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Help for those looking for a life without oil

01 Oct 2009

Archived press release.

A special training course is on offer this month to help those who want to work on getting their local community prepared for a life where they are not dependent on oil and other fossil fuels.

The Suffolk Coastal Local Strategic Partnership and the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Sustainable Development Fund is helping to fund the free weekend training course being held at the Council's Woodbridge offices.

"We have called in Transition Network to provide their experience on how local communities can begin planning ahead for a future where they are not relying on fast-disappearing foreign energy supplies and can instead make use of more local and sustainable alternative energies," said Cllr Andrew Nunn, Cabinet Member for the Green Environment.

"The idea of these sessions is that it is a chance to learn from what has proved successful elsewhere to come up with a potential way forward that not only takes account of future energy use, but also makes the maximum use of local food sources and helps to support and stimulate local businesses.

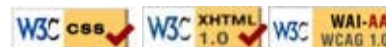
"The challenges of climate change, and an uncertain future for energy supplies, make it doubly important for us all to identify how we can be resilient enough to ensure our quality of life is maintained. These training sessions promise to offer a fascinating introduction to the issues and how communities could work together to begin providing solutions," added Cllr Nunn

The two-day course is being held on Saturday, October 24 and Sunday, October 25 and start at 9.30am. Places are limited and can be booked by calling 01394 444747 or emailing deborah.wargate@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk

The course will explain the background to the transition movement, some examples of where towns have begun positively adapting lifestyles and how to draw up an action plan for individual and community use.

"This is an excellent opportunity for people within our district who want to take some positive action and are willing to play a leading role in their local communities to tackle some of the most significant issues on the green agenda.

"We already have an active transition group in Woodbridge and I would hope that this training course can help give others the chance to press ahead in their own local communities to reduce their carbon emissions and dependence on fossil fuels while making them more self-reliant in areas such as food, energy, health care, and jobs," added Cllr Nunn.





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SEAL celebrates 10 years of improving energy efficiency

01 Oct 2009

[Archived press release.](#)

This October marks the 10th anniversary of the launch of Suffolk Energy Action Link (SEAL) which is celebrating a decade of dedication to reducing domestic energy costs and improving energy efficiency.

SEAL has a key priority of tackling domestic energy waste and is keen to help all residents reduce their energy costs and lead greener lives.

“SEAL has been taking a proactive approach to energy consumption over the last 10 years and it is great to see the number of homes in the district that have benefited from this so far,” said Cllr Chris Slemmings, Cabinet Member for Housing.

The SEAL initiative drew together all seven district and borough councils in the county to help their local residents enjoy a warmer, more energy efficient home with a single point freephone number to call.

SEAL offers a link into a range of services including free and discounted cavity wall and loft insulation, Warm Front Grants for vulnerable households for heating and insulation, Greener Homes interest free loans for all, links to local solar water heating contractors and access to the Suffolk Warmer Walls programme for solid wall insulation. There is also guidance on the limited grants on offer to help with costs.

“SEAL was in many ways a green pioneer, as the services it offers means that it is much easier for our residents to reduce their domestic carbon footprint. Thanks to SEAL, virtually anyone who wants to become more energy efficient can do,” added Cllr Slemmings.

Some of the more recent work SEAL has also been involved in includes the setting up of interest free loans in partnership with the Ipswich and Suffolk Credit Union. These are available to cover the cost of a whole range of energy saving goods and renewable energy installations such as solar water heating, solar photovoltaics and heat pumps. The minimum loan would be as little as £100 and the maximum £4,000 with up to four years to pay. SEAL is also running a pilot working with communities to help residents in Framlingham and parts of Western Suffolk to receive and install their own energy saving goods free.

“The interest free loans introduced are a great way to help members of the community who are keen to do something about their carbon footprint but cannot afford the financial commitment outright. The interest free loans mean that savings can be made on energy costs first, before having to repay the whole amount.

“The ten year anniversary shows Suffolk Coastal's early and ongoing commitment to addressing and tackling climate change and making energy used at home cheaper and more efficient for its residents,” added Cllr Slemmings.

For more information about SEAL and ways to increase energy efficiency in the home people

can visit www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourhome/energy/seal or call 0800 02 88 938.

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Lives return to normal after removal of stereo systems

05 Oct 2009

[Archived press release.](#)

Peace and quiet has returned to homes around Westward Ho in Leiston after Suffolk Coastal's environmental protection team removed audio equipment that was regularly being used at unacceptably high volume.

The equipment, which included two stereo systems and MP3 player, was taken from the home in Westward Ho.

"We used our powers under the Environmental Protection Act to confiscate the source of the noise which has made the lives of neighbours unbearable in recent weeks," said Cllr Andrew Nunn, Cabinet Member for the Green Environment.

"As with the recent successful case at a tennis club, this was not a one-off occurrence but a last resort, following attempts that failed to get the young people to respect others by keeping the noise down to a reasonable level. After repeated warnings, we had no choice but to confiscate the audio equipment.

"We will now be deciding whether to go to the courts with our evidence and have the equipment permanently taken away. I hope that this will be a warning to others that we are not prepared to allow anti-social behaviour to ruin the lives of people in our district," added Cllr Nunn.

Working in partnership with Leiston police and the Council's anti-social behaviour team, the environmental protection team visited last Thursday (October 1) with a warrant of entry to remove the musical equipment.

An abatement notice had already been served on the occupier of the house, warning that the Council was ready to take further action, involving the confiscation of the equipment and potential court cases, if the problems with noise persisted.

"Our attempts to resolve the problems failed as the music would only be turned down for a short period before being turned up to selfishly high volumes. For the neighbours, it was like having a noisy party going on in their own home and it was clearly unacceptable behaviour.

"It is unusual for this Council to have to take this kind of action as normally after an advisory letter and abatement notice, people will see sense, recognise the problems they are causing for their neighbours and act responsibly. In this case, those basic rules of civilised behaviour were regularly flaunted and the quality of life for everyone else was being ruined and the Council and the police were ready to put things right," added Cllr Nunn.

Suffolk Coastal has a set procedure for dealing with noise complaints, and if that procedure is followed the Council's out of hours noise patrol can visit to witness the noise. Residents can contact the team on 01394 444624 or visit www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourhome/envhealth/nuisance/ or email environmental.protection@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk giving their name and address and the details of where the noise is coming from, and the times and dates of occurrences.

“Experience shows that in most cases, the quickest and easiest solution is for people to approach the person responsible and explain politely that their noise is causing a disturbance. In most cases, people are unaware of the problem they are causing and will put things right straightaway. But if that does not work, people should call our team who will take the appropriate action,” added Cllr Nunn.



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Chairman's challenge to find special heroes

09 Oct 2009

[Archived press release.](#)

Suffolk Coastal's Chairman, Cllr Stephen Burroughes, has called on residents to help identify 'local heroes' who have achieved something for the community in spite of their physical disabilities, illness or injury.

Cllr Burroughes wants to recognise these community efforts at a special awards ceremony next spring which would put the spotlight firmly on those, who behind the scenes, have become a local hero, whether through raising money, completing a marathon, helping others or some other community-spirited activity.

"I was born with cerebral palsy, and know exactly how difficult life can be for those with serious disabilities or injuries either caused at birth or due to accident or illness. For me, just putting one foot in front of the other is hard work. I want to find individuals in our district who have put their own problems aside and achieved something for their fellow human beings," said Cllr Burroughes.

"It won't be easy finding such people, as they will probably shy away from publicity and simply hate being 'fussed over', but they deserve to be found and thanked for their achievements which is helping to restore some faith in human nature," added Cllr Burroughes.

Please send your nominations and enquiries to 'The Chairman's Challenge', at Suffolk Coastal District Council, Melton Hill, Woodbridge IP12 1AU. Or by email to: stephen.burroughes@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk



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Town centre parking prices frozen for six years

13 Oct 2009

[Archived press release.](#)

The cost of parking in the district's town centres is set to remain frozen until 2012 at the levels introduced in April 2006 following a thorough review of all the charges in the Suffolk Coastal area.

The need to find a total of £3 million worth of efficiencies between 2010 and 2013 has made Suffolk Coastal examine all aspects of its services to see where savings can be made or more income generated.

"Despite having saved £8 million since 2001 and being officially recognised as one of the most efficient councils in the country, the Government's failure to properly fund rural councils like ourselves means that Suffolk Coastal needs to reduce its costs by 20% over the next three years, and as part of that, to look at its car parking charges to see if it can fairly increase them," said Cllr Andy Smith, Cabinet Member responsible for car parks.

"We will now be consulting on a package of measures which will help generate an extra £130,000 next year, yet is mostly a gentle modernising of our current system. It includes the strategy that our town centre car park charges should remain frozen through to 2012.

"What we are proposing now includes some of the out-of-town car parks for tourists seeing increases next year, and other car parks charging all week and/or all year, where they currently exclude Sundays or the winter period. At the same time, there are also some planned improvements to our service, such as smaller motorhomes being able to use all our car parks. There is no escaping the fact that this Council is facing a tough financial situation but this package offers an imaginative way to share the burden," added Cllr Smith.

In all, 16 of the Council's 28 car parks would see no increase in their current tariff. Most of the tourist car parks would see the cost of a stay rising by 50 pence, with for example the cost of parking all day at Felixstowe's Arwela Road, Brackenbury, Clifflands, Convalescent Hill, Golf Road, and Sea Road, becoming £3.50 from April 2010.

Car parks which currently charge on Monday to Saturday could now also charge on Sundays, while five car parks in Felixstowe which are currently free from November to February could now charge throughout the year.

"As a result of the mixture of changes we plan to introduce, we estimate that we will increase our income by about £130,000 next year, which is equivalent to avoiding more than a 2% rise in our Council Tax.

"We have rejected the possibility this year of raising an additional £260,000 a year from bringing our town centre car park charges in line with other councils because we do not think it right to put further pressures on our local shops and businesses already struggling with the impact of the recession," added Cllr Smith.

Following last week's Cabinet meeting, the proposals have been referred to town and parish councils for their views, with a likely formal public consultation about the possible changes in the

New Year.

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Dig out your photos and pictures for seafront gardens exhibition

14 Oct 2009

[Archived press release.](#)

The Friends of Felixstowe Seafront Gardens are set to host a one day history and heritage public exhibition of the Felixstowe Seafront Gardens with the help of local residents.

The exhibition will focus on the Town Hall, Cliff and Spa gardens and will offer an insight into the gardens past over the years with local people sharing their memories and personal photographs, pictures and memorabilia.

"The Friends of Felixstowe Seafront Gardens exhibition promises to be a great way to reflect on the Seafront garden's vibrant and community spirited past and I encourage anyone with pictures, photographs or postcards of the gardens to bring them along and include them in the exhibition for all to see," said Cllr Mary Neale, Cabinet Member for Leisure and Countryside.

The exhibition is taking place on Saturday, November 14 from 10am till 4pm in the Courtroom Gallery at Felixstowe Town Hall. There will also be a display in Felixstowe Library between Sunday, October 25 and Sunday, November 8 offering a preview of the exhibition.

"This event is particularly exciting as we are currently in the process of developing proposals and gathering information from local residents and visitors to the Seafront gardens to find out what they think of them and what improvements could be made during our planned regeneration.

"The memories of people's visits to the Seafront gardens will really add to the findings of the survey indicating what makes the Seafront gardens such a special part of Felixstowe," added Cllr Neale.

Local residents with items they would like to include in the exhibition can either send in a copy or the original to the Friends secretary or they can bring them along to the exhibition on the day.

"The Seafront gardens have a rich history in Felixstowe and I am sure there are lots of photos out there of the gardens over the years. It will be great for the history of the gardens to be told by the people who have enjoyed them over the years," added Cllr Neale.

"I thoroughly look forward to the pictures and photographs the exhibition will uncover and hope they provide a positive look forward, helping us to develop future plans for the gardens," added Cllr Neale.

Those wishing to include an item in the exhibition can send them to Caroline Driver, Secretary, Friends of Felixstowe Seafront Gardens, Suffolk Coastal District Council, Melton Hill, Woodbridge, IP12 1AU or email caroline.driver@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk. For more information about the event or the Friends of Felixstowe Seafront Gardens residents can call 01394 444239.

To have their say in the future of the Seafront gardens, residents and visitors can visit www.greenstat.org selecting East of England, then Suffolk and then Friends of Felixstowe Seafront Gardens to complete either or both of the two questionnaires.

One is about the parks and open space service in the district, highlighted in green, the second is

specifically about the Seafront gardens, highlighted in yellow.

The closing date for responses is Friday, November 27 and printed versions are available from Felixstowe's Town Hall, Spa Pavilion, Tourist Information Centre and Library, or can be requested from Caroline Driver on 01394 444239 or carosyv@hotmail.com. Printed versions can be returned to Felixstowe's Town Hall, Tourist Information Centre or Library.



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Residents encouraged to Know Your Limits

14 Oct 2009

Archived press release.

The Community Safety Partnership team in conjunction with the local SNT teams will be visiting the district next week in the Police pod to offer information and advice about alcohol and the impact it can have on all aspects of community life as part of the national Know Your Limits week.

People will be able to receive leaflets and information about alcohol, take part in quizzes about the alcohol content of their drinks, receiving a small prize for taking part, and speak to a member of the substance misuse team if they would like any advice.

“The Know Your Limits road shows are a great way for members of the community to see if they really know how much alcohol they are drinking. There are a lot of people who think that one drink equals one unit and are surprised to find out that in fact it can often be quite a bit more,” said Cllr Sherrie Green, Cabinet Member for Community Health.

The Pod will be visiting Felixstowe Town Centre on Tuesday, October 20, 10am till 2pm and Waitrose car park in Saxmundham on Wednesday, October 21, 10am till 2pm.

“Joining the Know Your Limits team will be a member from the Police Direct team to raise awareness of the services they offer to the community and I would encourage all residents to come along to one of the road shows to find out more.”

“The Know Your Limits campaign is aimed at all members of the community, offering helpful information to encourage residents to think about the amount they are drinking so they can enjoy alcohol responsibly and benefit from a healthier lifestyle,” added Cllr Green.

For more information about the Know Your Limits campaign residents can contact Julia Catterwell on 07768817607 or email Julia.catterwell@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk



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Support wanted to help preserve local train station

14 Oct 2009

[Archived press release.](#)

Ideas and support are needed to give an extra push to the ongoing campaign to save the historical Station in Trimley St Mary which is set to be demolished by its owners, Network Rail if no new use is found by the end of the year.

The special quality and history of the building means that significant grant funding is likely to be available for its restoration to a high standard, ready to be occupied. The Railway Heritage Trust has expressed interest in a project. What is urgently needed now is a firm proposal for a viable use, with a good chance of being 'deliverable', such that Network Rail can reasonably postpone demolition.

"In order to avoid the removal of a long-standing local landmark we are now seeking suggestions that will provide practical proposals for a future use of the building in its restored state. That could be either a community use, or a commercial one, or a mix of the two, in what should become a very attractive renovated period building, available on probably very attractive terms," said Cllr Andy Smith, Cabinet Member for Planning.

"In conjunction with Trimley St. Mary Parish Council, we hope to form a Friends Group that will coordinate support for the project and help develop a viable option for a new use, or uses," added Cllr Smith.

