and Sons, will not be allowed to advertise their café or entertainments to attract the general public.

"The owners of the café had appealed against a decision by this Council made in November 2005. My committee at that stage had no choice but to follow the advice of the Highways Agency and refuse to lift the planning conditions that insisted that only lorry drivers could use the facilities at the Orwell Crossing," said Cllr Ivan Jowers, Chairman of the South Area Development Control Sub-Committee.

"The inspector, Michael Ellison, has now overturned our original decision but in his report and his new conditions he has made it clear that this is a facility that is solely meant for users of the A14, rather than the general public at large," added Cllr Jowers.

The café was originally granted planning permission by the Council in November 2002 when the applicants in their planning application agreed that it and the other facilities in the lorry park would only be for lorry drivers.

The Council then set down two conditions as part of its planning permission that insisted that only lorry drivers could use the facilities at the Orwell Crossing, which was in line with the demands of the Highways Agency.

The Council's primary concern was that the lorry park was becoming a destination in its own right, rather than a facility for lorry drivers or other users of the A14.

Mr Ellison states that it was perfectly straight-forward for the owners to establish whether a visitor was a lorry driver or not, and also accepted that the original conditions were 'necessary in the interests of road safety and the free flow of traffic on the A14.'

Mr Ellison also rejected the proposals from the Orwell Crossing on who can use and when they can use the café, but he did think that the conditions could be changed to allow those motorists who are already using the A14 to stop at the Orwell Crossing.

In his report, Mr Ellison states that 'this package of suggested conditions (from the appellants) does not follow an approach which I am prepared to accept. Inviting the public at large ... (would) be contrary to national policy. It would add unnecessary traffic to the trunk road. I am not prepared to accept conditions which facilitate general public use by drivers who would not otherwise be using the A14.'

Mr Ellison has also imposed a condition that restricts the advertising of events being available to the general public – there shall be no advertising of the site through newspapers, leaflets, the

internet or any other means whatsoever, other than as a lorry park and motorists' rest area. He is also imposing a limit of 45 car parking spaces and three bays for coaches.

Follow this link to [see a copy of the Planning Inspector's report \(PDF 97KB\)](#).

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Residents give input into Felixstowe's future



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31 Jul 2007

Archived press release.

A special event was recently held that gave people in Felixstowe a chance to share their thoughts and views on how to create a brighter future for Felixstowe's resort.

Over the weekend of Friday, July 13 and Saturday, July 14 over 350 people viewed the material on display and gave their choices and comments on the proposed projects and other aspects of the town and the Master Plan exercise.

"I would like to say a big thank you to all those who took the time to visit the event and I am very pleased that the interest shown in the projects was both significant and positive," said Stephen Bracewell, Chairman of the Felixstowe and Trimleys Peninsula Futures Group.

"All the selected options and comments are now being evaluated and this will assist the Steering Group in making decisions surrounding which projects should be considered for more detailed assessment in the second stage of work to create the Master Plan for Felixstowe," added Mr Bracewell.

Once the results of the public exhibition have been produced, the Felixstowe Futures Steering Group will be able to share more information with the Felixstowe community.

For anyone who was unable to get to the Leisure Centre in Undercliff Road West, the material can be viewed on the Felixstowe Futures website.

Comments can be emailed to felixstowe@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk or by post to Felixstowe Futures, Suffolk Coastal District Council, Melton Hill, Woodbridge, IP12 1AU.



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Turn your walls green and warm with Suffolk Coastal



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31 Jul 2007

Archived press release.

Suffolk Coastal is making its residents an offer they really cannot refuse – the chance to get their cavity walls insulated at substantially reduced prices and get a £50 credit to their Council Tax account at the same time.

The Council has linked up with British Gas again to encourage more people to cut their heating bills, and help the environment, by getting their home properly insulated.

“We ran a similar scheme last year, and had one of the best responses in the country with over 450 residents expressing an interest and over 200 taking up the offer of having their walls insulated,” said Cllr Andrew Nunn, Cabinet Member for the Natural Environment.

“You don’t have to be a British Gas customer to join in - all you need to do is arrange for a free, no-obligation home energy survey. If you do get work done via this scheme then you will also qualify for a £50 credit to your Council Tax account paid for by British Gas.

“The average cost of cavity wall insulation thanks to the subsidies on offer is £275, which with annual savings of between £110-180 will mean that people will soon be in profit, and be playing their part in helping to tackle climate change,” added Cllr Nunn.

Any resident wanting to find out more can call 0845 971 7731 and quote the reference SCCT between 8am and 8pm Mondays to Fridays, or 8am to 1pm on Saturdays.

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Entertainment hours cut at Leiston's White Horse Hotel



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03 Aug 2007

Archived press release.

The licensed opening hours for regulated entertainment at Leiston's White Horse Hotel public house are being cut with immediate effect after a series of complaints about noise prompted a review of its conditions by Suffolk Coastal.

The Council's environmental protection team brought the case against the licensee, Declan Lohan, after its investigations revealed a catalogue of short-comings at the pub which were both threatening the safety of its users and the quality of life of nearby residents.

"Our Licensing Panel was presented with a report outlining problems with poor management that has both allowed blatant breaches of the pub's operating licence, causing much annoyance to its neighbours, and some serious safety lapses," said Cllr Andrew Nunn, Cabinet Member for the Natural Environment.

"Some of the issues should be addressed by £125,000 of improvements now being carried out, and the promise that there will now be a regular and accountable manager.

"However, the Panel has shown that this Council is taking its record seriously and as a result is insisting that it stop its entertainments earlier than before on five nights a week. I would warn its owners that if further problems are reported our environmental protection team is ready to ask for stronger action to be taken against them," added Cllr Nunn.

The committee heard reports of poor management of the premises which had resulted in a failure to prevent public nuisances occurring and activities occurring that were not licensed and resulted in public nuisances.

Licence conditions that would have helped control noise nuisance were not complied with, such as double glazing and ensuring that doors and windows were kept closed.

Residents were regularly disturbed by noise and nuisance caused by loud music from both indoor and outdoor music events, with music often played until 1am. Residents have told the Council that they had been unable to sit in their own gardens, and that their sleep at night had been disturbed.

There were also worries about public safety as there was no evidence of a risk assessment or of any control measures being implemented, while the manager was not trained enough to look after safety. Poor lighting because of defective light fittings and electrical installation meant there was a potential trip risk to the public and also a threat of electrocution, electrical burns and fire.

Things were no better outside of the pub, with broken equipment apparently stored in the pub garden, play equipment that had not been inspected, and the risk of e-coli from faeces left by sheep that had been allowed to graze in the gardens.

On two occasions the Council's environmental protection team had visited the site, on June 11, 2006 there had been live music in the beer garden despite there being no licence for live or

recorded music outdoors, a breach that was repeated on May 6, 2007.

“The Council has a duty to ensure that licensed premises in our district are providing both a safe service to its customers, and not ruining the quality of life of those who live close to it.

“This is a final warning to those who run the White Horse Hotel to get their act together. They claim to have learnt their lesson and be putting things right, but both this Council and those living near to the pub will be keeping a close eye on it to make sure they are doing things safely and legally,” added Cllr Nunn.

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Find out how Futsal can improve your ball skills



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03 Aug 2007

Archived press release.

Budding young footballers have the chance over the summer holidays to learn how some of the world's most skilful football players developed their ability to beat opponents at will.

As part of its district-wide summer activity programme, Suffolk Coastal is for the first time offering courses in Futsal, the format of small-sided football that is recognised by FIFA and UEFA.

"Great players like Luis Figo, Ronaldo, Ronaldinho, Robinho and Roberto Carlos learnt many of their skills on the ball by playing Futsal and it is now becoming a popular way of picking up good habits in this country," said Councillor Kevin Keable, Cabinet Member for Community Well-Being.

"It uses a specially designed small ball with reduced bounce, and is played five-a-side with hockey sized goals. As it places considerable demand on technique, movement, tactical awareness and fitness, it is little wonder that some professional players start out with Futsal to build their fundamental skills.

