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## Reinvesting success funds to support the local economy

07 Jan 2009

[Archived press release.](#)

The go-ahead was given last night (Tuesday) by Suffolk Coastal's Cabinet to an ambitious £1.5 million investment package in the district that could attract a further £6 million of funding for local projects.

The £1.5 million is money that the Council has gained from the Government, through its Local Authority Business Growth Incentive Scheme (LABGI) because of the district's success in increasing the amount of money collected from business rates.

"In two years we have received £1.5 million LABGI funding, the largest amount in Suffolk, and we now plan to use this one-off windfall to invest in a range of projects that could make a lasting difference to the future of our district," said Cllr Colin Hart, Cabinet Member for the Economy.

"As the economic downturn begins to affect the country, this is an excellent opportunity using new money gained from the Government to press ahead with projects and initiatives that can help regenerate areas across our district and encourage local businesses to grow.

"With some of our more ambitious projects we hope to attract financial support to the value of an additional £6 million from some of our partners to turn these schemes into reality. This is probably the largest and most varied investment programme this district has ever seen at a time when it is needed more than ever before," added Cllr Hart.

The investment plan agreed by Cabinet includes money being spent on improving transport and town centres, business development initiatives, projects to boost tourism, and funds to support the work of the Felixstowe and Trimleys Peninsula Futures Programme and the regeneration of our market towns.

The proposals include improving parking and passenger facilities at the district's railway stations, a new foot ferry between Harwich, Shotley and Felixstowe, and regeneration projects at Felixstowe's Seafront Gardens and Hamilton Road/The Triangle.

"For some of these initiatives to proceed we need to work with partners to gain all the necessary funding, but our commitment could set the ball rolling to make these schemes reality. For example, we hope that our £100,000 for rail station improvements could attract at least another £1 million, while the £325,000 earmarked for the Seafront Gardens project could unlock £2m from the National Lottery.

"On a smaller scale, by spending £30,000 we will help small and medium sized businesses gain expert free advice on how to cut their energy bills and make potentially vital savings, as well as £36,000 to give more businesses an improved waste collection service that should help them save money and be greener.

"As well as looking to help Woodbridge town centre remain competitive and attractive to shoppers, we will also invest in Aldeburgh, Framlingham, Kesgrave/Rushmere St Andrew,

Leiston, Saxmundham and Wickham Market to help these key parts of our district through these tough economic times,” added Cllr Hart.

The LABGI scheme offered a financial incentive to all councils to promote enterprise, employment and growth among the local businesses in their area and measures how much each district’s rateable value for businesses has grown over the previous year, and how each council has performed above a basic target set by the Government.

The LABGI money comes from the national pot of business rates which councils collect from local companies and pass onto the Government for it to distribute as it sees fit.



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## Re-register for your choice of rented homes

07 Jan 2009

[Archived press release.](#)

Letters have been sent to people currently on the housing waiting list in Suffolk Coastal, inviting them to re-register for a new scheme that gives them the chance to bid for a wider choice of homes across seven districts.

The new Choice Based Lettings scheme, Gateway to Homechoice, will be introduced in the next few months, and will see Suffolk Coastal linking up with six other borough and district councils in the region.

“The Choice Based Lettings scheme, Gateway to Homechoice, is set to be introduced from February to April 2009, and I would encourage people in the district who are waiting for homes to take advantage of the improved system by re-registering as soon as they can. In the meantime, homes will continue to be allocated according to the old list,” said Cllr Chris Slemmings, Cabinet Member for Housing.

“Anyone in housing need can register by filling in an online application form at [www.gatewaytohomechoice.org.uk](http://www.gatewaytohomechoice.org.uk). People who are currently on the housing waiting list should use the reference number enclosed in their letter and their date of birth to log in.

“So far, 414 people on the current housing waiting list have re-registered, which means there are 1,500 more to go. This list is now closed, so new applicants should register with Gateway to Homechoice, following the instructions for those without reference numbers,” added Cllr Slemmings.

If people do not have internet access at home, they can use computers at the Council’s Melton Hill office, which is open Monday to Thursday, 8.45am to 5.15pm, and 8.45am to 4.45pm on Fridays, or Felixstowe Seafront office, which is open Mondays and Wednesdays, 9am to 12.30pm and 2pm to 4.30pm.

Suffolk Heritage Housing Association’s Framlingham office, and the district’s libraries, will also offer internet access to those who want to re-register. Alternatively, anybody can call 01728 727524 to go through the process over the phone with a member of staff.

Suffolk Coastal is embracing Choice Based Lettings by joining Mid Suffolk, Babergh, Braintree, Maldon, Colchester and Ipswich to give its residents the opportunity to bid for any empty council and housing association homes across the seven partner councils, a scheme that is being called Gateway to Homechoice.

“Once Choice Based Lettings has been brought in, available homes will be advertised on the Gateway to Homechoice website, in a special newsletter and in local housing offices, and anyone on the register can put in a bid for homes they would like. This new approach puts customers firmly in charge, which is the best way of ensuring their needs are met.

“Those that register for rented council or housing associating homes with Choice Based Lettings will be placed in one of five bands describing how serious or urgent their housing needs are. They will be notified of their band a few weeks after completing their application form.

“Each home that is made available through Choice Based Lettings will go to the applicant with the highest need in the highest band. If two families or people in the same band bid for the same home, it will go to the people that have been waiting the longest,” added Cllr Stemmings.

Anybody who is thinking of registering for Choice Based Lettings can call housing enabling officer Nicola Clarke on 01394 444214, email [gatewaytohomechoice@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk](mailto:gatewaytohomechoice@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk), or visit [www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourhome/housing/](http://www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourhome/housing/) or [www.gatewaytohomechoice.org.uk](http://www.gatewaytohomechoice.org.uk)

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## Suffolk Coastal gains good rating for access to services

08 Jan 2009

[Archived press release.](#)

The latest report to show that Suffolk Coastal is out-performing most councils has been published, with the independent Audit Commission stating that residents are receiving good access to the Council's services.

The wide-ranging and in-depth review measures how well the Council is at making its services accessible to all its residents, and how much it takes account of their needs and wants in the way it offers them. The rating achieved by the Council is good, a two star rating and promising prospects of improving.

"This is a tremendous result for the Council and shows that we have improved significantly over the last three years. It is also a tribute to the efforts of all those at Suffolk Coastal, including councillors, to make sure our services are both available to and in tune with our customers requirements," said Cllr Doreen Savage, Cabinet Member for Customers and Partners.

"Few councils achieve the good two star rating, with Suffolk Coastal one of only four nationally to get this rating in the last 12 months, as this is a tough test right across the spectrum of every service area and partnership in which we are involved. I am even more delighted that we have been officially recognised as having the promising prospect for even further improvement.

"This report shows that we are successfully managing to meet the tough challenge of providing our services equally and fairly to all our residents, even though they are spread over 100 different towns and parishes. We will continue to work hard to deliver even better, more efficient services that continue to meet the local needs of our residents," added Cllr Savage.

The Audit Commission report states that Suffolk Coastal's approach is good 'because it has invested significant resources to effect improvement in customer services and its website'. It also says that the Council is 'generally effective at engaging services users, the business community and vulnerable groups to inform service delivery' and that it has 'good local intelligence' to understand local community needs.

It also states that 'the Council is working hard to address issues arising from rural isolation and meeting the needs of both older and younger residents, particularly in the north of the district' and that 'the Council is aware of where it needs to improve and has plans in place to address these.'

Suffolk Coastal is the first in Suffolk to get a two-star rating for the new access to services assessment. The most recent published survey of residents showed that Suffolk Coastal had the highest satisfaction ratings of any council in Suffolk.

"This could have been an indication of our tremendous Audit Commission result. However, we were not complacent but quietly confident that we had improved our services to meet our customers' needs and it is very pleasing when the toughest of outside experts agree with our residents.

“This report follows last month’s successful Investors in People inspection which pinpointed that our workforce ‘are genuinely committed to the success of the organisation and are proud to work for the Council’.

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

The full Audit Commission report can be seen on [www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourcouncil/performance](http://www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourcouncil/performance) from Thursday, January 8.



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## 'Sacks for Sax' greener alternative to plastic bags

12 Jan 2009

[Archived press release.](#)

Saxmundham's shoppers can now promote their town and spend their way towards a greener district by choosing to carry home their purchases in a 'Sacks for Sax' reusable bag, available from retailers in the town, instead of using plastic bags.

In line with Suffolk Coastal's aim to be a district completely free of plastic bags within the next two years, Businesses of Saxmundham (BOS), an organisation that represents local businesses in the area, set up the initiative and have ordered 500 dark green fabric bags, which are currently on sale in the town.

"A 'Sacks for Sax' reusable shopping bag costs just £2.50 and will help to make plastic carrier bags a thing of the past by offering people shopping in Saxmundham a stylish alternative," said Cllr Andrew Nunn, Cabinet Member for the Green Environment.

The bags have 'Sax for Sacks' printed on one side and 'Sacks for Sax' on the other, and are made of non-woven polypropylene, a by-product of the petro-chemical industry.

"The Council is working to reduce the use of plastic bags because they damage the environment. When they split they stop being useful, they take a long time to degrade, and in the meantime they take up space in landfill. If dropped as litter, plastic bags can travel huge distances and cause problems in places thousands of miles away.

"In addition, animals and birds can mistake plastic bags for food, resulting in starvation, poisoning and fatal stomach blockages, or get entangled in them and injure themselves in efforts to get free," added Cllr Nunn.

With reusable bags offering a greener alternative, renewed efforts are being made from the Government downwards to reduce the 13 billion plastic bags still given out every year.

"Enterprising local initiatives, like 'Sacks for Sax' which was championed by Saxmundham Town Council, raise awareness of the negative impact of plastic bags, and enable Saxmundham's loyal residents to promote their town while they shop.

"Woodbridge and Felixstowe have also launched their own schemes, and the East of England Co-op has stopped giving out plastic bags altogether, meaning that over the past three months, their customers have used seven million fewer plastic bags. I would encourage other Suffolk Coastal towns and villages to follow these green examples," added Cllr Nunn.



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## Talent in a spin at Woodbridge skatepark opening

14 Jan 2009

[Archived press release.](#)

As part of festivities to celebrate the opening of Woodbridge skatepark, skateboarders and BMXers are being encouraged to show off their talents and potentially win a whole host of goodies by entering a competition, open to all ages and abilities, that is being held at the facility this Saturday.

The official opening event will take place at 12noon on Saturday, January 17 at the fixed ramp skatepark, which is next to Deben Swimming Pool, and will be attended by some of the people whose hard work and determination helped to make it a reality.

“Woodbridge skatepark has been open to members of the public for just over a month now, and this celebratory event will give people an opportunity to appreciate what has been achieved here, as well as giving talented boarders and BMXers the chance to wow the crowd and the judges, ” said Cllr Doreen Savage, Cabinet Member for Young People.

“Anyone who is confident that they can impress with their BMXing or skateboarding skills can register to take part in the competition from 11:30am to 12pm on the day. There will be a skateboarding category, which will be judged by some of the skatepark’s experienced supervisors, and a BMXing category, both of which are open to all ages and abilities,” added Cllr Savage.

Prizes for the skateboarding and BMXing competitions have been donated by EdgeRiders, Black Sheep, Wahoo and ADB Skate, and include t-shirts, a skateboard deck and Evil Skater models.

At the event, Cllr Stephen Burroughes, Mayor of Woodbridge Cllr Les Binns, and Malcolm Knapp from the Just 42 youth group will be on hand to speak about the skatepark’s beginnings and their hopes for the future.

Members of the 3Bs (boarders, BMXers and bladers) group, young people who use the skatepark and are helping the Council to run it, will then cut the ribbon to officially open the facility.

Officers from the mobile police pod will also be at the event to discuss safety and anti-social behaviour issues, and could even take to the ramps themselves.

Funding for the skatepark has come from a range of sources including Suffolk Coastal, Woodbridge Town Council, Sport England, SET, Awards for All, Woodbridge Community Council, the Suffolk Coastal Community Safety Partnership, Market Towns Initiative, the County’s Regeneration Fund, Community Champions, Ganzoni Trust, Woodbridge School and local fundraising.

“I look forward to meeting the cream of our local BMXers and skateboarders, seeing what they can do and finding out what they think of the skatepark. Now that it has been built, it is up to them to make the most of it and the Council will work with them to ensure that it remains a popular and exciting venue for years to come.

“The next skatepark project to be built is on Orwell Green in Felixstowe. Suffolk Coastal has recently gained funding from the Play Builder scheme which will bring this much-needed and long-awaited facility to Felixstowe’s young people.

“Once this is completed the young people of Suffolk Coastal will have many opportunities to skate, ride and have fun across the district, with the skatepark in Framlingham, the new Woodbridge skatepark and the park planned for Felixstowe to choose from,” added Cllr Savage.



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## Residents advised as port expansion works progress

14 Jan 2009

[Archived press release.](#)

The contractors carrying out the work at the Port of Felixstowe have officially advised local residents that its percussive piling will start in the week beginning January 26 and carry on until October.

Percussive piling is probably the noisiest part of the construction work but Costain Ltd will only start using this process when it is the only option to continue with its work.

"It is not possible for the work at the Port to progress without percussive piling, but there are clear restrictions on the amount of noise it generates and the hours and days this work can be carried out, as set out in the planning permission granted for the expansion following the public inquiry," said Cllr Andrew Nunn, Cabinet Member for the Green Environment.

"As a company signed up to the Considerate Constructor scheme, I am sure that Costain will be doing all it can to reduce any negative impact the work may have on the general public and the environment.

"I welcome the fact they have also appointed a community liaison manager and set up a dedicated onsite helpline so that anyone who has any concerns about the noise levels can be guaranteed a response within 24 hours," added Cllr Nunn.

The percussive piling is planned to take place at the main quay wall between January and July, at the tug berth wall between March and May, at the rear crane rail between April and October, and at the return wall between August and September.

At all four sites, the percussive piling will only be allowed between 8am and 6pm Mondays to Fridays, and from 9am to 1pm on Saturdays, with a maximum of 13 Saturdays in any six-month period. There will be no piling on Sundays or Bank Holidays and there will be a maximum of five hours quay wall piling in any one day.

There are noise limits which were specified in the planning permission given to the development which sets maximum levels which will be regularly monitored. A special website has also been set up so people can keep up to date on developments by visiting [www.Felixstowe-fsr1.co.uk](http://www.Felixstowe-fsr1.co.uk)

The contact person for the public regarding the works is James York, community liaison manager, who can be called on 01394 613534.

The major expansion of the Port of Felixstowe could create up to 1,500 new jobs in East Suffolk. Phase 1 of the Felixstowe South Reconfiguration project will see an additional 730 metres of deep-water quay, dredged to 16 metres, along with seven state-of-the-art quayside cranes, meaning that the Port will be able to accommodate the largest container ships in the world.

"Such a major project will inevitably mean some noise and disturbance, but this Council's environmental protection team has been working closely with the Port and Costain Ltd to minimise the impact on local communities. I know from our discussions that both are ready to listen and take action if it is appropriate," added Cllr Nunn.





