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## Turn your Christmas cards green



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03 Jan 2007

### Archived press release.

The New Year is about resolutions and what better way to begin than to resolve to get into the recycling habit starting with all those Christmas and New Year cards.

During the whole of January, people will be able to recycle cards by taking them to their nearest branch of Tesco, W H Smith or TK Maxx and putting them in the special bins provided by the Woodland Trust.

“Twelfth night means the end of Christmas and taking down the decorations, but we are asking our residents not to throw away their cards, but to recycle them,” said Councillor Andrew Nunn, Cabinet Member for the Environment – natural and built.

“Almost a billion Christmas cards are sent each year which we do not want to see ending up in landfill. Our residents can easily recycle their cards locally either by using the bins provided by the Woodland Trust or, alternatively, through the Council’s kerbside recycling collections.

“Last year the Woodland Trust collected 82.2 million cards, the equivalent of 1,633 tonnes, and this year they are hoping to reach a new target of 90 million cards,” continued Councillor Nunn.

The cards collected by the Woodland Trust are recycled into high and low grades. The high grade is recycled into toilet tissue, kitchen roll, etc, the low grade is recycled into toilet roll inners, packaging materials and corrugated card.

People living in the district who would prefer to use their kerbside collection service can recycle their cards, wrapping paper, labels, packaging and Christmas catalogues in their green box or those receiving the twin bin system can recycle their cards and paper in the blue-lidded wheelee bin together with their plastics, cans, cardboard and foil.

“We are currently well above the national average for recycling, with 39 per cent of our waste being recycled or composted. I am sure this year we will see even more being recycled by our residents as they get into the recycling habit by using the fortnightly collection services that we offer or one of the hundreds of mini-recycling centres across the district,” added Councillor Nunn.



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## Still time to win at the Morson Group Sports Awards 2007



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05 Jan 2007

### Archived press release.

The final whistle is set to be blown on entries for the Morson Group Sports Awards 2007, the first ever districtwide scheme that will celebrate sporting achievements in Suffolk Coastal.

Promoted by the Suffolk Coastal Community Sports Network, nominations for this prestigious new scheme are wanted from individuals and sports clubs by next Monday (January 15).

"The Morson Group Sports Awards will place the spotlight firmly on the achievements and contributions to sport during 2006 of local sports people and organisations. We have already had a good response but I would urge everyone to send in their nominations quickly, for worthy local candidates. The three finalists in each category will also be put forward to the countywide Suffolk Sports Awards which will be held next October," said Councillor Rae Leighton, Cabinet Member for Community Well-being.

The award categories are:

- The Felixstowe, Kesgrave and Woodbridge Flyer Sports Personality 2007
- Kings Models Young Sports Personality 2007 (under 18 on August 31 2006)
- Kingpin Disabled Sports Person 2007
- DC Leisure Club of the Year 2007
- The School Sports Partnership Coach of the Year 2007
- Easton Farm Park Sporting School 2007
- Greenthumb East Suffolk Volunteer of the year 2007
- Mannings Amusement Park Lifetime Achievement.

Those involved in sports are spread across all the district so the Network has been bringing them together to share their knowledge and expertise, and its inaugural awards ceremony will be held on Sunday, February 11 at the Seckford Theatre, Woodbridge School.

Nomination forms are available by contacting Richard Baldwin on 01394 444318 or Sarah Shinnie on 01394 444652.



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## New year will mean new-look toilets in Felixstowe



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08 Jan 2007

### Archived press release.

Work got underway today (Monday) on modernising the block of toilets at Ranelagh Road, Felixstowe as the latest part of Suffolk Coastal's drive to offer convenient and clean facilities.

There will be a total refurbishment of the existing block, with new toilets and wash basins, along with tiling of the floors and walls, improved lighting and ventilation.

"This will be the 21st of our 32 blocks of toilets since 2000 that will have been brought up to the modern standards that our customers both deserve and expect," said Cllr Sherrie Green, Cabinet Member for Community Well-being.

"We believe that it is right that our toilets should offer facilities such as hot and cold water, soap dispensers, hand dryers, baby changing facilities, access for disabled people, and good quality lighting.

"The work to modernise Ranelagh Road will take until the end of March, which does mean that people will have to use other toilets during that time. However, I am sure that people will be happy with this minor nuisance as the new facilities will be such a great improvement," added Cllr Green.

Signs outside the Ranelagh Road toilets are directing people to the next nearest toilets at Crescent Road, opposite the cinema.



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## Postal change set to deliver more savings



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09 Jan 2007

### Archived press release.

Suffolk Coastal's commitment to partnership working and looking at all aspects of its services to identify efficiencies has now delivered another first class idea.

From this week, Suffolk Coastal has linked up with UK Mail in a move that is anticipated to cut its postal costs by £40,000 a year while having no impact on the quality of its service.

"Thanks to the countywide network of procurement officers, we have managed to agree a financially lucrative deal with UK Mail which will see this company take on the responsibility of collecting all our second class mail," said Cllr Robert Whiting, Cabinet Member for Fiscal and Democratic Services with responsibility for procurement.

"The immediate impact for this Council could be an impressive saving of over £40,000 a year off our postal costs, which is clearly a good result for us all. Our commitment to reviewing all aspects of our services has helped us identify over £800,000 of savings and additional income in the coming financial year, and over £6 million since 2001.

"We have been looking closely at how partnership working can help us become more efficient, and the area of procurement and how we buy our services is one that is helping produce results. I would thank the continuing efforts of the countywide procurement team and our procurement officer, David Crowley, to help identify and deliver further efficiencies," added Cllr Whiting.

The new contract with UK Mail took effect from today (Tuesday, January 9) and means that the new company is collecting all of Suffolk Coastal's second class post before sorting it and handing it over to the Royal Mail to deliver.

"Our residents should see no difference at all in the service they get from us – and the only change we are having to introduce is insisting that all our mail has a postcode on the bottom of the address. This really is a first class result for everyone – the same service at a lower cost," added Cllr Whiting.

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## Suffolk Coastal ready to back Kesgrave play facilities

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10 Jan 2007

### Archived press release.

The go-ahead has been given by Suffolk Coastal's Cabinet to nearly £50,000 of funding for new play and sport facilities for young people in the Kesgrave area that are being planned by the local Town Council.

Two grants are set to be made from Suffolk Coastal's Outdoor Play Space Fund (OPSF) which was set up by the Council to ensure that recreation facilities kept pace with new housing developments.

"Planning permission has already been granted by this Council for the two proposals, and I am pleased that we can use the OPSF to make such a significant contribution towards these projects," said Cllr Rae Leighton, Cabinet Member for Community Well-being.

Kesgrave Town Council wants to install play equipment and a teen shelter on open space at Cedarwood Green, off Wilkinson Drive, and asked for £19,000 towards the estimated £134,000 total cost. At the same location, it also wants to put in place a multi-sports area and requested £30,000 of the £47,000 total cost.

"This special fund was set up to ensure that housing developers were contributing to the recreational needs of the areas that they were working in, and in 2006 we paid out around £85,000 to support projects across the district.

"I am pleased that we were able to kickstart the New Year in such a positive way. Kesgrave has accumulated a pot of just over £49,000 as a result of development that has been approved in that area so we were able to support the Town Council's project.

"These could be important new additions for the young people in Kesgrave, offering both new facilities for younger children and teenagers, helping them have somewhere local to enjoy themselves, burn off their energies or just hang around safely," added Cllr Leighton.

Suffolk Coastal is keen to encourage recreational projects that involve people in their communities and each year asks towns and parishes to identify their local needs for inclusion in the annual Outdoor Play Space Parish Strategy (OPSPS). This strategy then ensures that funds available from the OPSF are used in the best possible way.

Anyone who would like more information about the OPSF or the OPSPS can contact Suffolk Coastal's outdoor playspace development officer, Jennie Catling, on Wednesdays and Thursdays on 01394 444321 or email [community&economic@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk](mailto:community&economic@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk)

In all, 22 different projects were supported in 2006 ranging from a £20,000 grant for changing rooms at Aldeburgh through to £388 grant to help refurbish a play area in Bucklesham. The full list of other projects were:

- £2,489 to restore a football pitch at Campsea Ashe.
- £767 to fence a field in Charsfield..

Three grants of £1,500, £15,000 and £10,000 respectively for new play equipment or play areas at Felixstowe's Gosford Way, Seaton Road and Adastral Park respectively.

- £2,722 to enlarge and improve a pavilion in Framlingham.
- £394 to resurface a Huntingfield car park.
- £2,500 to improve a Knodishall car park.
- £1,000 for improved play area fencing in Martlesham.
- £1,693 for improved tennis courts at Nacton.
- £793 to improve a playground's safety surface in Orford.
- £4,197 for bowling green machinery in Peasenhall.
- £850 for a goal post and boules court at Playford.
- £1,215 for play area fencing in Snape.
- £1,763 for vandal proof goal posts at Sutton.
- £1,020 and £1,616 for a replacement swing and new rabbit proof fencing in Walberswick.
- £1,530 for improved lighting and drainage at Walpole and Cookley.
- £2,340 for path for wheelchair access in Wenhaston.
- £11,119 towards the purchase of a recreational area.

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## Caterers should resolve to sign up to free coaching sessions



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

15 Jan 2007

### Archived press release.

Caterers across the county can mark the new year by signing up to a free coaching session that will help their business meet all the latest food hygiene regulations.

The countywide Safer Food, Better Business initiative has proved such a success that the Food Standards Agency (FSA) has given a further £25,000 grant to help provide more coaching for local caterers and seminars for food retailers.

“Last January some significant changes came into force affecting food hygiene legislation and this Council has been working in partnership with other Suffolk councils to help all food businesses understand what they must do to meet the new requirements,” said Cllr Sherrie Green, Cabinet Member for Community Well-being.

“Our efforts have gained significant national praise and this latest financial thumbs-up from the FSA means that we can offer more free seminars and coaching over the next few months across the county.

“This is an excellent opportunity for any food business that is not yet fully up to speed with the new food safety laws. However I would urge them to be quick as places on these courses are going fast and this special funding runs out at the end of March,” added Cllr Green.

The new food laws brought together and extended UK food hygiene laws with the key change that anyone running a food business must have a documented food safety management system. In simple terms, all food businesses must now write down what they do to make food that is safe to eat.

The seminars and coaching will provide food businesses with help to enable them to implement the Safer Food, Better Business pack to suit their business and to comply with the new food laws. The coach will not complete the pack - it will remain the responsibility of the food business operator to do this.

Under the terms of the FSA funding, free workshops and follow up coaching sessions are available to medium risk small catering businesses in Suffolk, and seminars will be run for small independent food retailers.

“Safer Food, Better Business is designed to be practical and easy to use and will help food businesses to comply with the new regulations, show what to do to make food safely, train staff, protect their business's reputation, and improve their business.

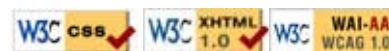
“Already hundreds of businesses across the county have benefited from these professionally run courses and I would strongly recommend anyone who has not yet been on one to find out more and sign up now,” added Cllr Green.

For more information, people can call Kerry Kennedy at Suffolk Coastal's food safety team on 01394 444747, or email [kerry.kennedy@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk](mailto:kerry.kennedy@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk). There is also full details on the

Caterers should resolve to sign up to free coaching sessions

Council's website <http://www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourbusiness/foodsafety/saferfood/>

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## Working together to promote sport



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

16 Feb 2007

### Archived press release.

The Coastal Sports Alliance has been launched to help promote and develop all types of sporting activities across the district, bringing together the enthusiasm and expertise of clubs and individuals.

Sunday's (February 11) Morson Group Sports Awards also marked the launch of the Alliance which has been set up by a wide range of local clubs with help from Suffolk Coastal and which could attract more funding for the district.

"It was fitting that on a night when sporting achievement was being celebrated, a new organisation was also launched to help promote and develop future generations of participants, coaches and administrators," said Councillor Rae Leighton, Cabinet Member for Community Well-being.