The last remaining country station built by the Great Eastern Railway, local residents know this is their last chance to save this piece of architectural history before it is gone forever.

Possible suggestions put forward so far have included using the building as a part time office for Parish Councillors, an internet café, a visitor centre for the Trimley Nature Reserve, a small retail centre, a possible location for a clubhouse for the local model railway group and a space for shared use by local businesses.

"We have had a number of positive suggestions for possible new uses of the Trimley station but now we need to work hard to turn these ideas, or others which may come forward, into a practical option that will be realistically considered by Network Rail," added Cllr Smith.

The station has recently been named by the Victorian Society as one of the top ten most endangered buildings across England and Wales after being nominated by local campaigners, encouraging local people to act promptly to ensure the preservation of this historically significant building

"Unfortunately Grade II listed status for the building was turned down earlier this year so it is now up to us as a community to ensure the future of the station building before the December 31 deadline, added Cllr Smith.

For more information or to get involved with the ongoing campaign, anyone interested should contact parish clerk, Debra Cooper, from Trimley St Mary Parish Council on 01394 285193 or email clerk@trimley-st-mary.org.uk



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Warning signs go up to remind motorists

14 Oct 2009

[Archived press release.](#)



New car park signs reminding people to lock their vehicles and keep valuables out of sight.

The statistics show that in areas such as Felixstowe, Nacton, Kesgrave and Woodbridge up to half of all vehicles were not locked, and a staggering 70 per cent of those parked on driveways, when items were stolen from them. Among the stolen valuables were satellite navigations systems (sat navs), mobile phones, handbags, power tools and even a new 42" flat screen television.

"There are very few crimes committed in our car parks and we want to keep it that way by having these large warning signs. We hope that the message of keeping things locked, secure and out of sight will not just become a habit when using our car parks but also at home.

"Thefts from cars are often spur of the moment, opportunist crimes, and I would urge people not to put temptation in front of potential criminals by leaving their cars unlocked, windows open, or expensive items or accessories on show," added Cllr Green.

The special signs are going up in all the Council's 28 public car parks and also some of the larger privately owned facilities such as Tesco at Martlesham Heath.

New signs are being put up in car parks across the district to remind motorists to keep their cars locked and their valuables safe and out of sight.

Suffolk Coastal's Community Safety Partnership and Suffolk Constabulary have linked up for the new campaign which aims to get residents to play their part in cutting crime.

"While crime fell last year in Suffolk Coastal and the district remains one of the country's safest, there is still more that people could do to prevent them being a victim of crime," said Cllr Sherrie Green, Cabinet Member for Community Health.

"Nearly one in ten of all crimes in the district are related to theft from cars and vans. More worrying still is how many of these crimes could have been avoided if people had just taken a bit more care," added Cllr Green.



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Energy monitor loan scheme for communities

16 Oct 2009

[Archived press release.](#)

To celebrate Energy Saving Week, Suffolk Climate Change Partnership and SEAL are announcing a project to put real-time energy monitors into the hands of community groups.

The theme for this year's Energy Saving Week, which runs from October 19-25, is waste and encouraging everyone to stop wasting their time, money and energy. Using energy-saving monitors helps to monitor energy usage and identify where costs can be reduced.

The scheme is available to all community groups who are working to reduce their carbon footprint and the monitors can be used to track energy use in a community building, or loaned out to local residents to try out in their own home.

David Walton, the Suffolk Climate Change Partnership Manager, said: "Energy monitors are a fantastic way of finding out how much electricity you are really using, especially those power-hungry appliances and those appliances that sit there on standby. To help Suffolk to become the greenest county we need to work together as communities to stop wasting our energy."

Any group that thinks they could benefit from using these gadgets can call the Suffolk Climate and Energy Helpline on 0800 028 8938. It is anticipated that a larger-scale energy monitor loan scheme, administered through all Suffolk's public libraries, will be in operation early in the new year.

To find out what is going on to help Suffolk become the greenest county please visit www.greensuffolk.org or follow on Twitter – twitter.com/greensuffolk



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Young people urged not to miss out on their vote

16 Oct 2009

[Archived press release.](#)

With a General Election looming ever closer, the Chief Executive of Suffolk Coastal is urging local young people to make sure that their name has been included on the latest edition of the electoral register.

Suffolk Coastal is currently updating its official list of all its residents who are entitled to vote and is pulling together the details from the forms sent to nearly 60,000 homes.

“With a General Election due to be called between now and next June, it is more important than ever for those who are aged 16, 17 or over to make sure that their names have been added onto the electoral register,” said Stephen Baker, Suffolk Coastal’s Chief Executive who is also in charge of running elections in the district.

“More often than not, those in this age group are not the ones filling in the forms and so have to rely on their parents or others to remember to include them on the list.

“I would recommend young people check with us to make sure that their name has been included as they could otherwise miss out on their chance to have their say on the national issues,” added Mr Baker.

Anyone aged 16 or 17 should get their names on the register ready for when they are old enough to legally cast their votes. The updated version of the register will be published on December 1, and people should be listed for where their permanent home was on Thursday, October 15.

“We routinely send a letter to anyone who becomes 18 that is listed on our register explaining how they can vote and why it is important that they use the opportunity to make their voice heard.

“On our website www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourdistrict/elections/ we also have a section which gives all the details that anyone could want, including how to register, how to get a postal vote, and indeed how to vote or become a candidate. Alternatively, our elections team on 01394 444329 will offer helpful advice over the phone.

“We usually have turn-outs for elections in our district that are higher than the national average and I hope the new generation of voters will help us continue that trend, and get registered so they can vote on national, local and European issues,” added Mr Baker.



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Green spotlight put on how businesses can save energy

20 Oct 2009

[Archived press release.](#)

Next week's Greenprint Forum will focus on how businesses can go greener, cut their energy bills and improve the local environment.

Set up 13 years ago, Suffolk Coastal's Greenprint Forum is open to representatives from parish and town councils, environmental and community organisations, and businesses from across the district.

"The invitation is there for any local organisation, particularly businesses, that spends less than £50,000 a year on energy to come along to the next meeting of the Greenprint Forum when they can find out all about the free expert energy advice service," said Cllr Andrew Nunn, Cabinet Member for the Green Environment.

"With backing from Suffolk Coastal, Groundwork East of England, and the Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty Sustainable Development Fund, there is now a full-time energy expert ready to help local businesses.

"The Forum on Monday will hear exactly what help is on offer, what it entails and the opportunities that could be available to reduce businesses' carbon footprint, while cutting their bills and enhancing their reputation by becoming greener," added Cllr Nunn.

The Greenprint Forum is being held at Suffolk Coastal's Melton Hill Council Chamber at 7pm on Monday, October 26. There will also be the chance to learn more about what BT is doing to save money and improve the environment, as well as about other local environmental initiatives that could help companies meet their corporate social responsibility aims.

Anyone interested in attending can call Suffolk Coastal's Deborah Wargate for more information or to book a place 01394 444747 or turn up on the night. There is more information about the Greenprint Forum on www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourdistrict/greenissues/greenprint/



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New angle for youngsters looking for half-term fun

20 Oct 2009

[Archived press release.](#)

Bored youngsters looking for things to do in the half-term holidays can try their hand at fishing or pick up some bushcraft skills, thanks to Suffolk Coastal and its partners.

With five different venues and a bus service running from Woodbridge, the catch of the holiday is all-day fishing for only £30 per child, with coaching on offer to help them get hooked into one of the country's favourite leisure pastimes.

"I am particularly excited about the Forest camp organised by the Forestry Commission at Rendlesham Forest which will see youngsters learning survival and bushcraft skills, den building and wild food cooking," said Cllr Mary Neale, Cabinet Member for Countryside and Leisure.

The activities on offer during the holiday are thanks to Suffolk Coastal working in partnership with the Suffolk Coastal Local Strategic Partnership, Active Communities and the Suffolk Coastal Community Safety Partnership.

"The courses promise to be very popular and I would encourage anyone who is interested in trying one or more of the activities to book a place quickly by calling 01394 444652 or 07775 586545 or completing a booking form on our website," added Cllr Neale.

The fishing is taking place at Bromeswell on Monday, October 26, at Creting on the Tuesday, Aldeburgh on the Wednesday, Suffolk Water Park on the Thursday, and Needham Market on the Friday. The bus leaves Deben Swimming Pool at 9am each day.

Brochures and booking forms can also be picked up from local schools, libraries and Tourist Information Centres across the district. For more information about any of the activities residents can contact the active communities team on 01394 444652 or 01394 444318 or email active.communities@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk



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Training sharpens inspection skills

22 Oct 2009

[Archived press release.](#)

The inspection skills of Environmental Health teams from Waveney and Suffolk Coastal District Council were under the spotlight recently as their readiness in the event of an E. coli outbreak was tested at a special training event.

Over forty Environmental Health Practitioners from across Suffolk and Norfolk were joined by clinicians from the Health Protection Agency (HPA) in a major training session to test their response to a theoretical outbreak of illness caused by E. coli. The event was held to ensure that officer's inspection skills met the recommendations in the recent Pennington Report, which focussed on food premises inspection methods.

Officers and senior HPA professionals were confronted with a range of scenarios, which tested their response to a fictitious emerging outbreak. Delegates were tasked with identifying the potential sources of the outbreak and investigating and inspecting the 'suspect food premises.' Appropriate preventative and enforcement actions were taken as the 'outbreak' was gradually brought under control.

Councillor Ken Sale, Waveney's Portfolio Holder for the Environment said: "Officers from Waveney and Suffolk Coastal District Council's Environmental Health teams were involved in planning this event for several months and it proved to be especially topical in view of recent E. coli outbreaks linked to children's farms in other areas of the country.

This is an excellent example of cooperation between the District Councils in Suffolk and the Health Protection Agency. In the event of an E. coli outbreak our Environmental Health team would be at the forefront of protecting the public. Events such as this ensure that our staff are well-prepared to prevent outbreaks from happening and to deal with them effectively should they occur."

The event was jointly organised with Dr. Torbjorn Sundkvist, Consultant in Communicable Disease Control for Suffolk. Those who took part expressed the tremendous value of being able to share professional knowledge with HPA experts, and those from other local authorities.

"I am pleased that Suffolk Coastal and Waveney have again joined up successfully to help run this event that will help all the county's environmental health teams lead the campaigns to prevent and control potential E. coli outbreaks," said Cllr Sherrie Green, Suffolk Coastal's Cabinet Member for Community Health.

"This is just the latest food safety partnership, and builds on the Safer Food, Better Business training sessions for local food outlets that was organised across Suffolk, thanks to the collaborative working between environmental health teams across the county," added Cllr Green.

The event, which was held at Africa Alive's conference facilities in Kessingland, was devised by Principal Environmental Health Officers Tony Burgess of Waveney District Council and Mark Sims of Suffolk Coastal District Council, with assistance from Torbjorn Sundkvist and Jonathon Cox of the HPA and Ian Ferguson of Mid Suffolk District Council.





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Local voluntary groups to take advantage of expert advice

23 Oct 2009

[Archived press release.](#)

Voluntary organisations across the district are invited to a series of lunchtime networking events held by the Suffolk Coastal Resource Network (SCRN) offering advice on funding and development tips.

SCRN has since 2006 given 125 local groups one-to-one information and advice sessions, supported or contacted 650 groups, and helped them access over £100,000 of new funding.

“On the menu at the networking lunches will be a great wealth of experience that can help a wide range of organisations, from groups supporting individuals with specific needs to large groups managing community buildings and beyond,” said Cllr Ray Herring, Chairman of the Suffolk Coastal Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) Board.

Networking lunches will be taking place on Thursday, October 29, 12-2pm at Martlesham Village Hall and Tuesday, November 24, 12-2pm at Saxmundham. Places can be booked by calling Sue Clements on 01473 275195 or emailing sue.clements@savo.co.uk Speakers include Suffolk Foundation, Suffolk LINK, Volunteer Suffolk Coastal and Suffolk Coastal District Council.

The SCRN has been running funding surgeries that provide hour-long sessions for local groups to share their experiences and find out about funding that could be available to them. These surgeries are being extended to the lunchtime networking events and hope to offer advice to an even greater number of groups.

Organisations will be able to get information relevant to their group and also book a place to meet with a member of the SCRN in a personalised funding surgery.

Support available in these sessions include developing business plans, financial health checks, recruiting volunteers, seeking funding, completing forms and providing encouragement and sharing experienced knowledge.

“Previous funding surgeries have been a great help to local voluntary groups with over £100,000 of funding accessed thanks to the efforts of the SCRN which is supported by the LSP, because we recognize the importance of the community and voluntary sector in our district.

“I would strongly encourage any local voluntary or community group to come along to one of the networking lunches to find out what additional help may be on offer. Both established and new groups are encouraged to take advantage of the free advice to seek additional ways their groups can be developed to reach more of the community,” added Cllr Herring.

Residents that are keen to start a voluntary or community group will benefit from the networking lunches and funding surgeries and can also find helpful information at www.scrn.co.uk.

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




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PHILIS will be fillip for Port of Felixstowe

23 Oct 2009

[Archived press release.](#)

A new purpose-built information technology (IT) system has been introduced at Felixstowe to help Suffolk Coastal's port health team provide an even better service to businesses.

The first phase of the IT system, called Port Health Interactive Live Information System (PHILIS), went live last month and it has already sparked interest from the Food Standards Agency and other port health authorities across the country.

"Felixstowe is the country's busiest port and it is served by Britain's best port health team who have helped create this new system that should allow them to be even more efficient when dealing with consignments of imported food," said Cllr Sherrie Green, Cabinet Member for Community Health.

"This first phase of the project was completed on time and on budget, and delivered many more features than was anticipated. This is a great contrast to many national IT initiatives, and is a great tribute to the hard work of Suffolk Coastal's port health and IT teams, and the external specialists that have helped create the system.

"Our port health team are already enjoying the benefits of the new system, and all the signs are that it will make them more efficient and result in real savings of time and money. It is little wonder that other port health teams are already looking at whether to buy our new system for their day-to-day work," added Cllr Green.

The goal of producing an integrated information management system that was user-friendly and innovative has now been met, and it appears to be the best available system for port health teams.

The development team behind the project will shortly move onto the second phase looking at improving the website, allowing importers to track progress with their consignments and the input of data through hand held devices, as well as adding further enhancements and functionality to the system they have created.

"Our port health team are dealing with 41 per cent of the UK's imported food. The task was to design a system that was easy to use but also had the scope to be flexible and responsive enough to meet the ever-changing legislative demands and controls that port health teams are faced with," said Cllr Colin Hart, Cabinet Member responsible for IT.

"What has been created in our district will not only help the Port of Felixstowe but is of such a quality that we expect port health teams across the country to want to buy it. I would like to thank all those involved in the project, particularly the project manager Brian Cox, port health's service manager Richard Jacobs, and IT developers John Bax and Paul Tyrrell," added Cllr Hart.


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Scenic landscape proves a real Big Draw

23 Oct 2009

[Archived press release.](#)

The unique landscape of the skyline from Thorpeness is going to be recreated tomorrow (Saturday) as budding artists of all ages join together at Leiston Leisure Centre as part of the Big Draw campaign.