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## Holiday guide aims to attract even more tourists

15 Jan 2009

[Archived press release.](#)

The official launch of Suffolk Coastal's holiday guide for 2009 was held today at Felixstowe Town Hall, and featured the resort's historic Spa Gardens, an attraction that is bidding for lottery funding to pay for renovation work.

The launch began with a speech from Suffolk Coastal's Chairman, followed by a photo opportunity with the new holiday guide and a chance to visit the Spa Gardens and comment on the proposed improvements.

"Launching the holiday guide is a chance to promote Suffolk Coastal's status as a premier tourist destination and applaud the excellence of our hard-working local tourist and hospitality businesses, more details of which can be found in the new guide," said Cllr Colin Hart, Cabinet Member for Tourism.

"We have picked an ideal place to look forward to what could be a boom year for local tourism. There are ambitious plans in place which could see a multi-million pound refurbishment of the Spa Gardens, while Felixstowe is at the centre of proposals that would regenerate the resort and its town centre," added Cllr Hart.

Today's launch was attended by Council Chairman Cllr Jim Bidwell and brought together some of the people behind the places to stay and things to see and do featured in the holiday guide.

Suffolk Coastal is home to bustling market towns, 40 miles of coastline, outstanding countryside, a famous Anglo-Saxon burial site, picture-book villages and, if the Spa Gardens gain a grant from Parks for People, part of the Heritage Lottery Fund, the district could be set to welcome another attraction. The project has already been backed by £325,000 of funding from Suffolk Coastal.

"50,000 copies of the 2009 holiday guide have been printed and are being distributed far and wide. With 48 pages of evocative photographs, detailed accommodations listings and ideas on where to go and what to do, it is the definitive showcase of what the district has to offer.

"Suffolk Coastal is an excellent place to visit at any time of the year, and the weak pound and other financial constraints make it likely that more people will choose to spend their holidays in the UK in 2009.

"The latest figures show that £220 million is generated annually in the district thanks to tourism, and that nearly one in ten jobs in Suffolk Coastal are linked to this sector. With the help of our holiday guide, we are poised to make the most of the current economic climate by promoting our district, attracting more visitors, and supporting local businesses," added Cllr Hart.

The holiday guide is now available from [www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/tourism](http://www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/tourism), where it can be ordered for delivery or downloaded. For more information, call Fiona Johnson, economic development officer, on 01394 444451 or email [econ.dev@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk](mailto:econ.dev@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk)

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## Volunteers needed to help hedgerows take root

15 Jan 2009

[Archived press release.](#)

Volunteers with strong shoulders, green fingers and bags of enthusiasm are being recruited to help plant 415 metres of native hedgerows along the boundaries of the site of a sports ground in Westleton, to provide an environmentally-friendly alternative to fencing that will encourage local wildlife.

As part of the Parish Tree Scheme, which helps parishes to establish native trees and plants in their local area, the hedgerows will be planted this Sunday (January 18), fulfilling a condition set on the approval of the sports ground's planning application by the North Area Development Sub-Committee.

"The planning application presented the Committee with a welcome opportunity to do something for the district's wildlife by asking Westleton Parish Council, which submitted the application, to use native hedgerows and trees instead of fencing to protect people using the sports ground," said Cllr Andrew Nunn, Cabinet Member for the Green Environment.

"The plants, which have been specially chosen by Suffolk Coastal's landscape officer, are in keeping with the character of our countryside and will provide food and shelter for insects, birds and animals, enhancing the biodiversity of the local area," added Cllr Nunn.

Oak, ash and field maple trees will be planted at intervals along the hedgerows, which will be made up of blackthorn and hawthorn with small amounts of hazel, wild privet, spindle, holly, buckthorn and dogwood.

"Anyone who is keen to quite literally put something back into their local community is welcome to come along and help plant the trees and whips that will make up the hedgerow. It is recommended that volunteers wrap up warm and bring plenty of food and drink with them," added Cllr Nunn.

Volunteers will be meeting at 10am on Sunday, January 18, at the site's access point, off Blythburgh Road. The hedgerow planting will go on until around 1pm and will be the first step towards constructing the sports ground, a Westleton Parish Council project that will provide the village with much-needed play facilities.

"I am pleased that once again Suffolk Coastal's Development Control Committees are proving themselves committed to working with the Parish Tree Scheme to introduce more native trees and plants to the district. I can only hope that all the residents of Westleton, from farmers to field mice, are delighted with their new hedgerows," added Cllr Nunn.

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## Council looking at three per cent Council Tax increase

16 Jan 2009

[Archived press release.](#)

Despite significant falls in its income, Suffolk Coastal is currently hoping to keep its Council Tax increase in April to only three per cent or just eight pence a week on its average Band D bill.

The Government appears set to confirm that the Council will only get an increase of 1.96 per cent in the grant it gives Suffolk Coastal, which means that it will receive only £8.1 million towards the cost of local services, a rise of £156,000 from this year.

"The ongoing failure of the Government to properly fund rural councils like Suffolk Coastal at the expense of city councils means that we are once again under severe financial pressure and have had to bridge a gap of £850,000 between our estimated income and planned spending," said Cllr Ray Herring, Leader of Suffolk Coastal.

"The economic downturn has hit our income, with a big drop in money from planning applications, building control and land charges, while the cuts in interest rates are affecting us as well.

"The unwanted and wasteful distraction of the review of local government in Suffolk has caused uncertainty as well, but we remain committed to providing good value for money services to our residents. We have achieved £8 million of savings since 2001 and in these tough times for all of us all we recognise the importance of keeping our Council Tax rise in April as low as possible," added Cllr Herring.

The collapse in the housing market will see the Council's expected earnings fall by £330,000 next year, while the fall in interest rates will reduce the Council's income by an estimated £350,000 in 2009/2010.

To help keep its costs down, the Council's draft budget includes no allowance for inflation, meaning that most services will have to find more efficiencies, while most of the Council's charges, including its car parks, will be frozen in recognition of the financial squeeze facing the district.

The proposed net budget for 2009-10 is £15,580,000, up by 4.3 per cent from this year's £14,929,000, with the current draft proposals seeing £7.1 million of that funding raised from the Council Tax.

"This provisional budget will be further reviewed between now and the end of February but it reflects our efforts to constrain our spending and deliver a budget that does not use smoke and mirrors to put off tough decisions to another year.

"Once we finally know what the future is for this Council then we will have to re-evaluate priorities and services because it is clear that the Government intends to put an even tighter squeeze on its funding of local services," added Cllr Herring.





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## Vulnerable people get a helping hand

16 Jan 2009

[Archived press release.](#)

A service that helps elderly or disabled people overwhelmed by the prospect of repairing or adapting their homes is proving handy to Suffolk Coastal's most vulnerable residents.

The Helping Hand agency was set up by Suffolk Coastal's housing team in 2000 to assist people whose homes need to be improved to meet their requirements, or who find it hard to carry out basic repairs and odd jobs around the house.

"Last year, Helping Hand made it possible for 64 major adaptation and renovation projects with a combined cost of £418,504 to be completed, £294,161 of which was secured through charity donations and grant funding. It also carried out 267 jobs through their small repairs service," said Cllr Chris Slemmings, Cabinet Member for Housing.

In order to be eligible for help from the agency, people must be vulnerable, which usually means they are elderly or disabled, and living in a privately owned or rented home in Suffolk Coastal.

"One of the services Helping Hand provides is advice and support for those who would like to make their home better suited to their needs. This can involve adapting a home to make it easier for a disabled or elderly person to live independently, putting in insulation to reduce energy costs, or a renovation project," added Cllr Slemmings.

Helping Hand organises the whole project for them, from start to finish, which includes obtaining planning and building regulations consents, negotiating a price, contracting reliable builders to carry out the work, and resolving any problems that might arise.

"Furthermore, the agency informs vulnerable people of any grants or charity donations that might be available to pay for their work. In the current economic climate, some people will be unable to afford urgently needed repairs or adaptations unless they get funding help, but the good news is that there are a lot of opportunities out there, and Helping Hand can guide them through the applications process.

"Helping Hand is playing an important role in improving people's homes so that they can continue to lead an independent life in their own home while bringing up the quality and energy efficiency of properties across our district," added Cllr Slemmings.

The cost of this service is 12 percent of the cost of the work, but if the project is awarded a grant the fees are included in it, and if it is funded by charitable donations the fees are often waived.

"There is also a small repairs service, aimed at the elderly or people with disabilities, which can carry out odd jobs such as putting up shelves, repairing leaking taps or fitting smoke alarms, which they may find difficult to do themselves.

"Helping Hand runs this service with the support of the Suffolk Heritage Housing Association, and a good standard of work, undertaken by reliable professionals, is assured.

"Our small repairs service customers do not have to pay for labour costs, though they must pay

for any materials. Call the service on 01394 444644 to find out whether they can help,” added Cllr Slemmings.

Elderly or disabled people who would like to find out how the Helping Hand agency could make their lives easier, should also call 01394 444644 or email [ps.housing@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk](mailto:ps.housing@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk). Information and a downloadable leaflet are available from [www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourhome/housing/helpinghand/](http://www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourhome/housing/helpinghand/)

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## Make something artistic happen down your lane

19 Jan 2009

**Archived press release.**

Anyone living in Suffolk Coastal's rural communities wanting to organise a festival, exhibition or gig in their local area but unsure how to proceed, is being encouraged to attend a seminar to find out how they can bring arts and cultural events to their town or village.

The seminar will introduce examples of innovative arts programming in rural areas, and those that attend will receive an information pack full of advice on the many different kinds of artists they could book, and gain the chance to apply for grants of up to £500 to contribute towards the cost of their event.

"The Down Your Lane – Up Your Street arts programming seminar is part of an initiative to bring extraordinary arts events to Suffolk Coastal and inspire people to do something for their local community," said Cllr Mary Neale, Cabinet Member for Leisure and Countryside.

Aimed at community groups, members of parish councils, village hall management teams, schools, youth workers, artists or anybody else who wants to help organise a local event, the one day seminar will be held on Thursday, March 26 at The Cut in Halesworth, and will cost £10 per person, with lunch and the information pack included.

"Whether you want to put on a display to rival The Sultan's Elephant, the giant 42-tonne time-travelling mechanical elephant that walked the streets of Central London in May 2006, or if you have your sights set on something slightly more modest in scope, the seminar promises to get your creative juices flowing and give you the opportunity to apply for a grant of up to £500 to help fund your event.

"In between practical workshops and talks, interludes of different types of street art will be taking place to give people a feel for what is possible on different budgets, and hopefully, to help them to decide what they want to achieve.

"There will also be an arts market, where creative professionals, such as artists, theatre producers, magicians, musicians, as well as funding and organising advisers, will be happy to discuss details of what they offer and help you tailor your event to suit the needs of your community," added Cllr Neale.

The arts market will feature The Insect Circus, Wonderful Beast Theatre Company, puppet theatre company Theatre of Widdershins, events consultant Tarby Davenport, Karen Whiterod from footprint arts, which offers environmentally-friendly art workshops, Music Makers, the East Anglian Traditional Music Trust, and Suffolk Artlink.

To book a place on Down Your Lane – Up Your Street or to find out more, email Nicky Corbett at [arts@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk](mailto:arts@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk) or call 01394 444538.

The seminar has been organised by Suffolk Coastal ARTS in partnership with Mid Suffolk ARTS, with the support of Suffolk County Council.

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## Free car park set to open in Felixstowe

22 Jan 2009

[Archived press release.](#)

The current hold on the Felixstowe South Seafront project is producing some good news for motorists and visitors to the resort with the announcement that part of the land will be open for free parking from as early as the start of March.

The go-ahead has been given to reopen the part of the site that includes the old Wireless Green informal car park for people to use on Sundays and every day during the peak summer months.

“When I announced the disappointing news that the multi-million pound regeneration project for the South Seafront was being put on hold because of the economic downturn and the collapse in the housing market, I said we would be looking for ways to make the best temporary use of the land,” said Cllr Robert Whiting, Cabinet Member for Resources.

“Car parking was an obviously attractive option and after a thorough investigation we have agreed to open up potentially 200 free spaces on Sundays and during the busy summer months.

“I hope this will be a useful boost to local businesses and the resort as a whole, as it is a handy place to park for both the Sunday market but also the new-look beach at South Felixstowe,” added Cllr Whiting.

It is hoped that the car park will be ready for use from Sunday, March 1, when the barriers should open again for the first time, and will come into daily use through the summer season.

“The area has been used as an unofficial free car park for many years and it became clear that while reopening it might impact on our income at other car parks, it would not be economic or desirable to make it a paid-for car park.

“We expect this to be only a temporary pause in the development of the overall site, and it would not make sense to invest the money to make it a paid-for facility, so the most effective answer was to make it free, a decision which I am sure will also be the most popular one as well,” added Cllr Whiting.

Residents were assured at the end of November that the South Seafront site at Felixstowe will still be developed despite the national downturn in the housing market forcing a postponement until March 2010 of the planned work.



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## Views wanted on what future leisure needs will be

22 Jan 2009

**Archived press release.**

An in-depth study is now underway into what the future leisure needs will be in the Felixstowe and Trimleys area, with people being asked to have a say through surveys and public meetings.

Suffolk Coastal has requested the study to find out exactly what people think about the leisure services and facilities that are currently on offer and what the demands will be in the future, particularly from people living in the Felixstowe peninsula.

"This review will cover all aspects of leisure, including arts and sports, and will give us both a snapshot of what is there at present, but also a clear idea of where there needs to be growth to meet the needs of a changing and growing population," said Cllr Mary Neale, Cabinet Member for Leisure and Countryside.

"The consultants producing this report are contacting town and parish councils, and as many leisure clubs and organisations as they can, to explain how people can help them draw up their conclusions.

"The end result will help with the planning of public, private and voluntary leisure services and facilities in the years to come, and could prove useful in attracting future finance for them. I would encourage as many people as possible to take the time to give them some input and I hope we can carry out similar surveys for the rest of the district," added Cllr Neale.

A survey is being launched next week, and will be available on Suffolk Coastal's website at [www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk](http://www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk) from Monday, January 26.

From Wednesday, January 28, paper versions of the survey will be available from a number of venues, including Felixstowe Town Hall, leisure centres, the tourist information centre, local schools and libraries. The closing date for comments is February 14.

Two public meetings are also being held at Trimley St Mary primary school on Monday, February 2 at 6.30pm and Felixstowe Town Hall on Tuesday, February 3 at 6.30pm.

Anyone wanting further information can contact Jim Cowan on 07802 817796 or email [jim.cowan@cowanglobal.net](mailto:jim.cowan@cowanglobal.net)



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## Two countries consider local gateway to the Olympics

26 Jan 2009

[Archived press release.](#)

*Press release issued jointly by Ipswich Borough Council and Suffolk Coastal District Council.*

Ipswich and Suffolk Coastal's hopes of becoming a gateway to the London 2012 Olympics moved closer today following the announcement that negotiations are taking place with both Azerbaijan and Barbados.