"The Coastal Sports Alliance has been established to bring together people from a variety of organisations with the purpose of increasing sports participation through co-ordinated delivery, hence its strapline of 'united through sport'.

"By creating this Alliance, we expect that there will be a sharing of knowledge and expertise that will help sports and clubs prosper in the future. We also anticipate that it will make it easier for this district to get its fair share of the national funding on offer to support and promote sporting activities," added Councillor Leighton.

Organisations represented in the Alliance come from the whole range of those involved with sport or who recognise its importance. They include sports clubs, schools and colleges, voluntary groups, youth councils, the police, Crime and Disorder Reduction Groups, Suffolk Coastal, Suffolk County Council and local Parish and Town Councils.

Three sub-groups for the Coastal Sports Alliance have been set up, due to the size of the district, and David Sheepshanks, Chairman of Ipswich Town Football Club, has agreed to the Chief Patron for the first year.

A website for the Alliance for the site has also been launched, which will include a full directory, and which can be found by [following this link](#)

Anyone wanting more information on the Alliance can contact Richard Baldwin on 01394 444318 or Sarah Shinnie on 01394 444652 or [email](#)

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## Electric heaters on offer for Framlingham homes



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23 Jan 2007

### Archived press release.

There is some temporary heating help on hand for residents living in and around Framlingham who have been hit by the loss of their gas supply.

Around 1,000 homes and businesses are thought to have had their gas cut off since last night (Monday) after a safety device was triggered at a supply station in Fairfield Road.

It is feared that it could take two to three days before the supply can safely be switched on again, but the National Grid, who own and operate the country's principal natural gas transportation system, has already made arrangements to provide alternative heating.

Any home that has lost their supply can pick up a portable electrical heater and hob from the Sir Robert Hitcham Primary School in College Road, Framlingham. Discussions are understood to be underway to finalise arrangements to ensure that housebound residents are also able to receive one of the heaters.

Not all homes are likely to rely solely on gas, but with the first real cold snap of this winter now hitting the district, National Grid has acted promptly to offer an alternative source of warmth and cooking.

It is also vitally important that every home affected switches off its gas supply at the meter, and engineers are due to visit every home to ensure that this has happened. The National Grid help line is 0845 605 6677.

**Update** - the following is a statement issued by National Grid

Loss of gas supply – Framlingham, Suffolk  
23/1/07 - Notice 2 - 23/1/07- 4.30pm

Gas supplies to about 900 properties were lost in Framlingham, Suffolk on Monday January 22 at 11.30pm after safety equipment was activated at a pressure reduction station – further investigations are currently under way.

Engineers have today been calling at properties to turn off the gas supplies before gas can be put back into the system. It is anticipated that we will begin reconnecting supplies later this evening. A second visit will be required to make sure that supplies have been safely restored. It is anticipated that restoration of supplies will continue on Wednesday January 24.

An incident room has been set up at Sir Robert Hitcham Primary School, New Road, Framlingham where residents can obtain heating and cooking facilities.

The postcode for the area affected is IP13 9\*\*.



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## More coastal protection work planned for Felixstowe



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25 Jan 2007

### Archived press release.

Following an inspection yesterday (Wednesday) Suffolk Coastal is set to carry out more emergency protection works to safeguard Felixstowe's sea wall and lessen the risk of flooding in the resort.

The Council believes it will now have to spend at least another £300,000 on work over the next few weeks to help reinforce the wall, and also protect some of the groynes.

"Our team carried out a detailed inspection yesterday when they had the chance, as the sea has now calmed down, to fully assess the impact of the damage caused on Monday. They also looked at what further temporary protection was needed while we await the go-ahead for the permanent scheme," said Cllr Andy Smith, Council Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for coast protection.

Heavy waves on Monday caused damage along the promenade with slabs of paving lifted up by the force of the sea, coping stones damaged at the top of the sea wall, and a battering for some of the beach huts

"We now know that the force of the waves caused part of the sea wall to move forward by three inches along a 70 yard stretch. It is an indication of the strength of the waves that all of the wall and prom that has been affected was the area which had tonnes of rocks put in front of it last October.

"The temporary emergency work that we carried out then has definitely prevented far more serious damage happening to the sea wall and the promenade. This latest setback is nowhere as bad as what occurred during May last year but it once again highlights that temporary measures are not the answer.

"The harsh reality is that we will have to carry on carrying out similar work and putting emergency sticking plasters in place until the permanent defence scheme is funded by the Government," added Cllr Smith.

Suffolk Coastal has been thwarted in its attempts to proceed with a permanent coastal protection scheme in partnership with the Environment Agency because of the lack of Government funding.

After years of careful planning, a scheme to create a series of new fishtail shaped groynes along south Felixstowe was due to begin last May, but the Government announced in December 2005 that there would be no funding for any new schemes in 2006/07.

Suffolk Coastal has since formally bid for Government funding but has so far proved unsuccessful. Suffolk Coastal has also linked up with the Environment Agency and the Department for Environment, Food, and Rural Affairs to see if alternative ways can be found to get the work done as soon as possible.

"We are continuing to be frustrated in all our attempts to gain the financial go-ahead for the permanent scheme that will make this part of Felixstowe safe for the next 50 years or so.

“Our only alternative is to carry out emergency work to help shore up the sea wall, and last year this cost around £500,000 as nearly 5,000 tonnes of rock were used to provide some temporary protection.

“We are now faced with having to spend even more money on providing very short-term measures, which is not really a sensible use of public money but we have been left with no alternative. This Council will take whatever action it can to protect Felixstowe, and the over 1,600 homes and businesses at threat in the south of the resort, from the impact of the sea,” added Cllr Smith.

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## Go fourth every month and cultivate the arts



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26 Jan 2007

### Archived press release.

The fourth Saturday of every month from February should be marked off on calendars as the day when people can grow their artistic skills at the Farm Art project at Easton Farm Park.

Saturday, February 24 sees the launch of this exciting project that has been set up by a partnership of Arts Framlingham and Suffolk Coastal with help from Awards for All and Easton Farm Park.

“These monthly Farm Art sessions are for children, young people and all the family, and are ideal for anyone who likes making things, enjoys being outdoors and lives in or around Framlingham,” said Cllr Rae Leighton, Cabinet Member for Community Well-being.

“This is a chance to work with the acclaimed artist Bryony Graham to produce art works inspired by the farming year, nature and rural life. It promises to be great fun and a real opportunity to learn new skills and tricks, with the challenge of producing something that could go on public display next year,” added Cllr Leighton.

Activities will include drawing, experimental art planting, casting, photography and sculpture, and will be tailored to meet the skills and interests of those taking part.

“This is an amazing opportunity for young people to make work and really develop as individual artists over the course of the project. There will be opportunities to draw, paint, sculpt, installation work and perhaps even new media work. Participants will have the chance to work with an unusual array of natural materials and use the farming year as the inspiration for their work, culminating in a public exhibition,” said Bryony Graham.

Bryony is no stranger to getting noticed with her work, receiving national press coverage for recent art projects in Felixstowe. Her energy, creativity and rapport with young people, means she is also highly sought after to run workshops. Experience includes work in venues such as Firstsite in Colchester and the Sainsbury Centre for Visual arts in Norwich.

The morning sessions are between 10am and 12 noon and are aimed at children aged 12 and under, although an adult must accompany those under eight, and there is a general emphasis on it being a shared activity for the whole family. The focus in the afternoon between 2pm and 4pm switches to young people aged 13 and over.

It is hoped that people will book in for all 12 sessions, which will cost £30, although the first session is on offer as a taster for only £4. However, places are limited. To book place email [nicky.corbett@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk](mailto:nicky.corbett@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk) or call 01394 444538, or visit [suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourfreetime/arts/farmart/](http://suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourfreetime/arts/farmart/)

More information is also available from Suffolk Coastal's arts and heritage development officer, Rachel Nightingale, on 01394 444294 or by emailing [rachel.nightingale@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk](mailto:rachel.nightingale@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk)



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## Council Tax service available virtually 24 hours a day



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29 Jan 2007

### Archived press release.

Two new services have been added to Suffolk Coastal's website so Council Taxpayers can keep track of their accounts at any time of the day.

Anyone now [following this link](#) will now be able to view their own personal account details over the web, and also electronically receive their Council Tax bills in future.

"These latest additions make our Council Tax service virtually available 24 hours a day, which should be a real bonus for our customers and could deliver some further savings in the future," said Councillor Robert Whiting, Cabinet Member for Fiscal and Democratic Services.

"Last year we made it possible for people to pay their bills to this Council at any time via their computers or telephones, and now they can keep right up to date with their accounts.

"I would encourage as many people as possible to register with this new system, as there could be some significant postal and print savings for this Council if people sign up to having their bills delivered direct to their computer inbox, rather than their letterbox," added Councillor Whiting.

For people to view their own account details, all they need to do is the visit the website and register for the service by using their personal account number. They will then be sent a PIN number that must be used the first time they log in which will allow them to see the details of how their bill is calculated, payments that have been made and how much is due. It also includes details of any bills or notices that the Council has previously sent.

People can also sign up to have their bills issued electronically, and can search to find out the Council Tax band of any home in the district. Bills can also be paid online, or by using the automated telephone payment line 0845 880 1312. Any payments made by debit card are free, but the Council does charge an additional fee of two per cent of the total transaction value on all payments made by credit card, except for car parking tickets and housing benefits overpayments.

Among the other online services available on the Council's website are the chance for people to check their housing and council tax benefit claims, see what planning applications, appeals or decisions have been made, the register of alcohol and entertainment licences and applications for the district, and the chance to make building control submissions.

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## Partnership gears up to protect East Lane cliffs



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30 Jan 2007

### Archived press release.

The second phase of an operation to provide emergency sea defences to help protect Bawdsey's East Lane cliffs gets underway this week.

In a shining example of partnership working and community spirit, urgent work to repair recent storm damage to the sea defences is to be done by a partnership between Suffolk Coastal District Council, the Environment Agency, Bawdsey, Alderton and Hollesley Parish Councils, the East Lane Trust and local landowners.

"Everyone who knows the importance of East Lane is working together urgently to find both the short and long-term solutions," said Councillor Andy Smith, Council Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Coast Protection

Work to reinforce the headland south of the Martello Tower, and to repair the earth bank and rock revetment nearer to East Lane will use some 850 tonnes of rocks belonging to the Environment Agency, other rock reclaimed from the sea that was formerly part of the collapsed revetment, and sand-filled 'gabions' (big square bags), transported and supplied by local landowners. Suffolk Coastal will pay for the labour and plant hire, helped by cash from Bawdsey and Alderton Parish Councils.

The urgent action is to safeguard a part of the district that has suffered some of the most dramatic impacts of coastal erosion over the few years.

"In the middle of December we placed tonnes of rocks to help divert some of the force of the waves and this is the second and more important part of this emergency action.

"The goal this week is to provide a temporary defence that will see us through the next few months until a proposed permanent scheme can get underway in the autumn," added Councillor Smith.

There is now a real threat to low-lying land in East Lane, Bawdsey, Alderton and Hollesley.

"This situation has really united the community. We have all been working hard to produce a local answer to the funding gap caused because there is not enough money set aside nationally for coastal defence work. The emergency works over the next few weeks should buy us the time to safeguard East Lane until the autumn when a scheme providing long-term protection can be put in place," added Councillor Smith.

Negotiations with the East Lane Trust have produced an imaginative way of locally funding the cost of the permanent defence works, with more details due to be made public soon.

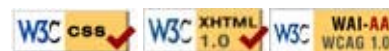
The community is also heavily involved in the short-term work, with support from the three Parish Councils, and some rather dramatic local action being proposed to help plug any gaps in the defences.

"It is planned locally to get people involved in helping to fill and put in place hundreds of 'gabion' bags and although the exact timescale is not yet confirmed, it shows the commitment to

the project from those living in and around Bawdsey,” added Councillor Smith.