"Recently Ipswich Wolves, a team made up of players of Portuguese origin, won the FA Umbro Futsal Cup after playing exciting free flowing Futsal that entertained the crowds at the English Institute of Sport throughout the three days of the Finals tournament. They will now go on to represent England in the European Futsal tournament, and hopefully this course will encourage some of our young people to get involved in a very active sport," added Councillor Keable.

Futsal simply combines the Spanish words for 'Hall' – Sala and 'Football' – Futbol into Futsal. The course on offer gives girls and boys of any ability the chance to sample the game and will be run by FA qualified Futsal coaches.

The three day course costs £15 with a coastal card, or £18 without a coastal card and will be held on:

Monday August 6 to Wednesday, August 8

10am – 12 noon

Thomas Mills High School, Framlingham - for ages six and over

2pm – 4pm

Deben High School, Felixstowe - for ages eight and over

Monday August 13 to Wednesday, August 15

10am – 12 noon

Jets Gym, Rendlesham - for ages six and over

2pm – 4pm

Leiston High School - for ages eight and over

Monday August 20 – Wednesday, August 22

10am – 12 noon

Saxmundham Middle School - for ages six and over

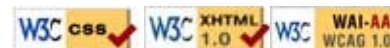
2pm – 4pm

Thomas Mills High School, Framlingham - for ages eight and over

There is also a daily rate of £6.

For further information or to book a place contact the Active Communities Team on 01394 444652 or email active.communities@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk

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Otley wins green medal at Sports Day with a difference



[Listen to the text on this page](#)

03 Aug 2007

Archived press release.

Otley Primary School has recently been declared the winner of this year's "Schools Recycling Sports Day" organised by the County Council and the recycling teams from each of the district councils.

This was the third year that a primary school from each district was invited to take part in an event that not only tested the children's fitness but also their knowledge of recycling.

"I would like to thank the children of Otley School for representing our district in this event, and congratulate them on winning," said Councillor Nunn, Cabinet Member for the Natural Environment.

"This is a fun way for children to learn about recycling and I am really pleased that this event demonstrated that children are becoming aware of the importance of recycling and know what can be recycled and where," continued Councillor Nunn.

Each school was allocated a day, and early in July the four teams at Otley took part in a recycling relay race, a recycling slalom race and a compost race.

The activities were designed to test the children's knowledge of what can be recycled and how, and the compost race also required the children to know what is needed and the correct way to make compost.

Points were awarded to each team for speed and deducted for errors and the school with the most points was deemed to be the winner. Otley Primary School has received, as their prize, a new bench made from recycled plastics.

"We are making it easier to recycle and events like this help to raise awareness among the younger generation. However, it is important that everyone recycles more not only for the sake of the environment, but if recycling rates do not increase, then the annual cost of disposing of the current amount of household waste could rise by £9 million over the next few years." added Councillor Nunn.

For more information on recycling contact Suffolk Coastal's recycling team on 01394 444000.



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Planning success wins Council more funding



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03 Aug 2007

Archived press release.

The continuing improvements to its planning services have seen Suffolk Coastal provisionally gain a planning development grant (PDG) from the Government.

The proposed grant includes a £50,000 'bonus' payment for meeting all the Government's three performance measures for speed of development control decisions, and a further £16,700 for being in the Haven Gateway growth point area.

"This is further official recognition of what a good job we have done in improving our planning services at Suffolk Coastal, with changes that have made us both more customer-friendly and quicker in reaching decisions," said Cllr Andy Smith, Council Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for the Built Environment.

"All the evidence shows that while we are making decisions more quickly, there has been no drop in the quality of those decisions, as measured by our continuing high success rate in appeals, which means we are continuing to successfully protect the quality of life in our district.

"Our success has once again been recognised by the Government, which is why its PDG specifically for development control has seen Suffolk Coastal get more than any other district in Suffolk," added Cllr Smith.

According to the Government's Department for Communities and Local Government, Suffolk Coastal will provisionally receive an allocation of £217,714 in PDG. The provisional allocation includes £36,050 for plan making and sustainable development indicators and of the total £156,902 is for development control. This includes a bonus of £50,000 for meeting all three development control best value indicators. A sum of £16,700 for being in a growth area or growth point and £8,062 is included for e-planning.

Recent annual statistics showed that 78 per cent of major planning applications at Suffolk Coastal are determined within 13 weeks, compared to a national target of 60 per cent and a national average of 70 per cent. Suffolk Coastal is also exceeding the target for minor applications by 14 per cent by scoring 79 per cent, and its 'other applications' figure of 89 per cent is also nine per cent above target.

It has also been recognised that Suffolk Coastal deals with 20 per cent more applications than the average council, while its internationally recognised countryside makes it officially 20 per cent more complex. At the same time, comparisons with other councils have shown that Suffolk Coastal's planning service is provided at lower cost to Council Taxpayers than the average of other councils.

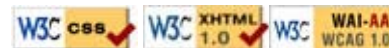
"The facts show that we have made excellent progress over the last couple of years which has been the result of a great team effort from management and staff, along with the Development Control Committees.

"The Council made it one of its top priorities to improve the quality of this service, and supported by the investment from the Government we are pleased to have been able to deliver a real

success story.

“This latest reward from the Government will help us continue to improve, and I am particularly pleased that it includes the first new cash injections into this district as a result of part of us now being in a growth point area, which we hope will be the first of many,” added Cllr Smith.

The latest new improvement in the service for applicants is the ability to pay fees online by visiting www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourdistrict/devcontrol/planningonline/ and further extensions to electronic communication for planning applications will be the service’s next priority.



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Council ready to reinforce bans on public drinking



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07 Aug 2007

Archived press release.

Suffolk Coastal is next week taking the first available opportunity to officially authorise alcohol designation orders that help the police to control anti-social behaviour in parts of the district.

The Council recently discovered that the correct procedures had not been followed before the orders were made and that strictly speaking the Cabinet does not have the power to authorise the orders. This is a technical defect that requires the orders to be remade.

“Top legal advice indicates that a vote by a meeting of our Full Council is necessary to authorise the bringing into effect of the orders. This means that at our special meeting next week we will have to formally consider and vote to authorise the orders for Felixstowe, Leiston and Woodbridge, and also on the recently agreed ones for Kesgrave, Martlesham, Framlingham and Rushmere St Andrew,” said Cllr Ray Herring, Leader of the Council.

“It will be another couple of weeks before these zones are fully functional again but I would emphasise that the police still have significant other powers to control any anti-social behaviour linked to drinking in public.

“This is clearly an unfortunate error, but we are taking immediate action to put it right as quickly as we can. Next week’s meeting will formally consider all the details of these orders and if it agrees them, as I am sure it will, this will mean the zones will be ready to be in place for the upcoming bank holiday weekend,” added Cllr Herring.

The special meeting of the full Council meeting will be held on Thursday, August 16. In an officially designated area, the police can require someone whose behaviour is deemed to be anti-social to stop drinking their alcohol and hand it over.

“Suffolk Coastal informed us of this situation as soon as they became aware of it and we have advised our officers accordingly. We are pleased that the Council has been able to resolve the situation so quickly as Alcohol Designation Orders are a useful tool in our campaign to tackle anti-social behaviour,” said Chief Superintendent Martin Jelley, Eastern Area Commander of Suffolk Police.



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Help us choose the right sounds for our phones



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07 Aug 2007

Archived press release.

Suffolk Coastal is asking its customers what tune they think should be played on its telephone system while the caller is waiting to be connected.

The Council is proud to offer a personal service to anyone calling its main switchboard, with no push button options and a real human voice at the end of the phone when it is answered.

"Our statistics show that the average wait is only 14 seconds and that we answer 70 per cent of calls within our target of 21 seconds. But sometimes we are busy so people are put on hold before they get answered and we want to make that wait as pleasant as possible," said Cllr Doreen Savage, Cabinet Member for Customers and Partners.

"I suspect most of us have suffered at some time rather tinny and tuneless versions of Greensleeves when we have called some organisations. We would like to find something that our customers would like to hear, for those few times when what they really want, a human voice, is not available because we are busy.

"Something like Blondie's Hanging on the Telephone, or Bob Marley's Waiting in Vain might be some people's idea of what would be appropriate but I can promise you that is not the case for this Council. Song titles like the Beatles' We Can Work It Out, or Sam and Dave's Hold On, I'm Coming would probably be more appropriate titles for us," added Cllr Savage.