The project has seen a picture of the landscape which includes Sizewell power stations, Thorpeness Windmill and the House in the Clouds, being divided into 70 different A2 cards which has been shared out so that people can recreate their own image before all of them are brought together for the first time tomorrow.

“People were asked to get involved by taking pieces of it away and interpreting them in whatever way they wish, before putting them all put back together to create an impressive patchwork of Thorpeness, Sizewell and their surroundings,” said Cllr Mary Neale, Cabinet Member for Leisure and Countryside.

“Imaginative contributions from all members of the community are welcome, and people are free to use whatever materials they like, from charcoal to glitter glue, as long as what they produce is a representation of the picture they were given and will still fit the rest of the jigsaw,” added Cllr Neale.

The four-by-three-metre image will be assembled and displayed for all to see from 3pm. There is also a fun drawing and painting session at Leiston Leisure Centre from 12 noon when people of all ages can come along and join in, to create a giant frieze of Leiston’s landmarks and complete the last few pieces of the giant puzzle.

Among the groups that have got involved in the project are Leiston Primary School, Leiston Middle School, 2nd Leiston Rainbows, Knodishall Brownies, Leiston Long Shop, Leiston Weaving group, Felixstowe Guides, Felixstowe’s Kingsfleet School, Sizewell Residents Association, Leiston WI Art Club , Woodbridge School and the Moat Barn Nursery, Hasketon.

A number of local artists have taken away a section of Sizewell, along with local individuals, while the attraction of the Big Draw has even sparked interest in the Middle East.

A local teacher from Saxmundham, who is currently in Kuwait, has been doing two pieces with his class via email and is sending them ready to be combined with all the other entries to create the artistic montage of the coastal landscape.



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Not in my neighbourhood week hits the streets

28 Oct 2009

[Archived press release.](#)

Not in My Neighbourhood week returns next month to the district to promote community safety and crime reduction and to help make Suffolk Coastal an even safer place to live.

During the week there will be several events taking place across the district designed to offer advice and raise awareness about reducing crime and anti-social behaviour in the local community.

“Not in My Neighbourhood week is a really important event that not only shows local residents the safety presence in their community but also encourages them to help do their bit to reduce anti-social behaviour and crime in their community,” said Cllr Sherrie Green, Cabinet Member for Community Safety.

Representatives will be out and about in the community throughout the week, and there will be a series of specialised community safety events on Wednesday, November 4 at Saxmundham Market Hall from 10am till 11am and Aldeburgh Community Centre from 10am till 4pm and on Thursday, November 5 at Budgens in Woodbridge from 10am till 4pm.

The events will see Suffolk Coastal’s Community Safety team working alongside members from the Safer Neighbourhood Teams, Neighbourhood Watch, Police Direct, Suffolk Primary Care Trust, Drugs Awareness and Suffolk Coastal Anti-social behaviour.

“One issue residents sometimes raise is what is being done to keep them safe. The Not in My Neighbourhood week aims to inform them what we are doing to tackle crime in local communities and also what they can do to help.

“When local people see a community safety presence and other people taking action to ensure their neighbourhood is safe this reassures them, making the community an even safer and enjoyable place to live. I would encourage all members of the community to come along to one of the events to see what is being done in their area,” added Cllr Green.

Not in My Neighbourhood week is part of a national event taking place in the district in collaboration with Suffolk County Council and Suffolk Coastal District Council Community Safety Teams and Suffolk Safer Neighbourhood Teams.



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Youngsters warm up this winter with dance mat discos

28 Oct 2009

[Archived press release.](#)

Whether it is competitive Dance Mat battling, showing off some smooth moves, or simply having fun with friends, the Dance Mat Discos provide a great opportunity for young people over the age of 8 to get active and dance their way to fitness.

Taking place on Monday, November 9 and Monday, December 7 at Felixstowe Spa Pavilion between 6.30 and 8.30pm, young people will be able to impress with their fast footwork and dancing skills.

“Previous Dance Mat Discos have proved to be great fun and I hope the continuation of the events will encourage even more young people to come along, enjoy and improve their skills,” said Cllr Mary Neale, Cabinet Member for Leisure and Countryside.

The Dance Mat Discos are taking place thanks to a venture between Suffolk Coastal District Council and the Felixstowe Spa Pavilion through funding from the Suffolk Coastal Community Safety Partnership and the Suffolk Coastal Local Strategic Partnership.

“The events promise to be a great evening attracting the seasoned performers and also newcomers wanting to give it a go and I’m sure after a quick warm-up they too will be ready to dance the night away,” added Cllr Neale.

Young people will take to the stage battling it out to keep up with the on-screen instructions accompanying their favourite songs, competing for the high score needed to be named Dance Mat champion.

“The Dance Mat Discos offer something fun and different for young people of all abilities in the district and it is a great way for young people to keep fit under the guise of having fun with their friends,” added Cllr Neale.

The Dance Mat Discos are open to anyone over the age of 8 and cost £2.50 for the evening. There is no need to book just turn up on the evening with your dancing feet on. There will also be refreshments available to buy, courtesy of the Spa Pavilion.

If you would like to find out more about the Discos please contact the Active Communities Team on 01394 444652 or email active.communities@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk



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Still time to give views on where new homes should go

29 Oct 2009

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Residents still have until November 18 to comment on Suffolk Coastal's proposals on where new homes should be shared out across the district between now and 2025.

Today (Thursday) and Monday (November 2) there are also two opportunities for people to quiz Council planning officers about the latest version of the Local Development Framework (LDF) Core Strategy.

"I would urge people to take the chance to get as informed as possible about our proposals which we believe are the best way forward for the future of our district and all its communities. We want to receive their comments and people still have nearly three weeks to make them," said Cllr Andy Smith, Suffolk Coastal's Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Planning.

A drop-in session is being held from 6pm to 8.30pm at Martlesham Heath Pavilion tonight, with another at Felixstowe Town Hall on Monday, again between 6pm to 8.30pm, so that anyone needing clarification about the proposals can speak directly to planning officers.

The Government requires the Council to provide for 7,710 new homes in the district by 2025. Outstanding planning permissions exist for 1,780 of those and another 1,850 will be within existing built-up areas, or areas already identified in the existing Local Plan. The remaining 4,080 require new areas of land to be allocated.

Across the period of up to 2025, the figures would mean an annual average of 160 homes in Martlesham and 350 homes across the rest of the district being built on new sites.

It is proposed that 2,000 new homes be allocated for Martlesham, that homes in Felixstowe and the Trimleys will be in a variety of locations, and phased over three five-year periods, with the first restricted to previously developed land and, if necessary, one small-scale greenfield site, and up to 1,000 being in new areas later.

New homes in the district's market towns would initially concentrate on previously developed brownfield sites, before using greenfield sites in Leiston and Woodbridge, and the assessment of the needs of each market town.

By 2025 there would also be a target of 330 new homes in the district's key service centres, one third of which would be affordable homes, with the greenfield locations being chosen after consultation with the local parish councils about local housing need.

"Our Core Strategy will help meet the future needs of our district's residents for homes, jobs, shops and leisure while safeguarding our communities and our valued environment.

"Following the public consultation earlier this year, and also taking account of the changing economic circumstances, we have made significant changes in the distribution of housing, most notably in Felixstowe and Martlesham, which is why we are again asking for views from the

public.

“We have to plan carefully for the future, to ensure as much as possible that we maintain and enhance our excellent quality of life, while making it possible for our people to find the jobs and homes that are needed to stop our district stagnating,” added Cllr Smith.

The final decision, taking account of feedback from the new consultation, will then be taken later this year.

People have until 5pm on Wednesday, November 18 to submit their comments. Online comments can be made by visiting www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourdistrict/planning/review/corestrategy while copies of the latest proposals can also be seen at the Council’s Melton Hill offices or local libraries.

Those who would prefer not to submit their comments online can email them to development.policy@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk or send them to Housing Distribution Consultation, Planning Services, Council Offices, Melton Hill, Woodbridge, IP12 1AU or fax them to 01394 385100.

“It has been brought to my attention that there is at least one other on-line survey about our new Core Strategy. I cannot stress how important it is that people who want to make their individual voice heard really must send us their views direct, rather than through someone else. The legal rules mean we cannot give us as much weight to information culled from other surveys or sources,” added Cllr Smith.

Where individuals are happy for their representations to be provided collectively as part of an interest group it is extremely helpful to the Council if the group (particularly new ones) could provide brief details of who they are, the extent of their interest and the numbers of people in their group, alongside the contact details for the main spokesperson(s).



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School children set example of clean living

02 Nov 2009

[Archived press release.](#)

Local youngsters are set to lead the way in preventing litter dropping and dog fouling in the district.

Following last year's successful Clean Schools Campaign the competition returns for a second year promoting waste reduction and raising awareness about the impacts of rubbish on the local environment.

"Building on last year's efforts by students in the district I look forward to even more excellent work to help look after our schools, making them a clean and pleasant environment to learn in," said Cllr Andrew Nunn, Cabinet Member for the Green Environment.

In addition to the Clean Schools Campaign a competition to design a poster promoting an anti-dog fouling message is also underway to help keep local schools and green spaces mess free.

"Each school in the district is invited to enter, designing an A3 or smaller poster with a clear message in words or pictures encouraging dog owners to act responsibly and clean up after their dogs," added Cllr Nunn.

Applications should be made before Thursday, December 31 and winning designs may be used for a district wide anti-dog fouling campaign as well as receiving a cash prize of up to £350 for their school.

"I look forward to seeing what ideas local students come up with for the anti-dog fouling campaign and hope they will get involved to help keep local playgrounds and green spaces clean for everyone to use safely," added Cllr Nunn.

Every school is automatically entered in to the Clean Schools Campaign, running throughout the year to find the cleanest college or large school and medium or small sized school. A Clean Schools inspector will visit each of the schools twice throughout the school year announcing the winning school in the summer term and awarding them £400 and £200 for the runners up.

"As well as participating in the two litter reduction campaigns Suffolk Coastal is also able to offer equipment for schools to carry out their own litter picks in and around the school grounds and also arrange guest speakers to visit schools to raise awareness about litter, waste and recycling in the community," added Cllr Nunn.

For more information about the two campaigns or to arrange a presentation on waste reduction and recycling schools can contact a member of the recycling and waste management team on 01394 444033. Poster entries should be returned to Mike Porter at Suffolk Coastal Services, Ufford Park Offices, Yarmouth Road, Ufford, IP13 6ET.

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Suffolk Coastal leads the way for Heatseekers scheme

02 Nov 2009

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New, state of the art thermal imaging equipment will soon be making its rounds in Suffolk Coastal to identify poor home insulation and save residents money.

Starting from Monday, November 23 and rolling out across the rest of the county in the following five weeks, the Heatseekers patrol will be surveying all homes in the district overnight gathering a thermal image of each home to see if improved insulation could benefit residents.

“The Heatseekers thermal image will reveal sufficiently insulated areas of the home in green and heat escaping areas in red. If areas of poor insulation are identified one of the Heatseekers surveyors will arrange to visit residents to discuss possible options to improve efficiency,” said Cllr Chris Slemmings, Cabinet Member for Housing.

Heatseekers are able to offer both loft and cavity wall insulation at competitive prices. Installing these should reduce heat loss significantly, meaning that residents could save large amounts on their energy and heating bills.

“If both cavity and loft insulation are installed residents could see potential annual savings of up to approximately £300 a year and a reduction in CO2 emissions of over a tonne,” added Cllr Slemmings

There are over 55,000 homes in the district and it is estimated that as many as 40,000 of these could benefit from the Heatseekers service and with the Heatseekers vehicles capturing up to 1,000 homes an hour, homes that could benefit from improved insulation should be identified promptly.

“The Heatseekers scheme promises to be a great help to residents identifying what steps can be made to make their homes more energy efficient and should be a colourful visual prompt for families wanting to reduce energy costs.

“Suffolk Coastal has been committed to reducing domestic energy costs and improving energy efficiency for over 10 years now and the Heatseekers scheme is a welcome addition that I hope will see many homes in the district improve their green credentials and save money,” added Cllr Slemmings.

Suffolk Coastal already has initiatives in place that can help towards the cost of insulating homes in the district, the Suffolk Energy Action Link (SEAL), Warm Front Grants and the Eastern Carbon Reduction Initiative (EasternCRI). With additional support, making homes in the district more energy efficient should not be restricted because of financial cost.

There is no invasion of privacy as the thermal imaging cameras cannot see past windows or walls, only the heat escaping from the building and do not record any information about the homeowner or tenant.

For more information or to find out when the Heatseekers vehicles will be surveying your area,

residents can contact the Heatseekers team on 0845 390 9390 or visit the website www.homeheatseekers.co.uk or contact a member of the SEAL team on 0800 02 88 938.

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Artistic life brought to skyline

03 Nov 2009

[Archived press release.](#)

The coastal scenery of Thorpeness was recently recreated in an ambitious piece by piece project, as the district's contribution to the national community arts project, the Big Draw.

Groups of people in the local community took part, using a variety of materials and techniques, to create a collage on 70 A2 cards of the coastline including well recognised landmarks, the House in the Clouds, Sizewell power stations and the Thorpeness windmill.

"The event proved to be a great success drawing a wide range of the community to create a very creative look at one of the district's most well-loved skylines," said Cllr Mary Neale, Cabinet Member for Leisure and Countryside.

On the day, volunteers worked hard to assemble the six-by-three-metre image while completing a second display of paintings of peoples' favourite things to do in Leiston and the surrounding area.

"Our Chairman, Cllr Stephen Burroughes, also enjoyed and joined in the activities, showing off his artistic flair, and I am sure that he is proud of the efforts made by everyone throughout the project," added Cllr Mary Neale.

People of all ages got involved in the Big Draw project including Leiston Primary School, Leiston Middle School, 2nd Leiston Rainbows, Knodishall Brownies, Leiston Long Shop, Leiston Weaving group, Felixstowe Guides, Felixstowe's Kingsfleet School, Sizewell Residents Association, Leiston WI Art Club, Woodbridge School and the Moat Barn Nursery, Hasketon.

"The impressive piece of community art is now looking for a location where it can be displayed so that all the community can enjoy it and I hope it finds a suitable home soon," added Cllr Neale.

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Coastal is one big playground for youngsters

03 Nov 2009

[Archived press release.](#)

Local youngsters now have even more opportunities for play thanks to further funding for outdoor play projects from the outdoor play space fund (OPSF).

So far this year over £109,000 has been awarded to 15 different organisations and a further £93,000 has been allocated for another 21 applications.

"We have seen continued improvements to play spaces for young people this year and it is really exciting to see so many great activities for young people in the district," said Cllr Mary Neale, Cabinet Member for Leisure and Countryside.

So far this year, projects have included the long awaited skatepark in Felixstowe, a trim trail, cricket pitch nets, various play equipment and a basketball area. As well as new facilities, existing play areas have also been updated and improved with new safety surfacing.

"I am particularly excited to see the new trim trail in Kettleburgh put in to action as it is a great way for all members of the community, not just children, to have fun, get active and get their recommended 30 minutes activity a day.

"Of course the skatepark has been a particularly high profile project supported by the OPSF and something that young people in Felixstowe have been wanting for a long time. It is great to see young skaters and BMXers using the park and I hope they continue to develop their talent responsibly," added Cllr Neale.