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## Local teenagers wanted to help spend £110,000 by March

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31 Jan 2007

### Archived press release.

The call has gone out to teenagers in the Suffolk Coastal area to join the district's new youth forum and have their say on how over £110,000 of Government money is spent on local projects.

Suffolk Coastal's Local Strategic Partnership is urging young people to get involved in making the decisions and also to hurry up and get their bids in by the end of February for any projects they want supported from either the Youth Opportunity Fund (YOF) or the Youth Capital Fund (YCF).

"Suffolk has received £624,000 from the Government to help young people become more involved in their local community and this district's share is £111, 904 which will be used to pay for new projects or equipment," said Cllr Ray Herring, Chairman of the Suffolk Coastal LSP.

"This LSP last year funded the appointment of Suffolk Coastal's first young people's officer, Keri Mohan, because we recognised the importance of getting young people involved in the way services are provided now and in the future.

"Keri has already set up a youth forum, and one of its first tasks has been to look at bids to the YOF and YCF. I hope more young people will come forward and join this district's youth forum and get involved in making decisions about spending money on projects that are targeted at their age group," added Cllr Herring.

Any young people who would like to get involved in the youth forum can contact Keri Mohan by emailing [keri.mohan@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk](mailto:keri.mohan@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk) or calling or texting her on 07795 092255, or by writing to her at Suffolk Coastal District Council, Woodbridge, IP12 1AU. Full details, along with an application form, are also available on the Suffolk Coastal LSP website, [www.sclsp.org.uk/youngpeople](http://www.sclsp.org.uk/youngpeople)

Training and support is offered by the County Council's Youth and Connexions Service to members of the youth forum who want to get involved in the decision-making process.

The deadline for bids for YOF and YCF is February 28, with full details available from Shirley Horne, the funding development co-ordinator at Suffolk Youth and Connexions. She can also help groups of young people put together applications and can be contacted on 01473 260183, or by emailing [shirley.horne@connexionssuffolk.org.uk](mailto:shirley.horne@connexionssuffolk.org.uk)

"We have also put information on the LSP website about these funding opportunities, and I would like to thank the County Council for agreeing that the spending decisions on this money could be made on the ground by local young people.

"I hope this funding will help support local clubs and projects providing activities in our district and increase the opportunities on offer for our local young people," added Cllr Herring.

There will be a further round of funding available from both the YOF and YCF after April, and

more details will be made available when they have been finalised.



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## CCTV funding bid for five market towns is unplugged



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

01 Feb 2007

### Archived press release.

The plug has been pulled out on bids for national funding worth £175,000 submitted by two special partnerships formed to bring closed circuit television (CCTV) cameras to Aldeburgh, Framlingham, Leiston, Saxmundham and Woodbridge.

The Northern Coastal Market Towns CCTV Partnership and the Woodbridge Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership sub group have failed today (Thursday) to win Government funding for 19 mobile cameras to help tackle crime and promote safety.

“This is extremely disappointing news as these were excellent schemes that would have helped the police tackle crime and anti-social behaviour in five of our market towns,” said Councillor Sherrie Green, Cabinet Member for Community Well-being.

“Feeling safe and being safe from crime is one of this district’s main priorities, as recognised by both this Council and the Suffolk Coastal Local Strategic Partnership. It is a real shame that the Government is now unwilling or unable to fund a scheme that could have had a major impact in making our district even safer.

“The reality is that these towns are part of one of the safest districts in the country, but they do still have problems with vandalism and anti-social behaviour, more often than not fuelled by alcohol. These schemes could have helped cut crime and made our district feel even safer for all its residents,” added Councillor Green.

All five town councils in Aldeburgh, Framlingham, Leiston, Saxmundham and Woodbridge are lead members of the partnerships, along with representatives of the local business communities, Suffolk County Council, Suffolk Coastal and Suffolk Police.

The partnerships recognised that it is better to target those areas where problems are known to occur, or are likely to occur, rather than have fixed cameras. Many of the offences that would be tackled are largely criminal damage to property or cars, but these are of course not victimless crimes.

“Both partnerships thought that mobile CCTV cameras would be an important additional tool to help our local police to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour in our towns.

“The very flexibility of the systems could help identify the very small minority whose actions are responsible for occasionally making our town centres appear noisy, rowdy places at night. They could also have been used to tackle a wide range of other issues affecting local communities such as flytipping.

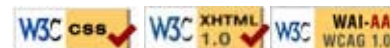
“This Council has offered its full assistance to these bids, and we are ready to support the Town Councils in their efforts to successfully identify alternative ways of obtaining the funding that will turn these plans into reality,” added Councillor Green.

The bids were submitted to the Home Office regional directors’ fund for the purchase of 14 mobile CCTV cameras for the northern market towns, and five in Woodbridge, to be used by the police in the areas where crime or criminal damage are most likely to occur.

Guy Richardson, the Council's community safety officer, submitted the bids on behalf of the market towns to the Government Office of the East of England (Go East) in Cambridge. The planned CCTV system uses the very latest technology and delivers live images to a personal or laptop computer. Each unit can be easily installed and moved to provide surveillance wherever the police think they can be of most use.

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## Suffolk Coastal gets set for Morson Sports Awards



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01 Feb 2007

### Archived press release.

The tension is beginning to build up for all those in the running to scoop a prize at the Morson Group Sports Awards 2007, the first ever districtwide scheme celebrating sporting achievements in Suffolk Coastal.

A shortlist has now been published for each of the eight awards that will be presented from 5pm on Sunday, February 11 at the Seckford Theatre, Woodbridge School. David Sheepshanks, the Chairman of Ipswich Town Football Club, will open the proceedings at the invitation-only event.

"We received over 50 nominations from across the sporting spectrum, with people who had taken part in golf, horse riding, sailing and trekking to the North Pole all getting a mention. I would like to thank everyone who made a nomination and it has been a hard task but we have been able to come up with a short list for the big day," said Cllr Rae Leighton, Cabinet Member for Community Well-being.

"All the three finalists in each category will also be put forward to the countywide Suffolk Sports Awards which will be held next October. This event has been set up by the Coastal Sports Alliance, which is bringing together all the sporting expertise in the district and will be formally launched on the day as well," added Cllr Rae Leighton.

The award categories and those short-listed are as follows:

- **The Felixstowe, Kesgrave and Woodbridge Flyer Sports Personality 2007** - Alan Krailing / Edd McArdie (sailing), Alex and Jeremy Hinton (North Pole Expedition), and Ashley Reeves (horse riding).
- **Kings Models Young Sports Personality 2007 (under 18 on August 31 2006)** - William Meadows (triathlon), Rhodri Harston (golf), and Hamish Stone (sailing)
- **Kingpin Disabled Sports Personality 2007** - Jamie Truby (sports coach/athletics), and Emma Greenhouse (cross country).
- **DC Leisure Club of the Year 2007** - Woodbridge Rugby Club, Woodbridge Town Youth FC, and Health Needs Netball Club.
- **The School Sports Partnership Coach of the Year 2007** - Ian Cotton (swimming), Steve Taylor (hockey), and Juliet McMurray (netball).
- **Easton Farm Park Sporting School 2007** - Woodbridge School, Farlingaye High School, and Wickham Market CP.
- **Greenthumb East Suffolk Volunteer of the year 2007** - Ralph Dale (Framlingham Sports & Social Club), Julie Jolliffe (Hollesey Judo Club) and Michael Hervey-Murray (East Anglian Sailing Trust).
- **Mannings Amusement Park Lifetime Achievement** - Janet Hambling, Michael Lubbock,

and Sydney and Christine Vice.

Anyone wanting to know more about the Coastal Sporting Alliance can contact Richard Baldwin on 01394 444318 or Sarah Shinnie on 01394 444652, or by emailing [active.leisure@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk](mailto:active.leisure@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk)

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## Help us tailor your lighting to local needs



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02 Feb 2007

### Archived press release.

Town and parish councils across the district are being asked for their views on whether some footway lighting in their areas is still needed throughout the night.

While Suffolk County Council is responsible for road lighting in the district, Suffolk Coastal pays County to provide footway lighting in many towns and villages and it now asking whether they all need to be on from dusk to dawn.

“It is no secret that this Council is facing severe financial pressures largely because of the Government’s failure to fairly fund rural districts like ours. As a result we have had to review the way that we provide all the services that we offer and ask whether they could be made more efficient,” said Cllr Rae Leighton, Cabinet Member for Community Well-being.

The latest service to be put under the microscope is footway lighting and Cllr Leighton has written to all the affected town and parish council to ask their views on whether these lights in their area need to be kept on throughout the night.

“This is a genuine attempt to get a local perspective on what their needs are. In many of our rural areas we have often heard views that there is too much so-called light pollution, while in our towns there are probably significant community safety issues to be considered.

“That is why I have asked for the considered opinion of the local representatives on the ground as to what they think is the right way forward. If we switched off every light at midnight we could save £23,000 a year, but this cannot and will not be just a financially driven decision.

“There are genuine environmental issues to take into account but these must also be balanced with the needs or indeed fears of a local community. I hope my letter will spark off a genuine debate into whether it is really sensible to have all parts of our district served with dusk to dawn lighting, and identify what are the local needs. Some areas might welcome a midnight switch-off, while others might prefer 2 or 3 am,” added Cllr Leighton.

The option open to Suffolk Coastal is to install cells on each light that would control the time that they operate. If all its 1,500 lights were switched off at midnight, it would save the Council nearly half of its expected bill for them.

The annual cost to the Council is set to increase in the coming year by 45 per cent, bringing the total bill to £46,000 a year. In addition to any cash savings, there would also be positive benefits for the environment through less greenhouse gases and a reduction in light pollution. Cllr Leighton has asked the 39 town and parish councils to respond by March 31 with their views.



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## Government should pay full fare for bus passes



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09 Feb 2007

### Archived press release.

A letter has been sent to the Government calling for urgent action to tackle the funding problems caused by the introduction of free bus passes, which in Suffolk Coastal is costing an extra £180,000 in the coming year.

The Transport Secretary, Douglas Alexander, has been asked by Suffolk Coastal's Cabinet Member, Cllr Stephen Burroughes, to carry out an urgent review into the way the Government is funding the new scheme.

"The introduction of free concessionary travel for all those aged 60 and over was announced with a great fanfare from the Government. However, its promise that an extra £350 million of funding was on offer to councils to cover the cost of the new scheme has certainly not proved true for us," said Cllr Burroughes, Cabinet Member for Rural Issues.

"In the coming year, we are anticipating the extra cost will be £180,000, which might not be much in the Government's eyes but is equivalent to £3 on our Council Tax bills, and is only £20,000 less than the increased Government grant for all our services.

"I want urgent action by Mr Alexander to put matters right. What are the facts about where this national pot of money is going? Are some councils getting subsidised by the Government while others like ours are being penalised for no good reason? The current funding situation on concessionary travel is completely unfair and must be corrected," added Cllr Burroughes.

Suffolk Coastal offers free travel on buses at all times to people aged 60 and over, and those who are disabled. This scheme is provided as part of a Suffolkwide partnership.

After the Government announced in March 2005 that all councils must provide free travel, Suffolk Coastal warned that it was not providing enough money to fully fund the scheme.

"We used to provide, free of charge, a bus pass that gave people the chance to travel half-price across the county. Under the new scheme, the Government expects us to only offer free travel across our district but this would be a worse 'second-class' service for our elderly and disabled residents, and would also be more expensive for us to run," added Cllr Burroughes.

In his letter, Cllr Burroughes strongly urges Mr Alexander to 'reconsider the implications of how the scheme proposed by Central Government is bedding down in reality. I suspect that we are not alone in this position, and that an urgent national review be carried out. It is not good enough to simply say that in aggregate across the country the funding will balance out, as it does nothing for those councils like Suffolk Coastal who are clearly being penalised'.

The letter points out the local context of the additional £180,000 cost of the new scheme. Suffolk Coastal's budget is below £14 million, and in the last five years it has achieved savings and efficiencies of £6 million, despite below average increases in Council Tax and Government grant.