Staff at Suffolk Coastal have already been asked for their ideas and now the control of the juke box has been thrown open to the public. Anyone with any ideas of an appropriate song or tune, classical or pop, can send their suggestions in.

"It may well be that we will pick more than one, in order to have different ones at different times of the year. The goal has to be to pick something that will be as pleasing to as many of our callers as possible, which is clearly not an easy task but who better to help us choose than our customers? Perhaps there is an appropriate piece by Benjamin Britten or Nate James, two artists with Suffolk roots of the past and present. I look forward to seeing or hearing the suggestions," added Cllr Savage.

Anyone with ideas on what should be played on the Council's switchboard can write to customer services at Suffolk Coastal District Council, Melton Hill, Woodbridge IP12 1AU or email customerservices@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk



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Residents are highly satisfied with Suffolk Coastal



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07 Aug 2007

Archived press release.

A survey of satisfaction among its local residents has put Suffolk Coastal top in Suffolk for both its council and as an area in which to live.

The Government requires all councils to carry out a Best Value Satisfaction Survey every three years and Ipsos MORI received 1,757 responses from local residents.

“According to the survey, Suffolk Coastal scored top for satisfaction in Suffolk and was 12th highest among 59 comparable district councils. We had 61 per cent satisfied with the way things are run, and even more importantly only nine per cent were dissatisfied,” said Cllr Doreen Savage, Cabinet Member for Customers and Partners.

“We also had the highest rating in Suffolk when people were asked whether we had improved over the last three years. Indeed, despite all the savings and efficiencies we have had to make in recent years, only 11 per cent thought we had deteriorated, compared to a Suffolk average of 19 per cent.

“This is an important thumbs-up for the way this Council works but there will be no complacency. We will continue to work hard to provide better services and even better value because we know that is what our residents both want and deserve,” added Cllr Savage.

Suffolk Coastal also scored top in Suffolk and third out of 56 districts for cleanliness in its area, and top and 9th respectively for waste collection. It also scored 77 per cent on questions that asked if the Council was making the area a better place to live and if it was working to make the area cleaner and greener.

A massive 91 per cent of residents said they were satisfied with their area as a place to live, compared to a Suffolk average of 81 per cent and a national one of 77 per cent.

According to Ipsos MORI, ‘on the whole, the findings from the Best Value Performance Indicators general survey are positive for Suffolk Coastal. The Council records a high level of satisfaction among residents with the way it runs things overall, above the average for other district councils studied. The key message from this survey is one of consolidation in some areas and improvements in others since 2003/4.’

Based on its questions on what most needs improving locally and what is important generally, Ipsos MORI concludes that there are four key priorities according to residents – affordable decent housing, activities for teenagers, health services and level of crime.

When asked about anti-social behaviour, parents not taking responsibility for the behaviour of their children and teenagers hanging around were identified as the two biggest problems, although these were less of a problem in this district than in the rest of Suffolk.

Dealing or using of drugs is also seen as a far smaller problem in this district than in the rest of Suffolk, while the survey reports a big drop in concerns about abandoned or burnt out cars, vandalism, and drugs use compared to 2003.

More than half said they feel well informed by Suffolk Coastal about its services, which ranked it 11th best out of 56, although there was a drop from 2003.

Although Suffolk Coastal did not score well when residents were asked whether it appeared remote and impersonal, its score was still better than average. The district also reflected the national figures that residents feel that they would like to be more involved in decision making but feel they do not have enough opportunities, with 22 per cent saying they would like to be more involved – although for most it would depend on the issue.



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Jail threat hangs over benefit fraudster



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08 Aug 2007

Archived press release.

A Woodbridge woman was left counting the cost of her dishonesty this week (Monday, August 6) after being given a 12 week suspended prison sentence after appearing at Ipswich Magistrates' Court.

Anita Paternoster, of Tennyson Close Woodbridge, formerly of St Edmunds Close, pleaded guilty to defrauding Suffolk Coastal of over £21,000 in Housing and Council Tax benefits.

"From 2001 until 2006 Ms Paternoster claimed Housing and Council Tax Benefits while holding capital in excess of £20,000 which she deliberately concealed from the Council. This fraud was revealed as the result of co-operation between the Council's fraud investigators and their colleagues in the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP)," said Cllr Ray Herring, Leader of the Council.

"Our highly professional officers work very closely with the DWP and other local authorities and are finding mistaken claims and payments more quickly and accurately. Where these errors are found to be due to fraud or deception, we will always take the appropriate action, including going to the Courts. This case should act as a warning to others that if they try to cheat the system they will be caught," added Cllr Herring.

Ms Paternoster was sentenced to 12 week's imprisonment, suspended for one year, and ordered to undertake 180 hours of unpaid community work. She was ordered to pay the Council £150 costs and the Council will require her to repay the £21,000 overpayment.

Anyone receiving benefits should notify the Council on 01394 444838 if there is any change in their circumstances – this can sometimes mean that they receive more, rather than less, benefit.

The Council's Fraud Hotline for residents to call confidentially and report suspected benefit frauds is 01394 444444, available 24-hours a day, or they can email fraud.investigation@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk



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Food safety results to go public?



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09 Aug 2007

Archived press release.

Suffolk Coastal's food safety team carry out over 500 inspections a year and for the first time these results could be available for all to see, both at the premises that has been visited and also on the Council's website.

The inspected premises are currently scored on the basis of food hygiene and safety, structure and cleaning, and confidence in management.

"Our food safety team is doing an excellent job in driving up standards and I think it is fair that the results of its inspections should be shared with the public so they can know how their local food premises is rated," said Cllr Sherrie Green, Cabinet Member for Community Well-being.

"Similar schemes have been tried in large cities abroad and have been trialled in a few places in this country. It will benefit good food businesses by promoting their achievement and should drive up standards in those performing less well.

"Our task group supported the idea of the results of our inspections being on our website, and each premise being given a window sticker that would show how they are rated by this Council," added Cllr Green.

The Community Well-being and Rural Issues Overview and Scrutiny Committee backed the scheme, and it is now up to Suffolk Coastal's Cabinet to officially give the green light to the scheme that could be up and running by next Spring. It is proposed that the food premises will be allowed to provide a comment on the website about their rating.

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CCTV camera in place at Woodbridge's Elmhurst Park



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10 Aug 2007

Archived press release.

Thanks to a partnership between Suffolk Coastal, Woodbridge Town Council, and Woodbridge police another new tool in the campaign against anti-social behaviour is from yesterday (Thursday) now in place.

A closed circuit television camera has been installed in Woodbridge's Elmhurst Park to help the police who have in recent months had to deal with a number of reported incidents of vandalism in the park.

"Suffolk Coastal has provided a CCTV camera for use specifically in the district's hot-spot areas for anti-social behaviour, and this should assist the police to resolve the problems that Elmhurst Park has been suffering," said Councillor Ray Herring, Leader of Suffolk Coastal.

"Crime figures continue to be far lower in our district than the rest of the country, but we do still have pockets of problems where just a few people are acting in an anti-social way and causing misery for the vast majority.

"This latest initiative is part of this district's Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy to support Woodbridge and Melton Safer Neighbourhood Team's priority to tackle anti-social behaviour in their community. By working together we can make the difference and successfully tackle crime and the fear of crime across all parts of our district," added Councillor Herring.

Elmhurst Park is managed by Woodbridge Town Council and is the holder of a prestigious Green Flag Award. The Town Council, Suffolk Coastal and the police agreed to use the new camera for the first time in Elmhurst Park.

"Our park is a jewel in the heart of Woodbridge but it has suffered from some mindless outbreaks of vandalism and loutish behaviour in recent times. The police have done an excellent job in trying to catch those responsible and to prevent any further incidents but they cannot be there all the time," said Councillor Nigel Barratt, Mayor of Woodbridge Town Council.

"The CCTV camera will provide the police with a round the clock eye on the comings and goings in the park, and there are signs up advising visitors that the camera is there.

"I expect this to be an important extra tool in deterring future anti-social behaviour in our park, and giving the police potentially vital evidence to identify anyone who is foolish and selfish enough to cause problems," added Councillor Barratt.