The borough and district councils are talking to sporting leaders of both nations and the intention is the Azerbaijan and Barbados teams would use some of the camps in the area that have already been approved by LOCOG.

Councillor Judy Terry, Arts, Culture & Leisure portfolio-holder at Ipswich, said: "This is a very exciting step and we look forward to hearing more. Ipswich is home to many different communities and we hope we have the pleasure to host international teams during their preparation for the 2012 Games. We are sure that the people of Ipswich will give any international team a very warm welcome."

Councillor Mary Neale, Cabinet Member for Leisure and Countryside at Suffolk Coastal, said: "It would be an honour and a pleasure to play host to international teams competing in the 2012 games, and the presence of Olympic visitors cannot fail to inspire the next generation of local sporting talent.

"It is still early days, but both Councils will continue to work together to show Olympic athletes that our top-class facilities, stunning countryside location, convenient transport links and enthusiasm for the Games make Ipswich and Suffolk Coastal the perfect place to train in the run-up to 2012."

The Team Ipswich initiative has been working hard behind the scenes to make certain that the opportunities presented by the London Olympics are taken up. In August Karen Pickering, Team Ipswich Sports Ambassador, promoted Ipswich on the world stage while working as a TV commentator, and Team Ipswich has also written to more than a hundred National Olympic Committees.

Jonathan Owen, Director at Ipswich, added: "We realise it is early days with regards to successfully hosting an Olympic team for 2012 but we remain optimistic about the response so far. We also feel the work we are putting in to ensure teams visiting the area have the best possible experience will make Ipswich and Suffolk Coastal the place to stay."

The two Councils have successfully gained seven approved training facilities as potential venues representing to name a few a wide range of sports - athletics, gymnastics, fencing, canoeing, and cycling. Team Ipswich has been working closely with any that still need infrastructure and support.

Key relationships have been created with hotels, transport agencies, security companies and other private and public centre partners to provide an all encompassing package of support so

full concentration can be given to the preparation for the games.

Councillor Terry added: "The culture, heritage and leisure opportunities that Ipswich and Suffolk Coastal enjoy, together with the training facilities we have to offer, make us an unbeatable combination.

"We can also help make this the 'green Games' as we will be only 45 minutes from Stratford in 2012 and we are close to Felixstowe Port, which is a huge logistical advantage."



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## The future of Landguard Peninsula is in ten good hands

30 Jan 2009

[Archived press release.](#)

A new visitor's centre and renovated viewing area, offering stunning views of the port and mouth of the Orwell estuary, are the goals in the next five years of a partnership managing Landguard peninsula, masterminded by Suffolk Coastal and nine other local and national organisations.

At a meeting on Friday, January 30, ten organisations signed an agreement to manage Landguard in partnership, as part of the Felixstowe and Trimleys Peninsula Futures initiative to regenerate the resort.

"The creation of the Landguard partnership is an important step for the peninsula, which attracts over half a million visitors each year, as it is set to ensure that Landguard continues to develop as both a major tourist attraction and a place of significance for local people," said Cllr Mary Neale, Cabinet Member for Leisure and Countryside.

"The challenge for the partners will be to implement a strategy that balances all of the interests of what is after all quite a small area of the Suffolk Coast," added Cllr Neale.

Over half of the Landguard peninsula is a Site of Special Scientific Interest, home to rare plants such as Stinking Goosefoot, and a haven for birds. Much of this area is managed as a Local Nature Reserve to help people experience and enjoy the environment.

Landguard peninsula was occupied by the military from the 16th century up until the 1950s. The Fort and earthworks are a big draw for people interested in naval history, military history, and the local heritage of the district.

"With long-term financial support from the Port of Felixstowe and contributions from Suffolk Coastal, Suffolk County Council and Felixstowe Town Council, the Landguard partnership will ensure local authorities, the people of Felixstowe, wildlife experts, history buffs, and major industrial players are able to shape key decisions concerning the future development of the peninsula.

"This will undoubtedly result in a balanced and effective strategy that makes a positive difference to Landguard," added Cllr Neale.

The partnership brings together Suffolk Coastal, English Heritage, Suffolk County Council, Felixstowe History & Museum Society, Felixstowe Town Council, Harwich Haven Authority, Landguard Fort Trust, Port of Felixstowe, Natural England and Landguard Conservation Trust.



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## Timber clean-up underway

30 Jan 2009

[Archived press release.](#)

Teams from Suffolk Coastal Services were the first on the scene today from the agencies that have joined up to clear the piles of timber that have been washed up along the beaches of the East Suffolk coast from Orford Ness northwards from the cargo ship Sinegorsk which lost much of its load on Monday, January 19.

For safety reasons, people are being asked to stay away from the affected beaches to allow the clean-up operation to be carried out as quickly and effectively as possible. From tomorrow (Saturday) specialist clean-up squads will be working along the coastline.

"Some of timber is washing up on beaches that are Sites of Special Scientific Interest, so extra care will be taken by the teams to minimise any impact on these nationally important natural areas," said Cllr Andrew Nunn, Cabinet Member for the Green Environment.

"Another major issue for us is the possible impact that the timber could have on the flood defences that have been put in place at Dunwich, and any timber there needs to be carefully removed to ensure that the textile groynes are not damaged.

"As there will also be heavy machinery working on the beaches, I would ask people to keep away and let the teams get on with the job of clearing up the debris," said Cllr Andrew Nunn, Cabinet Member for the Green Environment.

As the wood is not a pollutant and does not threaten birds and animals, it is possible with care to avoid the risk of crush damage to the rare and vulnerable plants that exist in the tiny gaps between the stones from heavy machinery working on the beaches. Natural England will guide the salvage contractors on site to appropriate access points and to advise them to work at low tide in the gaps between the wood washed up on the shore and the sea to avoid damaging the protected shingle ridges.

The agencies met this afternoon to coordinate the clean-up operation at a meeting chaired by Stephen Baker, the joint Chief Executive of Suffolk Coastal and Waveney councils. Among those involved are the Dorton Group, the Maritime and Coastguard Agency, Natural England, Suffolk Police, the County Council, BMT Marine and Offshore Surveys Ltd, Suffolk Coastal Services Ltd, as well as Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Councils.

Anyone who removes any of the timber without notifying the Receiver of Wreck (the Maritime and Coastguard Agency) will be committing a criminal offence. Failure to report items within 28 days to the Receiver can result in a fine of up to £2,500. Report forms can be downloaded from [www.mcga.gov.uk](http://www.mcga.gov.uk)

Because the timber is untreated and has been soaked in salty seawater for over a week, it is of little practical use to anyone as it will inevitably discolour and rot.

"The Coastguard service is also advising small boat users, wind or kite surfers and jet skiers to be extremely cautious if putting out to sea and that advice applies along much of the East Suffolk coastline.

“It is too early to predict how long this clean-up operation will take but at present I would ask people to give a wide berth to the beaches from Orford northwards, such as Sizewell, Dunwich and Walberswick, so that the teams can get on with what could be quite a massive task,” added Cllr Nunn.

The specialist teams will be using a lot of heavy equipment, including diggers, so people are being advised to stay off the beaches where they are working. A thorough inspection of the entire East Suffolk coastline is being carried out so there is no need for people to report any instances of timber being washed up.



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## Plans to help south Felixstowe stand the test of time

03 Feb 2009

[Archived press release.](#)

The impressive late Victorian and Edwardian architecture of south Felixstowe has long attracted the admiration of tourists and locals alike. Now its residents are being asked for their thoughts on proposals to give this part of the resort conservation area status.

Suffolk Coastal has sent letters to 500 residents inviting them to have their say on the plans, which are part of the Council's efforts to ensure that this part of south Felixstowe stands the test of time.

"If local people are happy with the plans, this will be the first area for 19 years in Suffolk Coastal to be given conservation area status, and this could lead to its homeowners being given English Heritage funding to restore the original features of their homes," said Cllr Andy Smith, Cabinet Member for Planning.

"With a project to renovate the Spa Gardens bidding for a multi-million pound grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund, the Felixstowe and Trimleys Peninsula Futures master plan and expansion works at the Port of Felixstowe, plans for the regeneration of Felixstowe are making great progress, but as we look to the future it is very important that the resort's unique heritage should also be safeguarded," added Cllr Smith.

The proposed conservation area extends from Victoria Road down to Buregate Road, and from Langer Road to the seafront, including Martello Tower Q and the area of its original military compound.

Anything that contributes to the unique character of this part of the resort will be protected by the conservation area status, including trees and open spaces, unlisted but significant buildings, and on the oldest buildings which form the historical streetscape, important features like balconies, verandahs, decorative cast-ironwork and timberwork.

Homes built before 1926 would be protected by extra rules ensuring that owners and developers consider their original character when undertaking renovations, repairs, or replacements.

If there is local support in the town for the idea, Suffolk Coastal will apply to English Heritage for a partnership scheme, which could provide funding for homeowners to repair their properties and recover any lost or damaged features.

"Members of the public will be able to check out the proposal for the conservation area and have their say over a six-week consultation period, which began on Friday, January 30 and will end on Monday, March 16.

"If south Felixstowe residents have any questions about what living in a conservation area might mean for them, or any suggestions as to how we could improve our proposals, their comments are welcomed," added Cllr Smith.

Maps will be on display at Felixstowe Town Hall from Saturday, February 14 to Sunday, February 22 during normal opening hours, and there will also be copies of the proposal to take away. The display will be manned on Saturdays and Sundays February 14 and 15, 21 and 22,

from 10am to 4pm, and residents are encouraged to attend if they would prefer to speak to someone in person.

For more information, to print off a survey about the proposal, or to submit comments using an online form, people can visit

[www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourdistrict/planning/conservation/felixstowesouth/](http://www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourdistrict/planning/conservation/felixstowesouth/)

Comments can also be sent by email to [robert.scrimgeour@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk](mailto:robert.scrimgeour@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk), or by post to Robert Scrimgeour, senior design and conservation officer, planning services, Suffolk Coastal District Council, Melton Hill, Woodbridge, IP12 1AU.

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## Town and parishes urged to lobby Government about LGR

04 Feb 2009

[Archived press release.](#)

Town and parish councils across Suffolk Coastal are being urged to register their concern about the local government review (LGR) of Suffolk with the Secretary of State.

Apart from writing directly to the Government, towns and parishes are also being invited to participate in a postcard campaign insisting that if unitary local government is to be introduced in Suffolk it should be on the basis of a three-way split between East Suffolk, West Suffolk and Ipswich. The postcard campaign is being promoted by Suffolk Coastal linking up with the three other councils that have been calling for the county to be split up into three new unitaries if the Government presses ahead with rearranging local government in Suffolk.

“Our survey of town and parish councils and our meetings with them have confirmed that there is a simmering dissatisfaction with the way that the Boundary Committee for England (BCE) has carried out its review of Suffolk,” said Cllr Ray Herring, Leader of Suffolk Coastal.

“It is clear to most of us that the BCE has failed to look at all the possible options for the future of Suffolk, and has blatantly ignored the proposals to create three new unitaries, so fatally undermining its final recommendations.

“I would strongly urge all town and parish councils to write to Hazel Blears once the BCE has given her its final recommendations on February 13, but I would also encourage them to participate now in the postcard campaign expressing their concerns about the failure to consider the three unitary councils option,” added Cllr Herring.

A survey carried out two months ago by Suffolk Coastal showed that 74 per cent of town and parish councils felt they had insufficient information to make an informed response to the BCE's draft proposals, with 84 per cent feeling constrained by only having two options to consider.

Half of the councils said there had not been sufficient time given for the consultation process, and there was a preference for maintaining or improving the existing structure in Suffolk, followed by Suffolk Coastal's proposal of creating three new unitary councils.

“Neither in this Council or across our town and parishes, has the argument for imposing unitary councils yet convinced the majority, but if the county must be split up, then the weight of support remains for creating three councils on the lines that we have proposed.

“It remains frustrating that we are having to spend so much time and energy arguing about the future of our councils when we all should be concentrating on delivering real efficiencies and better services now, rather than some possible savings in the future.

“However, it is the future shape of Suffolk and the quality and accountability of local services that is at stake, and it is time that the voices of our hundred plus town and parish councils were listened to at the highest level,” added Cllr Herring.

Suffolk Coastal has joined up with Forest Heath, St Edmundsbury and Waveney Councils to

distribute the postcards which are being sent to every town and parish council. The postcards are addressed to Hazel Blears, the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government and have the following message – ‘People and businesses in Suffolk are being ignored – the Boundary Committee will not listen to them. Please help to empower our local communities through strong local democracy by telling the Boundary Committee to fully consider the detailed business case for three separate unitary councils in East Suffolk (including Lowestoft), West Suffolk and Ipswich area’.

Suffolk Coastal’s preferred unitary options is three new councils – one covering Ipswich and South Suffolk, one for West Suffolk, and an East Suffolk that would include Felixstowe, Kesgrave and Lowestoft. The postcard can also be downloaded from [www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourcouncil/future](http://www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourcouncil/future)



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## Get ready to take part in village of year

05 Feb 2009

[Archived press release.](#)

Villagers in the district are being encouraged to brush up their community spirit in preparation for the 2009 Village of the Year competition, which this year is aimed at villages with less than 500 people.

The judges will be basing their decisions on more than just an attractive external appearance, and only villages demonstrating an active and involved parish council, infectious levels of enthusiasm and an awareness of environmental issues stand a chance of winning the title. Special activities and features that are unique to the village are also bound to impress.

"The winner of the Suffolk Coastal round, judged by a panel of three district councillors in June 2009, will go on to compete against the best of Suffolk, and if they win again, they could be battling against villages across the country for the national title," said Cllr Mary Neale, Cabinet Member for Leisure and Countryside.

"There are innumerable vibrant and interesting communities in Suffolk Coastal that deserve the chance to follow in the footsteps of Levington, the winner of the 2008 national Village of the Year competition.

"I hope that as many villages as possible enter Village of the Year, as it can provide a huge boost to the local area and motivate everyone to be the best they can be. We want to celebrate our beautiful villages and let the entire country know how proud we are of them," added Cllr Neale.

The winner of the Suffolk Coastal title will receive £200 and an engraved silver cup, courtesy of the Council, and will progress to the next stage in the competition. Second prize will be a cheque for £125, and third prize will be a £75 cheque. Winning villages will also gain considerable publicity and prestige as a result of their success.

"Our district has a great track record in the Village of the Year competition. Levington, which began by winning the Suffolk Coastal round in 2007, continued to impress the judges in the county and regional rounds, and in the end scooped the national title, thanks above all to its active and involved local community.

"This year Orford clinched the title of Suffolk Coastal's Village of the Year, as well as winning the Open Spaces award, while Wickham Market came second and was also awarded Parish Council of the Year. I am positive we can build on past victories in the 2009 competition," added Cllr Neale.

The competition will be launched on Monday, February 9, and the closing date for applications is Friday, May 15. Application forms will be available to download next week from [www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourcouncil/parishcouncils/villageoftheyear/](http://www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourcouncil/parishcouncils/villageoftheyear/). For more information, contact Jo Mael on 01394 444326 or email [jo.mael@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk](mailto:jo.mael@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk)

The Village of the Year competition is run by Calor, organised by the Suffolk Association of Local Councils in partnership with county and district councils, sponsored by Notcutts and

Adnams, and supported by the East Anglian Daily Times.