"This is the Government's initiative, and it is unfair that the extra costs should be met by all our Council Taxpayers. The Government should heed our call and at last come up with the full funding for the extra costs of this scheme," added Cllr Burroughes.



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## Morson Sports Awards celebrates sporting talent



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

12 Feb 2007

### Archived press release.

The sporting spotlight shone on Suffolk Coastal's outstanding talents at last night's (Sunday) inaugural Morson Group Sports Awards which also saw the launch of the new Coastal Sporting Alliance.

This celebration of sporting excellence saw eight awards presented on an evening opened by the Alliance's chief patron, David Sheepshanks, the Chairman of Ipswich Town Football Club.

"I am pleased that the sporting efforts of individuals and clubs up and down our district are now receiving this official recognition, and I would like to add my congratulations to all the winners and to all those nominated," said Cllr Rae Leighton, Cabinet Member for Community Well-being.

"Whether it is starring on the international stage or years of effort at the grass roots level of their sport, last night was further proof that we have an active sporting community. I thank all the sponsors who helped put the spotlight on our sporting heroes and I look forward to the Alliance encouraging more to come to the fore," added Cllr Leighton.

### Green Thumb East Suffolk Volunteer of the Year award

The winner of the Green Thumb East Suffolk Volunteer of the Year award was Ralph Dale - an active member of Framlingham Lawn Tennis Club since 1972 and still, into his 80s, plays at least twice a week. Ralph provides his services for countless hours of club maintenance. He also looks after the Junior Section, every week throughout the year regardless of the weather, raising enthusiasm for tennis, communicating with the young people in his down-to-earth style.

Commended for this award was Julie Joliffe, a 2nd Dan British Judo Association Senior Club Coach who founded Hollesley Judo Club in 1993 and Michael Hervey-Murray the voluntary co-ordinator for the the East Anglian Sailing Trusts Vision 2012, a project to identify and train potential members of the Great Britain Sailing Squad for the London Games.

### Easton Farm Park School of the Year award

The winner of the Easton Farm Park School of the Year award was Woodbridge School after a year of great successes throughout all the major sports and in tribute to its scheme that has seen students act as sports leaders, teaching over 1,500 different students.

Commended for this award was Farlingaye High School for its individual and team sporting success and extensive extra-curricular programme and the Wickham Market Community Primary School that has a high emphasis on sports development and has recently won an Activemark, which rewards high quality school physical education and sport.

### Suffolk School Sports Partnership Coach of the Year award

The winner of the Suffolk School Sports Partnership Coach of the Year award was Steve Taylor, nominated as an excellent hockey coach, who has the ability to bring out the best in the young people he coaches. He runs the junior section at Felixstowe Hockey Club but it is his voluntary work at Woodbridge's Abbey School and Felixstowe's Deben and Orwell High Schools that

earned him his prize.

Commended for this award was Ian Cotton, head coach at Deben Swimming Club and Chairman and League Secretary for the Suffolk County Amateur Swimming Association, and Juliet McMurray, Netball Development Co-ordinator for Suffolk, nominated for her infectious enthusiasm.

#### **DC Leisure Club of the Year award**

The winner of the DC Leisure Club of the Year award was Woodbridge Rugby Club whose first eleven won promotion to the Eastern Counties League One, has a second and third team, has begun training for women, and has 170 children registered with its junior section receiving qualified coaching.

Commended for this award was HN Netball Club, which was set up in 1999, and was the first in Felixstowe to offer junior netball and Woodbridge Town Youth Football Club who recently won the County FA Charter Standard Community Club of the Year Award in recognition of its work.

#### **Kingpin Disabled Sports Personality of the Year award**

The winner of the Kingpin Disabled Sports Personality of the Year award was Jamie Truby, a student at the Thomas Wolsey School, nominated for his enthusiastic reliability as a sports coach. Jamie has represented the school in the Junior Regional Athletics Championships and has, for the past three years, been selected to represent the Eastern Region at the National Championships.

Commended for this award was Emma Greenhouse of Farlingaye High School for her commitment to running.

#### **Mannings Amusement Park Lifetime Achievement award**

The winner of the Mannings Amusement Park Lifetime Achievement award was Michael Lubbock, primarily responsible for setting up Woodbridge Rugby Club in 1969 and club president from 1982 until he retired last year. During that time, Mike guided the Club tirelessly through recruiting players, buying a new ground, building a wonderful clubhouse, as well as securing club finances.

Commended for this award was Janet Hambling who over many years helped a range of sports in the area, including golf, tennis and badminton and Sydney & Christine Vice for their magnificent contribution to the running of both the Football Club and the Sports Club in Framlingham since 1960.

#### **Kings Models Young Sports Personality of the Year award**

The winner of the Kings Models Young Sports Personality of the Year award was William Meadows in tribute to his phenomenal year in triathlon and cycling and his commitment to his sport, education and family. Will's achievements during the past year include winning the British Triathlon Eastern Region Under 14 Series for Triathlon and Aquathlon, helping the Eastern Region to 3rd place in the Inter-Regional Championships in Glasgow and winning the Under 14 British Schools Hard Track National Championships.

Commended for this award was Hamish Stone who sails a Cadet Class dinghy at Waldringfield Sailing Club with his crew Aaron Woolf and gained 2nd place at both the National and World Championships and Rhodri Harston, an outstanding golfer who was crowned under 15 Champion for Suffolk and Wales.

#### **The Flyer Group Sports Personality of the Year Award**

The winners of The Flyer Group Sports Personality of the Year Award were Alex and Jeremy Hinton, who along with friend Andrew Vinsen, took part as the team Breaking Trail in the Polar Challenge 2006, a 350-mile endurance race to the magnetic North Pole. At 3am on April 30, 2006 Breaking Trail crossed the finish line in an incredible 3rd place, raising over £3,000 for the British Heart Foundation.

Commended for this award were Alan Krailing & Edd McArdle of Waldringfield Sailing Club who dominated the highly competitive Lark Dinghy Racing Fleet locally and won the Lark National Championships last summer, and Ashley Reeves from Walberswick who on his 10-year-old Piebald mare, Sundance, completed a sponsored ride of over 3,000 miles around coastal Britain.

The ceremony was held at The Seckford Theatre, in Woodbridge, where previous sporting excellence was also recognised in its guest of honour, Prof. Bill Tancred MBE, who was an Olympian in the 1960s and 1970s. The event was compered by Jonathan Hemmings, of SGR Colchester.

As well as the awards sponsors, the event was made possible by Newell Fox, P & R Locksmiths, Suffolk School Sports Partnership, The Brook Hotel, The Seckford Theatre, and The Waverley Hotel.



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## Partnership ready to carry out Dunwich protection



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12 Feb 2007

### Archived press release.

Plans for an experimental beach stabilisation project to reduce the severe cliff failures at Dunwich will now go ahead, thanks to a partnership between Suffolk Coastal District Council, Dunwich Parish Meeting and the Environment Agency.

“The Dunwich Parish Meeting has been leading on this project since 1997, but it recently discovered that it would have to become a parish council if it was to continue as the lead organisation in this partnership. It then asked if we were prepared to take over the project, and I am pleased to confirm that we are ready to do so and work will start on site next week,” said Cllr Andy Smith, Deputy Leader of Suffolk Coastal and Cabinet Member for Coast Protection.

The Dunwich Parish Meeting had gained the promise of financial support for the project from the Environment Agency, Suffolk Coast and Heaths, Crown Estate, and the Dunwich Town Trust, as well as the Council. The project has also been backed by Natural England, and will be receiving support from other bodies such as Suffolk Coastal Services Ltd.

The design has been drawn up by Stephen Hawes Associates, in conjunction with the Dunwich Parish Meeting’s Coastal Defence and Flood Committee chaired by Michael Clark.

The Cliff Beach Stabilisation Project will be a low-cost, low impact, trial beach stabilisation project, basically creating a series of sand and shingle humps along the beach. These are intended to prevent the beach eroding and thereby protecting the cliffs from the impact of the waves that have over the years eroded so much of Dunwich’s cliffs and history.

“The project has the whole-hearted support of the Dunwich Parish Meeting and we are delighted that it is proceeding. We are extremely grateful for the support of the participating organisations,” said Geoffrey Baverstock, Chair of Dunwich Parish Meeting.

It is anticipated that the work will take around four weeks to finish, so from next week people are being asked to keep off the beach for health and safety reasons. It will not be possible to fence off the site, but warning signs will be erected.

The below press release is from the National Trust

### It’s business as usual at Dunwich Heath & Beach

The National Trust’s site at Dunwich Heath Coastal Centre & Beach will remain unaffected by cliff protection work at Dunwich beach which is due to start next week.

The Cliff Beach Stabilisation Project, backed by Suffolk Coastal District Council and the Environment Agency, will create a series of sand and shingle humps along Dunwich beach to help protect the cliffs and prevent erosion.

Nearby Minsmere beach and Dunwich Heath, owned and managed by the National Trust, will not be affected by the work which means that visitors can still enjoy one of Suffolk’s most important nature conservation areas.

“This is a great time to come along to the Heath. There are lots of bracing walks through the heath and along the beach and the SeaWatch centre provides an excellent viewing point from which visitors will be able to see winter passage birds and might even get a sighting of harbour porpoise or common seal,” says Grant Lohoar, National Trust property manager. “At this time of the year, the rare Dartford Warbler can be seen out on the Heath, whereas later on in the year they become a bit more elusive when they are nursing their young.”

Visitors can also enjoy home-cooked food in the tea-room located in the Coastguard Cottages. Here, the food you’ll find is seasonal and sourced locally wherever possible. So expect to see home-made soups, Suffolk sausage and mash, Lowestoft fish dishes and home-made cakes on the menu.

The National Trust’s Dunwich tea-room is open at weekends until 4 March and then from Wednesday – Sunday from 10am – 5pm, and all week during school holidays.



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## How to turn your love green



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13 Feb 2007

### Archived press release.

This is the time of year when love is in the air and romantics in the district send tokens to their nearest and dearest, but it can also be a time to show their love and commitment to the environment.

Although more and more people are now using new technology to send virtual Valentine cards by email, it is still estimated that over 12 million Valentine cards will be sent this year," said Councillor Andrew Nunn, Cabinet Member for the Environment – natural and built.

"For those who do not want to keep their cards these can be recycled in the green crate or the blue-lidded wheelie bin provided by the Council for paper recycling and collected every fortnight.

"Flowers are often given as an expression of love, but it is still possible to think green by composting them or putting them in the brown garden waste bin. Champagne bottles can be recycled at the nearest bottle bank," continued Councillor Nunn.

Anyone wanting information on recycling can contact Suffolk Coastal's recycling team on 01394 444000.

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## Dig out a bargain and make the garden green



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16 Feb 2007

### Archived press release.

Gardeners who want to help the environment and their own pockets can join thousands in Suffolk Coastal who have already bought their own compost bin.

Suffolk Coastal has linked up with the Government-funded Waste Resource Action Programme (WRAP) to offer compost bins at bargain rates, with prices starting at £8 with free delivery.

“Since last April, over 1,700 compost bins have been bought by our local residents through our partnership with WRAP, and we estimate that well over 12,600 bins have become features of this district’s gardens since we started promoting home composting,” said Councillor Andrew Nunn, Cabinet Member for the Environment – natural and built.

“Many people like having their own compost bin because they know it is their own personal free source of environmentally-friendly soil improver. Home composting also means that there is more room in the Council’s brown wheeled garden waste bin for things that are not suitable for home composting such as cooked food waste and large amounts of cardboard which are recycled at the central composting facility at Parham.

“It is not unusual for people to have more than the one compost bin and this latest offer is the ideal chance to either get into the composting habit or to buy an additional one to double the goodness that you are creating in your own back garden,” added Councillor Nunn.

A 220 litre Ecomax bin costs only £8, a 330 litre costs £10 while the modular 250 litre KOMP bin costs £20. All prices include free delivery. Call 0845 077 0757 to order one now.

For further information on composting click onto the Recyclenow website [www.recyclenow.com](http://www.recyclenow.com).