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How you can turn your yellow pages green



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15 Aug 2007

Archived press release.

The latest edition of the Yellow Pages will shortly be landing on door mats across the district and Suffolk Coastal is urging all its residents to recycle their old edition.

Because of the way they are printed, Yellow Pages directories have been traditionally difficult to recycle, but now there are up to five easy ways for people in Suffolk Coastal to dispose of them in an environmentally friendly way.

“Our link up with Bioganix means that our residents can put their old copy of the Yellow Pages in the brown bin for garden waste, shredded paper, food and cardboard. It is then taken away and turned into compost,” said Councillor Andrew Nunn, Cabinet Member for the Natural Environment.

“If you are one of the 14,000 homes which now have a blue-lidded recycling bin, the old directory can also go in there, where it will be sorted and recycled.

“Alternatively, people can place them in their green crate for the fortnightly paper collection, dispose of them at any of the Boltons’ paper banks located across our district, or take them to one of the three household recycling centres at Foxhall, Felixstowe or Leiston, where there are skips for cardboard in which they can be placed.

“Each Yellow Pages weighs about 1.3 kilograms, which means that there are over 70 tonnes of them being delivered in our district. It would cost our Council Taxpayers nearly £4,000 if all the old directories ended up in landfill sites so I do hope that as many of our residents as possible will take one of the easy options on hand to recycle them,” continued Councillor Nunn.

Residents are reminded that they can recycle all their store catalogues, magazines, newspapers, junk mail, brochures, envelopes, writing paper, office-type paper through their fortnightly kerbside collection either in their green crate or, if they have one, their blue-lidded bin. If a household does not have a green crate or blue-lidded recycling bin, paper recycling will still be collected once a fortnight if it is left out either in an open carrier bag or box.

Last year 3,722 tonnes of paper was collected separately from the district’s kerbside and 1,098 tonnes was collected from the local blue Boltons’ paper banks.

“We are continually making it easier for our residents to recycle and last year we managed to divert over 16,000 tonnes of biodegradable waste away from landfill. This type of waste, paper, card, food waste and garden waste, is a major source of the greenhouse gas methane so I would urge all our householders to get into the recycling habit and use the facilities we are offering them to help cut down on the emissions of this gas,” added Councillor Nunn.

Anyone who wants more information about recycling can call 01394 444000 or email scs.ltd@suffolkcoastal



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Council's planning service gets yet more praise



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16 Aug 2007

Archived press release.

The continuing improvements to its planning service has seen Suffolk Coastal gain a good two star rating from the independent local government watchdog, the Audit Commission.

The news comes only weeks after the Government provisionally awarded the service nearly £220,000 in recognition of how well it was performing.

"This is yet further official recognition of what a good job we have done in improving our planning services at Suffolk Coastal, with a series of changes that have made us both more customer-friendly and quicker in reaching decisions," said Cllr Andy Smith, Council Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for the Built Environment.

"The report recognises that we have a good range of planning advice on offer, that we are effective in most cases when consulting and engaging with customers, and that our speed of dealing with applications has improved - indeed the facts show that we are in the top quarter of councils in the country.

"I am also particularly pleased that the report states that we are providing good value for money in relation to the quality of our service and the outcomes it delivers. There are also helpful tips on how we can become even better," added Cllr Smith.

The Audit Commission has rated the Council's planning service as good, with promising prospects for improvement, after a thorough inspection of all aspects of the service was carried out.

According to the Commission's Edwina Childs, the service 'is now serving local people well' and is 'helping to maintain the character of the area whilst at the same time promoting new housing and employment opportunities'.

Recent statistics showed that 78 per cent of major planning applications at Suffolk Coastal are determined within 13 weeks, compared to a national target of 60 per cent and a national average of 70 per cent. Suffolk Coastal is also exceeding the target for minor applications by 14 per cent by scoring 79 per cent and its 'other applications' figure of 89 per cent is also nine per cent above target.

In 2006/07 Suffolk Coastal received 2,239 planning applications and 360 reports to its enforcement team. Suffolk Coastal deals with 20 per cent more applications than the average council, while its internationally recognised countryside has been officially recognised as making its planning work more difficult than the average council. At the same time, Suffolk Coastal's planning service is provided at lower cost to Council Taxpayers than the average of other councils.

"We have made excellent progress over the last couple of years which has been the result of a great team effort from all parts of the service, led by Phil Ridley, and the Development Control Committees.

"We recently announced our latest improvement to the service which means that applicants can

pay their fees online and further extensions to electronic communication for planning applications will be the service's next priority," added Cllr Smith

Following this link to view the full [Audit Commission report](#).

The Council's online and comprehensive planning service can be found at www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourdistrict/devcontrol/planningonline/

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SCTV are out filming the views of the district



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16 Aug 2007

Archived press release.

This week a film crew with a difference are out and about across the district canvassing the views of young and old about their district and the things that matter to them.

SCTV (Suffolk Coastal Teen Voices) began filming on Tuesday in Felixstowe, the first of seven towns it is visiting in its efforts to produce a Generation Jigsaw DVD that will be premiered next month.

"We are calling it the Generation Jigsaw because we want to put the spotlight on what matters to young and older people in our district, and then put the pieces together to get an accurate picture of what they are thinking," said Alex Stewart of SCTV.

"We are asking both groups of people what they think about the other age group and their likes and dislikes. We think that this will be a revealing snapshot which could help the generations understand each other better.

"The aim of the DVD is to make the reputation of young people better among the older generations. Every week in the media, you see stories of how "YOBS" are destroying communities- when in actual fact these young people have done nothing wrong. Even if they have, it's usually because services are not available for young people to access- services like health nurses, counsellors and even youth clubs. Youths are being left with nothing to do, which is what causes them to behave inappropriately," added 14 year-old Alex.

The group were filming in Felixstowe and Kesgrave on Tuesday, Woodbridge on Wednesday, Wickham Market and Framlingham on Thursday and Leiston and Saxmundham on Friday.

The final material will be edited and presented at a celebration event on Wednesday, September 12 at 5pm at the Riverside Centre, Stratford St Andrew.

SCTV is the first districtwide forum for young people and aims to promote the reputation of young people in Suffolk Coastal and raise awareness of their needs for local services.

The formation of the group has been assisted by the district's youth co-ordinator, Keri Mohan, who is funded by the Suffolk Coastal Local Strategic Partnership (LSP).

"SCTV is an exciting initiative. If this DVD can successfully identify some of the myths and perhaps prejudices that are held, then ideally both sides of the 'generation gap' can start to challenge and change them. I would like a situation where both sides recognise they are all part of the big picture that makes up this district and can work together better to improve the quality of life of all who live here," said Cllr Doreen Savage of the Suffolk Coastal LSP.

For more information about SCTV visit www.sctv.org.uk or email keri.mohan@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk or text 07795 092255, or write to Keri or SCTV at Suffolk Coastal District Council, Melton Hill, Woodbridge IP12 1AU.

This press release was issued by the Suffolk Coastal LSP



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A sports festival that will take you to the edge



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17 Aug 2007

Archived press release.

People who like their sport to be skillful, edgy, outdoor and extreme, will find plenty to watch and take part in at Felixstowe's very own "Xtremefest" sports day.

This Bank Holiday Monday (August 27) will see windsurfing, skateboarding and climbing taking place next to Felixstowe Leisure Centre and on the beach between the pier and the Spa Pavilion.

"This will be a very exciting day with three very different sports, all requiring skill, nerve and balance to try out or learn more about, and it should also be great fun for spectators as well," said Councillor Doreen Savage, Cabinet Member for Customer and Partners.

Windsurfing enthusiasts will get the chance to watch the British Champion, Keith Atkinson in action when he competes against the best windsurfers from East Anglia in the Eastern Windsurfing Cup. Anyone wanting to take up the sport or find out how they can improve can talk to experts and there will also be the chance to book lessons.

"Suffolk Coastal's mobile skatepark will be next to the Felixstowe Leisure Centre and youngsters are invited to bring along their skateboards, blades or bikes and have a go. They can also enter the "Xtremefest Jam" competition when Suffolk Coastal's Active Communities team will judge the best tricks and skills. Young people entering will be split into under 12 and over 12 and must register before 11.30am.