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## New team to regenerate Felixstowe and the Trimleys

05 Feb 2009

[Archived press release.](#)

A special project team is being set up by Suffolk Coastal to help co-ordinate the regeneration of the Felixstowe and Trimleys peninsula and attract the necessary multi-million pound investments.

Suffolk Coastal's Cabinet this week (Tuesday) gave the go-ahead to bringing together a six-strong team to push ahead with proposals over the next two years.

"We are using windfall cash that we have received from the Government to reinvest in putting in place the foundations to build a bright future for Felixstowe, the Trimleys and the rest of the peninsula," said Cllr Colin Hart, Cabinet Member for the Economy.

"Ambitious proposals have been produced and we want to give them the best possible chance of being turned into reality. Experience shows that setting up a special project team is the best way to ensure that we are all pulling together in the right direction.

"We have shown our commitment by allocating nearly £900,000 towards supporting the key projects, with every expectation that could unlock millions of pounds of investment, and this new team's task will be to help achieve that goal," added Cllr Hart.

December's Cabinet Meeting gave the go-ahead to an investment plan that includes money set aside for a new foot ferry between Harwich, Shotley and Felixstowe, and regeneration projects at Felixstowe's Seafront Gardens and Hamilton Road/The Triangle.

The commitment to Felixstowe was part of a £1.5 million package across the district, with the money coming from the Government, through its Local Authority Business Growth Incentive Scheme (LABGI) because of the district's success in increasing the amount of money collected from business rates.

"Having a team dedicated to Felixstowe Futures and actually based in the town will give the necessary focus and drive to take these exciting proposals from the drawing board towards becoming reality," said Cllr Andy Smith, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Planning.

"We looked at how successful a similar team was in helping to regenerate Bognor Regis and recognised how important it is to pull together planning and regeneration experts together to ensure a unity of purpose and approach.

"We will also be inviting the County Council to support our initiative by having one of their officers in the team, as their current role means that they have the lead role on highways and transport issues, as well as being a key landowner," added Cllr Smith.

The creation of the six-strong Felixstowe and Trimleys Peninsula Futures Project Team follows the Felixstowe Sea Front and Town Centre masterplan drawn up by David Lock Associates in DLA in October 2007 as the first element of a delivery strategy for the regeneration and enhancement of the Peninsula.

“For the regeneration goal to be successful, there has to be full support and involvement from the whole range of partners that have a stake in the area, and this commitment from Suffolk Coastal is a massive step forward in giving the project the necessary coordination and drive,” said Stephen Bracewell, Chairman of the Felixstowe Futures Steering Group.

Among the initiatives included in the masterplan that the team will have to address are the funding bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund for the refurbishment of Spa Gardens, the enhancement of the Triangle, beach shelters and cafes, the development of a coastal path, as well as bring together work on several other major schemes such as the proposed new single secondary school to serve the town at Orwell School, development of sports and leisure facilities across the town, the final vision of the Local Development Framework for the area, the Central Felixstowe sea defence scheme and strategic flood planning, the South Seafront development, and car parking.



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## Help find possible housing sites in Felixstowe and Trimleys

06 Feb 2009

**Archived press release.**

Two special exhibitions are being held in the next few days by planning and environmental consultants who are trying to identify where new housing could be built around Felixstowe and the Trimleys.

Entec have been appointed by Suffolk Coastal to offer advice on where new homes could go if they were to be dispersed around the edges of Felixstowe and the Trimleys, rather than built in one location.

The first of the exhibitions is at Trimley Memorial Hall, Trimley St Martin on Sunday, February 8 from 10am to 1pm, with a further chance for people to go along and give their opinions on Wednesday, February 11 at Walton Community Hall from 4.30pm to 7.30pm.

Entec have been called in by the Council to identify possible sites for up to 1,660 homes that have been proposed as part of the ongoing discussions on the drawing up of the district's first Local Development Framework.

Any potential location needs to accord with the Council's objective of supporting organic and evolutionary growth over a mixture of sites, while preserving as far as possible prime agricultural land.

This study will initially identify the preferred sites and then the infrastructure and costs associated with their delivery. As far as is practical the identified sites will also need to meet the Council's defined criteria of being accessible to existing services and facilities, particular within the town centre, by means other than the private car; avoiding sites identified as being of high biodiversity value; minimising impact on the area of outstanding natural beauty; providing easy access to the Port; integrating with existing communities; and retaining the separate physical identities of Trimley St Martin and Trimley St Mary, as well as Kirton.

Anyone unable to attend one of the two exhibitions can still make their views known and help the consultants draw up their final report by visiting their website [www.suffolkcoastalstudy.info/](http://www.suffolkcoastalstudy.info/) where there will be information on the possible sites and a form to email, fax or post.



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## Light at the end of the tunnel for old railway station

06 Feb 2009

[Archived press release.](#)

Plans to demolish Trimley St Mary railway station have hit the buffers after Suffolk Coastal planning officers took action that could save the empty Victorian building forever.

Suffolk Coastal has asked the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport to consider making the disused railway station a listed building, and a building preservation order was today (Friday, February 6) put on the site to protect it until a decision is made.

"This could mean there is light at the end of the tunnel at last for this local architectural treasure. Our building preservation order will last for six months or until Culture Secretary Andy Burnham makes a decision and notifies the Council, and until then, the station will be protected from demolition or damage as if it were a listed building," said Cllr Andy Smith, Cabinet Member for Planning.

"Trimley St Mary railway station dates back to 1891 and it is the last country station built by the Great Eastern Railway still standing in England. It is an excellent example of late Victorian railway architecture and I hope that the Culture Secretary recognises its importance and gives it listed building status," added Cllr Smith.

Network Rail own Trimley St Mary railway station, but after years of neglect, and with nobody willing to take it on, this piece of local heritage has recently been earmarked for demolition.

"With potential financial support now available through the Haven Gateway Partnership, thanks to the Felixstowe peninsula gaining Growth Point status, and from the Felixstowe and the Trimleys Peninsula Futures project, now is the perfect time for anyone with an interest in renovating this handsome building to come forward.

"It has plenty of scope for development, and is situated close to a thriving industrial park, and even though it has not been looked after as well as it could have been, it is still basically sound. However, the longer it is left, the harder it will be to repair, so it is very much now or never.

"I would recommend that anyone with a serious proposal for giving the railway station a new lease of life contact Trimley St Mary Parish Council, who have been campaigning tirelessly for such a project, and Network Rail, who own the building and surrounding land," added Cllr Smith.

To contact Trimley St Mary Parish Council, call Debra Cooper, the parish clerk, on 01394 285193 or email [clerk@trimley-st-mary.org.uk](mailto:clerk@trimley-st-mary.org.uk)



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## Sports clubs are invited to air their views

06 Feb 2009

[Archived press release.](#)

Coaches, club administrators, team managers and people who play sport in Felixstowe and the Trimleys can give their views on what they think the future of sport in their area should be.

As part of the leisure needs survey currently underway in the town and surrounding villages, Sports Club Forums will be held at Felixstowe Town Hall on Monday and Tuesday, February 9 and 10, from 7pm.

"We would like to invite anyone involved in a sports team or club in Felixstowe and the Trimleys to come along to the Forums, because their insights could help us draw up a strategy for the development of sports facilities, services and funding opportunities in the area over the next 15 years," said Cllr Mary Neale, Cabinet Member for Leisure and Countryside.

"Meeting the needs of people who play sport in the district is important because we want to make it easier for all our residents to lead active, healthy lives, and supporting the work of sports teams and clubs is a great way of achieving this.

"At The Sports Club Forums people can say what they think of what is currently on offer in Felixstowe and the Trimleys, put forward suggestions for how they think sports facilities and services could be improved in the future, and enter into debate with people from other sports organisations," added Cllr Neale.

These conversations will help shape the future leisure needs survey currently taking place in Felixstowe and the Trimleys. The results of the survey will be a vital resource when Suffolk Coastal draws up its plans for the future.

"The population of the Felixstowe peninsula is growing, and it is important we get an accurate picture of what is out there at the moment so that we can anticipate the changing needs of the town and surrounding villages. Seeing things from the perspective of the people who use sports facilities and services in this part of the district will no doubt shed new light on what we can do to improve," added Cllr Neale.

"Sport is currently underrepresented among the survey responses we have received so far, and it is essential that those involved in sports teams and clubs on the peninsula take the opportunity for their voices to be heard," added Jim Cowan of Cowan Global Consulting, who are conducting the leisure needs analysis on behalf of Suffolk Coastal.

Those unable to attend the Sports Club Forums can still have their say by filling in a Felixstowe and the Trimleys leisure survey, which can be found on the Council's website at [www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk](http://www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk), along with more information about the review of leisure needs.

Paper versions of the survey are available from Felixstowe Town Hall, leisure centres, the tourist information centre, local schools and libraries, among other venues. The closing date for comments is Saturday, February 14.

For further information, contact Jim Cowan on 07802 817796 or email [jim.cowan@cowanglobal.net](mailto:jim.cowan@cowanglobal.net)



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## Rethink on review welcomed by Suffolk Coastal

09 Feb 2009

**Archived press release.**

The news that the Boundary Committee for England (BCE) has been given a further five months to reconsider, and perhaps rethink, its increasingly ill-fated review of local government in Suffolk has been given a guarded welcome by Suffolk Coastal.

The BCE should originally have published its final recommendations by December 31, but this was put back to this Friday and today's shock news is that it has now been delayed a further five months to July 15.

"This news show that the Government again clearly has strong concerns about the previously proposed BCE options and I hope it means that North Haven, Rural Suffolk or the one giant Suffolk will never see the light of day. The BCE should now start again, forget its proposals for twinning Ipswich with Felixstowe, and instead offer an Ipswich unitary on a much tighter boundary with the rest of the county being split into East and West Suffolk as previously suggested by Suffolk Coastal. If the Government insists on proceeding with what has turned from a review into a farce, this Council believes that our Make Suffolk Three model would be the best way forward," said Cllr Andy Smith, Suffolk Coastal's Deputy Leader.

"The bad news is that the continuing delays and uncertainty will definitely further harm local government in our county. The BCE has not previously given any real consideration to the most sensible options of creating three new local unitary councils, or even addressed the strong demand for the existing local councils to be allowed to remain in an updated and modernised way.

"There were strong concerns in our district about the lack of real consultation, which was recently highlighted in our survey of Suffolk Coastal's town and parish councils. It is good that the Secretary of State wants the BCE to take the extra time to consult fully with local communities, which it should now make sure includes options that it had not previously looked at," added Cllr Smith.

Since the review was first announced, Suffolk Coastal has warned that the BCE had not been given enough time to draw any reliable conclusions on the future shape of local government in Suffolk.

The Council's Leader, Cllr Ray Herring, condemned the original proposals from the BCE last July when it offered, as preferred options, concepts that no-one had ever called for and which created a storm of protest, particularly over the plans to put Lowestoft in with Norfolk.

"It was obvious from the start that the BCE had been given an unrealistically short timetable but it has not helped itself by having so far turned a deaf ear to the calls of so many of the communities and councils of this district and Suffolk.

"The Courts have upheld complaints about the process and the Government issued a stern warning to the BCE about the review before Christmas, all of which caused further delays.

"Friday the 13th felt like a suitably ominous day for its recommendations to be published but now

that has been abandoned as well. I think even the Government is now recognising what a massive and distracting waste of time this has been and that it has been getting in the way of all the councils in Suffolk delivering better services and even better value, which is so important in these economically challenging times,” added Cllr Smith.

Today’s announcement follows a letter from the BCE to the Government asking for more time. The Government says it recognises ‘there could be circumstances where the Boundary Committee wished to consult on further proposals ... an extension to July 15 would allow for significant further consultations and substantial time for the Committee both to prepare for consultation, to consider responses, and formulate any advice it submits’.

The letter from the Department of Communities and Local Government also states that its Secretary of State, Hazel Blears ‘also recognises the importance of minimising the continuing period of uncertainty for the councils concerned, and hence minimising the risk to the delivery of effective local services and to the provision of that local strategic leadership needed to promote an area’s prosperity.’



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## Residents reminded to put out waste on time

11 Feb 2009

[Archived press release.](#)

Residents across Suffolk Coastal are being asked to put out all their rubbish and recycling no later than 7.30am on their collection day as previously advised as the teams coming to pick them up may be calling at different times from next week.

Suffolk Coastal Services Ltd, who carry out the recycling and refuse collection service in the district, are making changes to its rounds from next week to make them even more efficient.

“Every now and again, SCS has to tweak its collection rounds to take account of the growth in housing in some parts of the district. This latest change also takes account of the excellent efforts of our residents in using the recycling services on offer, with around half of all household rubbish now being diverted away from landfill,” said Cllr Andrew Nunn, Cabinet Member for the Green Environment.

“These latest changes should make the SCS service even more efficient, but it may mean that the collection teams may be coming at different times from usual. I would therefore ask people to ensure that their items are left ready for collection by 7.30am on their normal day as we do not want anyone to miss their collections,” added Cllr Nunn.

Anyone with any questions about their refuse and recycling service can call the SCS helpline on 01394 444000 or visit [www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourhome/waste](http://www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourhome/waste)





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## Step up to the challenge of leading health walks

11 Feb 2009

**Archived press release.**

The call has gone out for people ready to learn new skills, help others to raise their fitness levels and even improve their career prospects by volunteering to become health walk leaders.

All volunteers receive training so they are able to support fellow walkers of all ages and abilities, do risk assessments and manage any problems that might arise.

“Volunteering with Stepping Out In Suffolk is a brilliant way for anyone enthusiastic about walking to pass on their passion, commitment and zest for life to those looking to ease themselves into an exercise routine,” said Cllr Sherrie Green, Suffolk Coastal Local Strategic Partnership Board Member.

“Becoming a walk leader will hone your problem-solving skills, test your ability to manage groups of people and provide you with experience of holding a position of responsibility, which could give your CV a welcome boost.

“Suffolk Coastal’s new health walk co-ordinator Stephanie Cullen used the training she picked up as a health walk leader to gain a career with the Council, joining Althea Unthank, who also became a health walk co-ordinator after leading Stepping Out In Suffolk walks,” added Cllr Green.

Anyone can go on a health walk, though they are considered especially beneficial to those who are recovering from illness or aiming to improve their fitness levels. They generally last about an hour, and it is recommended that people wear sensible shoes and bring food and drink with them.

Walks take place across the district and are graded for difficulty so that people can choose the walk that best suits them. There are buggy walks for parents with small children, and walks that give people the opportunity to pursue their interests, such as one including a visit to the RAF museum in Martlesham and a Fair Trade themed walk in Felixstowe.

“We are always in need of more leaders as they make a real difference to our walkers, inspiring confidence in those who might be coming back to exercise after a long absence or who may not be used to fitness routines.

“I would encourage anyone with a little time to spare and a lot of enthusiasm for promoting fitness to consider volunteering as a health walk leader, as it is a rewarding and fun way of giving,” added Cllr Green.