Launched in 2001, the OPSF was organised to ensure that the creation of new play spaces for children keeps up with the development of housing, benefitting the local community. All of the projects are free of charge and freely accessible for children to use at any time throughout the day. Among the places that have had funding this year are Bredfield, Rushmere, Sudbourne, Leiston and Waldringfield.

For more information about the OPSF or to find out about future projects residents should contact Jennie Catling, outdoor play space development officer on 01394 444321 (Tuesday to Thursday) or email jennie.catling@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk or visit www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourcouncil/parishcouncils/playfund



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Support fund continues to kick-start local projects

03 Nov 2009

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Suffolk Coastal's steps to help aid local economic recovery are well under way, benefitting local market towns and organisations across the district.

Since the creation of the Economic Development Support Fund (EDSF), over £26,000 has been awarded to town or parish councils, and business or community organisations, as an additional source of funding for specific projects hoping to give an extra boost during the current economic climate.

"The Kesgrave War Memorial Community Centre has received support towards creating a monthly breakfast club designed to keep local businesses up to date with legislative changes and keep business skills at the cutting edge. This is a promising venture as there are over 200 businesses located in Kesgrave and over 100 more in Martlesham potentially benefitting from the scheme," said Cllr Colin Hart, Cabinet Member for the Economy.

During the first quarter of the scheme, the district saw a number of local projects get the extra boost that they needed. Framlingham Town Council received support towards helping its business community by creating a local services directory and an interactive street map of the town that also incorporates a shopping guide for visitors. This will help to revitalise the town centre economy and strengthen retail businesses during the current economic climate.

"Now entering its third quarter the EDSF is proving to be a key aid to many market towns and population centres and it is very pleasing to see so many benefitting from the scheme.

"The scheme is all about helping the local economy through the current economic downturn and the EDSF will hopefully continue to bring about some really interesting projects that would not have been a reality without it," added Cllr Hart.

There is currently funding available of up to 70% of the total cost of a project with a maximum application bid of £15,000. Greater sums of funding are available to joint projects between towns or businesses across the district.

The EDSF is accepting applications through to 2010 at quarterly intervals. The second quarter ended on September 30 and the next deadline is December 31, 2009. Applicants will be notified of the result of the application within three months.

"The initiative, which is funded by money received from the Government through its Local Authority Business Growth Incentive scheme (LABGI), is designed to help market towns and population centres, something especially important during this time of economic uncertainty.

"The success of the scheme so far will hopefully encourage others to apply for funding from the EDSF and we hope to see continued success well in to 2010," added Cllr Hart.

Town or parish Councils and business or community organisations can still apply for EDSF support by completing the application form found at www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourcouncil/parishcouncils/supportfund. The scheme is specifically aimed at market towns and population centres, welcoming applications from anywhere in the

district except Felixstowe and Woodbridge which are benefitting from separate economic schemes.

For more information about the EDSF or to see if a project qualifies, those interested in applying should contact a member of the Economic Regeneration and Development Team on 01394 444625 or email sonia.lambert@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk



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Residents dive in for chance of free swim

04 Nov 2009

Archived press release.

Older people in the district have proved their commitment to fitness by taking to the water, thanks to a nationally-backed free swim scheme.

The over 60 free swim scheme is being funded by the department for Culture, Media and Sport and is being supported by Suffolk Coastal District Council and DC Leisure.

“Since the scheme began over 23,000 free swims have been issued across the district at pools in Felixstowe, Leiston and Woodbridge.

“It is great to see so many of our older adults making a splash and heading to our pools to enjoy themselves and keep fit,” said Cllr Mary Neale, Cabinet Member for Leisure and Countryside.

Thanks to Suffolk Coastal and DC Leisure offering the free swim scheme even more people are able to make use of the fantastic leisure facilities in the district. Regular early bird swimmers and those enjoying a return to the water are now taking part without spending a penny.

Anyone over the age of 60 is able to apply for their free swim card so they can get back in to the habit of exercising. Those that have not yet registered for their free swim card can do so at any of the district’s pools or by calling 01394 670411 and speaking with a member of the leisure centre staff.

“Swimming is the perfect activity for anyone wanting to get back in to exercise after a break or after recovering from an injury or illness. It is ideal for older members of our community as it works almost every muscle in the body, improves cardiovascular fitness and is a low impact activity, making it gentle on the joints.

“I would encourage any of our older adults in the community thinking about catching the swimming bug to dig out their trunks and costumes and give it a go,” added Cllr Neale.

Unfortunately the Government grant Suffolk Coastal received was insufficient to cover free swimming for under 16’s too however, they are still able to swim at a discounted rate by purchasing a Coastal Card from any of the DC Leisure centres in the district or by downloading an application from www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourfreetime/leisure/coastalcard

“As the scheme has shown there are a great number of older people that are passionate about swimming and I hope this number continues to grow with even more enjoying the benefits of a healthier lifestyle at no financial cost,” added Cllr Neale.

For more information about the free swim offer or how to apply for a Coastal Card residents should contact DC Leisure on 01394 670411.

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Travel Plan to cut Council's carbon footprint

04 Nov 2009

[Archived press release.](#)

A package of proposals have been agreed which could help Suffolk Coastal cut the amount of carbon dioxide produced as a result of its business travel and by its employees getting to work.

Last night's (Tuesday) Cabinet meeting approved a Travel Plan for the Council which aims to improve travel efficiency and reduce the total mileage of its workers.

"The bulk of our transport emissions are as a result of the journeys carried out by our waste management fleet and other vehicles operated by our partners Suffolk Coastal Services Ltd (SCS). Over 1.3 million miles are driven by SCS with emissions of around 945 tonnes of carbon dioxide (CO2) and we will be looking to see what can be done to improve this in the future," said Cllr Andrew Nunn, Cabinet Member for the Green Environment.

"However, we will also try to control the amount of work-related journeys by our staff, which generated 156 tonnes of CO2 last year, while also encouraging people to find greener ways to get to work in the first place.

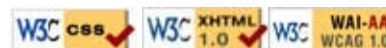
"Because our district is so large and rural, with poor public transport links, we have to be realistic about how much we can achieve, but I am sure there are positive changes that can be made and we will be doing what we can to encourage them," added Cllr Nunn.

Among the proposals are an increased use of telephone conferencing and considering the business case for investing in video conferencing facilities to cut down the need to travel to meetings, making it easier to work from home and encouraging more people to car-share and cycle to work.

"Most major employers are now showing their commitment to the environment by adopting a travel plan, which is ultimately about finding ways for all of us to travel less or in a way that does not have such a significant impact on the quality of life of others.

"Our Travel Plan brings together the work carried out over the last two years with the support of the Energy Saving Trust and will be monitored and reviewed. I expect it to make a difference and I would encourage local communities and businesses to consider their own travel arrangements as every little reduction in CO2 emissions can help make a difference in the fight to combat climate change," added Cllr Nunn.

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First heat stars rock on to final

05 Nov 2009

[Archived press release.](#)

This year's Soundwaves Ultimate Bands Contest is shaping up to be the best yet after the first heat set a high standard with young local bands taking to the stage at Felixstowe's Spa Pavilion.

After the final count of audience votes on the night heat one saw Woodbridge based Clay in first place, Fick as Fievers in second and Silk and Steel in third all gaining places in the final.

"Local musical talent was out in force at the first heat of this year's competition and it will be interesting to see if the following heats can top the excellent performances," said Cllr Mary Neale, Cabinet Member for Leisure and Countryside.

The night was brought to a crescendo by headlining act The Kabeedies as they entertained the crowds with songs from their debut album released last week.

"The second heat takes place on Saturday, November 14 at the Spa with doors opening at 6.45pm and the first band hitting the stage at 7.15pm. Tickets cost £7 on the door but can be bought in advance for £6 available from the Spa by calling 01394 282126.

"Heat two promises to be just as exhilarating with last year's winner, Ed Sheeran from Framlingham, headlining the gig. He is now touring with Just Jack and I hope he will be an inspiration to other young artists wanting to follow in his footsteps," added Cllr Neale.

Still to perform for a place in the final ten are Mainstream Daydream, Crab Meat Moon, The Emotives, Stratosfire, Axis, Robert Castellani, The Cads, A Fate Untold, Walkway, To The Dogs and This Sudden Injury.

There are still spaces for bands to compete in the third heat, headlined by The Loyal Few, taking place on Saturday, November 28. To enter the competition bands and artists must be aged 11-26, have at least three original songs to their name and come from or have at least two members living in the district. The songs do not have to be recorded as long as the genre of music can be described. To apply, fill in the application form at www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourfreetime/arts/soundwaves.

On offer to the 10 finalists are a session in a recording studio, their songs appearing on the Sounds from the East Coast III compilation CD and the title of Soundwaves Ultimate Band champions 2009/10.

Successful acts from each of the heats will take to the stage again in the Ultimate Bands Contest final on Saturday, April 10, 2010 which is also the launch event for Sounds from the East Coast III compilation CD featuring all of the ten finalists.

For more information about the Ultimate bands contest or the Soundwaves project log on to www.myspace.com/suffolksoundwavesmusic email suffolksoundwavesmusic@hotmail.com or call 07973 632576.

Soundwaves Ultimate Band Contest is jointly funded by Suffolk Coastal District Council, Suffolk

County Council, the Youth Opportunity Fund and supported by Access To Music.

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Decision on Wenhaston log cabins delayed a month

06 Nov 2009

[Archived press release.](#)

The decision for planning application C09/1119/FUL, submitted for the development of log cabins in Wenhaston, has been postponed to allow further consideration.

It was due to be discussed by councillors at the North Area Development Sub-Committee taking place on Wednesday, November 11.

“The application will now be discussed at next months North Area Development Sub-Committee on Wednesday, December 9 at the Melton Hill Council Chamber,” said Cllr Ivan Jowers, Cabinet member for Development Control.

“We received revisions to the original application and not everyone has yet had the chance to respond to the latest version so we are giving a bit more time for any additional comments to be received and consideration of the proposals.

“As always, we want to ensure that the members of the sub-committee are aware of all the facts and views about the application before they have to come to a decision. This extra time will enable all sides to get a full and fair hearing at the December meeting,” added Cllr Jowers.

The application is for the development and erection of 12 holiday cabins, a shop and a toilet and shower block suitable to provide for up to 15 visiting caravans. The application also includes the use of a poplar plantation as an associated wildlife habitat and informal recreation area for the occupants of the holiday homes.

Residents can make their views about the planning application known by writing to the Head of Planning services at Suffolk Coastal District Council Offices, Melton Hill, Woodbridge, IP12 1AU, quoting the reference number 109/1119/FUL.

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Local views vital on Sizewell decision

09 Nov 2009

[Archived press release.](#)

Suffolk Coastal is reiterating its calls on the Government to ensure that there is a real local say to ensure local issues are fully taken into account in any future planning process for a new nuclear power station at Sizewell.

"The Government has today (Monday) announced that a planning application for Sizewell will now be fast-tracked but we want it to stick to its other main promise that it will also make the planning process fairer," said Cllr Andrew Nunn, Cabinet Member for the Green Environment and Cllr Andy Smith, Cabinet Member for Planning.

"We strongly believe that local communities should have their say - with the right to reject plans for a Sizewell C if, after detailed consideration of the local issues, that is seen to be the correct decision for this district and its very special countryside in the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

"What we want are guarantees that the views of local people, and this Council as their representative, will have a real influence on the decision. We do not want to lose the right to control the impact that any proposed development could have on the unique environment around Sizewell – this district's local knowledge and requirements must be taken into account.

"We will now be closely examining today's very detailed statement published by the Government to see if it is ready to allow local views on the issues to genuinely influence the process and the decision, both in principle and in detail," added Cllrs Nunn and Smith.

In 2003, the Government said there would be the fullest public consultation before any decision to proceed with building of a new power station. Suffolk Coastal wants this commitment to be adhered to – in a genuine and meaningful way - and has previously demanded that any fast-tracking of planning applications must not deny the chance for the local voice to be heard and acted on.

Among the key local issues that the Council has identified that would need to be addressed in the planning process are the fact that Sizewell is within an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, the Heritage Coast and close to internationally important sites for wildlife. The choice of the design of any proposed station, and the overall effect on the landscape, must fully take this into account.

Possible effects on coastal erosion on the site, a minimising of the disruption caused if a new power station is built, and generous compensation for the local community are also issues raised by the Council.

There is also a call for any new nuclear plant, including the effect of other generating resources at, or routed via, Sizewell, such as the offshore wind farms, to be of such a size that the existing transmission lines at Sizewell, upgraded if necessary, can be used, rather than needing new power lines and pylons to be erected in the surrounding countryside in the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Other issues that need to be considered and decided locally include the design and location of housing and facilities for the workforce, transport on and off site, construction noise, and the possible storage of spent nuclear waste.

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Suffolk Coastal Standards Committee seeks new representative

09 Nov 2009

[Archived press release.](#)

Suffolk Coastal is seeking an independent person to join its Standards Committee that helps to ensure that councillors and officers of the District Council, and the district's Town and Parish Councils, continue to meet the high standards expected of them.

The Standards Committee includes four District Councillors, two representatives of the Town and Parish Councils, and two independent people. The committee is chaired by one of the independent members.

"We are inviting applications from people with local links to bring an independent view to the work of this important committee. We should like to find someone who has a genuine interest in promoting and improving high standards of conduct in public life. Ideally they should have an awareness of the local area and community issues, be familiar with ethical dilemmas, have questioning skills, be assertive, and be independent of any political party and local government," said Hilary Slater, Monitoring Officer for Suffolk Coastal District.

Independent members of the Standards Committee should be aged 18 or over, and able to undertake around six to eight meetings per annum (mostly in the evening).

Anyone who is a member or officer of the Council, or any other relevant public authority, or is a close friend or relative of any councillor or Council officer, will not be considered. The Council will pay a special responsibility allowance for this role as well as travel and subsistence.

Anyone who would like to find out more about becoming a member of the Standards Committee can obtain an information pack and application form by writing to Hilary Slater at Suffolk Coastal District Council, Melton Hill, Woodbridge, IP12 1AU or telephoning 01394 444336. Completed forms are needed back by Friday, November 20 at the latest with interviews taking place on Friday, December 4.

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Spooktacular event finds fund-raising sum for SCBU

10 Nov 2009

[Archived press release.](#)

Staff at Suffolk Coastal have helped raise over £1,200 thanks to a spooky charity event to help raise money for the Ipswich hospital Special Care Baby Unit.

In the name of charity, the Martlesham Creek boatyard played host to the Spooktacular Halloween event entertaining the whole family with music, games, face painting, fiendishly good food, fancy dress and fireworks.

“With the help of staff, family and friends, Suffolk Coastal’s sports and social club raised a fantastic £1,233 for the Special Care Baby Unit whilst enjoying a night of ghoulish fun and games,” said Cllr Doreen Savage, Members representative for the sports and social club.

Special themed games saw guests take part in spot the wart on the witch, guess the number of sweets in the jar and lucky dip with a twist, taking the plunge into a bowl of spaghetti cleverly disguised as worms.

“I would like to extend my special thanks to SCS for providing help towards the night and Jane and Michael Ingham for their contributions and support towards the event and for organising the use of the boatyard.