"Those who want to get their feet off the ground, and get a great view of Felixstowe, can try their hand at climbing the mobile climbing wall, which will be supervised by the owners Higher Fun. The "Xtremefest Climb Trial" will add a competitive edge to that sport as there will be a competition to see who can be the quickest to the top," added Councillor Savage.

There will be various stalls offering information and advice on the various sports, the Police will be on hand to give advice on bike safety, SCTV (Suffolk Coastal Teen Voices) will be promoting their Youth Forum and the Suffolk Coastal Crime and Disorder Partnership will give information on community safety and are holding a competition that could see one lucky winner walk away with a Nintendo Wii.

The festival starts at 10am and has been organised by the Eastern Windsurfing Association, Suffolk Coastal's Active Communities team and Keith Atkinson, the British Windsurfing Champion. The cost of using the skatepark and climbing wall will be £1 a go.

"Xtremefest" is supported by Suffolk Coastal District Council, The Keith Atkinson Windsurfing Academy, Point 7, Physioactive, Ski Surf, Suffolk County Council and the Suffolk Coastal Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership.



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Get your skates on for fundraising gig



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17 Aug 2007

Archived press release.

Next Friday (August 24) sees Suffolk Coastal's music project Soundwaves join forces with Sk8 Aid for a special fundraising gig with a whole host of bands playing to raise money for the Woodbridge Skate Park.

The line-up of bands include Hooked on Tap, Steel Rhino, The Kabeedies, Legomen, and Pikey Esquire and a bargain £4 will get you into Woodbridge Community Centre where the music will run from 8pm to 11pm.

"Sk8 Aid has a target of raising £50,000 to turn the Woodbridge skate park into reality, and this event is another of their efforts to get the project in place. It promises to be a really good night and I hope people of all ages support it by going along," said Cllr Doreen Savage, Cabinet Member for Customers and Partners.

"Soundwaves is a music project for young people aged 13-26 in the Suffolk Coastal area which is backed by this Council and has been doing a really good job of encouraging young musical talents of all kinds," added Cllr Savage.

Supporting young people in their musical endeavours, and helping them to make the most of them, is key to the Soundwaves project. A top of the range sound system and special lighting rig will be installed at the community centre for this gig to enhance both the audience's and the participants' experience.

The gig will also be recorded by a professional sound engineer, so that a CD can be made afterwards and put on sale at a later date to raise further funds.

On hearing about the event, a young local t-shirt designer Charles Carter, came forward to offer a percentage of his profits from the sales of his unique t-shirts to the fund, in exchange for Soundwaves providing space at the gig at which to sell them.

"It is brilliant to see such initiatives being taken in support of this project. Opportunities such as these have been made possible by the link-up between Soundwaves and Sk8 Aid," added Cllr Savage.

Soundwaves is planning further fundraising gigs across the district in the next couple of months and people should keep their eyes on www.suffolksoundwaves.co.uk for more details.

The website also has full details of workshops being held at Felixstowe, Woodbridge, Framlingham, Leiston and Saxmundham which are run by professionals with help on offer on all aspects of music technology and dj-ing as well as playing. As well as the website, more information about Soundwaves can be got by email suffolksoundwaves@hotmail.com or call Sophie Tott on 07005 98 18 38.

Get your skates on for fundraising gig



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Home from home by the sea



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21 Aug 2007

Archived press release.

A beach hut along the Pier North end of Felixstowe has recently been judged the winner of Suffolk Coastal's competition to find the beach hut with the best "home from home" feeling.

Earlier in the year Suffolk Coastal invited beach hut owners to enter their beach hut for this award, and ten took up the challenge.

"The emphasis of the competition was on home comforts, cosiness and the general welcoming feeling inside the beach hut, in fact all the things that make it feel a home from home," said Councillor Colin Hart, Cabinet Member with responsibility for tourism.

"Beach huts are the ideal place to create a little extension of the home where people can watch the world go by, swim, have a cup of tea and generally relax. Judging by this year's competition it would appear that owners are certainly making the most of theirs," added Councillor Hart.

Beach huts from all along the promenade from Manor End to Clifflands entered into the competition, and the difficult task of judging was undertaken by Councillor Hart and the Mayor of Felixstowe, Councillor Joan Sennington.

Hilary Colson, owner of the winning beach hut will receive a voucher for a meal for two donated by the Waverley Hotel. As the standard was so high, the judges decided to award a runners-up prize to Mr and Mrs Robertson whose beach hut is sited at the Brackenbury Cliffs end of the resort. They received a beach hut shaped trinket box and a bottle of sparkling wine.



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Woodbridge pub must keep its numbers down



[Listen to the text on this page](#)

22 Aug 2007

Archived press release.

Following a special inspection by a new partnership, The Cross public house in Woodbridge has been ordered to take action to control the number of people in its pub and was warned that any further breaches could see requests for the loss of its licence.

A meeting of Suffolk Coastal's Licensing Panel yesterday (Tuesday) heard evidence from the Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service among others about their concerns after a visit in May to the pub in Woodbridge on the corner of The Thoroughfare and Church Street.

Gary Phillips, deputy chief fire officer said: "With almost 70 per cent more people in the pub than allowed, everyone was put at real risk of harm if there had been a fire. This was a serious breach of the rules and I am pleased that the Panel has taken steps to stop it happening again.

"There were around 100 people in The Cross at the time officers carried out their inspection. There should have been no more than 60 including staff. It is now up to the licensee to ensure he complies with the new conditions of his licence," added DCFO Phillips of Suffolk Fire and Rescue.

Collin Dagnall, the licensee of The Cross, has now been instructed that he must have from October 19th two officially trained door supervisors to control the numbers entering the pub on Friday and Saturday nights, Christmas Eve, New Year's Eve, or when there is a pre-planned event.

Following a request from the police, the Panel also agreed to no new customers being allowed in after 11pm on Friday and Saturday nights, and a series of monthly checks will be carried out and recorded to monitor health and safety issues, which was asked for by the Council's food safety team.

The Cross was the first pub to be inspected by the Suffolk Coastal Licensing Partnership (SCLP), which has been formed to make sure that all pubs, clubs and other licensed premises in Suffolk Coastal are providing a safe and legal service to their customers.

The new partnership has been prompted by the recent new licensing laws, which passed much of the responsibilities on controlling licensed premises onto local councils.

The SCLP includes representatives of the licensing team, fire service, trading standards, the police, environmental protection, and food safety, and is the first of its type in the county. The Partnership is considering when and where to carry out its next joint inspection.

"This decision follows our recent one to reduce the entertainment hours at Leiston's White Horse and shows that this Council and its partners are ready to take action against any premises that are breaching the rules of their licence. I hope that this will act as a warning to everyone else that they should continue to make sure their premises are safe and legal," said Cllr Les Binns, Chairman of the Licensing and Health Committee.

This press release was issued on behalf of the Suffolk Coastal Licensing Partnership



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Bans on anti-social public drinking now in place



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24 Aug 2007

Archived press release.

Alcohol designation orders in four areas of Suffolk Coastal are in place for the first time today (Friday) after they were officially authorised by the Council last week in order to help the police control anti-social behaviour.

Kesgrave, Martlesham, Framlingham and Rushmere St Andrew will have parts of their towns covered for the first time, with each area covered by the order clearly indicated by a series of special signs.

“All the areas covered by the orders were selected after requests from the local town and parish councils and the police. These are not intended as being a ban on everyone drinking in these places, but it gives the police the authority to take action against those who fuelled by alcohol are acting in an anti-social manner,” said Cllr Ray Herring, Leader of Suffolk Coastal.

“A substantial proportion of crime and disorder is linked to alcohol abuse. Although all these areas are relatively safe when compared to most other parts of the country, the police and the town and parish councils have identified that there are problems that need to be tackled by giving the police additional powers to tackle the minority who act in an anti-social manner after having too much to drink.

“This Council supports designation orders like these and partnership campaigns like Operation Nightsafe which are aimed at encouraging sensible drinking and better behaviour,” added Cllr Herring.

In the designated areas the police will have the power to require someone whose behaviour is deemed to be anti-social to stop drinking the alcohol and, if requested, hand over the drink. Failure to comply is an arrestable offence, with a potential fine of up to £500.