To learn more about becoming a volunteer walk leader, or to find out more about Stepping Out in Suffolk health walks, contact Althea Unthank or Stephanie Cullen, health walk co-ordinators, by calling 01394 444501 or emailing [walks@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk](mailto:walks@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk)

A programme of health walks taking place in the district can be viewed on Suffolk Coastal’s website [www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourfreetime/steppingout](http://www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourfreetime/steppingout) Health walks are funded by the Suffolk Coastal Local Strategic Partnership and Suffolk Primary Care Trust.

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

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## Grants will help community groups

16 Feb 2009

[Archived press release.](#)

Grants totalling £34,000 have recently been agreed by Suffolk Coastal to support community projects ranging from car park improvements to new play area equipment.

Following recommendations from the Grants Task Group, Cllr Mary Neale, Cabinet Member for Leisure and Countryside, gave the go-ahead to funding bids from four local clubs and organisations.

“Our grants can give a financial kick-start by helping to attract other funding for works to improve the quality of life of people in the district, such as a new rugby pitch for Woodbridge Rugby Club, and renovations to play areas at Alderton recreation ground and Stratford St Andrew and Farnham community centre,” said Cllr Neale.

“Each proposal is considered on its own merits, and only applications that fit the criteria and represent the best use of Council money by providing real benefits to their local community are awarded grants.

“The fact that we have given up to £122,000 of grants to 13 organisations during the last 12 months shows that Suffolk Coastal is still committed to supporting deserving projects and recognising the hard work and dedication of town and parish councils, community groups, clubs and countless volunteers, despite the tough economic climate,” added Cllr Neale.

The next round of grants will be awarded in April. For more information about applying for Council funding, call 01394 444626, email [committee.section@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk](mailto:committee.section@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk) or visit [www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/helpingpeople/communitygrants/councilgrants](http://www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/helpingpeople/communitygrants/councilgrants)

The recommended grants were:

- £10,000 to Alderton Parish Council, for improvements to the play area at Alderton recreation ground, subject to a National Lottery Grant also being awarded to the project.
- £10,000 to Campsea Ashe Parish Council, to enlarge and improve the village hall car park so that it has room for disabled parking and station overspill parking, subject to financial assistance also being given by National Express and Suffolk County Council.
- Up to £8,000 to Stratford St Andrew and Farnham community centre, for new play equipment and the installation of a special play surface, subject to Lottery funding also being received.
- £6,000 for Woodbridge Rugby Union Football Club, for the purchase of land and the construction of a rugby pitch, car park, access road and landscaping.



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## Candidates announced for two town by-elections

17 Feb 2009

[Archived press release.](#)

Voters will be going to the polls to fill a vacant seat on Kesgrave Town Council on Thursday, March 12 from 7am to 10pm.

Nominations have now closed to fill three seats on Kesgrave Town Council, and two candidates have been put forward for the Kesgrave East vacancy caused by the death of Norman Bugg.

There were also two vacant seats in Kesgrave West but as only two candidates were nominated, there will be no need for a by-election as both will be elected automatically.

The full list of candidates is as follows:

Kesgrave East (1 seat)

- Richard John Haskell (Conservative) - 41 Battles Lane, Kesgrave.
- Max Newport - 11 Stephen Road, Kesgrave

Kesgrave West (2 seats)

- Geoffrey Lynch (Conservative) - 59 Cambridge Road, Kesgrave.
- Colin Leslie Pryke ((Conservative) - 3 The Woolnoughs, Kesgrave.

The two Kesgrave West seats became vacant because of the recent resignations of former councillors Debbie McCallum and John Briggs.

Polling stations will be at Kesgrave Roman Catholic Church meeting room and Kesgrave New Scout Hall.

Anyone in the Kesgrave East parish ward who wants to check they are on the electoral register, join the electoral register or apply for a postal or proxy vote should contact Suffolk Coastal's elections team on 01394 444329 or email [elections@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk](mailto:elections@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk). The closing date is Wednesday, February 25, and applications must be received no later than 5pm.

There is also a by-election being held in Felixstowe East on Thursday, February 26 to fill a vacant seat on Felixstowe Town Council.

The vacancy was caused by the death of Ann Rodwell, who was a former Conservative Mayor of Felixstowe and former Chairman of Suffolk County Council.

Polling stations at Colneis Junior School and Old Felixstowe Community Centre will be open to voters in Felixstowe East from 7am to 10pm.

The full list of candidates is as follows:

Felixstowe East (1 seat)

- Hattie Bennett (Labour) - Marsh Cottage, Felixstowe Ferry.
- Gillian Mary Mason (Save Felixstowe Countryside) - 72 Ferry Road,

Felixstowe

- Graham Leslie Newman (Conservative) - 1 Mellis Court, Felixstowe.
- Bernard James Price (Liberal Democrat) - 103 High Road East.

Town council elections took place along with district and county council elections in May 2007, and the councillors are due to remain in office until May 2011.

For more information about local council elections, visit

[www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourcouncil/elections](http://www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourcouncil/elections)

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## Time for a C-Change to reduce CO2 emissions

17 Feb 2009

**Archived press release.**

A wave of exciting projects will be sweeping into six Suffolk Coastal communities thanks to C-Change Coastal, a new initiative offering six community groups grants to help them reduce their carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions.

Involvement in the pioneering C-Change Coastal scheme, funded by the Suffolk Coastal Local Strategic Partnership (LSP), would see them gain up to £2,000 for their project plus an £100 reward.

"It is important that our district's residents take practical action to reduce the impact of climate change, and I am sure that C-Change Coastal will spur on local people to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions and become less dependent on fossil fuels," said Cllr Andrew Nunn, Cabinet Member for the Green Environment.

"Newly formed or forming environmental groups in the district can apply now to become one of six groups piloting the funding scheme in the coming year, and their experiences and feedback will help to inform Greenprint and the LSP's continuing drive to reduce the district's carbon footprint.

"The C-Change Coastal grant could be used to fund events that raise awareness about climate change, pay for members of environmental groups to go on training courses with a view to sharing the knowledge they gain with their community, or help them establish a bulk buy scheme that would make it cheaper to purchase green technologies, such as solar panels," added Cllr Nunn.

To be eligible for help from C-Change Coastal, environmental groups need to fulfil certain conditions, which includes asking local businesses to carry out Environmental Business surveys, attending training sessions run by Suffolk Coastal and the LSP, and agreeing to spend their grant by December 2009. The full list of criteria can be found in the application pack.

"This new pot of funding is set to inspire and support ideas that could make a big difference to the amount of carbon dioxide our communities produce, so any local environmental groups keen for a financial boost to kick-start their carbon reduction campaign are encouraged to get involved," added Cllr Nunn.

The closing date for applications is Monday, March 2, and entries will be judged by the Greenprint Steering Group on behalf of the LSP.

For more information, or to request an application pack, call sustainability officer Deborah Wargate on 01394 444747 or 07825 790832 or email [deborah.wargate@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk](mailto:deborah.wargate@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk). Details and a downloadable application form will shortly also be available from [www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourdistrict/greenissues/cchange](http://www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourdistrict/greenissues/cchange)



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## Get back into the swing of golf

19 Feb 2009

**Archived press release.**

Golfers who have been away from the green for some time and who would like to get back into the swing of the sport are being encouraged to take part in training sessions teeing off at Best Western Ufford Park Golf Club next week.

Aimed at those who are eager to find themselves on the fairway once more, the sessions are being run as part of the Get Back Into Sport initiative launched by Suffolk Sport last year.

“Work commitments, financial pressures and health problems can lead to people falling out of the habit of leading an active lifestyle, which is why the Get Back Into Sport initiative has been working hard to remind people that taking regular exercise can be fun and rewarding,” said Cllr Mary Neale, Cabinet Member for Leisure and Countryside.

“These sessions are a perfect re-introduction to golf for those who do know a thing or two about the sport but who might be feeling a little rusty.

“Golf is mentally stimulating, requires accuracy and control, and involves a lot of walking. Training sessions will help people fall back in love with the sport they once enjoyed and refresh their skills so that when faced with a ball on the green they can wield their putters with confidence,” added Cllr Neale.

The first course will be held weekly on Mondays from 3pm to 4pm, starting on Monday, February 23 and finishing on Monday, March 23. The second will be held weekly on Tuesdays from 6pm to 7pm, starting on Tuesday, February 24 and finishing on Tuesday, March 24.

Each course costs £25 per person and will last five weeks, and at the end of the course people will have the opportunity to play on the Ufford Park golf course and book an individual training session with the Doctor Golf Academy.

For more information, or to book a place on a course, call active communities officer Sarah Shinnie from on 01394 444652 or email [active.communities@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk](mailto:active.communities@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk). Cheques should be made payable to Suffolk Coastal District Council and sent to Suffolk Coastal District Council, Melton Hill, Woodbridge, Suffolk, IP12 1AU.



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## Get ready for new services at recycling roadshows

19 Feb 2009

[Archived press release.](#)

Roadshows are being held this month to help make the latest rollout of Suffolk Coastal's improved recycling service as smooth as possible for local residents.

By the end of April over 6,000 more homes will be included in the expansion, and Suffolk Coastal is keen to ensure that new users are confident they can sort their waste correctly.

"In April the improved service will be rolled out in Brightwell, Bucklesham, Foxhall, Kesgrave, Rushmere St Andrew, Woodbridge and parts of Martlesham, which will mean that overall nearly three quarters of the district, or just under 42,000 homes, will have access to a wider range of recycling options," said Cllr Andrew Nunn, Cabinet Member for the Green Environment.

"I would encourage residents in these areas to attend the information roadshows, where members of our recycling team will be on hand to answer any questions and advise people how to make the best of the improved service.

"The wheeled bins will be on display, and people will be able to request a smaller bin if they would prefer. Our officers have been very successful at resolving potential problems with storing and manoeuvring bins in advance, but if anyone has concerns that they feel are not being addressed, please let us know," added Cllr Nunn.

Plastic containers, paper, cans, tins and foil can be recycled in the blue-lidded wheeled bin, as well as cardboard, which can also be recycled in the brown bin. The brown bin also takes cooked and uncooked food and garden waste.

The grey-lidded wheeled bin, which will replace the black sack service, is for household waste that cannot be recycled, and will be collected fortnightly, with the recycling bins emptied the following week. As food waste can go in the brown bin as well as the grey-lidded bin, this means that food waste can still be collected every week.

"We have found that putting people's minds at rest before the rollout is the best way to help them take full advantage of their new bins. Currently around half of the district's rubbish is recycled, but those homes on the new service have been regularly hitting 54 per cent. With 6,000 more homes set to join the improved recycling service, I am optimistic our residents can push that percentage up," added Cllr Nunn.

"The rising costs of landfill taxes and other charges mean that we could be faced with an extra £9 million bill for disposing of the household waste we are collecting, so if we can all recycle more that potential bill will be drastically reduced.

"We are right on target to reach every home in the district by the end of March 2010, but in the meantime I would encourage people to make the most of the services they have, and to remember that all cooked or uncooked food waste can go in their brown wheeled bin along with cardboard, paper and garden waste," added Cllr Nunn.

For further information about the improved recycling service, please visit [www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourhome/waste/bluebin](http://www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourhome/waste/bluebin) or call 01394 444050.

The full list of roadshows is as follows:-

Tuesday, February 24, 10am -12pm, Community Centre car park, Station Road, Woodbridge  
Tuesday, February 24, 1pm – 3pm, Farlingaye High School bus park, Grove Road, Woodbridge  
Wednesday, February 25, 10am – 12pm, Woodbridge Town Football Ground, Fynn Road, Woodbridge  
Wednesday, February 25, 1pm – 3pm, Council Chamber, SCDC Council Offices, Melton Hill, Woodbridge  
Wednesday, February 25, 6pm – 8pm, Council Chamber, SCDC Council Offices, Melton Hill, Woodbridge  
Thursday, February 26, 10am – 12pm, Community Centre car park, Twelve Acre Approach, Kesgrave  
Friday, February 27, 10 am – 12 pm, Shannon Inn car park, Main Road, Bucklesham



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## Winners of the litter free schools awards announced

19 Feb 2009

[Archived press release.](#)

Students at Farlingaye High School and Middleton Primary School have proved themselves the best in the district at cleaning, litter-picking, composting and recycling by winning Suffolk Coastal's Litter Free School Award 2008.

Thirty primary, junior and infant schools, one college and five high schools participated in the award, and choosing the winners was a difficult task, as standards were high at every school.

"Schools and colleges were visited by Daniel Wareing, Suffolk Coastal's waste management officer, who inspected each school twice over the summer and autumn terms," said Cllr Andrew Nunn, Cabinet Member for the Green Environment.

"They were assessed on the cleanliness of their grounds, the condition of paths and verges in the surrounding area and what was being done to educate students about litter, recycling, and caring for the environment.

"In the end, Middleton Primary School won the primary, infant and junior schools category, and Fairfield Infants School and Nacton Primary School were joint runners-up. Farlingaye High School in Woodbridge won the high schools and colleges category, beating Thomas Mills High School in Framlingham into second place," added Cllr Nunn.

The winners of both categories of the Litter Free School Awards will each receive a £400 cheque for their efforts while the runners-up will receive a £200 cheque each.

Cllr Andrew Nunn will visit the two winning schools and award them their prizes on Monday, February 23. The presentation at Farlingaye High School will take place at 9.30am, and the presentation at Middleton Primary School will be at 11am.

"Middleton Primary School impressed by being the only school to gain a perfect score, as during one inspection no litter at all was seen in or around the school grounds. Farlingaye High School excelled by having a rota for litter-picking on school grounds, running an Eco-Day and discussing litter in assemblies.

"Schools that took part also reduced litter by putting up anti-litter posters, encouraging students to take part in town or village litter picks and making litter bins and compost bins available in the playground for children to dispose of break time rubbish.

"All the schools improved between their first and second inspection visits and I am certain that taking part in the Litter Free School Awards has made a lasting impression on students, staff and parents. There are plans to make the awards an annual event, so everyone should keep up the good work," added Cllr Nunn.

For more information on the Litter Free School Awards call Daniel Wareing on 01394 444033. To arrange for Suffolk Coastal's waste management team to visit and give talks on a range of recycling and litter topics at any time, call 01394 444000.





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## You'd have to be a fool to miss out on free swimming

24 Feb 2009

[Archived press release.](#)

People aged 60 and over will soon be able to swim for free at three Suffolk Coastal pools with the launch of a government-backed scheme to promote fitness.

Older swimmers can register for the scheme from Monday, March 16 onwards at Felixstowe Leisure Centre, Deben Swimming Pool or Leiston Leisure Centre, and will be able to swim for free at these facilities from April Fools' Day.

"Suffolk Coastal and DC Leisure's free swimming scheme, which will be launched on Wednesday, April 1 and is set to run until March 2011, is perfect for anyone aged 60 and over who has been looking for an excuse to take to the water once more," Cllr Mary Neale, Cabinet Member for Leisure and Countryside.