“The sports and social club committee made an outstanding effort and it was great that so many staff got into the Halloween spirit by taking part in the spooky activities to raise money for a good cause. Since 1994 our staff have helped raise over £30,000 for special causes and they deserve credit for their excellent efforts,” added Cllr Savage.

Live music provided a devilish soundtrack to the evening thanks to local band Electric Dreams entertaining the crowd and as the night drew to a close, any lurking spirits were warded off by an explosive fire work display that thoroughly impressed the Spooktacular guests.



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Preparations start for major plans in Walton

11 Nov 2009

[Archived press release.](#)

The first step in the development control process has been taken for a major planning application in the Walton area near Felixstowe expected to be submitted by agents for landowners Trinity College.

The landowner's agents have advised Suffolk Coastal that plans will be presented to it for the development of Trinity College-owned land north of the High Road in Walton. In view of the likely public interest in any such planning application, the Council is now writing to Felixstowe Town Council, the Trimley Parish Councils and other interested parties to seek their help at this early stage.

"Our understanding is that Trinity College will submit plans for a major retail superstore, along with a residential development, a hotel with a separate pub, a private medical facility, some small business units and a waste/energy centre, along with a new road through the site linking High Road and Candlet Road," said Philip Ridley, Head of Planning at Suffolk Coastal.

"At this stage I would emphasise that no official planning application has been submitted, but one of the documents that the applicants are required to submit as part of a planning application is an environmental assessment of how it would impact on the area. Under planning law, the Council must, via a 'scoping document', in turn advise any such applicant of issues which must be addressed by them in the environmental impact assessment.

"We want the help of the Town and Parish Councils and others to say what the environmental assessment should cover - the 'scope' of what the applicants need to address. With that help, we can make sure that if and when councillors have to decide on the merits of this scheme they will have all the relevant information in front of them," added Mr. Ridley.

An indicative masterplan of the site has already been drawn up by the architects working for Trinity College, and this is being included with the letter. A copy of it along with other relevant information can also [viewed on the Council's website](#) at the Council's offices in Woodbridge.

Copies of the full set of documents submitted by Trinity College have also been distributed to Felixstowe Town Council, Trimley St Mary Parish Council and Trimley St Martin Parish Council.

An environmental impact assessment is an assessment of the possible impact –negative or positive – that a proposed development may have, including natural, social and economic aspects. The purpose of the assessment is to ensure that decision-makers give due weight, based on solid evidence, to the ensuing environmental impacts when planning applications are being considered.

Among the range of issues that an environmental statement can cover is the impact of additional vehicular activity, what safeguards are in place to protect or enhance air quality or to control noise and vibration, what the visual impact would be on the local landscape, and the consequences for ecology and nature in the area.

"Questions about the merits or otherwise of any of the proposals are not part of this initial

process, but I can of course guarantee that once we have officially received plans for the development of this site we will start the consultation process that will enable everyone to give their considered views on any proposals. We are not at that stage yet but this is an early chance just to highlight any particular environmental issues which the Town and Parish Councils or others think should be addressed," added Mr. Ridley.

Any suggestions for matters to be included in the scoping document should be submitted to the Council for receipt by Wednesday, December 2. Anyone who would like more information about the scoping of the environmental statement or about the indicative masterplan can contact Liz Beighton on 01394 444576 or Michaelle Coupe on 01394 444440 of the Council's planning team.



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Hand car washes made squeaky clean

12 Nov 2009

[Archived press release.](#)

A joint project between local Councils and the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) has focussed on hand car washes in the district to ensure they comply with health and safety legislation.

Environmental health officers from Suffolk Coastal and HSE staff have been out visiting car washes in the district this month to ensure suitable safe working conditions are in place and increasing awareness about potential health and safety hazards involved in this sector of work.

“The increase in hand car washes in recent years identified concern at a national level for employees’ health, safety and welfare,” said Cllr Sherrie Green, Cabinet Member for Community Safety.

Officers have been carrying out inspections and offering advice on managing risks arising from electricity and slips, trips and falls. They have also given advice on managing work related dermatitis that can arise from prolonged contact with water and cleaning materials. Checks were also made on compliance with the Employers’ Liability (Compulsory Insurance) Act 1969.

“Officers have also been on hand to offer advice to employers and employees about working conditions. Migrant workers have been given information about their legal right to a safe place of work.

“Accidents and ill-health in the workplace are a burden on businesses. The safety inspections being carried out are not designed to prevent businesses from running but to ensure that they are taking steps to protect their workers and comply equally with necessary health and safety legislation,” added Cllr Green.

Hand car washes in Felixstowe, Kesgrave and Warren Heath have already been visited and environmental health officers along with HSE officers will continue to carry out inspections across the region over the next few weeks.

“So far the standards in Suffolk Coastal have been found to be generally satisfactory, however, in one case action was taken to stop the use of a dangerous electrical extension cable,” added Cllr Green.

Findings from the visits in Suffolk Coastal will be collated along with those from the rest of Suffolk, Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Hertfordshire and Norfolk to provide safety information and advice on an industry wide level.

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Inspired to help communities make the transition away from oil

12 Nov 2009

[Archived press release.](#)

Local communities are one step closer to living a sustainable life thanks to training sessions giving advice on how to reduce dependency on dwindling fossil fuels.

A two day training session was recently run to help communities take local action to help tackle climate change and the issue of peak oil, the problem of when the production of oil worldwide reaches its maximum and starts to decline.

"We all know the increasing problem of climate change and the training sessions have provided a chance for local residents to be proactive and start planning what they can do to reduce their dependency on oil," said Cllr Andrew Nunn, Cabinet Member for the Green Environment.

"The weekend course was incredibly inspiring for the 22 local people who attended and helped to increase their awareness of, and the need to gather support for facing the challenge of climate change and peak oil. The event provided resources and networking tools for individuals to share with their communities and continue to make a real difference. This is a great boost for those wanting to take a lead in preparing their community for a greener life less reliant on fossil fuels.

"Encouraging other members of the community to get involved is a positive step to ensure the difference made is as great as possible and over a much wider area. It is brilliant to see so many residents passionate about reducing the impacts of climate change and peak oil and doing their bit to ensure the community we live in is preserved," added Cllr Nunn.

The Suffolk Coastal Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) and the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Sustainable Development Fund have proved their active commitment to the green future of Suffolk Coastal by supporting and funding the two day course run by Transition Ipswich.

Transition Ipswich are planning to run a second training session for a further 25 people in the New Year. Places can be booked by calling John Taylor on 01473 432096 or by emailing john.taylor@ipswich.gov.uk

"The issues of climate change and peak oil undoubtedly have an effect on the way we live and the way we will live in the future. In order for more people to learn about the issues facing us and what can be done to help, residents are invited to come along to two information events.

"The first is tomorrow, Friday, November 13 at 7.30pm at Woodbridge Salvation Army Hall and the second is on Saturday, November 28 between 11am and 4pm at Sir Robert Hitcham's Primary School, Framlingham," added Cllr Nunn.

If there is interest from local residents there will also be public meetings in Leiston and Felixstowe. Residents in Leiston can contact Andrew Nunn on 01728 830462 or email andrew.nunn@btinternet.com and those living in Felixstowe can contact Debbie Wargate on 01394 444747 or email demiwar1@yahoo.co.uk to express their interest.

Further information about the transition training scheme can be found by visiting

www.transitiontowns.org to see examples of towns already addressing the challenge.

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Partnership Board to help councils be more efficient

12 Nov 2009

[Archived press release.](#)

A Joint Cabinet Task Group is set to be created to help Suffolk Coastal and Waveney work closer together and make their services more efficient.

Suffolk Coastal's Cabinet last week gave the go-ahead to the proposals for the Partnership Board which will now be considered by Waveney's Cabinet on November 19.

"This is the next big step forward after our agreement to make Waveney our preferred partner when it comes to seeing what services we can share together to make ourselves even more efficient in future," said Cllr Ray Herring, Leader of Suffolk Coastal.

"We need to have in place a way to assess where more joint working would be appropriate and how it can be put in place in a way that maximises potential savings while safeguarding the quality of the services to our customers.

Cllr Mark Bee, Leader of Waveney District Council, said: "This new board, if approved by Waveney's Cabinet, would be made up of councillors from both authorities and backed up with a special team of officers. It would lead the drive to closer working between ourselves and Suffolk Coastal, a partnership which is justifiably already earning national attention."

Suffolk Coastal and Waveney have a proud and successful record of working in partnership to provide better services and even better value for their residents.

Both Councils are committed to making further savings, maximising their joint resources and improving the effectiveness of their services to their communities.

"We already share a Chief Executive and a head of planning services, while an example of joint working has been our audit partnership which takes in both councils as well as Ipswich, with all three councils sharing the same audit manager.

"Both councils can also point to our successes in controlling our budgets, achieved at the same time as having proven successes in improving the quality of the services we provide for our communities, but we will not shirk from making more radical changes to provide the value and quality that our communities expect and deserve," added Cllr Herring.

Joint working and partnership development between the two councils was previously identified as a logical step forwards because of their shared boundary, challenges and background.

Both councils have responsibility for Suffolk's coastline and its management, and have major seaside resorts, market towns and rural communities. They also share infrastructure such as rail and road links but also face accessibility challenges, while the power corridor runs along through both districts, which also have in common arts and creative industries as well having maritime, logistics, tourism and technical/scientific sectors that are key to their economies.

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Arts directory paints a picture of choice in the district

17 Nov 2009

[Archived press release.](#)

The second edition of the Suffolk Coastal Arts Directory has just been published and promises to be another valuable boost to the local arts community.

The directory encompasses the arts scene in Suffolk Coastal, listing groups and activities that take place in the district. It illustrates the type of group, the location, and who to contact if you want to get involved or make use of a service, along with advice about venues and locations available for hosting events.

“The Arts Directory has become an extremely useful tool for those in our wide-ranging arts community, and this new and improved issue should be a further boost helping members of our community to get involved in something creative,” said Cllr Mary Neale, Cabinet Member for Countryside and Leisure.

The directory is divided into categories depending on the type of activity and also different types of venues. Activities included are crafts, dance, drama and musical theatre, education, film, music, professional artists, professional makers and services, spoken and written word and visual arts. Venue categories include art studios, concert halls, cinemas, practice spaces, galleries, museums, heritage spaces and theatres.

“Those wanting to get involved in something new and different will find the directory particularly beneficial, as it lists a variety of groups that many are unaware of, or have never considered before. The choices are endless with options ranging from finding someone to repair a violin to learning to square dance, finding a practice studio or mastering the art of bell ringing, all within the local area.

“The second edition of the Arts Directory is filled with even more activities, venues and choices than before. There really is no excuse for having nothing to do, as the directory promises to have something for everyone to get their creative juices flowing.

“The directory has proved to be a fantastic networking tool and is full of resources available to anyone in the arts community but I am sure there are more out there that we do not know about. I would encourage any arts organisation or venue to take advantage of this wonderful service by emailing arts@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk, or by writing to Arts Development, Suffolk Coastal District Council, Melton Hill, Woodbridge IP12 1AU. The next edition is planned for Spring/Summer 2011 and listings, as always, will be free of charge,” added Cllr Neale.

The directory can be downloaded from www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourfreetime/arts/directory or you can pick up a copy from local tourist information centres or libraries across the district.

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Council disappointed by Court decision

19 Nov 2009

[Archived press release.](#)

Surprised and disappointed was the reaction of Suffolk Coastal to the decision last Friday (November 13) by Ipswich Crown Court that resulted in charges against three defendants for causing and executing unlawful works to Darsham House not being allowed to proceed.

Judge David Goodin decided that it would not be fair for various charges to proceed against Colin Barrow, his former wife Angelica Barrow, and their project manager Libby Wilson-Smith. The Judge's decision was based on his perception of the Council's policies regarding prosecution against those responsible for unauthorised works.

"It is undeniable that significant unauthorised works were carried out to this highly significant Grade II* listed building and I am surprised and disappointed that the Judge did not allow us to proceed with our prosecution," said Cllr Ray Herring, Leader of Suffolk Coastal.

Suffolk Coastal had issued nine enforcement notices requiring works to be carried out to put right as far as possible the harm to the building and these notices were not affected by the Court's decision.

"We are still considering with our legal advisors whether the Council should appeal to the High Court over Judge Goodin's decision. We only proceeded with this case after lengthy investigations and advice from specialist Counsel, which led councillors to conclude there was sufficient evidence to prosecute the three people believed to be responsible, and that it was in the public interest to do so.

"In the strongest possible terms, I can refute any accusation that this Council took the case to court because it involved a high-profile individual. The same action would have been taken whoever the owner was at the time of these unauthorised and thoroughly inappropriate works," added Cllr Herring.

Darsham House in Darsham is a Grade II* listed building which means that it is in the top seven per cent of listed buildings in England. It dates from the late 17th century and sits in very attractive parkland.

Damage that affected the listed building's special architectural and historic interest included the wholesale removal of original floorboards and their replacement with modern chipboard; the wholesale removal of original plasterwork and its replacement with plasterboard and modern plaster; drilling through Georgian panelling and cornices to put in multiple sockets and switches; inserting modern ceiling lights throughout the building; the removal of decorative wall mouldings; and the removal of original windows.

"This catalogue of damage has led to the irretrievable loss of historic fabric to a building of great historical importance, and that is why we brought this prosecution, which is supported and guided by Government advice (in PPG15)," said Cllr Ivan Jowers, Chairman of Development Control Committee which made the decision to proceed with the prosecution.

"The Council will be writing to the Government asking for an urgent review of the laws regarding

such prosecutions. We believe this is possibly the most significant case ever referred to the Courts regarding unauthorised internal alterations to a listed building but the legal system has let us down badly on this occasion,” added Cllr Jowers.

The Council is again reminding all owners of listed buildings that prior to any works being carried out they should contact the planning team at Suffolk Coastal on 01394 444636 or visit www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourdistrict/devcontrol/enforcement/ where there is lots of helpful information online.



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It's just a hop, step and jump to athletics fun

19 Nov 2009

Archived press release.

Local youngsters can now start their journey to becoming the Olympic stars of tomorrow by trying their hand at track and field events at one of two upcoming athletics taster sessions.

The sessions will be taking place on Monday, November 23 and Monday, December 7 between 4.30 and 6.30pm at Farlingaye High School in Woodbridge. There is no need to book, anyone aged 8 and over is able to come along and take part at a cost of £2 per person.

"This is a great opportunity for young people to try different activities and hone their sporting talent. Hopefully it will inspire them to test themselves and enjoy an active lifestyle," said Cllr Mary Neale, Cabinet Member for Countryside and Leisure.

There will be a great range of facilities on offer to the young people taking part and they will be able to benefit from trying sports they might not know a great deal about or have not had the opportunity to try yet. With the London 2012 Olympics fast approaching it is the perfect time to see the district's young people getting involved and finding out their sporting strengths.

"The taster sessions are also good news for those already involved in athletics as it will provide another opportunity for them to get in some valuable training hours and meet others also interested in track and field sports.

"The wide range of opportunities for young people in the district is very encouraging and I hope any of our youngsters who dream of becoming one of the sporting stars of the future or want to let off some steam will come along to one of the taster sessions to see if this could be for them," added Cllr Neale.