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## Important news for local businesses



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16 Feb 2007

### Archived press release.

Over 75 per cent of businesses have so far claimed their chance to get their rates bill reduced thanks to the small business rate relief (SBRR) scheme, but there are still many who have yet to come forward.

The SBRR is based on the rateable value (RV) of the property. Properties that appear in the valuation list on April 1 of each chargeable year, with a RV of less than £5,000, qualify for 50 per cent relief, while those with a RV between £5,001 and £10,000 qualify for between one and 49 per cent relief.

“So far we estimate that over £800,000 has been claimed back by businesses in 2006/07, but there are still many who we believe could be missing out on some probably much needed rate relief. The closing date for claiming for the 2006/07 financial year is September 30, but why delay? Claim what you are entitled to now is my message to businesses,” said Cllr Robert Whiting, Cabinet Member for Fiscal and Democratic Services.

Information and application forms for the valuation period April 1, 2007 to March 31, 2010 were sent in January to all those believed to qualify, but if anyone needs more details they can contact Suffolk Coastal's business rates team on 01394 444546/444544, or fax 01394 444247 or email [businessrates@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk](mailto:businessrates@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk)

SSBR will only be granted on one property per business ratepayer in England. It is possible to receive SSBR if the rate payer has more than one property in England as long as the RV of one property is less than £2,200, and that the total RV of all the properties in England is less than £15,000 where the property for which relief is sought is outside Greater London.

Although businesses with RVs between £10,000 and £15,000 will not receive SBRR they can apply to pay their rates based on the SBRR multiplier rather than the NNDR multiplier.

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## More orders planned to control anti-social behaviour



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19 Feb 2007

### Archived press release.

The police are set to be given the powers this summer to control anti-social drinking in four more parts of the district that are worried about the impact of alcohol-fuelled behaviour.

People are now being asked to give their views on plans to introduce designation orders in parts of Framlingham, Kesgrave, Martlesham and Rushmere St Andrew.

“The town and parish councils of these areas have recognised the need to give the police the authority to take action against those who are drinking in public and acting anti-socially,” said Cllr Sherrie Green, Cabinet Member for Community Well-being.

“The proposal is to make parts of these towns and villages designated zones. This does not mean that people cannot drink in these areas but it does mean the police can deal with anyone misbehaving while drinking.

“Similar restrictions have been introduced in Felixstowe, Leiston and Woodbridge and have helped the police improve the quality of life for those who live there. We need to know whether local people think these bans are covering the right roads,” added Cllr Green.

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

“A substantial proportion of crime and disorder is linked to alcohol abuse and this measure will give the police additional powers to tackle the minority who act in an anti-social manner after having too much to drink. This Council supports designation orders like these and partnership campaigns like Operation Nightsafe which are aimed at encouraging sensible drinking and better behaviour,” added Councillor Green.

Suffolk Coastal is proposing to make an order under Section 13 (2) of the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 which means that within the designated areas, a police officer who reasonably believes that a person has consumed or intends to consume alcohol may require that person not to do so, require him or her to surrender anything which the police officer reasonably believes to be alcohol, and dispose of any item which has been surrendered.

Anyone wanting to comment on the proposal should send them by March 19 to the Community Safety Officer, Suffolk Coastal District Council, Melton Hill, Woodbridge IP12 1AU or email [communitysafety@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk](mailto:communitysafety@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk).



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## Help spring clean our district



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20 Feb 2007

### Archived press release.

Once again Suffolk Coastal wants to encourage people across the district to get involved in a local clean-up this March as part of a county-wide campaign to Spring Clean Suffolk.

Spring Clean week runs from March 19 to 23 and the Council is hoping that even more groups will take part in this annual litter pick or take the initiative to do something separate from this campaign.

“Last year over 1,700 volunteers collected 3,200 black sacks full of rubbish across 46 parishes as part of Suffolk Coastal's annual Spring Clean supported by the Council,” said Councillor Andrew Nunn, Cabinet Member for the Environment – natural and built.

“Groups taking part included Town and Parish Councils, schools, conservation groups, youth groups and residents’ associations, whilst several community-spirited residents across the district undertook litter picks of their area as individuals.

“Suffolk Coastal Services is ready to take away any rubbish collected during this March’s clean-up and I hope even more groups and individuals will get involved and help keep our district clean and green,” added Councillor Nunn.

People in the district do not have to carry out their local spring clean during the county-wide week - any time that they want to help keep their community tidy by organising a litter pick they can get support from Suffolk Coastal, including sacks, gloves and disposal of collected waste.

Anyone interested in taking part in a clean-up in their area can contact their parish or town council or call Suffolk Coastal on 01394 444033 or email [scsLtd@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk](mailto:scsLtd@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk)

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## Carpet is magic for musical flights of fancy



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

21 Feb 2007

### Archived press release.

A specially made carpet is now at the heart of a project which is encouraging groups of nursery age children to discover the magical world of music.

Since last October, the Flights of Fancy project has been working to get the musical education of groups of young children off on the right note, with visits to local playgroups and schools by professional musicians.

“Flights of Fancy offers fun and creative musical activities to help spark and develop the potential of the youngsters with the help of a small team of professional musicians who are experienced in working with young children,” said Cllr Rae Leighton, Cabinet Member for Community Well-being.

“It now has the extra asset of its own magic carpet on which to whisk the children away into a world of musical make-believe. It is already being used as a way of taking the children away to different places, both local and global, from where the music has come.

“This magic carpet has rolled out endless possibilities for exploring music through different styles, with the children actively involved through story-telling, role-playing and music-making,” added Cllr Leighton.

Sue Brinkhurst, a Suffolk Coastal-based textile artist, create the two metre by one and a half metre carpet. The images on the carpet include scenes representing Africa, the rain forest, a townscape, and the Polar Regions, with a border of musical references and pockets for musical instruments.

The scheme, developed by Suffolk Coastal District Council in partnership with the Eastern Orchestral Board, has been holding weekly nursery sessions for young children at Eyke and Rendlesham Pre-school Playgroup, Rendlesham Primary School and Sutton Heath Childcare Centre.

The children are being visited throughout the project by musicians from the internationally renowned City of London Sinfonia. It is rare for this type of venture to reach a rural area but this project is using some of the country’s finest orchestral players and East Anglia’s most talented workshop leaders to deliver music activity of the highest standard in Suffolk.

“Music is recognised as a valuable tool for young children. Research suggests that it helps them to learn through play and supports their developing language and communication skills as well as encouraging their social skills. It is a great chance for families to get together, and parents are invited to take part in some of the Flights of Fancy sessions alongside their children,” added Cllr Leighton.

Flights of Fancy has been made possible thanks to the support of a number of organisations including the Eastern Orchestral Board, Youth Music, Suffolk County Council, Suffolk Coastal and Awards for All.



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## Maintaining local air quality - have your say



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21 Feb 2007

### Archived press release.

The Council's on-going commitment to quality of life and improved environmental management means it is now seeking views on its in-depth review of air quality across Suffolk Coastal.

Periodic reviews of current and likely future air quality are legally required to be carried out by the Council. This is based on Government guidance and looks at seven key pollutants.

"National policies on air pollution are expected to deliver significant improvements in air quality throughout the country, while recognising there are things that can be done locally as well, which is where our investigations come in," said Councillor Andrew Nunn, Cabinet Member for the Environment Natural and Built.

"Obviously the air quality in our district is generally very good but there are a couple of areas that we need to monitor closely as they could exceed target levels," added Cllr Nunn.

In 2001, Suffolk Coastal completed an entire round of review and assessment for the district. The reports concluded that the air quality objectives for all seven pollutants would be met in all areas of the district and that no serious action was necessary. Further reports have been produced as required, with the latest Updating and Screening report in September 2006, recently accepted by the Government.

The latest monitoring shows there are now two additional local sites that require further investigation where air quality objectives may be exceeded in the future. These are emissions of nitrogen dioxide, sulphur dioxide and particulates (PM10) from activities on and associated with the Port of Felixstowe.

Monitoring of the identified problem of emission of nitrogen dioxide from traffic using the junction of Lime Kiln Quay Road, The Thoroughfare and St John's Street in Woodbridge, is continuing as part of the Air Quality Management Area declared for that site.

Additional reports on these sites and whether any further action needs to be taken will be published during the next 12 months.

The full report, together with all reports produced to date, is available on the Suffolk Coastal website from [www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourcouncil/haveyoursay/](http://www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourcouncil/haveyoursay/) or can be seen at the Council's offices at Melton Hill, Woodbridge and Undercliff Road West, Felixstowe.

Comments are welcomed from residents on the report, and should be emailed to [environmental.protection@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk](mailto:environmental.protection@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk) or use the online form on the website. The closing date for comments is May 1, 2007.





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## Council providing excellent services more efficiently



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27 Feb 2007

### Archived press release.

The latest report on how services are being delivered by Suffolk Coastal shows that it continues to perform at an excellent level compared to other councils.

According to the Audit Commission, the national watchdog for councils, Suffolk Coastal is ranking as an excellent authority based on the number of its service performance measures that are in the top 25 per cent nationally.

"I am pleased it is now officially recognised how well we are delivering services and that the statistics confirm that we have succeeded in making improvements at a time when we have also had to achieve significant efficiencies," said Cllr Ray Herring, Leader of Suffolk Coastal.

"It has long been this Council's goal to provide value for money services and 11 years of single digit Council Tax increases show that. However, the Government's continuing failure to fairly support rural districts has forced us to find £6 million of efficiencies and increased income in the last five years.

"Our latest performance figures confirm that we have managed to achieve these efficiencies and also deliver a wide range of services excellently, without compromising quality. We will continue with this twin focused approach, while reviewing services and our priorities to deliver what our communities want and need," added Cllr Herring.

The latest figures show that for the last year there have been excellent results in the speed of dealing with planning applications after the Council made it a priority to improve the service.

There was also further proof that recent initiatives have been working to control the number of people needing a temporary place to live. Far more advice and support is now on offer to try and prevent someone having to report as being homeless.

"Thanks to us taking positive action, we have been having to accept fewer people as homeless. A real measure of this success is that in the two months before Christmas we did not have any families in temporary bed and breakfast accommodation.

"It appears this year will be about average for the number of new affordable homes completed, but the good news is that there are plans for another 250 in the pipeline.

"Like new housing, some of our other figures can only be achieved by partnership, and I would like to thank all those residents who have got into the recycling habit. For the first time we are now recycling 40 per cent of household waste and we will continue to invest in making it even easier for people to recycle," added Cllr Herring.





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## Providing better services and even better value



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27 Feb 2007

### Archived press release.

Suffolk Coastal has agreed a Council Tax increase of below three per cent, equivalent to just over seven pence a week extra on a Band D house, while succeeding in delivering better services.

Last night's (Monday) Full Council meeting agreed to set a Council Tax of £135.90 on a Band D house, a rise of £3.87 or 2.9 per cent, on last year's figure as it set its spending for the coming year at £14.4 million.

"We have kept our promise of keeping our Council Tax rise below three per cent despite the Government's continuing failure to fairly fund rural districts. This will now be the 11th year in a row that we have kept to single digit increases and keeps our position as one of the lowest charging districts in the country," said Cllr Ray Herring, Leader of Suffolk Coastal.

"A further £850,000 of efficiencies and increased income have had to be identified, bringing our grand total since 2001 to £7 million. But we have also managed to protect services and invest in improvements.

"We have listened to our residents and will be offering more and better recycling services, will work to make this an even safer district, and will develop and promote green policies and improved environmental management across the district," added Cllr Herring.

Suffolk Coastal was recently recognised by the Audit Commission as continuing to provide excellent services, with many of its services rated as among the top quarter of all councils.

"This Council recognised a few years ago the increasingly tough financial situation facing it and took positive action to review all elements of its services. This radical approach has helped us weather the financial shortfalls caused by rising costs and additional responsibilities.

"We have been ready to work in partnership with other councils to help us achieve economies of scale and this more business-like approach has paid dividends, but we know that tomorrow the work begins to find yet more efficiencies for the next two years," added Cllr Herring.