"Nationally, swimming is the second most popular recreational activity after walking, and the promotion will remind the district's older residents, especially those who have fallen out of the habit of regular exercise, of how invigorating and fun swimming can be," added Cllr Neale.

Suffolk Coastal and DC Leisure are working in partnership to bring free swimming to older people in Suffolk Coastal, partly supported by government funding. People who register will be given a free swimming card, entitling them to make a splash at the district's swimming pools at without spending a penny.

"The scheme is being launched on April Fools' Day, but do not be fooled, the health problems associated with lack of fitness, such as diabetes, obesity and heart disease, are no joke."

"Most people stop swimming regularly in their teenage years, but it is never too late to get back into the water. It is fantastic news that financial constraints will no longer prove a barrier to older adults in the district looking to make swimming part of their lives," added Cllr Neale.

"Swimming is one of the best all-round forms of exercise, and is particularly good for people with mobility problems or those who wish to protect their joints. Giving older adults the opportunity to swim for free is an ideal way of encouraging them to lead healthier, more active lives," added Simon Tappenden, contracts manager at Felixstowe Leisure Centre.

People who are 60 and over can register for the scheme at their local pool from Monday, March 16. For more information please contact Simon Tappenden at Felixstowe Leisure Centre on 01394 670411 or email [simontappenden@dcleisure.co.uk](mailto:simontappenden@dcleisure.co.uk)

"Anyone who is not eligible for free swimming is reminded that discounted use of swimming, gym and sports facilities at the district's pools and leisure centres is available with the purchase of a Coastal Card, which aims to give Suffolk Coastal residents a passport to fulfilling all their leisure needs," added Cllr Neale.

To learn more about the Coastal Card, speak to a member of staff at one of the district's pools and leisure centres, call 01394 670411 or visit

You'd have to be a fool to miss out on free swimming

[www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourfreetime/leisure/coastalcard](http://www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourfreetime/leisure/coastalcard)

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## Public's views wanted on plans to protect Central Felixstowe

25 Feb 2009

[Archived press release.](#)

Members of the public are being asked for their views on a shortlist of coast protection options to help consultants decide which would be best for the central Felixstowe area between Jacobs Ladder and the War Memorial.

An exhibition of the shortlisted plans will be held in Felixstowe Town Hall next Monday (March 2), from 1pm to 7pm, and local people are invited to come along and make their comments on what kind of sea defences would work for that stretch of the coast.

"Following the completion last October of the £10 million project to defend the south Felixstowe coastline, Suffolk Coastal is pressing on with plans to protect the rest of Felixstowe from coastal erosion and flooding" said Cllr Andy Smith, Cabinet Member for Coast Defence.

"The next step will be to safeguard homes, businesses and the many public facilities in central Felixstowe, and our consultants have drawn up a range of possible suitable replacement defences. It is a major challenge to find the best way to protect the town from both current and future levels of threat from the sea, at the same time as preserving and improving its value as a resort and a much-loved leisure facility for townspeople - even without the added difficulty of making sure we get our slice from the limited Government cash available.

"The exhibition will outline some of the implications of each option on the shortlist, giving people the opportunity to make informed comments about the kind of coastal defence work they think is right for this part of the town," added Cllr Smith.

Mott MacDonald and Terry Oakes Associates, who are working on behalf of Suffolk Coastal, will be displaying the shortlisted options in Felixstowe Town Hall from 1pm to 7pm next Monday (March 2), and all are welcome to come along and share their thoughts.

"After we have heard the views of the public, a further meeting will be held showing the preferred option on Monday, March 30, which will then be submitted to the Environment Agency (EA) for approval. The EA will then decide whether or not to give the go-ahead to the project, and whether or not to award it funding in its forthcoming programme.

"It is essential that we get our plans right at this stage so that we have the best possible chance of securing Environment Agency approval and grant money, which is why we are asking residents of and visitors to Felixstowe for their views," added Cllr Smith.

For more information on the Town Beach coastal defence project, call Victoria Tonks on 0208 774 3902 or visit the project website, [www.projecttownbeach.com](http://www.projecttownbeach.com)



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## Council Tax rise limited to just eight pence a week

27 Feb 2009

[Archived press release.](#)

Despite continued underfunding from the Government and falling income, Suffolk Coastal will keep its Council Tax increase in April to just eight pence a week on its average Band D bill.

Last night's (Thursday) Full Council meeting agreed to a 2.9 per cent increase in Suffolk Coastal's share of the Council Tax bill, meaning that it will now charge £145.26 a year for a Band D house, up £4.05.

"The ongoing failure of the Government to properly fund rural councils like Suffolk Coastal at the expense of city councils means that we have once again been under severe financial pressure, and have had to bridge a gap of £850,000 between our estimated income and planned spending," said Cllr Ray Herring, Leader of Suffolk Coastal.

"Our efforts have also been hampered by the economic downturn, which has seen a drop in our income from planning applications, building control and land charges, while the cuts in interest rates are hitting us as well.

"We remain committed to providing good value for money services to our residents and this latest budget means we will have achieved £9 million of savings since 2001 and in these tough times for all of us we recognise the importance of keeping our Council Tax rise as low as possible," added Cllr Herring.

The Government has only given the Council an increase of 1.96 per cent in grant, which means that the cost of local services will receive £8.1 million of national support, up £156,000 from this year.

It is estimated that the collapse in the housing market will see the Council's expected earnings fall by at least £330,000 in the coming year, while the fall in interest rates will reduce the Council's income by a further £350,000.

To maintain a tight grip on its spending, the new budget includes minimal allowance for inflation, meaning that most services will have to find more efficiencies, while most Council charges, including car parks, will be frozen in recognition of the financial squeeze affecting local communities.

The net budget for 2009-10 is £15,252,100, up by 2.9 per cent from this year's £14,929,900, with £7.1 million of that funded directly from local Council Taxpayers.

"It has been a tough year for all of us, and by keeping our increase to only 2.9 per cent we have done our best to protect the quality of services that our residents want. We have identified a further £1.3 million of efficiencies, but at the same time we will invest in improving some of our key services.

"Our commitment to giving all our homes the chance to use our improved recycling service will cost nearly £500,000, and on a smaller scale there are initiatives to help attract more tourists and

encourage more privately rented homes.

“The ongoing distraction and uncertainty of the review of local government in Suffolk makes it difficult to take medium-term let alone long-term decisions but this budget does not use smoke and mirrors to put off tough decisions to another year,” added Cllr Herring.

This is the 13th consecutive year that Suffolk Coastal has set a single figure increase in its Council Tax. The total Council Tax bill for the average Band D home in Suffolk Coastal will now be £1,440.85. This is made up of £1,100.16 for Suffolk County Council, £156.06 for Suffolk Police, £145.26 for Suffolk Coastal, and £39.37 is the average parish/town council precept. The percentage split of the average Council Tax bill is 76.4% to the County Council, 10.8% to the Police, 10.1% to Suffolk Coastal, and 2.7% to the town/parish council.



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## Free car park opens in Felixstowe

27 Feb 2009

[Archived press release.](#)

The barriers are going up for the opening of an informal free car park at the Felixstowe South Seafront project site, and from this Sunday (March 1) visitors and residents alike will be able to use it.

The free car park will be open on Sundays from 8.30am to 5.30pm in the run up to the summer months, but during the resort's peak period it will be open every day to help ease the pressure on existing services.

"The opening of the car park will put land earmarked for development as part of the South Seafront regeneration project, including the old Wireless Green car park site, to good use while we wait for the housing market to improve," said Cllr Robert Whiting, Cabinet Member for Resources.

"I hope the free car park proves popular, and will be a useful boost to local businesses and the resort as a whole, as it is a handy place to park for both the Sunday market and the new-look beach at South Felixstowe.

"The area has been used as an unofficial free car park for many years and it became clear that while reopening it might impact on our income at other car parks, it would not be economic or desirable to make it a paid-for car park, as it is only intended to be a temporary facility, and will cease to be used once the South Seafront regeneration project gets underway," added Cllr Whiting.

Residents were assured at the end of November that the South Seafront site at Felixstowe will still be developed despite the national downturn in the housing market forcing a postponement until March 2010 of the planned work.

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## Wall to be repaired at Woodbridge Cemetery

27 Feb 2009

**Archived press release.**

Work to urgently repair a wall will start at Woodbridge Cemetery next Monday (March 2), and anyone planning to visit is being warned to expect some noise and disruption over the next four weeks.

Due to the effects of the recent bad weather, an eight-metre stretch of the Memorial Wall now needs to be shored up, so contractors are being brought in to build three buttresses to give it the necessary support.

“I would reassure anyone with a loved one buried in Woodbridge Cemetery that these vital repairs will be undertaken with the greatest sensitivity to reduce their impact on anyone visiting while work is taking place. Indeed, work will be halted during any services or burials,” said Cllr Robert Whiting, Cabinet Member for Resources.

Woodbridge Cemetery is owned and managed by Suffolk Coastal, and its oldest section, which dates back to the 1850s, is listed in English Heritage’s Register of Parks and Gardens of special historic interest.

“Regrettably, eight plaques that are attached to the unstable part of the wall where one of the buttresses will be will have to be repositioned on another part of the cemetery wall. We have attempted to contact those whose plaques are going to be moved, but there may be some friends or relatives who are unaware.

“Some flower urns will also have to be moved to ensure they are not damaged by accident during the works. They will be kept in safe storage nearby and put back as soon as the repairs and improvements have been finished.

“On behalf of the Council I would like to apologise for any inconvenience, particularly while the works are being carried out, and to confirm that we are doing all we can to ensure that this place of peace and tranquillity returns to normal as quickly as possible,” added Cllr Whiting.

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## Coin a phrase to spread the word about climate change

02 Mar 2009

[Archived press release.](#)

Individuals keen to persuade people to lead greener lives by learning how to give compelling evidence-based talks on climate change can ride the wave of the C-Change Coastal initiative and take advantage of free training.

A speaker training course, run by national charity Climate Outreach and Information Network (COIN), will be held on Saturday, March 21, from 10am to 5pm, and it is hoped those that attend will use their newly acquired skills to encourage people in their local communities to take action to reduce carbon dioxide emissions.

"COIN's speaker training is set to equip local people with the public speaking skills needed to put forward the facts about climate change and encourage their communities to do what they can to reduce their impact on the environment," said Cllr Ray Herring, Chairman of the Suffolk Coastal Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) Board.

"Helping the district's residents to understand what effects carbon dioxide and other polluting substances are having on our environment is definitely a worthy investment, which is why the LSP have linked up with the Greenprint Forum to subsidise the training course under the C-Change Coastal initiative, making it free to attend," added Cllr Herring.

The one-day course is open to anyone keen to spread the word about climate change, but priority will be given to those who would be happy to commit to giving a talk for a local group once they have completed their training.

Free membership of a speaker support network, and the opportunity to meet likeminded people on a regular basis by becoming a member of the Greenprint Forum, will also be on offer to those that attend the course, along with a free speaker training pack.

"Course leaders will begin by guiding people through a template talk on the causes of climate change, the impact it will have on our environment and solution to the problem, before helping individuals to find a way of presenting the information that suits their personality and style.

"New speakers will learn to overcome their nerves, while seasoned speakers will pick up techniques that could help them get their points across more effectively.

"The LSP and the Greenprint Forum are working together under the banner of C-Change Coastal to remove financial barriers, so that anyone in the district passionate about raising awareness of climate change can put themselves forward for COIN speaker training," added Cllr Herring.

For more information on C-Change Coastal's COIN speaker training course, or to book a place, call Anne Keen on 01394 444624 or email [environmental.protection@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk](mailto:environmental.protection@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk).

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





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## Elite athletes get FANS support in Suffolk Coastal

06 Mar 2009

[Archived press release.](#)

Athletes who live in Suffolk Coastal for the majority of the year and compete at a national or international level in their chosen sport could be eligible for free access to the district's leisure facilities.

The Free Access for National Sportspeople in Suffolk Coastal (FANS) scheme, which has been set up by the Council in partnership with DC Leisure, is supporting elite local sporting talent by helping them to train and develop their skills for free during designated off-peak times.

"Elite athletes train extremely hard, and the cost of keeping themselves at the top of their game can be high, even if they have been lucky enough to gain commercial sponsorship," said Cllr Mary Neale, Cabinet Member for Leisure and Countryside.

"We want to help them realise their potential, especially with the 2012 Olympic Games in London on the horizon, and offering free off-peak access to our top-class sports equipment and facilities, right on their doorstep, is sure to encourage success.

"I would urge any local athlete who thinks they might be eligible for the FANS scheme to apply by filling in a form available from any of the district's four sports venues," added Cllr Neale.

In order to be given free access to Felixstowe Leisure Centre, Brackenbury Sports Centre, Leiston Leisure Centre and Deben Swimming Pool at off-peak times, athletes must be residents of Suffolk Coastal for the majority of the year, currently be a member of a British team or squad, and currently be listed as being at the top of their sport for their age group.

Suffolk Coastal's facilities include state-of-the-art Kinetika gyms, tennis and squash courts, football pitches, spacious competition pools and saunas, complemented by trained fitness instructors and sports assistants on hand to offer advice.

At the moment there are six people benefiting from the FANS scheme, including 16-year-old Clio Aubugeau-Williams, a single sculler who came second in the Junior National Indoor Rowing Championships 2008, Timothy Carter, a 16-year-old sailing enthusiast who has competed at national level, and Emilie Fisher, a 27-year-old cyclist who last year won the 25 mile South East Time Trial and has competed regularly at the British Cycling National Women's Event.

"Being able to put the training hours in could make all the difference when it comes to having the speed, accuracy, strength and skill to succeed, and I am sure that the next generation of sporting talent going forward to compete at London 2012 and beyond, as well as our current champions, will be all the better for the support of the FANS scheme.

"Other people in the district need not feel left out, however, as a passport to leisure at discounted rates is available with the purchase of a Coastal Card, and those aged 60 or over are eligible for free swimming if they sign up at their local pool or leisure centre from Monday, March 16," added Cllr Neale.

To find out more about the FANS scheme, the Coastal Card or the free swimming promotion, please contact Felixstowe Leisure Centre on 01394 670411, or email

[simontappenden@dcleisure.co.uk](mailto:simontappenden@dcleisure.co.uk) or [enquiries@felixstoweleisurecentre.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@felixstoweleisurecentre.co.uk). For more information on the Coastal Card, visit [www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourfreetime/leisure/coastalcard](http://www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourfreetime/leisure/coastalcard)

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## Volunteer to spring clean the district

09 Mar 2009

[Archived press release.](#)

Suffolk Coastal residents are being encouraged to smarten up their local area and tackle the blight of litter by volunteering to take part in the annual Spring Clean litter pick.

From Monday, March 30 to Sunday, April 12, Suffolk Spring Clean Fortnight will see thousands of community-spirited people working together to get rid of litter that has built up over the winter months in parks, greens, school grounds and on streets.

"Last year over 3,500 volunteers across 54 parishes took part in litter picking activities with the support of Suffolk Coastal, collecting more than 7,000 black sacks full of rubbish," said Cllr Andrew Nunn, Cabinet Member for the Green Environment.