The club is always keen to attract support from parents and welcomes anyone interested in getting involved with the running of the club. Whether it be sparing an hour or two to help with the coaching, supporting the young athletes or organising a lift share, any help would be greatly appreciated.

For more information about the club or how to get involved with the running of it residents can contact Daniel King, the arts and sports development officer on 01394 444318 or emailing daniel.king@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk

The athletics club and taster sessions are being supported by Suffolk Coastal District Council, Suffolk Sport, Active Communities and the Suffolk School Sports partnership.



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Food hygiene course on offer to keep standards high

20 Nov 2009

[Archived press release.](#)

Local businesses can now improve their food hygiene credentials thanks to a one day training course that offers the chance to gain a level 2 award in cleaning in food premises.

Suffolk Coastal already provides a level 2 award course on food safety in catering but this new special course provides additional and detailed knowledge on the important but sometimes poorly understood process of effective cleaning.

Surfaces and equipment that are used in the production, preparation or cooking of food can often look clean but may still be contaminated with harmful germs. Germs such as E coli and norovirus are particularly resilient, surviving for several hours or even days on surfaces such as knives and tables.

The correct cleaning of food surfaces ensures a safe food preparation environment and will prevent cross-contamination of food or surfaces with harmful bacteria and other germs.

“The course would be beneficial to anyone who works with the preparation and production of food or the cleaning of preparation areas and equipment, in areas such as restaurants, schools, butchers or food producers, giving them a comprehensive safety awareness of good hygiene practice to help ensure that they serve safe food to their customers,” said Cllr Sherrie Green, Cabinet Member for Community Health.

The course will be taking place on Wednesday, February 24, 2010, from 9am to 5pm at the Suffolk Coastal offices, Melton Hill, Woodbridge, IP12 1AU. It will cover topics such as the importance of cleaning, the need for proper preparation before cleaning, cleaning methods and processes, and the impact of poor hygiene and cleaning.

“The council already does all it can to encourage businesses to ensure that they have an excellent standard of food hygiene across the district. This type of additional food safety training is a great opportunity for employers and employees to improve their skills which they can take back and implement in the workplace.

“Recent cases of food borne illness such as the high profile incident at Heston Blumenthal’s restaurant The Fat Duck in Berkshire earlier this year and the 2009 Pennington Report into the large outbreak of E coli O157 in Wales highlight the importance of food hygiene, making this type of training incredibly important and valuable to those who work in the food industry. I would encourage anyone who works with food in the district to find out more about the course,” added Cllr Green.

The course fee is £57 per person and it is recommended that delegates already hold the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health (CIEH) level 1 award for food safety awareness in catering or retail, or equivalent.

Places can be booked by calling Emma Needs, on 01394 444357 or by emailing

foodsafetyteam@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk.

Suffolk Coastal is registered with the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health as an approved training centre to provide qualifications in food safety and safety in the work place.

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Networking lunch serves up advice for Saxmundham

20 Nov 2009

[Archived press release.](#)

The Suffolk Coastal Resource Network (SCRN) is continuing to take its services on tour with a special lunchtime networking event next week in Saxmundham.

The lunchtime information event is taking place on Tuesday, November 24 between 12pm and 2pm at Saxmundham Village Hall, High Street, Saxmundham, IP17 1AF to provide information and advice to any voluntary, community or faith group in Saxmundham and the surrounding area.

“Organising a voluntary or community group can often be challenging and the networking lunches provide an excellent opportunity to meet other people in similar situations and find out what groups or services are out there to help make your local group a success,” said Cllr Ray Herring, Chairman for the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) Board.

The event will cover a range of topics ranging from accessing funding to seeing what other community groups are doing and getting local organisations needs heard. Groups will also be able to find out about booking a session at a one-to-one funding surgery designed to target specific individual group needs.

There will be speakers at the event advising how their services can help and offer support to new or existing voluntary organisations. Guest speakers include, Suffolk Befriending Service, Suffolk Coastal District Council, Suffolk Infolink, Saxmundham and District Community Interest Company, Suffolk Local Involvement Network and Suffolk Foundation.

As well as the guest speakers there will also be information displays from Suffolk Coastal District Council, Learning through Leisure, Framlingham Volunteer Centre and Local Involvement Network and the Suffolk Coastal Resource Network.

“The networking lunches have proven to be very useful in putting people in touch with additional help for their voluntary and community groups. I would encourage any groups, newly formed or well established, to come along to the networking lunch to see if they are missing out on any support.

“In the past over 650 local groups have been helped and over £100,000 of funding has been accessed. We know there must still be groups out there that could benefit from the SCRN and I hope they take this opportunity to come along to find out more,” added Cllr Herring.

Places at the lunchtime event can be booked free of charge by contacting Sue Clements at the SCRN on 01473 275195 or by emailing sue.clements@savo.co.uk

Residents who are interested in starting their own voluntary, community or faith group can also find useful information at www.scrn.co.uk



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Relatives need to renew exclusive rights of burial deeds

20 Nov 2009

[Archived press release.](#)

Suffolk Coastal is trying to contact family members of anyone buried in its Aldeburgh, Leiston, Saxmundham or Woodbridge cemeteries between 1974 - 1984 where the plots have been purchased under an exclusive right of burial.

Exclusive right of burials last for 25 years and Council staff are trying to contact family members for those plots where the right has either expired or is about to expire.

“Many of the burials that take place in our cemeteries are in plots bought under a 25-year exclusive right of burial but of course after such a time span it is probably going to prove difficult to contact those who originally bought the right as they may have changed address,” said Cllr Robert Whiting, Cabinet Member responsible for cemeteries.

“We are writing to all the contacts that we have when the original burials took place, and are also putting notices up in our cemeteries asking family or friends to contact us.

“I hope that by making this public call to anyone who might have information about relevant next of kin that we will be able to get as many people as possible so we can try to sort out this sensitive situation,” added Cllr Whiting.

Buying a 25-year fixed term right of burial guarantees exclusive use of the plot and allows up to two other people to be interred in the same grave.

If the right is not renewed, then the plot returns to the Council's ownership, which could mean that at some time in the future the headstone would be removed and the plot could be reused as someone else's grave.

The deed for an exclusive right of burial is an important document, and it is recommended that it is kept in a safe place and that family members are made aware of who has it and is responsible for it.

It is possible to renew the right and the Council's staff will explain all the potential options. Anyone who is affected by the expiry of an exclusive right of burial can call on 01394 444329 or 444706 and speak to a member of staff who will be able to assist.



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Beware of Council Tax bogus callers

23 Nov 2009

Archived press release.

Residents are being warned to be cautious of bogus telephone callers contacting residents and businesses in the district claiming that they are entitled to a Council Tax or national non-domestic rate (business rate) rebate.

There has been a spate of calls nationally and two reported in the last week in Suffolk Coastal of bogus callers claiming to be calling from the district council, informing the resident or business that they have been overcharged on their Council Tax bill or business rate bill and asking for bank account or card details to credit the account.

“The sum can often be up to thousands of pounds and we are aware of cases where callers have used official sounding titles and names coercing people into giving both bank account and card details and security codes,” said Cllr Robert Whiting, Cabinet Member for Resources.

“I would emphasise to residents that Suffolk Coastal will only ever ask for bank account or card details over the phone if the resident has contacted us to arrange a payment. We also always send confirmation of a refund or any action in writing.

“Telephone calls of this nature are criminal activities and I would urge residents to report any instances to the police and the local trading standards office on 08454 040406. If they have already given any information over the phone they should contact their bank immediately, added Cllr Whiting.

Residents with any queries about their Council Tax can contact a member of our council tax team on 01394 444855. Businesses with any concerns about their national non-domestic rate can contact a member of the business rates team on 01394 444544.

“We have only had a small number of incidents being reported in our district but this is a serious issue and we are eager to prevent any more residents from receiving these calls or becoming victims of identity theft,” added Cllr Whiting.



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Lottery fund helps young people play

24 Nov 2009

[Archived press release.](#)

The district's newest play area, the final local project to be funded by the BIG Lottery Fund is now complete and ready for action.

The new Langer Park play area in, Felixstowe is set to open on Wednesday, November 25 at 12pm celebrating the latest opportunity for play in the district.

"Suffolk Coastal has always had a very strong vision for creating diverse and interesting opportunities for play and this latest project is a brilliant addition for young people in the district," said Cllr Doreen Savage, Cabinet Member for Young People.

The new state of the art equipment has been funded by £75,000 of BIG Lottery money, the last of three projects supported by £209,312 of funding allocated to the district in 2007.

"The other two projects supported by the BIG lottery fund were the Go With The Flow youth bus, a mobile youth centre able to travel to rural locations across the district, and the cycle track and play area in Rendlesham Forest. They are already proving to be very popular and I hope that the new play area in Langer Park will also see young people of all ages benefitting from it," added Cllr Savage.

Suffolk Coastal's Play Strategy is dedicated to creating exciting recreational facilities and opportunities for young people across the district. Drawn up by the council along with local community groups and young people its emphasis is to enrich young peoples lives and provide places for them to play, challenge themselves and develop new skills.

"The new area will provide a further play area where young people can come to enjoy themselves and burn off some energy. The Langer Park play area follows the newly-opened skatepark at Orwell Green and promises to be a great addition for the young people of Felixstowe. I look forward to a large number of people enjoying the area and hope they get a lot of use out of it having fun with family and friends," added Cllr Savage.

For more information about the Outdoor Play Space Fund, organised to ensure recreation spaces are developed to benefit the local community, residents can contact Jennie Catling, Tuesday to Thursday on 01394 444321 or email jennie.catling@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk



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Residents encouraged to downsize waste

24 Nov 2009



Archived press release.

In celebration of the first European Week for Waste Reduction (EWWR) the Suffolk Waste Partnership is promoting the Love Food Hate Waste campaign and will be visiting Suffolk Coastal to help residents cut down on waste.

The Suffolk Waste Partnership will be visiting Great Eastern Square in Felixstowe on Wednesday, November 25, between 9am and 2pm.

Officers from the waste management team will be on hand to give advice about waste reduction, recycling and re-use and shoppers will be able to pick up a free cotton shopping bag, a useful kitchen gadget for helping them to avoid food waste, and take part in the Love Food Hate Waste quiz.

“Many people do not realise how much food they waste. Each month an average family in the district throws away £50 worth of good food. Waste reduction not only makes sense to help the environment but it also makes good money sense too helping residents save money on food costs,” said Cllr Roy Barker, spokesperson for the Suffolk Waste Partnership.

The Love Food Hate Waste campaign will also be visiting Martlesham Park and Ride on Saturday, November 28 and Saturday, December 8 from 9am to 12pm hoping to encourage residents to think about the amount of waste they are throwing away and possible solutions to cut down. There will also be members from the team at Sir Robert Hitcham’s Primary School in Framlingham between 11am and 4pm on Saturday, November 28 as part of the Greener Fram event.

“There is often an increase in the amount of food bought over Christmas and the amount of uneaten food that ends up being thrown away. The Love Food Hate Waste campaign will hopefully encourage residents to think about how much they will really use this Christmas and reduce the amount of unnecessary waste that goes to landfill.

“The environmental impact of wasted food is significant as methane, released when food is rotting in landfill conditions, is a big contributor to green house gases responsible for global warming. Any efforts made to help reduce this should be welcomed and I would encourage all of our residents to consider how much of their waste could be prevented” added Cllr Barker.

For more information about the European Week for Waste Reduction, the Suffolk Waste Partnership or the Love Food Hate Waste campaign residents can visit www.suffolkrecycling.org.uk for helpful ideas of how to get involved and do their part to help reduce waste.



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Deben swimming pool closed for improvement

26 Nov 2009

[Archived press release.](#)

Major improvements to Deben Swimming Pool in Woodbridge, means that the pool will be closed to swimmers for four weeks from next Monday.

Suffolk Coastal are funding the instillation of a new boiler system at a cost of £75,000. DC Leisure will be using the pool closure to undertake other minor building refurbishments during the closure from Monday, November 30 until its expected re-opening date of Sunday, December 27.

“The gym will remain open as usual during the pool closure but there will be no hot water for the sauna, showers or heating during this time,” said Cllr Mary Neale Cabinet Member for Countryside and Leisure.

Felixstowe and Leiston Leisure centres will be open as normal during the maintenance period and Kinetika members may use the pools and facilities at either of the centres at no additional charge. Coastal Card holders will also be able to use the other facilities at a discounted rate.

“I hope the closure of the pool does not hinder too many people from enjoying a swim and I would encourage people to try one of our other centres if they have not done so before. It is a shame to have the pool out of action for four weeks but swimmers can look forward to enjoying the improvements for years to come.

“This investment by Suffolk Coastal and its partners DC Leisure, who manage Deben and our other sports centres, shows our commitment to ensuring the quality of our facilities,” added Cllr Neale.

Pool and centre programmes for both Felixstowe and Leiston Leisure centres can be downloaded from www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourfreetime/leisure or picked up from the reception desk at any of the centres.

For more information about the pool closure residents can contact Deben Swimming Pool on 01394 384763. For information about alternative leisure facilities residents can call Felixstowe Leisure Centre on 01394 670411 or Leiston Leisure Centre on 01728 830364.

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Partnership investing in future of Suffolk Coastal

30 Nov 2009

[Archived press release.](#)

An ambitious investment programme targeted at improving all aspects of life across the whole of the district which has been agreed by the Suffolk Coastal Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) was outlined recently at its annual forum.

Nearly £200,000 has been set aside for 14 different projects that will involve a range of organisations working together to tackle some of the key issues facing the district, such as climate change, the social and economic problems facing rural areas, health, and coastal communities.

“This is the most wide-ranging and ambitious package of projects ever backed by the LSP and we are optimistic that it will make a real difference to the lives of many of our communities and residents of all ages, which is of particular importance in these tough economic times,” said Cllr Ray Herring, Chairman of the Suffolk Coastal LSP Board, who opened the forum at Snape Maltings held on November 18.

“Our backing for the projects will help attract more funding and support from other organisations working in our district, meaning that there will be nearly £500,000 set aside for these important initiatives.

“Our latest Sustainable Community Strategy sets out the challenges facing this district over the coming years, and these projects are a coordinated response to some of those key issues. We will be monitoring them closely to check that they are achieving the tough targets we have set them,” added Cllr Herring.

The projects include a part-time community climate action advisor working with individuals, local communities and businesses to address both the causes and consequences of climate change. For example, with those living in Aldeburgh, Felixstowe Ferry, Shingle Street and South Felixstowe, to provide advice on how to reduce and deal with flooding.

Planning for and controlling the effects of climate change will also be the aim of the Future Landscapes project which will work with farmers and local communities.

The importance of the voluntary and community sector to the district is recognised with an initiative to recruit 200 new volunteers, focussing particularly on young and older people, and renewed funding for the voluntary and community sector coordinator who has helped 200 groups in the last two years and helped attract £230,000 of new funding.

The Heritage Market Towns Initiative will get further support to helping the businesses in areas around Aldeburgh, Leiston and Saxmundham to build up their skills and opportunities to help improve their local areas.

Two healthy success stories will be expanded, with 20 new trainers across the district offering older people, particularly in rural areas, chair-based exercise classes, and more ‘Stepping Out in Suffolk’ health walks in those areas where people are most in need of exercise to help them get fitter.