The orders covering parts of Felixstowe, Leiston and Woodbridge have also been confirmed and these were back in place on Tuesday this week. For full details of where the orders are in force, visit www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourdistrict/communitysafety/alcohol/



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New plates are on the menu for district's licensed cars



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24 Aug 2007

Archived press release.

It will be easier than ever to spot a taxi or private hire vehicle in Suffolk Coastal as over the next few weeks all of them will be getting new identification plates from the Council.

The new plates will be colour coded, with green for hackney carriages and blue for private hire, and they will include details of the type of car and how many passengers it can take.

"I am sure that these new-look plates will be welcomed by drivers and customers alike as they are clearly visible and appear much more professional. I look forward to them appearing on our roads over the next few weeks," said Cllr Les Binns, Chairman of the Licensing and Health Committee.

"It will now be much easier for the public to identify one of our officially licensed vehicles, and they can enjoy their journey in the knowledge that it and the driver has had to pass strenuous tests.

"It also will make it easier for the public to identify which car they can legally hail for a lift and which they need to pre-book by telephone. Each plate also has this Council's logo clearly on it, so it will make it even easier to keep up the high standards of our licensed trade as the public will clearly know who to report any comments to," added Cllr Binns.

Suffolk Coastal has 45 licensed hackney carriages and 102 private hire vehicles. From October 1, all of them will have the new plate but the first of them are being issued now as the licence of individual drivers comes up for renewal.

Vehicles with hackney carriage plates are allowed to pick up passengers and their fares by being hailed on the road or from taxi ranks, as well as being pre-booked. However, private hire cars can only be booked in advance, normally by telephone to the mini-cab's office.

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Power to the people comes to Woodbridge


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24 Aug 2007

Archived press release.

There is a great chance next week for people who are interested in renewable energy to attend a special "Power to the People" event aimed at local residents who want to find out how they can plug into their own energy supply at home.

The Energy Saving Trust Advice Centre Anglia (ESTACA), in partnership with Suffolk Coastal, has linked up with manufacturers and accredited installers of solar panels, wind turbines, heat pumps and biomass burners for the "Power to the People" event. There will be exhibitors and their products, energy advisors and other experts to inform and answer questions. The event starts at 6.30pm on Thursday, August 30 at the Woodbridge Community Hall.

"When we held a similar event last year we had to turn people away as it proved so popular and this night promises to be a big success as well. People are increasingly concerned about the impact of climate change, and increasing numbers of people are taking up the option of having their own home renewable energy supply," said Councillor Andrew Nunn, Cabinet Member for the Natural Environment.

"This event offers our residents the chance to come along and find out what are the options for them, get some free expert advice and perhaps decide to plug into the right alternative energy resource for their home," added Councillor Nunn.

The main focus of the evening will be how and when to install renewables such as solar, wind and ground source heat pumps. There is also a special afternoon event aimed solely at architects, planners and developers between 3pm and 5pm.

To register interest for any of these events please phone ESTACA on 0800 512 012. Anyone unable to attend the event but with queries about climate change or energy issues can call the Suffolk Climate and Energy Helpline on 0800 0288 938. Information is also available from this number on the Council supported SEAL solar water heating scheme with approved installers and access to Government grants.

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Working to make it playtime for all



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28 Aug 2007

Archived press release.

Three exciting projects are set to be included in a bid for funding from the National Lottery, following work by Suffolk Coastal to draw up the district's first Play Strategy.

Following consultation with organisations involving local children and young people, the Council is set to put its backing behind these projects. They include a double-decker bus that could tour rural areas in the north of the district, a cycle trail created through Rendlesham Forest, and a modern play area at Langer Park, Felixstowe.

"It is more important than ever that the value of play, in all its forms, is recognised for what it can add to children's welfare and development and also the benefits it can bring to society as a whole," said Councillor Doreen Savage, Cabinet Member for Young People.

"We want this strategy to set out how we and all our partners can work together to ensure that the importance of play is at the core of all future developments in our district and that the opportunities for imaginative and adventurous play are increased so that children can have the type of play experiences that many of us enjoyed when we were young," added Councillor Savage.

The strategy is being considered by Suffolk Coastal's Cabinet next Tuesday (September 4) and recognises that modern living has thrown up a wide range of barriers to children's play, with factors such as more traffic, less open space, real and perceived fears of crime, changes in family and work all contributing to deny children the chance or freedom to play.

"The recent changes in lifestyle have at least partly contributed to increases in anti-social behaviour, mental health problems, and the related health problems that this brings in later life," said Councillor Kevin Keable, Cabinet Member for Community Well-being.

"By developing this strategy, and working with local organisations and the countywide group Partners in Play Suffolk, we aim to identify what the district needs, where resources ought to be targeted and hopefully attract the money to make them possible," added Councillor Keable.

Earlier this year the Council consulted with children and young people and local organisations working with them. Among the results was that one of the most popular activities for children was cycling, and that outdoor adventure activities were also popular. Over half of year nine young people wanted somewhere they could sit and chat as well as take part in an activity.

The draft strategy recognises that throughout the district there are numerous opportunities for free play in areas such as the beach, countryside and forests, with many organisations helping to provide or supervise such activities.

Suffolk Coastal owns 35 play areas in the district, and all play equipment is regularly inspected to ensure it is safe. This year, a survey of the 13 play areas most in need of improvements to make them accessible to all children is being carried out, with further plans for future years.

To help with the provision of new or improved play facilities, the Council adopted a special planning rule in 2003 that requires housing developers to contribute to a play scheme fund which

has so far received over £460,000. This has helped 75 schemes across the district. The money raised is designated to the areas where the housing development takes place.

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Help us catch the ebb and flow of the Alde and the Ore



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31 Aug 2007

Archived press release.

Work has now begun to tap into the rich history and heritage of life along the rivers Alde and Ore with an innovative new project asking for people to come forward and play their part.

On Monday, September 24 a training session at Snape Maltings is on offer for anyone who wants to help record the oral history of the area, and in the coming weeks a series of workshops will be held with school children.

"This project promises to be a voyage of discovery about life along the Alde and Ore and we are looking for people to come forward to either share their memories or help record them," said Cllr Kevin Keable, Cabinet Member for Community Well-being and the Arts.

"There are 2,000 years of history and changes for Ebb and Flow to capture and relate to a modern audience. Over the coming months a range of projects will get underway that will involve people of all ages," added Cllr Keable.

Anyone interested in becoming an oral historian, or who wants to share their own memories, whether as a fisherman, farmer, leisure user or a resident of the area, can contact Theo Clarke, the project's co-ordinator, on 07092 894919 or email theo@ebb-and-flow.org.uk

Suffolk Coastal and Suffolk Coast and Heaths are behind Ebb and Flow, which is backed with £48,300 from the Heritage Lottery Fund, £13,000 from the AONB sustainable development fund, and £1,000 from the Aldeburgh and District Local History Society.

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How can you find a beach hut for sale



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31 Aug 2007

Archived press release.

Owning a beach hut is becoming more desirable than ever so Suffolk Coastal has set up a new service to help would-be sellers and would-be buyers to get in touch with each other.

Owners who want to sell their beach huts are invited to register their huts for sale with the Council and their details will then be passed on to people who have expressed an interest in purchasing one.

“There are currently 838 beach huts licensed by the Council at Felixstowe and although they often stay within the same family for years, they do occasionally come up for sale,” said Councillor Colin Hart, Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Tourism.

“Normally beach huts are sold through word of mouth, advertising in the local paper, through estate agents and sometimes by putting a notice on the beach hut door. This new service we are offering makes it much easier, simply putting sellers in touch with potential purchasers and is an extension of a service we currently offer of having a list of beach huts available for hire throughout the season,” added Councillor Hart.

Any beach hut owner thinking of selling their beach hut who would like the Council to pass on their details to people who have expressed an interest in buying one should contact Jane Allitt, Suffolk Coastal’s Visitor Services Administrator on 01394 273870 or email her at jane.allitt@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk

Owners who hire out their beach huts who would like to be included on the Council list and perhaps take up the opportunity of using the Council as an agent on their behalf should contact Jane on 01394 273870. The Council does have two beach huts at Pier South, Felixstowe which can be hired out. Anyone wanting to book these during April to end of September should contact the Felixstowe Tourist Information Centre on 01394 276770.