"Anyone can get involved in the Spring Clean, and in the past clean-ups have been organised by members of the public, schools, youth groups, residents' associations, town and parish councils and conservation groups in the district.

"The actions of a few selfish litterers can be a blight on our surroundings, but if people work together to rid their local area of rubbish, they can raise awareness of the benefits of keeping communities tidy and undo the damage caused," added Cllr Nunn.

If items such as newspapers, tins, and plastic containers are collected during a litter pick, if they are kept separate they can be recycled, rather than going to landfill.

"Though Suffolk Spring Clean Fortnight is a great time to organise an event, litter picks can be held throughout the year. Suffolk Coastal Services (SCS) is always ready to help, and no matter when your litter pick is scheduled, organisers can contact SCS for free plastic rubbish and recycling sacks and gloves to equip them for the task ahead, and to arrange for all the rubbish collected to be removed once the clean-up is over.

"Litter picks improve the look and feel of the local community, remove hazards that could harm wildlife and damage the environment, and can be an educational experience, opening people's eyes to the sheer volume of rubbish that is needlessly dropped in our district," added Cllr Nunn.

Anyone interested in organising or taking part in a clean-up in their area can contact their parish or town council, call SCS on 01394 444033 or email [waste.management@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk](mailto:waste.management@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk). People can also register their litter picks online at [www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourhome/waste/springclean](http://www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourhome/waste/springclean)

Organisers of litter picks, whether they take place during Suffolk Spring Clean Fortnight or not, can also register their event with the Encams (Environmental Campaigns) Big Tidy Up at [www.thebigtidyup.org](http://www.thebigtidyup.org) and let the entire country know about their green efforts.

The Big Tidy Up is being relaunched this month, and has identical aims to the Spring Clean but on a national level. Encams can give registered groups posters to help publicise their clean-up, badges and stickers, booklets containing advice on how to organise a litter pick and plastic tabards to identify those taking part.

Suffolk Coastal residents are encouraged to take advantage of resources on offer from both Encams and SCS to ensure their clean-up has the best possible chance of success.

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## We are one of top dozen councils for financial standing

09 Mar 2009

[Archived press release.](#)

The latest annual assessment by the independent local government watchdog of how local councils are managing their finances has rated Suffolk Coastal as one of only 12 to score top marks for its financial standing.

Every year, the Audit Commission publishes its use of resources assessments which not only puts a critical microscope to every council's financial, asset and risk management but also takes account of the way it is linked to each organisation's priorities and how it supports overall value for money.

"The report covering 2008 gives us an overall score of 3, which rates us as performing well, but when you break down the figures further you discover that we were equal best in Suffolk and Norfolk and only four councils were marked better out of the 44 districts in the eastern region," said Cllr Robert Whiting, Cabinet Member for Resources.

"We were also one of only 12 councils out of 238 districts nationally that got the top marks for its financial standing which assesses how well we are managing our spending within available resources, the second year running we have achieved this feat.

"This is another big official thumbs-up for the way that this Council is delivering success. Our goal is better services and even better value for money, and our performance statistics regularly show that we are in the top quarter of all councils. This latest report shows that these achievements are being done on solid financial foundations," added Cllr Whiting.

The basic score is made up of five themes, financial reporting, management and standing, along with internal control and value for money. Suffolk Coastal scored three on all but two of the themes, getting four for financial standing and two for financial reporting.

A use of resources assessment is carried out annually, as part of each district, borough and county council's external audit and covers the five themes. Each year the assessment becomes harder as more features become the minimum acceptable standard of attainment.

"This harder test process places increasingly difficult targets to achieve for small councils like Suffolk Coastal with limited resources. That is why our financial standing mark is such an achievement as only 11 county councils have achieved that nationally, with neither Suffolk nor Norfolk reaching our performance level," added Cllr Whiting.

The assessment focuses on financial issues but links to the strategic management of the council. It looks at how financial management is integrated with the council's strategy and corporate management, and how it supports its priorities and whether it delivers value for money. Nationally, only 13 councils achieved the top score of 4.

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## A new CCTV camera for Felixstowe

11 Mar 2009

[Archived press release.](#)

The Felixstowe Community CCTV Partnership has received the support of businesses and organisations in the town to install a fifth closed circuit television camera (CCTV) that will keep a watchful eye on a busy section of Hamilton Road, near the Beijing Restaurant.

The new camera will be linked to the same system as the four CCTV cameras that were successfully installed in the resort thanks to a Home Office grant of £37,000 secured by the Suffolk Coastal Community Safety Partnership (CSP) in July 2008.

“Over the last three months, compared to the same period of time last year, levels of crime has gone down 13.3 per cent in the Felixstowe and District Safer Neighbourhood Team area, which means that the presence of the CCTV cameras and the work of the dedicated band of volunteers who monitor them is making a difference to the safety of our town,” said Cllr Doreen Savage, Chairman of the Felixstowe Community CCTV Partnership and LSP Board member.

“The team of trained volunteers, who staff the control room where the CCTV images feed into at peak periods, make it possible for officers to respond to incidents caught on camera and are proving to be indispensable to the police as they continue to combat crime and disorder.

“CCTV helps to make residents feel safer, and the installation of the new camera will extend the area of Felixstowe that will benefit from the service,” added Cllr Savage.

The Felixstowe CCTV Partnership is extending its CCTV coverage with the support of Felixstowe Chamber of Commerce, which has contributed £2,800; the Yeo Group, owner of The Alex and Bennecotta restaurants, which has given £1,000 to the project; £1,000 from Suffolk Constabulary and £1,000 from the Suffolk Coastal CSP, with Felixstowe Town Council meeting the running costs of the cameras.

On Friday, March 13 at 10.30am the installation of the new camera will be attended by representatives from Suffolk Coastal, Felixstowe Town Council, Suffolk Constabulary and Felixstowe Chamber of Commerce, who will look on as contractors use a cherry picker to lift the equipment into position. Photographers are welcome to come along.

The fifth CCTV camera has been supplied by STC Solutions of Great Blakenham will be in use from Tuesday, March 17 onwards.



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## Chance for young people to cash in

17 Mar 2009

[Archived press release.](#)

Young people in Suffolk Coastal with exciting ideas that could kick-start community projects and provide their peers with things to do outside of school are being urged to apply for financial support.

Over £620,000 is up for grabs in Suffolk from the Youth Opportunity Fund (YOF) and Youth Capital Fund (YCF), and the Council is keen for schemes devised by Suffolk Coastal's young people to gain a slice of funding.

"This pot of money will give groups of young people aged 13 to 19, or those aged up to 25 with additional needs, the power to shape their communities, encouraging them to take the initiative and establish innovative local projects that will give their peers things to do and places to go," said Cllr Doreen Savage, Cabinet Member for Young People.

"They know what kind of activities, equipment and facilities could make a positive difference to their towns or villages, and if they get together, get organised, and draw up proposals that impress the decision panel they could gain the necessary funding to make their project happen," added Cllr Savage.

The deadline for the first funding round is 5pm on Thursday, March 19, but there will be four more rounds before the end of 2009, giving people plenty of time to plan, seek local support and fill in the application forms. The closing date for the second funding round is Tuesday, May 5. Any projects or schemes awarded funding in the 2009/10 financial year must be completed by the end of the same financial year.

"Applications must be submitted by groups of four or more people and will be judged by a panel of youngsters from SCTV, a group committed to promoting the voices and aims of young people in Suffolk Coastal.

"In order to add weight to their proposals, the district's young people should not be afraid to work with Suffolk Coastal, their town or parish council, local businesses, clubs, schools, youth groups, sports teams and voluntary organisations, as they could be able to provide advice, expertise or in some instances match funding to support their projects," added Cllr Savage.

Activities, campaigns and schemes can gain a minimum of £250 and a maximum of £10,000 of funding each from the YOF, which is offering a £324,900 pot of money to young people across the county.

The £296,500 YCF awards grants to those looking to purchase new items, such as equipment, tools, instruments or furniture for premises. There is no minimum grant, but the maximum is £15,000.

"In the 2008/9 funding rounds, projects in Suffolk Coastal gained £115,274 in total from the YCF and YOF, with the biggest payout going to Leiston Cricket to raise awareness of the sport and get more people involved, and the smallest grant being awarded to a class teaching Kuk Sool Won, a traditional martial art.

“This is proof that Suffolk Coastal’s young people are ambitious, eager to get involved and bursting with creative ideas and I know that if they put their heads together they can come up with some projects that will make our local communities richer and more vibrant in 2009/10,” added Cllr Savage.

For more information about the YOF and the YCF, and a detailed list of application criteria, contact Rachel Fell, Youth Opportunity and Capital Funds administrator, on 01473 260167, email [rachel.fell@cyp.suffolkcc.gov.uk](mailto:rachel.fell@cyp.suffolkcc.gov.uk) or visit [www.thesource.me.uk/yocf](http://www.thesource.me.uk/yocf) where application forms can also be downloaded.

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## Have your say on Central Felixstowe defences

18 Mar 2009

**Archived press release.**

There is under a week left for residents of Felixstowe to make their comments on the proposed coastal defence options for the stretch of coast between Jacob's Ladder and the War Memorial.

The options were first unveiled at an exhibition held in Felixstowe Town Hall on Monday, March 2 by consultants Mott MacDonald and Terry Oakes Associates, who are undertaking the work on behalf of Suffolk Coastal, and the closing date for people to have their say is Monday, March 23.

"Although seven choices, three for Cobbold's Point and four for the main frontage, have been proposed, people should not feel constrained by them when telling us what they think would work in central Felixstowe," said Cllr Andy Smith, Cabinet Member for Coast Defence.

"In the end a combination of different coast defence structures could be built, if it emerges that this would best protect homes and businesses along this stretch of the coast. Informed comments, even if they suggest something that is not strictly up for discussion, will always be welcomed," added Cllr Smith.

The seven proposed coast defence options can be viewed at [www.projecttownbeach.com/consult](http://www.projecttownbeach.com/consult) and comments can be made by emailing [consult@terryoakes.com](mailto:consult@terryoakes.com) or writing to Terry Oakes Associates Ltd, PO Box 186, Lowestoft, Suffolk, NR33 0WY, England. Alternatively people can complete the online questionnaire on the project website.

"Once members of the public have had their say, the preferred option will be chosen and an exhibition displaying further details of the project, where people will have the opportunity to talk to the consultants and have any questions answered, will be held on Monday, March 30, from 1pm to 7pm, at Felixstowe Town Hall.

"The proposal will then be submitted to the Environment Agency, and if it approves the project, and agrees to grant Suffolk Coastal funding to carry out the work, we will be well on our way to emulating the success of the recent £10 million project to defend south Felixstowe and improve the beach, which was completed in October 2008," added Cllr Smith.

Any residents wanting more information can call Victoria Tonks on 020 8774 3902 or visit the project website, [www.projecttownbeach.com](http://www.projecttownbeach.com)

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## Coastline offers helpful tips to combat downturn

19 Mar 2009

**Archived press release.**

Inside the latest edition of Coastline, which is being delivered to every home in the district this week, is a credit crunch-busting survival guide.

The two-page guide, which features in the spring edition of the quarterly Suffolk Coastal magazine, is aimed at anyone in need of help weathering the economic downturn, and lists the contact details of voluntary organisations, businesses and Council services.

“When people are in difficulty they can be reluctant to ask for advice, hoping that things will resolve themselves on their own, and the survival guide, which is the centre page spread of the magazine, has been designed to encourage them not to keep their problems to themselves,” said Cllr Ray Herring, Leader of Suffolk Coastal.

“The survival guide is tailored to people living in Suffolk Coastal, containing local contacts for of national organisations, such as the Citizens’ Advice Bureaux in Felixstowe, Ipswich and Leiston, and details of businesses and services working in the district, such as Ipswich Women’s Aid, which supports women and children affected by domestic violence.

“As well as providing professional support for those in dire straits, it could also help people with their benefits, grants or consumer rights. The little things add up, and now is a good time for people to think about whether they are really getting all they are entitled to,” added Cllr Herring.

The survival guide can be removed from the centre of the magazine and pinned to a notice board or fridge door for easy reference.

“One half of the guide is dedicated to the range of assistance available from Suffolk Coastal, including benefits advice, information on concessionary travel and help for those in danger of becoming homeless, and the other lists voluntary organisations and businesses in the district offering anything from employment advice and relationship counselling to help for businesses in debt.

“I hope that the survival guide will give people who have been suffering in silence the confidence to act. Suffolk Coastal, along with the many other businesses and voluntary organisations in the district, is ready to help those in need, and it only takes one phone call, email, or visit to get the ball rolling,” added Cllr Herring.

A pdf version of Coastline can be downloaded from [www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/news/coastline](http://www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/news/coastline)

A special credit crunch website has been set up by councils and voluntary organisations in the county and can be found at [www.onesuffolk.co.uk/creditchunchsuffolk](http://www.onesuffolk.co.uk/creditchunchsuffolk)

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## Council suspends work with company responsible for data loss

19 Mar 2009

[Archived press release.](#)

Work with a contractor, responsible for the potential loss of data relating to nearly 3,000 people, has been suspended by Suffolk Coastal which has written to all those affected by this breach.

A laptop computer was stolen from the home of somebody working on the data for Lalpac Ltd last week. Although the company's computer was password protected, the data on it was not encrypted so could potentially be accessed by an unauthorised person.

"We had passed on to this company in an encrypted file the details of those who have been in touch with our licensing team. The company was employed by us to transfer this data onto a new software programme that we are using but this information is now potentially lost," said Cllr Ray Herring, Leader of Suffolk Coastal.

"The company has failed to prevent this data being taken home in an unprotected way and the theft of the laptop means that this information has been lost. We have instructed the company to stop the work they were doing for us and we are investigating what further action we could take against them for this lapse of security.

"We had followed all the rules but we have to face the criticism caused by someone else's actions. I can only offer sincere apologies to those affected and reassure everyone that we will redouble our efforts to ensure that data in future is dealt with in as secure a fashion as possible," added Cllr Herring.

The data gathered by licensing relates to applications submitted by companies, organisations or members of the public for licences from the Council covering areas such as pubs, places of entertainment, taxi and private hire vehicles, or for festivals and fetes.

Where relevant, the data would also include details of those who had responded to consultations about licensed premises. Most if not all of the data is publicly accessible on request from the Council because of the rules regarding licensing and consultations, but it does include personal details such as names and addresses, of licensing applicants. It does not include any financial information.

"Three years ago, councils were given the responsibility of controlling licensed premises and the new local consultation process that gave communities the opportunity to comment on the issuing or renewal of licences. Under the new rules, we had to have an online programme on our website so that people could access information.

"In line with data protection best practice, we gave the information to our contractor in an encrypted format, meaning that only those with the correct password would have access to it. It appears clear that these strict security measures were not adhered to, which is why we are now having to write to all those affected by this potential loss of data.

"To help prevent the risk of this lost information being used for possible identify fraud, we have

registered all the names with CIFAS which means that additional safeguards will be in place if anyone claiming to be one of the names attempts to claim credit or services,” added Cllr Herring.