Suffolk Coastal's share of the total bill received by its residents remains at 10 per cent. The rest of the bill, with figures based on a Band D home, are made up of Suffolk County Council's £1,035.18 or 77 per cent of the total, and Suffolk Police's £137.34 or 10 per cent of the bill. On average a further three per cent is paid for the district's town and parish councils.



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## District turning green with the big recycling roll-out



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06 Mar 2007

### Archived press release.

This July another 5,000 homes in the district will get the improved kerbside recycling service that is already proving a big hit with over 9,000 homes and the environment.

Nearly 1,000 tonnes of cans, tins, plastics, cardboard and paper were collected between June and the end of December last year by the new service, which meant 54 per cent of waste from these homes was being diverted away from costly landfill.

"This excellent result puts these homes among the country's top recyclers and I would like to thank all those who have been showing their commitment to the environment by recycling so much," said Councillor Andrew Nunn, Cabinet Member for the Environment, Natural and Built.

"Across the whole district residents are now recycling 40 per cent of their waste, but we must all do even better because of the environmental impact of still throwing away thousands of tonnes into landfill and the increasing financial costs that will hit all of us.

"It will literally cost us all the earth if we do not recycle more, which is why this Council is committed to making it easier to recycle. This expanded service is not cheap which means we have to gradually roll it out across the district, but it is an investment that people want and will save money over the years," added Councillor Nunn.

The next 5,000 homes to be included in July will receive information on how and when to use the service when their two special wheeled bins are delivered.

Every home using this service will be receiving additional information about how they can get into the recycling habit and this will be backed-up by local roadshows where people will be able to go along to find out more.

A special hotline is also available just to deal with any questions that people may have about the twin-bin scheme - just call 01394 444050.

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## New partnership working well, says watchdog



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06 Mar 2007

### Archived press release.

One of the first service partnerships in the county has won praise from the Audit Commission for offering many examples of good practice from which other councils can learn.

In June 2004, it was agreed to formally extend the joint working between the internal audit service of Ipswich Borough Council and Suffolk Coastal District Council, making it a partnership with a shared manager.

“The Audit Commission has now fully reviewed how the partnership is working that was set up to guarantee a high-quality service at both councils and generate some much-needed cash savings. The report shows that this is a shining example of how well councils can work together,” said Cllr Robert Whiting, Cabinet Member for Fiscal and Democratic Services.

“Audit is one of those essential central services that is vital to a council's effective operation and we require a high-quality professional service. The partnership arrangements have meant that the staff of both audit teams have been able to broaden their skills and knowledge by working at each authority.

“I am pleased that it has been officially recognised that we have successfully built on our previous joint-working arrangements to make the best use of the highly skilled, experienced and committed audit team members at both councils,” added Cllr Whiting.

The teams have carried out regular audits of services at both councils, as well as anti-fraud and benefit fraud investigation work. The Ipswich team has been involved in insurance and risk management, while Suffolk Coastal's team has worked on data protection and freedom of information.

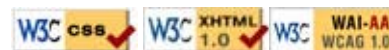
The role of internal audit is ‘to objectively examine, evaluate and report on the adequacy of the control environment as a contribution to the economic, efficient and effective use of resources, and provide assurance that Suffolk Coastal's risks are properly managed’ says the Audit Commission report, which is being presented to the Corporate Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee on March 15.

The partnership is ‘working well and the movement of staff between the two Authorities provide audit staff with an opportunity to broaden their knowledge and skills and the opportunity to apply experience from one Authority to the other. It has brought benefit to the audited bodies as it provides flexibility and expertise, particularly in the area of computer audit’, states the report.

There are six examples quoted of good practice, which includes the high standard of documentation and working papers, the use of traffic lights in reports so that areas of greatest concern can be focused on, and the membership of the partnership manager on the Council's corporate management team which ensures effective communication and a high-profile status.

“The report also sets out areas where the service can improve, and we welcome these proposals, some of which have already been adopted by the partnership and others that we are still considering how best to implement them.

“This partnership has delivered an even better service even more efficiently, and is a shining example of what can be achieved by councils working together. We are continuing to investigate what services can be jointly provided to deliver value for money services for our residents,” added Cllr Whiting.



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## Chance to turn your babies green



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07 Mar 2007

### Archived press release.

Local parents who want their babies to be more environmentally friendly can find out more at a special event being held in Felixstowe during the national Real Nappy Week 2007 (March 11 to 18).

Suffolk Coastal, in partnership with the Suffolk Real Nappy Network, will be at the Crescent Road Car Park on Friday, March 16 from 10am to 3pm to answer questions about the advantages, availability and convenience of modern washable nappies and nappy laundry services.

“We want to encourage more parents to switch from the environmentally unfriendly disposable nappies back to real nappies and this event is aimed at helping people find out how easy, but important a decision that can now be,” said Cllr Andrew Nunn, Cabinet Member for the Environment – Natural and Built.

“Millions of disposable nappies are thrown away every day, and it probably costs this Council alone about £300,000 a year to collect and get rid of them into landfill sites.

“As well as doing their bit to save the environment, parents who change to washable nappies will also be directly in pocket themselves as it is estimated that home laundered nappies could mean savings of around £500 on the cost of using disposable ones,” added Councillor Nunn.

Parents who complete a short questionnaire will be given a free nappy to try out and there will also be the chance to win a set of real nappies in return for feedback on their use.

The Real Nappy Week is supported by local councils across the country. This is its eleventh year and it has set a national target of converting another 155,000 households to using real nappies.

For more information, parents can call the Suffolk Real Nappy Network on 0870 005 3985, or visit [www.suffolkrealnappynetwork.org.uk](http://www.suffolkrealnappynetwork.org.uk)

National contacts include the UK Nappy Line on 01983 401959 who give details of local cloth nappy contacts.

Nappy laundering services can be contacted via [www.changeanappy.co.uk](http://www.changeanappy.co.uk) – one local company is Natural Nappies on 01206 826959 or [www.naturalnappies.co.uk](http://www.naturalnappies.co.uk)

Real Nappy Week is co-ordinated nationally by the Women’s Environmental Network which can be contacted on 020 7481 9004 or [www.wen.org.uk](http://www.wen.org.uk).



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## Council working with local businesses



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14 Mar 2007

### Archived press release.

An in-depth analysis is being carried out to identify all the businesses operating in the district and their particular needs by the Suffolk Coastal Business Forum and Genix Ltd.

Commissioned by the Council's economic regeneration team, the Business Forum and Genix are currently building up the district's first ever database that will list the type, location and sector of every business. They are also holding focus groups, along with phone and face-to-face interviews.

"It is important to have good up to date information about our economic landscape and the needs of local business owners as this will become increasingly valuable when negotiating with agencies to attract funding to the area in future years," said Nick Boulter, Chair of the Suffolk Coastal Business Forum.

Established in 1991, the Forum seeks to protect, represent and support the interests of Suffolk Coastal's business community.

"This database will be an important tool in helping to strengthen our knowledge of the local economy and will mean that we will be able to prioritise and target the work of our economic regeneration team in its efforts to assist local companies," said Cllr John Perry, Cabinet Member for the economy and tourism.

"The Council's regeneration team has a significant role to play in facilitating the development of a prosperous economy in our district and I am pleased that we have been able to work in partnership with the Forum and Genix to get this project underway," said Cllr John Perry, Cabinet Member for the economy and tourism.

"The Forum is consulted by Suffolk Coastal about any Council policies that affect businesses, and is also on the Board of the Local Strategic Partnership, so it really does have a central role to play in the life of this district," added Cllr Perry.

Any business that would like to know more about the Suffolk Coastal Business Forum can contact its administrator, Hazel Das, on 01728 602876.



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## Cultivate the arts every month



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14 Mar 2007

### Archived press release.

The second flowering of local talents is coming up on Saturday, March 24 when children of all ages can grow their artistic skills at the Farm Art project at Easton Farm Park.

Twenty young people took part in the launch of this project last month that has been set up by a partnership of Arts Framlingham and Suffolk Coastal, with help from Awards for All and Easton Farm Park, and is held on the fourth Saturday of every month.

"I visited the first Farm Art event and saw for myself what a great opportunity it is to learn new skills and tricks. I would recommend anyone who wants to cultivate their artistic talents to get involved now before it is too late," said Councillor Rae Leighton, Cabinet Member for Community Well-being.

"These monthly Farm Art sessions are for children, young people and all the family, and are ideal for anyone who likes making things, and enjoys being outdoors. It offers the chance to work with the acclaimed artist Bryony Graham to produce art works inspired by the farming year, nature and rural life.

"Using the farming year as their inspiration, people at Farm Art can draw, paint, or sculpt using an unusual array of natural materials. I am hoping for an excellent crop of artistic delights that will go on display at the end of the year in a public exhibition," added Councillor Leighton.

Bryony Graham is known for her energy, creativity and rapport with young people and has been involved in community project as Felixstowe, Firstsite in Colchester and the Sainsbury Centre for Visual arts in Norwich.

The morning sessions are now full but there are a few places left in the afternoon sessions between 2pm and 4pm for young people aged 13 and above, who are want to develop their skills as individual artists.

The cost for the full year of sessions is £30 but places are limited so to book a place email [nicky.corbett@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk](mailto:nicky.corbett@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk) or call 01394 444538, or visit [suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourfreetime/arts/farmart/](http://suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourfreetime/arts/farmart/)

More information is also available from Suffolk Coastal's arts and heritage development officer, Rachel Nightingale, on 01394 444294 or email [rachel.nightingale@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk](mailto:rachel.nightingale@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk)

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## Prizes on offer for young playful designs



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15 Mar 2007

### Archived press release.

The call has gone out from Suffolk Coastal to anyone in the district aged 19 or under who is full of ideas on the type of play facilities that they would like to see where they live.

By putting their ideas down on paper, they can help Suffolk Coastal plan for the future and win a prize for their efforts.

“The ideas received will help this Council map out what is the demand for additional play facilities across the district and what type of things our younger population want,” said Cllr Rae Leighton, Cabinet Member for Community Well-being.

“To help encourage people to come up with their ideas there is a £25 Early Learning Centre voucher on offer for those aged five and under, while there’s a Philips MP3 player for the six to 12 year old section and also one for the 13-19 year-old section.

“So my message to our young people is whether it is a set of swings, or goal posts, or a skatepark, or just a field to play around in, sketch your ideas down on paper, put your name, age and address on the back and send it to us,” added Cllr Leighton.

Entries should be posted by April 30 to Jennie Catling, outdoor playspace development officer, at Suffolk Coastal, Melton Hill, Woodbridge IP12 1AU or emailed to [community&economic@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk](mailto:community&economic@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk)



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## Tower to be Window on the World?



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15 Mar 2007

### Archived press release.

A report on the future of Felixstowe's Martello Tower P is saying it could become a Window on the World and a significant asset for both the resort and the East of England.

Sheeran Lock Ltd produced its report after a brainstorming day was held last year to assess what the options were for the Tower, which included the Window on the World proposals from students at Deben High School.

"Thanks to the leisure and homes scheme planned for Felixstowe South, the funding is available for turning a dilapidated eyesore into a significant asset but this is likely to be our one and only opportunity to get it right," said Councillor Rae Leighton, Cabinet Member for Community Well-being.

"Although small, the redeveloped Tower should be excellent in every respect and its potential use can include the landscaped area around it. We want to make the most of its potential and will now be calling in experts to help us plan its future, as well as involving local people," added Cllr Leighton.

The proposed Window on the World option is in the early stages of development. It would see the Tower developed as a multi-faceted arts, education and discovery centre for studies in environmental and coastal sciences, with new technology at its heart, connecting Felixstowe to communities around the world.

The Council's partners in the Felixstowe South regeneration project, JS Bloors (Sudbury) Ltd are committed to funding up to £300,000 of the repairs and refurbishment of the Tower and creating a public park around it.