The Council also has chalets at Cliff House and Bath Tap which have electricity and are let out on a 12 month licence. Anyone wanting to be put on the waiting list should contact Jane on 01394 273870.

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The Xtremefest was extremely popular



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31 Aug 2007

Archived press release.

Visitors to Felixstowe who took advantage of the good weather on Bank Holiday Monday were able to watch or participate in the three extreme sports that made up the resort's first "Xtremefest".

Windsurfing, skateboarding and climbing were on offer throughout the day and people of all ages were encouraged to have a go.

"This was a very exciting day that enabled people to try out or learn more about three very different sports, all requiring skill, nerve and balance, and it provided great fun for those looking on from the sidelines," said Councillor Kevin Keable, Cabinet Member for Community Well-Being.

"Despite the lack of wind which made conditions difficult, windsurfing enthusiasts got the chance to watch the British Champion, Keith Atkinson in action when he competed against the best windsurfers from East Anglia in the Eastern Windsurfing Cup. A lucky few also got the chance to have a lesson with Keith.

"Suffolk Coastal's mobile skatepark gave young people the chance to show off their skills on their skateboards, blades or bikes. An "Xtremefest Jam" competition was held and Suffolk Coastal's Active Communities team judged the best tricks and skills of young people aged under 12 and those over 12.

"People of all ages who wanted to get their feet off the ground raced to the top of the mobile climbing wall under the supervision of its owners Higher Fun," continued Councillor Keable.

There were various stalls offering information and advice, SCTV (Suffolk Coastal Teen Voices) were promoting their Youth Forum, information was given out on healthy eating, the Police were on hand to give advice on bike safety, and the Suffolk Coastal Crime and Disorder Partnership had information on community safety. Extreme Events provided the music for the day and SGR's Black Thunder vehicle reported live from the event.

The festival was organised by the Eastern Windsurfing Association, Suffolk Coastal's Active Communities team and Keith Atkinson, the British Windsurfing Champion.

"Xtremefest" was supported by Suffolk Coastal District Council, The Keith Atkinson Windsurfing Academy, Point 7, Physio Active, Ski Surf, Suffolk County Council and the Suffolk Coastal Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership.



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Council is finding out how it measures up on energy



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12 Sep 2007

Archived press release.

As part of its commitment to helping reduce the district's carbon footprint, Suffolk Coastal has had a free energy audit carried out on its main buildings by the Carbon Trust.

Set up by the Government in response to the threat of climate change, the Carbon Trust is a private company which helps businesses and the public sector cut their carbon emissions.

"I would recommend the Carbon Trust to any organisation that spends £50,000 or more on energy a year as they will then carry out a review for free. They are now helping us to identify energy saving opportunities and draw up an action plan," said Councillor Andrew Nunn, Cabinet Member for the Natural Environment.

The Carbon Trust visited the Council's main Melton Hill offices, which alone has an energy bill of nearly £45,000, as well as the Spa Pavilion Theatre, Felixstowe Leisure Centre, and Ufford Depot which are all managed by some of the Council's partners.

"This review has helped compare how well we are doing comparatively and will help us identify where we need to concentrate our efforts. For example, we now know that our use of gas at Melton Hill is relatively okay but that our electricity usage is higher than it could be.

"Ideas have been suggested that could reduce our office bill by over five per cent, while over a third could be saved at Felixstowe Leisure Centre. What we now have to do is measure the costs and calculate whether the savings would be worth the investment that would be required.

"I am confident that we will agree an action plan that will both help save this Council money in the long-term and help reduce our carbon footprint," added Cllr Nunn.

Any business interested in finding out how the Carbon Trust delivers on its promise to deliver practical solutions to help business and the public sector cut carbon can visit their website www.carbontrust.co.uk for more information or call 0800 085 2005.



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Residents urged to take part in national drugs strategy



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12 Sep 2007

Archived press release.

Suffolk Coastal's residents are being urged to take part in a national consultation exercise that will help the creation of future strategies to deal with and prevent drug abuse.

The Government has launched a consultation paper, *Drugs: Our Community, Our Say*, which aims to give everyone across the country their say in tackling the problem of drug abuse.

"This is being offered by the Government as an opportunity for everyone to help draw up a new strategy to deal with the drugs problem in this country. Time will tell whether the Government will listen to the results but I would urge our residents to take part as their views will be useful locally," said Cllr Sherrie Green of the Suffolk Coastal Local Strategic Partnership.

"The information will be collected nationally but we have been promised that it will then be passed on to our Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership which will help us plan what needs to be done in our district.

"This could therefore be a chance to have your say at a national level, but more importantly help affect the way that things are being done locally by bodies like the police, the County Council and other key local organisations," added Cllr Green.

A recent Ipsos MORI survey of residents in Suffolk Coastal reported that dealing or using of drugs is seen as a far smaller problem in this district than in the rest of Suffolk, and that there had been a big drop in concern about drugs use in the district compared to 2003.

The Government is offering two different ways for people to give their views. There is a 10 page summary leaflet which has only seven questions that people are asked to give their views on, while there is also a 58 page version with 52 questions.

Full details of the consultation can be found by going to: drugs.homeoffice.gov.uk and the closing date for responses is October 19.

Press release from the Suffolk Coastal Local Strategic Partnership

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Tonight's the night for generation jigsaw



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12 Sep 2007

Archived press release.

A new DVD filmed by young people and putting the spotlight on what the different generations of Suffolk Coastal think about each other is being shown for the first time tonight.

Suffolk Coastal Teen Voices (SCTV), the new districtwide youth forum, has created the DVD after carrying out filming last month with the aim of making the reputation of young people better among the older generations.

"Every week in the media, you see stories of how "YOBS" are destroying communities when in actual fact these young people have done nothing wrong. Even if they have, it's usually because services are not available for young people to access- services like health nurses, counsellors and even youth clubs. Youths are being left with nothing to do, which is what causes them to behave inappropriately," said Alex Stewart of SCTV.

"This film concentrates on what older generations think of younger ones, and vice-versa. We visited Felixstowe, Kesgrave, Woodbridge, Wickham Market, Framlingham and Leiston, and we finished filming on Friday, August 17 and began editing it the following Monday.

"The DVD consists of old and young people discussing how they feel about each other. The film concentrates on how youths stereotype older people, and vice versa," added Alex.

Generation Jigsaw is being launched at a special STCV event tonight (Wednesday) at the Riverside Centre in Stratford St. Andrew. The night starts at 5pm, the DVD will be shown at 6pm, and the night will finish at 7.30pm.

Youth organisations have been invited to bring their own stands and displays, and advertise themselves on the night and everyone young and old is invited to come along.

For more information email Suffolk Coastal's youth co-ordinator Keri Mohan on keri.mohan@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk or text her on 07795 092255 or visit the SCTV website <http://www.sctv.org.uk/>

The Suffolk Coastal Local Strategic Partnership funded the youth co-ordinator post and made the goal of setting up the first districtwide youth forum, SCTV.

This press release was issued by the Suffolk Coastal Local Strategic Partnership



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The bright green library will help save you the earth



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13 Sep 2007

Archived press release.

One of the easiest ways to start saving money and cutting your carbon emissions is to switch to energy saving light bulbs, which not only last longer than normal ones but can each save up to £10 worth of electricity a year.

A new initiative has been launched to make it even easier to make the green switch with the setting up of a light bulb library, a suitcase of many of the different type of bulbs on offer that you can borrow and try out at home.

“This wonderfully bright green idea is being trialled in Wenhaston as part of its energy efficiency campaign, and is a result of a partnership between Suffolk Coastal and Efficient Light, one of the country’s leading specialists in lighting,” said Councillor Andrew Nunn, Cabinet Member for the Natural Environment.

“Residents of Wenhaston can now borrow the suitcase for the night and try out all the different bulbs on offer, finding out which ones best suit their needs and their light fittings.