A pilot scheme is also being launched to help older people whose health is at risk because they live in cold homes and who are unable to install free loft insulation because they cannot clear their lofts to make way for the insulation.

The Go With The Flow bus will visit more rural areas offering activities for young people at night, while during the day it will give adults information and advice. There will also be activities for young people developed in Saxmundham, Leiston, Friston and the surrounding villages, while also encouraging more volunteering.

“The LSP is already helping to make a real difference across our district and these projects which involve nearly 30 local or national organisations show the commitment is there to work together to improve the quality of life in our district,” added Cllr Herring.

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



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Tree O'Clock helps look after green spaces

30 Nov 2009

[Archived press release.](#)

Residents in Suffolk Coastal are using their green-fingered skills to take part in a Guinness World Record attempt during the special Tree O'Clock event designed to help the environment and increase the number of trees in the UK.

The national event is aiming to plant the greatest number of trees during one hour at locations all over the country in order to help raise awareness about the importance of trees and their impact on the environment.

"The Tree O'Clock event is a great way for people to get actively involved with helping to create more green areas. Suffolk Coastal's planting group of local residents are planning to plant 20 trees at The Fitches in Knodishall during the record attempt on Saturday, December 5 between 11am and 12pm," said Cllr Mary Neale, Cabinet Member for Countryside and Leisure.

"Taking place as part of the 35th National Tree Week this is a great opportunity for people to take an interest in the preservation of the trees and green spaces in our district.

"In the recently published Read Report it has been stated that if the current amount of land covered by trees increased by 4 per cent it would decrease the UK's carbon emissions by 10 per cent. This is a significant amount and I would encourage local residents to consider what they could do to help maintain and improve the trees in our district.

"Whether it is in a small back garden or a larger designated woodland area planting a tree will make a difference. The fruit or seeds from many of the trees that can be grown in Britain are often needlessly imported, so growing your own could help save money on food costs too," added Cllr Neale.

National Tree Week is also celebrated by Suffolk Coastal's Parish Tree Scheme, a scheme that for over 30 years has been giving local communities the chance to improve the quality of green spaces in their parishes and villages.

The Parish Tree Scheme has a long tradition of investing in local communities and helping them to improve their rural environment by planting trees or hedgerows adding to the parish landscape or restoring parish land. It also offers support by donating trees and advice on what type of tree or hedgerow will suit the local conditions.

"This year the scheme has helped 13 different projects in the district receiving over 180 trees and 3,270 hedging plants going to groups such as Woodbridge Rugby Club, Saxmundham Primary School and Westleton Recreation Ground and I am sure the scheme will continue to help parishes and villages for many years to come," added Cllr Neale.

For more information about the Tree O'Clock event or any of the help available from the Parish Tree Scheme residents can contact a member of the Countryside and Open Space team on 01394 444619 or email peter.ross@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk The website www.bbc.co.uk/breathingplaces/treeoclock also has useful information about the record attempt and the aims of the Tree O'Clock event.





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Melton Hill open to all this Christmas

01 Dec 2009

Archived press release.

Residents and visitors looking for a local Christmas shopping experience this year can take again advantage of free parking at Suffolk Coastal's Melton Hill car park.

The car park at Suffolk Coastal District Council's offices in Melton Hill, Woodbridge will be open on Saturdays in December allowing people to enjoy local shopping in one of the district's oldest market towns.

"The car park will be open to the public free of charge on Saturday, December 5, 12, and 19 from 7.30am to 6.30pm providing an additional 200 parking spaces. It will also be open on Sunday, December 6 so people can enjoy the Woodbridge Christmas Street Fair," said Cllr Andy Smith, Cabinet Member responsible for car parks.

"The additional car parking Melton Hill can offer is a welcome bonus for visitors to the market town and I hope it also encourages people who have not visited the town before to come along and see what Woodbridge can offer this Christmas.

"We are able to do this thanks to the support of the Woodbridge Town Centre Management Ltd, who will be responsible for opening and closing the car park and are doing a great job promoting the town's shops and businesses," added Cllr Smith.

There are many unique shops in Woodbridge selling a variety of quality food and drink and gifts that people may not find in bigger shopping towns, so this could be the perfect place to find something special.

"Suffolk Coastal and the Woodbridge Town Centre Management Ltd have been able to work together for a few years now and it is great to see the increase in people bustling through the Thoroughfare enjoying the festive activities," said Marion Wells, Woodbridge Town Centre Co-ordinator.

For more information about the car park and a map of its location or details of other car parks in Woodbridge visit www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourdistrict/carparks



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Council Leaders say residents' voices will be heard despite lost appeal

02 Dec 2009

[Archived press release.](#)

Suffolk's residents who want to see three unitary councils in the county will not have their case heard by the organisation parachuted in to carve up local government following today's Appeal Court judgment which has set aside an earlier ruling.

Council leaders, frustrated at the lack of local democracy, will now look at taking the case for East Suffolk, West Suffolk and Ipswich unitaries directly to ministers, bypassing the Boundary Committee for England (BCE). They will also consider appealing to the Supreme Court for a final decision.

Forest Heath, St Edmundsbury and Suffolk Coastal (with support from Waveney) won a High Court ruling in July. This ruled that the views of the councils' residents, representing over half the population of Suffolk, should have been taken into account by the Boundary Committee when it prepared its recommendations for new local government structures in Suffolk.

That ruling has been set aside by the Appeal Court judgment today and the councils involved have expressed their disappointment and frustration that local democracy has taken a step backwards. In a joint statement the leaders of the councils represented at court, Cllr Geoffrey Jaggard (Forest Heath), Cllr John Griffiths (St Edmundsbury) and Cllr Ray Herring (Suffolk Coastal), said:

"We find it deeply frustrating, and extremely disappointing, that there will now be no opportunity to make the Boundary Committee take the views of local people into account. Its advice to Ministers on the future shape of local government in the county will ignore the polling evidence which shows strong support for a proper consultation on three unitaries. The Boundary Committee says it has spoken to 20,000 individuals and organisations in Suffolk, Norfolk and Devon which is a ridiculously tiny proportion of all those interested in the quality and accountability of their local services.

"The Boundary Committee is accountable to no-one. We, however, are accountable to our residents, and will continue working to ensure their voices are heard. We will now take some time to look at our next steps, whether that's appealing to the Supreme Court or taking our case directly to officials and Ministers in Whitehall."

Joint press release issued by Forest Heath, Suffolk Coastal, St Edmundsbury and Waveney councils



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Make clean break from winter vomiting disease

02 Dec 2009

[Archived press release.](#)

Following a typical increase for this time of year in reports of winter vomiting disease caused by Norovirus Suffolk Coastal's food and safety team are advising food businesses in the district to take extra precautions and maintain high levels of food hygiene to help prevent its spread.

Winter vomiting disease is a highly infectious form of gastroenteritis, for which there is no cure other than to let the illness run its course.

"Businesses may not be able to control whether or not Norovirus is brought onto the premises but it is their responsibility to protect the health of staff and customers by following simple food safety practices," said Cllr Sherrie Green, Cabinet Member for Community Health.

"Suffolk Coastal's food and safety team are sending letters and information leaflets to businesses in the district reminding them of the dangers of winter vomiting disease and providing practical advice on what they can do to avoid an outbreak," added Cllr Green.

The symptoms of winter vomiting disease are hard to tell apart from those of bacterial food poisoning. They last for 12-60 hours, starting with sudden nausea, followed by violent vomiting, diarrhoea, and occasionally stomach cramps, headaches or a mild fever. People are only immune to the virus for around 14 weeks after contracting it, which means they could easily catch it again.

"It is paramount food businesses ensure that any member of staff who has an upset stomach is not allowed to work in the food handling area until at least 48 hours after they are feeling well. This includes those who do not directly deal with food, such as waiters, kitchen porters or cleaners.

"Good personal hygiene after visiting the toilet is essential to nip Norovirus in the bud. Wash-hand basins must be provided, with soap and drying facilities, preferably liquid soap and single use towels. Non hand-operable taps can further help to reduce the risk of Norovirus spreading, as can having separate toilet facilities for staff and customers" added Cllr Green.

The advice given by Suffolk Coastal's food and safety team also sets down what to do if the food handling area has become contaminated by winter vomiting disease, including information on how to disinfect the area.

To request a copy of the letter and leaflet or for further infection control advice, contact Suffolk Coastal's food and safety team on 01394 444357 or foodsafetyteam@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk. For more information on winter vomiting disease, visit www.hpa.org.uk/infections/topics_az/norovirus



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Core Strategy meetings put back due to large response

04 Dec 2009

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Because over 1,100 individual comments were received on the recent consultation on the distribution of housing across the district, Suffolk Coastal has decided that it needs more time to fully assess them and has postponed its scheduled meetings about the Core Strategy.

Special meetings of the Cabinet and Full Council had been publicised for December 14 and January 21 but these have now been rescheduled for Wednesday, February 10 and Monday, March 8 respectively.

It has also been decided to submit the draft Core Strategy to one of the Council's Scrutiny Committees whose role is to examine proposals as part of the Council's wider policy framework. Accordingly, the draft Core Strategy will also be examined at a meeting of the Community, Customer and Partners Scrutiny Committee on Thursday, January 21.

All the meetings will be held at the Trinity Park Showground and will begin at 7pm and members of the public are welcome to attend any of the meetings.

The agreed Core Strategy will play a central part of the district's first Local Development Framework which will set the basic rules on how Suffolk Coastal will be allowed to develop over the next 15 years or so.



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Local schools urged to join flood exercise

04 Dec 2009

[Archived press release.](#)

Senior schools across the district are being urged to take part in a special emergency planning exercise being held next month which will be based around a major coastal flooding incident at Felixstowe.

Schools have been invited to send along students to take part in Exercise Storm Surge which is being run by the Suffolk Joint Emergency Planning Unit and the Suffolk Education Business Partnership.

“The day-long event will involve representatives from all the organisations that would play an active role if Felixstowe was to be flooded and this is a great opportunity for local youngsters to play an active part in emergency planning,” said Cllr Sherrie Green, Cabinet Member for Community Health.

“We are hoping that around 100 14-16 years olds will be there on the day and it should build up some practical skills for them, as well as gaining a better understanding of the risks of flooding and what the public services do during an emergency situation.

“It will be an interesting and challenging opportunity for them to develop their team-working, problem-solving, communication and presentation skills. At the same time they will be working on the day with some of the district’s major employers, giving them a first-hand idea of the career opportunities available locally,” added Cllr Green.

The event is being held at the Kesgrave Community Centre on Tuesday, January 26 from 9am to 4pm, and is a ‘table-top’ exercise meaning that those taking part will act out their response to a range of different scenarios and incidents linked to the flooding.

Each student will be briefed by and represent one of the relevant organisations present who will help the smooth running of the event and provide an advisory input. These will include Suffolk Police, Suffolk Fire & Rescue Service, East of England Ambulance Trust, Environment Agency, British Telecom, Itron UK Ltd, British Red Cross, Suffolk Coastal District Council, Suffolk County Council, and Felixstowe TV.

Each team will be required to compile and present press statements and an overall report of their agreed response to the assembled participants. Any senior school that wants to take part should contact Helen Scott-Davis at Suffolk Education Business Partnership on 01473 408061 or helen.scottdavies@suffolkebp.co.uk

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Final 10 set to battle for ultimate prize

07 Dec 2009

[Archived press release.](#)

The third and final heat of this year's Soundwaves Ultimate Bands contest saw the last group of bands and artists performing for a sought after place in the final.

After an evening of great entertainment the successful acts through were To The Dogs, Timothy Leat and Deadbeat. In the closest of all the heats narrowly missing out on spots in the final were Playing with Fire and A World Apart.

"It was a close call on the night with all of the young musicians giving great performances and proving that talent really does flourish in Suffolk Coastal," said Cllr Mary Neale, Cabinet Member for Countryside and Leisure.

After the three heats the line up for the final is Clay, Fick as Fieves, Silk and Steel, Robert Castellani, Stratosfire, Crab Meat Moon, To The Dogs, Timothy Leat, Deadbeat and the best runner up, as decided by the Soundwaves panel, Walkway.

"The competition has seen a wide range of musical genres from young people living in Suffolk Coastal aged between 11 and 26 with three original songs to their name. The entry criteria meant that everybody who entered was well on their way to being competent musicians and thanks to the Soundwaves contest will have gained valuable experience that will help them with future performances and progressing as artists," added Cllr Neale.

The finalists will get their first taste of life as music stars as they take to the recording studio to lay down the tracks that will be appearing on the Sounds of the East Coast III compilation CD, due to be launched at the final next year.

The final is planned to take place in the spring at the Spa Pavilion ending the contest on a high note as the audience decides which of the final 10 artists deserves the title of Soundwaves Ultimate Bands champion 2009/10.

"This year's competition has already been tipped to be the best yet and it is great to see such a great amount of fantastic musical talent in our district, I am sure the stars of tomorrow will include many familiar faces.

"After the success of last year's winner, Ed Sheeran, the coveted first place may just be one of our local artist's big break," added Cllr Neale.

For more information about the Ultimate Band contest or the Soundwaves project residents can log on to www.myspace.com/suffolksoundwavesmusic email suffolksoundwavesmusic@hotmail.com or call 07973 632576.

Soundwaves Ultimate Bands Contest is jointly funded by Suffolk Coastal District Council, Suffolk County Council, the Youth Opportunity Fund and supported by Access To Music.



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Leave a Footprint on your local green spaces

07 Dec 2009

Archived press release.

Local people are being encouraged to get involved with the protection and preservation of the district's green spaces, helping them to stay at their best for many years to come.

As part of the Footprints scheme keen conservationists can get involved with one of the Footprints work parties. Designed to preserve local greens, heaths, commons, nature reserves and woodland the Footprints campaign takes practical action organising work parties to ensure these areas are maintained and able to thrive.

"The next Footprints work party will be tree-thinning and coppicing at Grove Wood, meeting in Eastwood Ho car park, in Felixstowe this Wednesday (December 9) from 10am to 4pm," said Cllr Mary Neale, Cabinet Member for Countryside and Leisure.

Planned work parties for the New Year will be taking place on Tuesday, January 12 at Melton Riverside, Thursday, February 11 at Sutton Heath and Wednesday, March 10 at Upper Hollesley Common.

"The events are not just for residents, as community groups and businesses can also get involved. There are also a number of different ways the local community can play its part without joining one of the work parties such as donating a tree or bench to a local area for others to enjoy or sponsoring a project of their own choosing that would benefit one of the districts' green spaces.

"The Footprints project is a great way for local people to put something back into the local community, benefitting the environment on a wider scale. I hope that a great number of residents will get involved with the scheme and find it very rewarding," added Cllr Neale.

Volunteering to help the local environment has many successful examples such as the Beachwatch clear-ups and the tree planting going on across the district as part of the National Tree Week and the Parish Tree Scheme.

"The local heaths, commons and woodlands are an important part of life in the district and recognised by a great number of people as needing special attention to preserve. Previous work parties have attracted a wide range of people of all ages to get involved and do something for their local community and I hope this number continues to grow," added Cllr Neale.