A special scoping day on the future of the Tower was held by Sheeran Lock and hosted by the Port of Felixstowe, with members of the local arts community, schools, Town and District Councils, plus people with experience of similar arts projects.

The delegates visited the Tower and recognised that access to the Tower had to be improved and its dampness resolved. However, all were impressed with its potential, with a wonderful roof top observatory (used by Coastwatch) and the main floor having a circular 'gallery' surrounding a central pillar.

Discussions during the day had identified the potential for using the Tower to focus in on technology and the arts. Among the imaginative suggestions were that the Tower could be an international beacon communicating with and linking communities around the world, beginning with those with similar Towers.

It could also have interactive IT facilities which enabled students or visitors to explore the history of Martello Towers, of Felixstowe itself, and key issues such as the global environment, and the use of IT.

Further funding options such as the Heritage Lottery Fund and the European Union have already been flagged up as helping to unlock the potential of the Tower.

Anyone wanting to find out more, or anyone wanting to get involved in the debate, can contact Suffolk Coastal's arts and heritage development officer, Rachel Nightingale on 01394 444294 or email [rachel.nightingale@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk](mailto:rachel.nightingale@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk)

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## DIY arts - giving people the tools



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16 Mar 2007

### Archived press release.

Get in quick is the message to members of the Suffolk Coastal arts community if they want to get on one of the Performing Arts workshops, that give help on how to perform and improvise, become a promoter, or develop youth theatre.

The first round of workshops have already proved a great success, with all three selling out, and the coming months see three more on offer, thanks to a partnership between Suffolk Coastal and Mid Suffolk, with assistance from Woodbridge's Seckford Theatre.

"This is an excellent opportunity for people to gain first hand experience and advice. These workshops are intended to help strengthen the district's arts community, giving them the skills to improve their performances, or put on a show that the public wants to see," said Cllr Rae Leighton, Cabinet Member for community well-being.

Improvisation for actors is on Saturday, April 21 when director, RADA trained Tim Welton will help anyone who wants to develop their skills and gain more performance confidence, whether they are beginners or already have some acting experience.

Saturday, May 12 is putting on a show when you can pick up tips from Belinda Farrell, director of Essex on Tour, about how to book and promote shows in your community.

Geese Theatre Company will lead behind the mask on Friday, June 1, which offers interactive workshops that are aimed at helping you develop drama when working with young people, especially those at risk of offending.

All three sessions are being held at the Seckford Theatre, Woodbridge and to find out more people can contact Nicky Corbett on 01394 444538 or email [nicky.corbett@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk](mailto:nicky.corbett@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk).

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## Tips on how all of us can cut down on waste



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16 Mar 2007

### Archived press release.

Suffolk Coastal's recycling team have come up with 10 helpful tips on how everyone can play their part in minimising waste, cut down on rubbish and help the environment.

It has been a record year for the district, with around 40 per cent of all household waste being diverted away from landfill sites and recycled or composted, which is well above the national average.

"Our attempts to make it even easier for our residents to get into the recycling habit have really borne fruit, and I would thank everyone who is taking time to sort through their rubbish to see what can be recycled," said Cllr Andrew Nunn, Cabinet Member for the environment, natural and built.

"Over 9,000 homes now have an improved recycling service from us, which is seeing around 54 per cent of all waste in these areas being recycled. However, we all do have to do even better because it will cost the earth if we do not cut down the tonnes of rubbish still going into landfill sites.

"As well as recycling more, we all have to look at what we can do to minimise the amount of waste in the first place, and see how we can reuse more of what is now quite often just thrown away. This set of 10 tips is a useful reminder to us all about how simple changes in our behaviour can help cut down on waste and stop the rising costs of dealing with our rubbish," added Cllr Nunn.

The 10 tips are

- Avoid products with lots of unnecessary packaging
- Buy products you can refill – for example, washing-up liquids
- Avoid disposable items such as paper plates and choose long-life products – they may cost more to buy but you will have to replace them less often
- Cut down on the junk mail you receive by registering with the Mailing Preference Service on 0207 291 3310
- Choose products made from recycled materials – such as bin liners, toilet roll and writing paper
- Reuse your shopping bags, buy a 'bag for life' or use a cloth bag
- Buy in bulk – larger bottles or boxes – to cut down the amount of rubbish
- Buy local products and so cut down on the miles your food has travelled
- Choose products that have less impact on the environment like energy efficient white goods or light bulbs
- Buy second-hand goods – and donate your unwanted items to charity shops

It is estimated that within a few years, the cost to Council Taxpayers of disposing of rubbish collected in this district could rise by £9 million if people continue throwing away the same amount as they do at present.



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## Cheaper parking on offer from next month



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19 Mar 2007

### Archived press release.

From next month it will be cheaper to park at four of Suffolk Coastal's car parks with the introduction of a new rate of 40 pence for up to one hour, after the Council responded to calls from the public.

The new charges will apply to car parks by Woodbridge station, the community hall and Deben Swimming Pool, and also at The Avenue, and at the rear of Felixstowe Leisure Centre.

"These new one-hour rates are coming in because we listened to the users of the adjacent community facilities who were unhappy about paying either 70 or 80 pence for two hours of parking when they were only there for less than an hour," said Cllr Andy Smith, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member responsible for car parking.

From April, anyone using the three Woodbridge car parks for an hour will pay exactly what they did in 2005, and at the Felixstowe Leisure Centre car park it will actually be 10 pence cheaper.

"Charging for car parks is always an emotive subject but you do need to have something in place to generate the income to maintain them and also to ensure that they serve the purpose that each is intended for. We are happy to adapt our pricing policy on these particular car parks to better serve some of our customers," added Cllr Smith.

As part of a district-wide review of car parking charges, the prices at The Station, Station Road and The Avenue car parks in Woodbridge and the Leisure Centre car park in Felixstowe were raised in April 2006. However, visitors to the regular indoor markets held at the community hall have dropped after the minimum charge for parking rose from 40 to 70 pence for two hours.

"These car parks are still excellent value if people are staying for two hours, but I can understand why those who are using them for less than an hour have been put off by the current charge. We are ready to be flexible and that is why we are introducing the new rate of only 40 pence for the first hour," added Cllr Smith.



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## The lights will sparkle at Felixstowe but in a Greener way



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

19 Mar 2007

### Archived press release.

The decorative lighting along Felixstowe's promenade will sparkle again on a regular basis as work begins to replace the existing motif lights with new more environmentally friendly ones.

Suffolk Coastal is refurbishing the 44 motifs that sit on the columns along the sea front with four colour lights that will match the existing festive lighting that hangs between the columns.

"The existing motif lights were installed in 1997 and have, for some time, been failing on a regular basis and were costing an increasing amount of money to repair. We are now taking the chance to replace them with lights that are also more energy efficient," said Councillor John Perry, Cabinet Member for Tourism.

"Because of the cost it was thought that the lighting would have to be replaced over three years, but thanks to a competitive quotation, the work can now be carried out over two financial years starting this month and completed in early May," continued Councillor Perry.

Although the lights are on all year they will have a permanent Green tinge because special low-energy bulbs in red, yellow, blue and green are being fitted.

"Once the work has been completed the whole of the promenade from the Spa Pavilion to the Leisure Centre will sparkle again in time for the busy summer tourist season which is good news as this is a very attractive feature for the seafront," added Councillor Perry.



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## Demolition will cause minor disruption in Fort Green



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20 Mar 2007

### Archived press release.

Contractors have gone on site to start removing the roof of the Fort Green shelter in Aldeburgh and it could cause some minor inconvenience to visitors for a fortnight.

The concrete roof of the shelter has now become dangerous and Suffolk Coastal has arranged to have the roof removed by specialist demolition contractors to prevent a serious threat to public safety.

The work began yesterday (Monday) and is due to last for up to two weeks. Two of the parking spaces in the adjacent Fort Green car park may be lost for the storage of skips and other works materials during the fortnight.

As the shelter also abuts onto the public toilets, these have had to be closed during the demolition works for safety reasons. Work will start after 7.30 am during the week, and as a hydraulic breaker will be used at times, it will sometimes be quite noisy.

“These are important works that have to be carried out to make the shelter safe as there would be a genuine danger to the public in the future if we failed to take action now. This work will make the shelter structurally safe, but we are not putting a replacement roof in place as the future of the shelter is still being debated,” said Cllr Robert Whiting, Cabinet Member for fiscal and democratic services.

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## Help improve CoastLine and win tickets for Latitude



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

20 Mar 2007

### Archived press release.

This July sees the return of Latitude, the award-winning festival held at Henham Park, and anyone coming up with ideas on how to improve Suffolk Coastal's CoastLine magazine could be there for free.

Thanks to the organisers of the Latitude festival, Mean Fiddler, this spring's edition of CoastLine is offering a pair of tickets as an incentive for residents to give their views on the Council's magazine.

"Just let us know what you think about CoastLine and how you think we could make it better. Are there subjects that you want to know more about or that we write too much about? It is your magazine so what would you like in it?" said Cllr Stephen Burroughes, Cabinet Member responsible for communications.

"The recent Suffolk Speaks survey confirmed that publications like CoastLine is our residents favourite way of finding out about their Council's services and policies. We are always looking to improve our services and we want to hear how people think CoastLine can be made even more relevant to their needs," added Cllr Burroughes.

With 13 different performance areas for live music, poetry, theatre, comedy, film and cabaret, there is literally something for everyone at Latitude which helped it earn the awards for festival of the year from the Independent on Sunday, and best alternative festival and best festival facilities from BBC 6 Music.

Latitude is due to be held on the weekend of July 12 to July 15, and courtesy of Mean Fiddler, CoastLine has a pair of tickets to give away worth over £200.

The spring edition of CoastLine is being delivered to homes across the district this week, and can also be found on the Council's website on [suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/news/coastline](http://suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/news/coastline)

Anyone wanting to offer suggestions or comments can email them to [coastline@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk](mailto:coastline@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk) or write to CoastLine at Suffolk Coastal District Council, Melton Hill, Woodbridge IP12 1AU. You have to be a resident of the district to enter, should not be a close relative of anyone working for Suffolk Coastal and the closing date for entries is June 1, 2007.

Henham Park is near Blythburgh between the A12 and A145. From the A12 and from the A145 follow the Festival signs. The festival is licensed by Suffolk Coastal. For more information visit [www.latitudefestival.co.uk](http://www.latitudefestival.co.uk)

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## Publication is helping keep local businesses informed



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22 Mar 2007

### Archived press release.

Over 4,000 businesses in the Suffolk Coastal district are seeing the latest edition of Business Bulletin drop through their letterbox, a newsletter packed with useful information.

The bumper 20-page newsletter includes details about new legislation affecting businesses such as the smokefree laws, the latest food, health and safety news, and some of the training and advice opportunities on offer.

“I appreciate that business chiefs are busy people but I hope they find time to have a look at the latest Business Bulletin as I am sure they will find some articles that are either useful or interesting to them,” said Cllr John Perry, Cabinet Member for Economy and Tourism.

“One of the many items that I would draw to their attention is the summary of the issues and options arising from the Council’s Local Development Framework. This is their chance to give their views on the challenges facing our district over the coming 15 years and what they think are the best solutions,” added Cllr Perry.

Among the other subjects covered are sector skills councils, the Local Strategic Partnership, the Suffolk Coastal Business Forum, the Towards 2010 training fund, and Foundation East which lends money to businesses.

The Business Bulletin has been produced by Suffolk Coastal’s regeneration team, and anyone who would like a copy of it can download one off the Council’s [website](#) or contact the team on 01394 444451 or by [email](#).

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## Council calls for changes to coastal defence policies



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23 Mar 2007

### Archived press release.

After a week that has once again seen the temporary defences protecting the district's coastline put to the test, Suffolk Coastal is finalising its response to new Government proposals on future management of schemes.

The Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) published in December a consultation document entitled 'outcome measures and prioritisation approaches for flood and coastal risk management'.