“This is an excellent opportunity for people to cut their bills and help combat climate change, and we have even negotiated a discount for people who buy their bulbs through the scheme. We hope to offer this bulb library to other areas after Wenhaston and ideally some of our town and parish councils will get involved as well to promote it in their areas,” added Cllr Nunn.

Suffolk Coastal is hoping to encourage local businesses to stock more of the unusual low energy bulbs and are in the process of finding local partners.

People in Wenhaston and across the district do not have to wait for the bulb library to visit them as they can see what bulbs are available on www.efficientlight.co.uk Minimum orders are £100, but the SEAL team at Suffolk Coastal are ready to help by taking orders from residents and order them on behalf of a number of residents. Call SEAL on 0800 0288 938 or email seal@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk

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Will proposed changes give licensing policy a tonic?



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13 Sep 2007

Archived press release.

Suffolk Coastal is asking for views on proposed changes to the licensing rules which control not just the sale of alcohol in shops, pubs or clubs, but also entertainment events including plays, films, indoor sporting events, indoor or outdoor boxing and wrestling, live and recorded music, dance, plus the provision of late night food or drink.

The Government has suggested changes to improve its Licensing Act 2003 to take account of lessons learnt since the new powers were given to local councils and also of recent laws.

“The new Act came into force in November 2004, putting more responsibility on licensees, particularly regarding crime and disorder, and giving this Council significantly more power to take action against premises if necessary,” said Councillor Sherrie Green, Cabinet Member for Community Well-being.

“Some of the proposed new changes could put tougher responsibilities on licensees to play their part in combating crime and disorder and anti-social behaviour.

“The new rules could mean that licensees would have to contribute to the extra costs of policing if alcohol-related problems are regularly occurring outside of their premises. It will be interesting to hear views on these proposals,” added Cllr Green.

Other suggested changes include the need to take account of the new smoking ban and the impact that is having outside of licensed premises, and new rules regarding fire safety.

The Council’s draft revised policy states that Suffolk Coastal will always be guided by the four principle objectives - the reduction of crime and disorder, and also of alcohol abuse, and the encouragement of tourism and cultural diversity, and the self-sufficiency of local communities. The new policy will come into effect on January 7, 2008.

A copy of the draft statement can be read at Suffolk Coastal’s Melton Hill offices, or on the Council’s website. The website also includes an online questionnaire. Comments on the draft policy can be sent to the Licensing Team at Suffolk Coastal District Council, Melton Hill, Woodbridge IP12 1AU by November 13.

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Re-generate - calling Felixstowe fashion creatives, young and old!



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18 Sep 2007

Archived press release.

Young people of high school age in Felixstowe, interested in fashion, style, culture, identity and creativity have an amazing opportunity to join Re-generate, a project that will build better understanding in relationships between the generations in Felixstowe through the creative process of putting on a fashion show from scratch.

Those who join-up to the project will have the chance to work with designers and artists and local charity shops to put together a fashion show which will be staged in the town later in the year.

“Felixstowe has the largest population of young people in the district, some of whom have already been involved in a project looking at the perceived differences between the generations but because of the behaviour of a small number of young people, there seems to be a negative perception of young people as a whole,” said Councillor Doreen Savage, Cabinet Member with responsibility for Young People.

“This excellent project will bring together young people, including some who are experiencing difficulties in education or home life, and older people working in the charity shop sector as the inspiration for the show is the use of second-hand, recycled and charity shops materials,” added Councillor Savage.

Young people participating in the project will have the chance to join workshops on textile design, set design, styling, window dressing and photography and these will be led by professional artists with support from youth workers.

The project is programmed to fit with the work and interests of existing groups attending Felixstowe’s Level 2 youth project, and those taking part will be offered responsibility and decision making on design, budgeting, behind the scenes, fashion show poster creation, presentation and hospitality.

Re-generate has been advertised through flyers and talks at local schools and youth centres and recruitment has been through “Sign up”, a voluntary commitment.

“This is an artistically stimulating project that, through its programme of work, will begin to break down barriers between the generations in Felixstowe and for the young people involved it will offer new experiences, draw out their creativity and help present a positive image of both young and old,” added Councillor Savage.

There is still a chance to be involved in the project – any young person interested can pick-up a sign-up sheet from Level 2 in Cobbold Road, Felixstowe and take the completed sheet back on Saturday, September 22 between 1.30pm and 4pm or drop the sheet through their letter box.

The Re-generate project is a partnership between Suffolk Coastal Arts and Level 2 and for further information contact Antony Cartwright, Level 2’s Project Officer on 01394 272521.





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Are you a landlord or thinking of becoming one?



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25 Sep 2007

Archived press release.

More people are thinking of becoming landlords as an investment opportunity and Suffolk Coastal is keen to help them by providing as much information as possible about the legal obligations that face them and their tenants.

Next month offers a chance to get some free expert advice and information, particularly on the introduction of the new Local Housing Allowance and the Colne Housing Safe Haven project, at Suffolk Coastal's seminar for landlords and agents which is being held on Tuesday, October 16 in the Council Chamber at the Council's Melton Hill offices.

"These seminars are extremely popular with existing landlords as a simple way of finding out all the latest news, but we are also hoping that people who are thinking about letting out their property privately will take this opportunity to come along and meet and quiz our officers and some local experts," said Councillor Chris Slemmings, Cabinet Member for Housing.

"Landlords have an increasingly important role to play in providing quality rented accommodation for the people of the district and this Council is ready to help them. We would like to see more reasonably priced rented accommodation being made available to local people and landlords may not be aware of the assistance we can offer, particularly if they are willing to rent to those in receipt of housing benefit.

"The welcome opening of University Campus Suffolk is also a business opportunity for landlords and there has also been the recent launch of Safe Haven, a private sector leasing agreement between landlords and Colne Housing Society which is offering support to landlords and potential landlords. I hope landlords, both current and potential ones, will come along and get up to date with all the latest developments," added Councillor Slemmings.

The event should be useful to both individual and corporate landlords, as well as owners of single properties and properties in multiple occupation. Speakers will include Tessa Shepperson of Landlord Law who will be talking about problem tenants, John Booty, an independent consultant, will explain the new Local Housing Allowance while Brandon Taylor from the Eastern Landlords Association will present the landlords' point of view on this allowance. Richard Jones from Colne Housing Society will be talking about the Safe Haven Project and Sarah Collins from the University Campus Suffolk will speak about the Student Accreditation Scheme.

The seminar is being held in Suffolk Coastal's Council Chamber at its Melton Hill Offices, and runs from 5pm through to 7pm. Places are limited so advance bookings can be made by calling 01394 444838, by emailing benefits@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk or faxing 01394 444554.



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Residents reminded to send back their registration forms



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25 Sep 2007

Archived press release.

Thousands of the 58,000 forms that have been sent out to homes across the district to help update the electoral register have already been returned but Suffolk Coastal is urging all residents to either send them back or go online.

The annual canvass to update the electoral register began last month, with each home being asked to check the details currently held for that property and to make any relevant changes.

“The Council is responsible for keeping the electoral register up to date and accurate but obviously we are completely reliant on the co-operation of our residents to provide the right details that will ensure that everyone who is eligible for a vote gets a vote,” said Stephen Baker, Suffolk Coastal’s Chief Executive.

“There has been media speculation that there could be an early General Election, and clearly it is a possibility that one could be called at any time. Ensuring that they have the right to vote is one very good reason that people should make sure their name is on one of our forms for the address they are now living at.

“Those aged 16 and 17 should also make sure that they get their names on the form as it will put them on the register ready for when they can legally vote. The electoral register is also one of the most important proofs of residence used by many organisations and companies, so it makes sense to ensure that all details are up to date,” added Mr Baker.

If all the details on the registration form are correct, it really could not be easier to confirm them as it can be done online by going to www.registerbyinternet.com/suffolkcoastal or by calling 0800 197 7694 (24 hours - calls are free).

Anyone using the website or freephone number will be asked for a two-part security code in order to access the system. This security code can be found on the form. The online and phone services can also be used to choose whether the names of electors in the household will appear on the edited register and or to apply for a postal vote.

Anyone wanting to make changes to the current form, by adding or removing names, must return their form by post. The information provided will be used to publish the Register of Electors on December 1, 2007. The qualifying date is October 15, 2007.