Keen volunteers are welcome to get involved and come along to any of the events taking place. To find out about any of the work projects the Footprints campaign is carrying out or for directions of how to get to any of the work party locations residents can contact a member of the countryside and outdoor space team on 01394 444619 or email peter.ross@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk

Footprints is working in partnership with the Suffolk Coast and Heath Connect scheme which works to support Suffolk Coastal's Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, one of only 41 in England and Wales.

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Local groups ask for more time to help historic station

09 Dec 2009

[Archived press release.](#)

Thanks to local support for one of Suffolk Coastal's oldest train stations its future is starting to look a little brighter as it receives backing from the community and high profile organisations.

Following a recent public meeting a Friends of Trimley Station group was established which is calling for Network Rail to delay its December 31 deadline to come up with an alternative use for the building.

"At the public meeting last month there was a lot of community interest in the future of the Trimley station building and its preservation with representation from Suffolk Acre, Suffolk County Council, the Suffolk Preservation Society, Suffolk Architectural Heritage Trust and Felixstowe Futures attending to show their support," said Cllr Andy Smith, Cabinet Member for Planning.

Network Rail has deemed the building to be unviable and is set to demolish the station building early in the New Year if no new use can be found by December 31.

Since the organisation of the Friends group, letters from members have been sent to Network Rail asking for a delay in the deadline to give them time to work out a plan for a new use of the building.

"Letters of objection have also been sent from local and national heritage organisations including English Heritage, The Victorian Society, SAVE Britain's Heritage, Felixstowe Society and Ipswich Society.

"Many high profile groups and organisations have got involved to show their support for the station's preservation including Private Eye. The fact that so many individuals and groups are passionate about the future of the station says a great deal about the appeal and I hope Network Rail will listen to our pleas for more time," added Cllr Smith.

There have also been a number of local developers showing interest in the building indicating the many possibilities for an alternative use of the site. Previous suggestions for the site have included using the premises for business offices, an internet café, an arts centre, a small retail centre and a visitor centre for the near by Trimley Nature Reserve.

In the short amount of time left before Network Rail's deadline it is hoped that it will recognise the weighty support behind the station building and be reasonable in extending the deadline for an alternative use to be found.

"The bid to save the station has proven to be a cause that many are enthusiastic about and it would be a great shame to see a long-standing local landmark disappear. We appreciate that Network Rail may find it unviable to maintain an empty building but that is why we are working hard to find an appropriate alternative use for it that will benefit the local community," added Cllr Smith.

Suffolk Coastal District Council and Trimley Parish Council on behalf of the Friends group will be

meeting with Network Rail on Tuesday, December 15 where it is hoped that the deadline will be extended.

To voice an expression of interest in the station or to get involved with the Friends of Trimley Station residents can contact Robert Scrimgeour, Senior Design and Conservation officer on 01394 444616 or email conservation@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk

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Parish Tree Scheme continues to help communities

09 Dec 2009

[Archived press release.](#)

As National Tree Week draws to a close Suffolk Coastal's Parish Tree Scheme celebrates continuing to make a green difference across the district.

Planting parties were out in numbers over the weekend showing their commitment to the green environment and the future of the district's green spaces and character of the countryside.

"It was great to see so many members of the community getting involved with different projects across the district all with the shared goal of making Suffolk Coastal an even better place to live," added Cllr Mary Neale, Cabinet Member for Countryside and Leisure.

Volunteers from Suffolk Coastal's planting groups dug out their wellies and got stuck in, planting hedging at Chapel Lane South in Wickham Market and copses of native trees at The Fitches open space in Knodishall.

The Suffolk Probation Service planted a native species hedge for the landowner next to the A12 at Molletts Farm, Benhall. The 200 metre hedge planted will create landscape and wildlife benefits in future.

"The planting events over the weekend proved to be a great success with people of all ages taking an interest and helping to do their bit for the local green environment," added Cllr Neale.

The planting took place on Saturday as part of the Guinness World Record attempt, Tree O'Clock, a national event trying to plant the greatest number of trees in one hour at locations all over the country.

"The final results of the record attempt should be available shortly after Friday when all the evidence has been received and fingers crossed the hard work of residents in our district will have helped create a new Guinness World Record," added Cllr Neale.

The Parish Tree Scheme also encourages leading a healthy lifestyle some of the planting events also taking place as part of the Wickham Green Gym winter programme. This helps people to gently increase their exercise levels while also enjoying the fresh air, socialising with friends and helping the community and the environment.

Taking an interest in the local environment could not be easier as the Parish Tree Scheme can help with all aspects of a project. The scheme can offer support to local communities wanting to carry out their own projects and will be able to give advice, practical help and provide trees and hedging to plant in the chosen locations.

"I would encourage anyone who is keen to improve the environment of their local area to contact the Parish Council or tree warden to take advantage of the local knowledge and help towards a project they can provide," added Cllr Neale.

For more information about the Parish Tree Scheme or Suffolk Coastal tree wardens residents can contact a member of the Countryside and Open Space team on 01394 444619, 444420 or 444557 or email peter.ross@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk or visit

www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourdistrict/trees/parishtreescheme or
www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourdistrict/trees/treewardens

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Pilot scheme gives more access to free loft insulation

14 Dec 2009

[Archived press release.](#)

Even more residents are now able to ensure a cosy New Year thanks to a new pilot scheme to help ensure eligible residents can take advantage of free loft insulation.

The Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) has allocated funding to Suffolk Coastal District Council to fund a pilot scheme to help clear older and more vulnerable peoples' lofts so they can benefit from free loft insulation.

"Many older or more vulnerable people who are eligible for this additional help cannot take advantage of it as they are unable to get up into their lofts to move belongings. This new scheme will help residents move and sort through belongings so the insulation can be installed," said Cllr Chris Slemmings, Cabinet Member for Housing.

Residents who receive state benefits or are over the age of 70 may be eligible for free loft and cavity wall insulation and may also be able to benefit from the loft clearing pilot scheme.

Suffolk Coastal will arrange the insulation process, including organising a quote for the work, an appropriate time for the work to be completed and the contractors to carry it out.

Suffolk Coastal can also arrange help with sorting through possessions whilst helping residents to clear loft space. The council can contact Age Concern who will then arrange a reliable and trusted contractor to help with the sorting and clearing process, throwing out anything residents no longer wish to keep.

"As this scheme is a pilot there is a limited pot of money available meaning residents will be considered on a first come first served basis. I would encourage anyone who may be eligible to contact us to make sure they do not miss out on the help on offer.

"By properly insulating their home residents will see the benefits immediately saving money on their energy bills. Fuel costs are continuing to rise and any steps that can be taken to make homes more energy efficient should be welcomed," added Cllr Slemmings.

Residents can find out if they are eligible to benefit from the free insulation by calling a member of the Warm Front team on 0800 072 9004.

Residents that would like to find out more information about the scheme can contact Jayne Howlett, project coordinator on 01394 444506 or email jayne.howlett@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk.

There is also useful information on our website at www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourhome/energy/loftclearance


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Stay safe while having fun this Christmas

14 Dec 2009

[Archived press release.](#)

Suffolk Coastal's Community Safety Partnership (CSP) in collaboration with the Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) will be out in the community this Christmas reminding residents to act responsibly while enjoying themselves during the festive season.

The CSP and the police will be visiting high schools in the district on the last day of term to raise awareness about the effects of alcohol. They will be giving out Nightsafe sticks of rock, funded by the Suffolk Constabulary Eastern Basic Command Unit and information and leaflets about the units of alcohol, reminding people to think about how much alcohol may be in their drinks.

"Christmas is often a time when people can celebrate and let their hair down but it is also important to know your limits and enjoy drinking responsibly," said Cllr Sherrie Green, Cabinet Member for Community Safety.

Over the busy Christmas period, from Friday, December 18 to Sunday, January 3, members from the CSP, including special constables and members from the substance misuse team, will also be visiting local communities in the district to offer advice about alcohol use and offer support to local residents.

Additional patrols will also be out in Felixstowe offering support on Friday, December 18 and in Woodbridge with the help and assistance of town pastors on Thursday, December 24 and 31.

"Teams visiting the community will be raising peoples' awareness about the Nightsafe initiative and its key messages of friends stick together, get home safely and don't over do it," added Cllr Green.

Local taxi drivers and licensees in Felixstowe and Woodbridge will also be wearing the Nightsafe 'behave or be banned' t-shirts also funded by the Suffolk Constabulary Eastern BCU.

"The presence of people wearing the Nightsafe t-shirts will be a constant visible reminder to people to enjoy their night out while respecting others and keeping themselves safe.

"It is very positive to see so many local organisations working together for the community to make sure that people can enjoy themselves responsibly this Christmas. This campaign is also a further opportunity for the district council and Suffolk Police to work together ensuring that residents can remain confident in the help and support that is available to the community," added Cllr Green.

For more information about the Nightsafe initiative or the joint working of the Community Safety Partnership and the Safer Neighbourhood Team residents can contact Julia Catterwell on 07768 817607 or email julia.catterwell@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk.

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Suffolk Coastal's Christmas opening times

15 Dec 2009

[Archived press release.](#)

Suffolk Coastal residents can continue as normal this Christmas with the council offices at Melton Hill being open for two days during the Christmas period and more services than ever available online.

There is a whole host of services available at the touch of a button online making it easier and more convenient for residents living in the district to get in touch with the council and benefit from the services Suffolk Coastal provides.

“When the offices are closed residents can find a wide range of information on our website, www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk. Residents can also make use of the online services we provide such as making a payment, making a planning application, making a claim for Housing or Council Tax Benefit, managing their business rates account or telling us what they think about our services,” said Cllr Doreen Savage, Cabinet Member for Customer Services.

Suffolk Coastal's offices in Melton Hill will be closed from Thursday, December 24 through to Monday, December 28. The offices will be open 9am to 4pm on Tuesday, December 29 and Wednesday 30 and closed on Thursday, December 31.

The Felixstowe office in Undercliff Road will be open on Wednesday, December 30 during the holiday period.

Suffolk Coastal Service's Ufford depot will be open everyday except December 25, 26, 27 and January 1. In addition it will also be open on Saturday, December 19 and January 2.

Because of the bank holidays over the Christmas and New Year period some refuse and recycling collections have been reorganised. Residents will be receiving leaflets detailing revised refuse collections over the Christmas period but as a reminder they are as follows:

Normal collection day	When it will be collected
Monday 21 December	Saturday 19 December
Tuesday 22 December	Monday 21 December
Wednesday 23 December	Tuesday 22 December
Thursday 24 December	Wednesday 23 December
Friday 25 December	Thursday 24 December
Monday 28 December	Collection as usual
Tuesday 29 December	Collection as usual
Wednesday 30 December	Collection as usual
Thursday 31 December	Collection as usual
Friday 1 January	Saturday 2 January

“Christmas can often be a time of additional waste and I would encourage residents to try and cut down on the amount of rubbish sent to landfill over the busy period as much as they can.

“Wrapping paper and cards can go in the blue-lidded bin and cooked or uncooked food waste and real Christmas trees with branches up to one and a half inches in diameter can go in the brown bin.

“Glass bottles can be taken to the nearest glass bank but if they are full I would remind residents to please not leave bottles next to the bin but instead wait until the bin is empty or take the bottles along to one of the household waste recycling centres,” added Cllr Savage.

For more information about the refuse and recycling collection schedule or what can go in each of the bins residents can call 01394 444000 or visit www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourhome/waste

Outside of the office opening hours the Council can be contacted on the emergency number 07771 816535. All services and opening hours will resume as normal on Monday, January 4.

For more information about how to contact Suffolk Coastal over the Christmas period residents can visit www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk or call 01394 383789.



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Campaigners win more time for Trimley station

21 Dec 2009

[Archived press release.](#)

The efforts of local campaigners hoping to preserve a historical landmark have been successful and a decision on the future of Trimley St Mary railway station building has been postponed.

The historical station building was due to be demolished early in the New Year by its owners Network Rail if no new use for the building was found by the December 31 deadline.

“Following talks with Network Rail about the future of the building they have agreed to extend the deadline to April 1 to give us more time to continue discussions with them about finding an alternative use for the station building,” said Cllr Andy Smith, Cabinet Member for Planning.

“Network Rail have made it clear that they are keen to keep the building as long as a sustainable use can be found and discussions will remain underway until the beginning of April when the decision will be reassessed,” added Cllr Smith.

A business plan was put forward to Network Rail at a meeting last week proposing to use the station building for small scale business start-up units including a community room and a café. The time between now and April will be used to continue discussions with Network Rail and look into securing funding for the project management and the refurbishment of the building.

“At the meeting Network Rail were impressed with the amount of passionate local and national interest in the station from community and heritage groups and agreed to allow the Friends of Trimley Station group and local residents more time to develop the business plans for the building.

“The delay in the decision is a very positive step for the future of the station building and we are now starting to see light at the end of the tunnel for its preservation. We look forward to working together with Network Rail to ensure a sustainable use for the building is put into action so that the long-standing landmark can be enjoyed by the local community,” added Cllr Smith.

Residents that wish to express an interest in the station building or would like more information can contact a member of the Friends of Trimley Station group on 01394 444616 or email conservation@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk



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Residents urged to start the year by reducing waste

29 Dec 2009

[Archived press release.](#)

Following the busy Christmas period residents are being asked to cut down on their waste and go greener for the New Year.

As part of the Love Food Hate Waste campaign, residents are being encouraged to try and reduce the amount of unnecessary waste that gets thrown away and contributes to greenhouse gas emissions.

“Residents in Suffolk Coastal are already recycling and composting a record amount of their rubbish but reducing the amount of waste that is thrown out in the first place will be an even bigger green boost,” said Cllr Andrew Nunn, Cabinet Member for the Green Environment.

By cutting down on the amount of food wasted, a family with children could save up to £680 a year on their food shopping costs. Not only would it save residents money but national experts claim it would also have the same environmental impact as taking one in four cars off the road.

Fruit and vegetable waste that cannot be reused can be put in to residents’ brown bins or compost heaps to ensure that it is disposed of properly and in the greenest way. Cooked and uncooked food, including meat scraps and bones, can go in the brown bin, along with green waste including Christmas trees with branches up to an inch and a half in diameter.

After Christmas there is usually a great deal of food that did not get eaten or presents that people may not want. Rather than throwing them away residents can cut down on waste by reusing or recycling what they can. There are a great many charity shops that will gratefully accept unwanted gifts or clothing. Clothes and books can also be recycled at one of the several textile or book banks across the district.

“There may also be a good deal of wrapping paper, ribbon, boxes or Christmas cards that are left over from Christmas which could be reused for gift tags or wrapping presents throughout the year, rather than recycled or thrown-away.

“The New Year is the perfect time to kick start or get back into the recycling habit, and to think about reducing and reusing what we throw away. It would be great to see even more people resolve to cut down on waste and continue to recycle and reuse items to help the environment and save themselves money,” added Cllr Nunn.

For more information about the Love Food Hate Waste campaign and helpful ideas to cut down on unnecessary waste residents can visit www.lovefoodhatewaste.com

To find out more about waste reduction or recycling in Suffolk Coastal residents can visit www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourhome/waste/recycling/whyrecycle or www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourdistrict/greenissues/waste

The location of the nearest mini recycling centre for textiles, bottles, steel or aluminium cans can be found on www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourhome/waste/recycling/facilities or call the Suffolk Coastal recycling team on 01394 444000.