The letter being sent out by the Council explains what has happened, and that the Council has registered the names and addresses of those affected with CIFAS, the fraud prevention service. The Information Commissioner has also been advised of the data loss.



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## Review has turned into a farce

19 Mar 2009

[Archived press release.](#)

Suffolk Coastal's Leader has slammed today's draft proposals from the Boundary Committee for England (BCE) for the future shape of local government and has urged residents, businesses and local communities to let the BCE know exactly what they think.

Three months after it was given more time by the Government to redraft its proposals, the BCE has published virtually the same version, this time offering two options of one giant Suffolk or two unitary councils - a rural Suffolk and a Ipswich, Kesgrave and Felixstowe council.

"This has really turned into a farce and a complete waste of time. It is blatantly obvious from all the comments made by Government ministers in recent months that they will not support what the BCE is proposing which is why they were given more time," said Cllr Ray Herring, Leader of Suffolk Coastal.

"It has taken them three months to come up with their big new idea – keep Lowestoft in Suffolk – when it was only the BCE who had ever thought of exporting Lowestoft to Norfolk and even they had changed their minds about it last year.

"This was the BCE's big chance to actually deliver something that could have improved local services and given local people a bigger say in the way their councils are run. But they once again overlooked the logic of having three unitary councils covering Ipswich, East and West Suffolk which we believe is the best option if unitary councils must be introduced and would probably be accepted by the Government," added Cllr Herring.

Last December, the Government reminded the BCE that it had called for the Review because it wanted to know if there could whether there could be alternative proposals for a single tier of local government, and if so on what basis, for Exeter, Ipswich and Norwich and the whole or part of the surrounding county areas.

In February the Government announced that 'there could be circumstances where the Boundary Committee wished to consult on further proposals ... (and) an extension to July 15 would allow for significant further consultations and substantial time for the Committee both to prepare for consultation, to consider responses, and formulate any advice it submits'.

"We have now had more delay and uncertainty, just for the BCE to announce it will consult on what it had already consulted on. It then took a storm of protest last July to get them to change their original proposals last year and include Lowestoft again.

"But having accepted the logic of Lowestoft remaining in Suffolk, they have not addressed the issue of how a town with significant urban issues, many of which it shares with Felixstowe, sits happily in its proposed Rural Suffolk.

"As these latest proposals do not deliver what the Government asked for so they appear doomed. So far the BCE have ignored the views of local communities, most councils, and the Government but I would still urge everyone to try one last time to get them to see sense," added Cllr Herring.

If existing district and county councils are going to be abolished then Suffolk Coastal insists that a three-way split of Suffolk with Felixstowe, Kesgrave and Lowestoft as part of a new East Suffolk unitary council must be an option looked at seriously.

“I think that most people accept that one giant Suffolk council would be too large and too remote to serve all its communities. While it might mean only one chief executive, that person would need many more middle managers to cope with such a geographically spread out area.

“Local realities cannot be ignored and Felixstowe and Kesgrave should not become part of an enlarged Ipswich. It would be as wrong for our two towns as it was to suggest that Lowestoft should be part of Norfolk. If unitary government is to be introduced, then three unitaries in Suffolk would be the best way forward if there has to be change,” added Cllr Herring.

Suffolk Coastal has argued that a larger Ipswich could be created, perhaps including Shotley and Hadleigh, alongside its proposed East Suffolk and West Suffolk councils.

“Both East Suffolk and West Suffolk have their own particular communities and it is right that both should be separate so they can tackle their issues and provide local solutions to local needs. I think we could provide better services, even better value and be close enough to our communities to involve them in shaping the services they want,” added Cllr Herring.

Linking Lowestoft and Felixstowe into East Suffolk would see one council responsible for all coastal and estuary management. The new council would also have key regional centres of excellence, with BT/Adastral Park, two major ports, the ‘power corridor’ of low carbon energy providers, as well as Sutton Hoo and Snape Maltings.

The council would also be uniquely placed to serve and protect the needs of its many market towns, picture-book villages and its large Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Responses to the draft proposals can be made by filling in an [online form on the Boundary Committee's website \(new window\)](#) or writing to:

Review Manager (Suffolk Review),  
The Boundary Committee for England,  
Trevelyan House,  
Great Peter Street,  
London SW1P 2HW

or email [reviews@boundarycommittee.org.uk](mailto:reviews@boundarycommittee.org.uk)



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## Talk offers advice on cutting fuel bills in period properties

19 Mar 2009

[Archived press release.](#)

Free advice on looking after historic buildings, with a special emphasis on how to cut bills by conserving energy, will be available at Suffolk Coastal's next Period Properties talk.

The event is aimed at owners whose homes lend distinctive character to Suffolk Coastal's towns and villages, and is being held at Stratford St Andrew Village Hall on Thursday, May 14, from 7.30pm to 9pm.

"We owe it to future generations to safeguard the district's unique heritage, and one important goal is the preservation of our listed buildings and period properties, which contribute enormously to the character and atmosphere of Suffolk Coastal," said Cllr Andy Smith, Cabinet Member for Planning.

"The focus of the forthcoming talk is on energy conservation, as it can be a challenge to reduce the loss of heat and keep bills down in a historic home.

"By discussing the kinds of adaptations that could make these properties more energy efficient without compromising their distinctive features, and informing people of grants that are available to help pay for the work, I am sure that people will feel more confident about taking steps to cut the amount of light, heat and money they may currently be wasting," added Cllr Smith.

Last year's Period Properties talk, held in Woodbridge, attracted just over 90 people, and its success prompted Suffolk Coastal to make it an annual event.

"Our district's unique buildings, whether listed or protected by a Conservation Area, do not come with instruction manuals telling people how to look after them, which means that some residents and owners can be unaware of the rules about undertaking repairs or renovations.

"Period Properties talks provides people with free advice on how to take care of their property, how they can make improvements to buildings while remaining sympathetic to their historic character, what to do when something needs to be repaired, and where to find specialist materials and tradesmen," added Cllr Smith.

To reserve a place at May's Period Properties talk, or for more information, contact the design and conservation team on 01394 444616 or email [robert.scrimgeour@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk](mailto:robert.scrimgeour@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk)

Helpful advice about the rules and regulations listed buildings are subject to is available from [www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourdistrict/planning/listed](http://www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourdistrict/planning/listed)

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## Seafront gardens could unlock funding pot

23 Mar 2009

[Archived press release.](#)

An application to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) for a grant to support a project to improve and repair Felixstowe's historic Seafront Gardens has now been submitted, and if the bid is successful it could unlock a multi-million pound funding pot.

There are two stages to the application process, and if Suffolk Coastal's bid enters the second stage, the Council will be eligible to apply for further funding to bring the total up to nearly £2 million.

"Now that the application has been submitted, we can reveal more details about the proposed project, which it is hoped will transform the Cliff, Town Hall and Spa Gardens into a focal point for the resort, safeguarding their historic legacy for future generations while meeting the needs of today's visitors and residents," said Cllr Mary Neale, Cabinet Member for Leisure and Countryside.

The Seafront Gardens are Grade II Listed on the National Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest, and the proposed renovations will be part of the Felixstowe and Trimleys Peninsula Futures project to regenerate the entire resort.

The oldest of the Seafront Gardens was built in the early part of the 20th century, and collectively they span seven acres of land, overlooking the beach and amusements, linking the town with the seafront.

"One of the main aims of the project is to make the Seafront Gardens more accessible. This will involve repairing and widening paths and replacing handrails so that they comply with both safety standards and the Disability Discrimination Act. The Gardens are built into the cliffs and are naturally steep, but it is hoped the improvements will mean more people are able to enjoy them.

"The Seafront Gardens are a reminder of Felixstowe's past, but currently visitors have no way of knowing how they have changed over time. Putting up a series of signs and information boards and building an education centre would help local people and tourists alike appreciate the wildlife, geology and history of the Gardens.

"Many parts of the Gardens are overgrown, so another goal of the project would be to tidy up the greenery, reorganise beds and plant new flowers and shrubs. As well as improving the appearance of the Gardens, it will give gardeners the opportunity to enhance the area's biodiversity by planting species native to the environment, and to support populations of invertebrates and reptiles," added Cllr Neale.

Other project proposals include an open air performance space next to the Spa Pavilion, paths linking the Seafront Gardens to the nearby national cycle route and informal play areas for children.

The HLF will inform Suffolk Coastal if it has gained the initial grant under its Parks for People programme in June 2009.

Paperwork for the first stage of the grant application process was prepared by Suffolk Coastal

officers with input from the Landscape Partnership, a design and planning company, Felixstowe Town Council and the Friends of the Seafront Gardens community group.

- [Felixstowe seafront gardens refurbishment project webpages](#)

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## Finding a compromise for mother of tragic twins

24 Mar 2009

**Archived press release.**

Suffolk Coastal has been trying to find a solution that will make it possible for twin boys, who both died in tragic circumstances, to be buried close to each other.

Following the death of 16-year-old Makiebien Stappard in February, his mother Stacey wanted him to be laid to rest next to his twin, Darquarn, who died aged 21 months in 1994 and is buried in the children's area of Leiston Cemetery.

"We sympathise with Stacey, but we cannot find a way to overcome the fact that children's graves are smaller than adult graves. The part of the cemetery where Darquarn is buried is for young people under 14 years old, and has been designed and laid out to have smaller graves," said Hilary Slater, Head of Legal and Democratic Services at Suffolk Coastal.

"To have someone over six foot tall like Makiebien buried in the children's area would mean the grave would jut out and look completely out of place among all the small graves, which could upset other parents. As an adult, Makiebien should have been buried in the next available space in the adult cemetery, which would have been 50 yards away from his twin's grave.

"However, because we recognise that this is a special case, our cemetery officer met with Stacey and her mother on Monday, March 9 and offered to bury Makiebien only 12 feet away from the grave of his twin in part of the adult cemetery. This section was not due to be used for another 10 years but we offered this especially to them because we are trying to find a suitable answer," added Ms Slater.

Officers at Suffolk Coastal did put forward other options for Stacey to consider, including having Makiebien cremated and his ashes interred with his 21-month-old twin.

"We are doing everything we can for Stacey, and the suggestions we have asked her to consider will make it possible for her boys to be together while not affecting the look and layout of the children's cemetery," added Ms Slater.



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## Central Felixstowe coast defence plans are revealed

27 Mar 2009

[Archived press release.](#)

After an exhibition of possible coast defence options was held and members of the public were consulted on what they thought would best protect central Felixstowe, a series of straight rock groynes, along with a walkway connecting Cobbold's Point to Jacob's Ladder, has been chosen as the preferred option.

Residents have been invited to view details of the preferred option and have their say at a further exhibition, which will be held on Monday, March 30 from 1pm to 7pm at Felixstowe Town Hall.

"We have taken into account comments made by local people, Suffolk Coastal members, Felixstowe Town Council, the Environment Agency and other organisations in deciding what kind of coast defences would best protect the homes, businesses and recreation facilities along this stretch of the coast," said Cllr Andy Smith, Cabinet Member for Coast Defence.

"The exhibition will give people the opportunity to see plans for the preferred option and learn how the work would be carried out and what materials engineers would like to use.

"It is vital that people comment on the plans so that we know whether or not it truly represents what they want, so I would urge residents of Felixstowe to come along and let us know what they think," added Cllr Smith.

Engineering consultants Mott Macdonald and Terry Oakes Associates, who are undertaking the work on behalf of Suffolk Coastal, will have staff on hand at the exhibition to answer any questions.

If people cannot attend the exhibition, details of the plans will be available to view at [www.projecttownbeach.com](http://www.projecttownbeach.com).

Comments can be made by emailing [consult@terryoakes.com](mailto:consult@terryoakes.com) or writing to Terry Oakes Associates Ltd, PO Box 186, Lowestoft, Suffolk, NR33 0WY, England.

Any residents wanting more information can call Victoria Tonks on 020 8774 3902.



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## Have the cheek to celebrate at album launch

27 Mar 2009

[Archived press release.](#)

The ten talented winners of the Soundwaves Ultimate Bands Contest are celebrating their success with a gig, headlined by local pop sensations The Cheek, to launch the new Sounds of the East Coast 2 album, a compilation of tracks recorded in a professional studio as part of their prize.

The celebratory gig is being held at Woodbridge's Seckford Theatre, which is in the grounds of Woodbridge School, on Saturday, April 4 from 7.30pm, and ticket and album sales will raise money for next year's Soundwaves project.

"The ten winning bands will be performing live at the compilation album launch, and it will be a real treat to watch the cream of Suffolk Coastal's young musicians, whose creativity has already impressed us all, showcasing their improved skills and fine-tuned talents," said Cllr Mary Neale, Cabinet Member for Leisure and Countryside.

"By now they have claimed their prizes, having attended workshops with top industry professionals to gain advice on how to sharpen up their image, navigate the music industry and improve their sound, and recorded a three-track demo each at Summerhill Studios in Leiston with sound engineer and project manager Henry Readhead," added Cllr Neale.

Axis, Ed Sheeran, Friendly Misunderstood Rabbits, Silk & Steel and Vox Logic, who have renamed themselves Fick as Fieves, won the first heat of the Contest, and Hey Zuuz, Mainstream Daydream, Dirty Shockwaves, Bernadette and Containz Nutz triumphed in the second heat.

"Featuring on the Sounds of the East Coast 2 compilation will be the icing on the cake for these youngsters, and I urge anyone impressed with what they hear at the gig or on Soundwaves' MySpace pages to buy the CD, which is available exclusively at the gig for £5, or to download the tracks from iTunes from the day of the gig onwards. The proceeds will help Soundwaves support the next generation of talent in the district," added Cllr Neale.

Topping the bill on the night is Suffolk Coastal's very own The Cheek, formerly known as Cheeky Cheeky and the Nosebleeds, an energetic pop band with members from Woodbridge, Framlingham and Saxmundham. Hailed as one of the top twenty new bands of 2009 by the Observer Music magazine, The Cheek will be playing at the compilation album launch before they embark on a nationwide tour.

"The Soundwaves CD launch gig is a celebration of the hard work and commitment of our district's rising stars and a chance to look forward to the future of Soundwaves, and I am positive that music fans across the district will come along and support the project," added Cllr Neale.

"The ten bands have been working really hard on their recordings, and I am extremely impressed with the album, which has now gone off to be mastered. The Ultimate Bands Contest has given us the opportunity to work with many excellent local artists, and the results make rewarding listening," said Henry Readhead, Soundwaves project manager.

Tickets to the Sounds of the East Coast 2 album launch gig can be purchased in advance for £5 (£4 concessions) by calling Seckford Theatre Box Office, Woodbridge on 01394 615015. A limited number of tickets will be available on the door.

Soundwaves was set up by a grassroots group of people interested in music and is funded by Suffolk Coastal, Suffolk County Council and the Youth Opportunity Fund. For more information on the project, visit [www.myspace.com/suffolksoundwavesmusic](http://www.myspace.com/suffolksoundwavesmusic), call 07973 632 576 or email [suffolksoundwaves@hotmail.com](mailto:suffolksoundwaves@hotmail.com)