"This important document sets out the Government's thoughts on how flood and erosion can be managed in the future and we have been asked for our views on it. It is a mixed bag, as there are some good ideas in there but there is also not enough detail for us to make a really informed decision on some of the proposals," said Cllr Andy Smith, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member responsible for coastal protection.

"There is no clear commitment to increasing the funding for coastal defence works, something which we believe is becoming increasingly urgent and which the Government must address.

"The new proposals suggest introducing a new scoring system to prioritise those funds that are available, but this is one of the important examples where Defra has not given enough information for us to judge whether this will throw up what it calls 'perverse outcomes'. We do know that under the old system our planned works at Felixstowe were a top priority, but if there is no money available for new schemes, as happened this year, then what is the point of a scoring system?" added Cllr Smith.

Suffolk Coastal is cautiously pleased with the suggestion that the budgets for coastal protection and flood defence are split but is questioning whether there is enough information to divide them fairly. It is also pointing out that some schemes have both flooding and erosion benefits.

The Council is also warning that the proposal to bring in the system this year to judge next year's spending is too soon and that more thought and care should be taken, with 2009/10 being the first year for any new prioritisation scheme.

While the new proposals have developed a 'social' aspect by taking people's housing needs into account, the Council states that equally important are those businesses providing employment and other aspects of the local infrastructure vital to normal living.

Following its failure to gain from the Government its expected £6 million support for a long-term coastal defence scheme at South Felixstowe, Suffolk Coastal has spent over £800,000 in the last year on temporary work to shore up the sea wall.

The use of thousands of tonnes of rocks helped prevent serious damage to Felixstowe this week, even though the force of the waves caused 14 more promenade slabs to be lifted up, battered 30 or so beach huts, and exposed more of the bottom of the sea wall to the elements.

The uncertainty of Government funding has also led to a partnership submitting plans for homes to be built in three coastal parishes to help fund the £2m cost of providing defences at

Bawdsey's East Lane.

[Defra's proposals are on its website](#), and the Council's response will be sent by the end of next week.

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## Get a taste this Easter of the Suffolk Youth Games



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23 Mar 2007

### Archived press release.

The countdown to this year's mini-olympics is already underway, and to help local young people sharpen their talents this Easter sees seven sessions being held across the district by Suffolk Coastal's Active Communities Team.

Aimed at anyone aged between eight and 16 years old, the special sessions will give them a chance to take part in the sports that are included in this year's Suffolk Youth Games, which are being held at Bury St Edmunds on Sunday, July 8.

"The sports on offer are cricket, hockey, tag-rugby, basketball, badminton, tennis and athletics, and I hope as many as possible of our sporting boys and girls of whatever abilities come forward to take part in these sessions," said Cllr Rae Leighton, Cabinet Member for Community Well-being.

"The Suffolk Youth Games are one of the county's sporting highlights, when young people from each district and borough get involved in an event where the old Olympian ethos of it being more important to take part than to win is still true.

"Hopefully these sessions will be a lot of fun for all those who take part and will help us identify those who can go into this year's games representing Suffolk Coastal," added Cllr Leighton.

The sessions are being held at Felixstowe's Brackenbury Sports Centre on Monday, April 2 and Tuesday, April 10, at Framlingham's Thomas Mills School on Wednesday, April 4 and Thursday, April 12, at Woodbridge's Farlingaye High School on Thursday, April 5 and Friday, April 13, and at Saxmundham Middle School on Wednesday, April 11.

All sessions are between 9.30am – 12noon and 12.30 – 3pm, and are £8 for a half day, or £15 for a full day. Places are limited and must be booked in advance. Further details are available from Sarah Shinnie on 01394 444652 or Richard Baldwin on 01394 444318.

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## New bus passes will arrive right on time



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23 Mar 2007

### Archived press release.

The final batch of bus passes issued by Suffolk Coastal are being posted now and should arrive in time for elderly and disabled people across the district to claim free travel in Suffolk.

Over 7,000 free passes have just been dispatched, which means a grand total of around 15,000 passes have been issued for the second year of the new-style scheme.

“This year we have introduced a new identity card style bus pass but due to a technical problem in sending out our second batch of passes, a few of our residents may have noticed a delay since their residents received their passes in the first mailshot,” said Cllr Stephen Burroughes, Cabinet Member with responsibility for concessionary fares.

“However, we have now resolved the problem and all the remaining passes are now in the post, which means everyone who applied will have one ready for April 1 when the new pass comes into force.

“The free bus pass scheme has proved extremely popular but is an increasing large drain on our budget. The Government’s promise that it would meet the full cost of this new scheme has not been true in our case, and it is costing us £180,000 in the coming year. My calls for help from the Government have so far fallen on deaf ears,” added Cllr Burroughes.

Last month, Cllr Burroughes wrote to the Transport Secretary, Douglas Alexander, calling for an urgent review by the Government in the way it has shared out the £350 million national budget set aside for the free bus passes.

Free concessionary travel for disabled people and all those aged 60 and over has had a significant impact on many councils, with talk of Essex mounting a legal challenge against the Government.

“In the coming year, the extra cost for this Council will be £180,000, which might not be much in the Government’s eyes but is equivalent to £3 on our Council Tax bills, and is only £20,000 less than the increased Government grant for all our services.

“Before 2006 we provided, free of charge, a bus pass that gave people the chance to travel half-price across the county. Under the new scheme, the Government expects us to only offer free travel across our district which would not only be a worse ‘second-class’ service for our elderly and disabled residents, but would also be more expensive for us to run.

“I am very disappointed that so far the Transport Secretary has not even acknowledged my letter. It suggests a lack of concern for local issues affecting real people. Should I not receive a response within the next couple of weeks, then I shall make my next move,” added Cllr Burroughes.

All new bus passes should have been delivered by March 30 and anyone who has not received one by that date is asked to call the concessionary travel team on 01394 444647.

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## Report confirms that Council's services are improving



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23 Mar 2007

### Archived press release.

The annual inspection of Suffolk Coastal carried out by the Audit Commission has confirmed that its services are getting even better and that it has plans in place to make more improvements.

The Annual Audit and Inspection Letter is due to be published shortly and the Audit Commission has already discussed with the Council its findings, the final version of which it will present to Cabinet in April.

"This year's Annual Audit and Inspection Letter confirms that we are delivering success across a wide range of our services and that we are continuing to move in the right direction even when measured against tougher targets," said Cllr Ray Herring, Leader of the Council.

"As important for our residents is that the report states that we are continuing to achieve good value for money, with extensive and progressive partnerships that are providing more efficient services and helping us develop and access specialist skills.

"This independent overview shows that we are delivering on our promises to improve our services, some of which are now performing excellently, to target those issues that we and our communities think are the priorities for this district, and to ensure value for money is at the core of all we do," added Cllr Herring.

Overall, the judgement on how the Council uses its resources shows that the Council is performing well. The report states that 'services in Suffolk Coastal are improving in several priority areas' including the number of affordable homes, homelessness, recycling and planning, and that the Council 'is playing an active role in delivering wider community ambitions'.

It is also reported that 'the Council is aware what it needs to do to improve and has plans in place to deliver this. Progress is being made against milestones, and actions have resulted in improvement.'

The report notes that the Council has eight different strategic partnerships underway, and describes them as being extensive and progressive, while among its other successes are developing relationships with town and parish councils, improved electronic access to services, and progress on improving diversity and access to services for diverse communities.

In comparison with other councils, Suffolk Coastal is performing above average, with 35 per cent of its key performance measures in the top quartile of councils, compared to a district council average of 31 per cent.

"It is very useful to have this type of annual exercise as it puts the spotlight on how we are performing and is an independent record of our achievements. We know there is still room to become even better, and the report does make some recommendations on how we can do that, while recognising that we have the procedures and plans in place to make them happen.

"Against a tough financial background of delivering around £1m of savings and efficiencies every

year, I think that everyone at this Council can be proud of their actions in improving services while keeping Council Tax rises to a minimum," added Cllr Herring.

The full report from the Audit Commission is set to be presented to Suffolk Coastal's Cabinet on Tuesday, April 3.





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## Suffolk's legal services partnership is highly commended



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23 Mar 2007

### Archived press release.

The Doing Business Better partnership of legal services across Suffolk's councils is not only delivering better, more efficient services but is also now gaining national attention after it was highly commended at a prestigious awards ceremony.

The annual Local Government Chronicle awards, which puts the spotlight on excellence, saw the partnership as one of six shortlisted for its Legal award and, while it narrowly failed to get top prize, the Suffolk partnership was highly commended by the judges.

"The Doing Better Business project is a prime example of the way partnerships are being built up across Suffolk to provide better and more efficient services to our communities. It has linked the county, district and borough councils and put all their legal services under the microscope. The results have been excellent, with new ways of working introduced, many of which take advantage of the latest technologies, and these efforts have now rightly earned national acclaim," said Cllr Ray Herring, Chairman of the group of Suffolk Council Leaders.

"Expertise is now being shared, and better financial deals are being obtained by using the combined power of the partnership. So far we estimate that around £200,000 across Suffolk has been saved this year thanks to Doing Business Better," added Cllr Herring.

An agreement lets councils share work depending on the expertise needed and the capacity of people to take on work. This saves money by providing an alternative to using private sector firms and makes best use of in-house legal expertise. Councils can also benefit from cheaper deals on training, resource materials and equipment.

One of the keys to the improved legal services is their new extranet - a shared but confidential website where officers can share their knowledge, and develop joint approaches to issues that impact across their areas. The site also acts as a reference library packed with all the necessary and relevant information needed by solicitors and their colleagues.

Other examples of joint working in action include:

- Sharing the costs of getting barristers' opinions
- Ipswich Borough Council working on some anti-social behaviour orders on behalf of Mid Suffolk District Council
- St Edmundsbury Borough Council carrying out planning legalities for Waveney District Council
- Suffolk Coastal District Council represented Suffolk County Council at a public inquiry on a rights of way matter
- An in-house expert from Ipswich Borough Council providing training on The Clean Neighbourhoods & Environment Act, for employees at cost price
- Forest Heath District Council co-ordinating joint access to on line legal information services for all authorities at a specially negotiated rate.

The project had also attracted attention from other local authorities and central government as an example of good practice in joint working. A bid is also being submitted to the Government's Regional Centre of Excellence for funding to develop 'Doing Business Better' as a flagship project so that achievements and efficiencies can start to be rolled out across the east of England.

*A press release issued on behalf of the Leaders and Chief Executives of Suffolk's Councils*

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## Make your mark in local elections



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26 Mar 2007

### Archived press release.

The chance for people to have their voice heard is on offer on Thursday, May 3 when the local elections for 55 district councillors and over 850 town and parish councillors are due to be held.

Nominations for these vacancies officially opened today (Monday) in Suffolk Coastal and anyone wanting to find out more about either standing for election or voting can find a range of information on the Council's website.

- downloadable nomination forms for the district, town and parish elections. Nominations can be submitted from March 26 to noon on April 4
- information about registering to vote and postal voting
- links to parish councils
- information about what is involved in being a councillor
- and why people should vote.

"All local councillors play an important part in helping to maintain and improve the quality of life in their communities, whether that is defined on a village, town, district or the county overall," said Stephen Baker, Suffolk Coastal's Chief Executive.

"Councils have a wide range of responsibilities. They make decisions about local services, represent the views of local communities, and decide how the needs of local areas should be met. They make decisions that affect your everyday life.

"Some people may think their opinions don't count or doubt whether local action can or will make any difference. The answer is – you vote, you decide. It's an important way of having your say on the issues you care about and choosing who will take decisions on your behalf.

"In the coming weeks, you will be asked to vote for someone to represent your views. If you don't vote or get involved, then you are inviting someone else to tell you how your life and community should be run," added Mr Baker.

There are some important changes that have been made to election procedures that come into effect this year. These include:

- reducing from 21 to 18 the age that people can become a councillor
- polling hours for local elections have been extended - voting for the early bird will start at 7am and continue until 10pm on May 3
- the introduction of new antifraud measures to make postal voting more secure
- people can register to vote as late as April 18
- everyone will receive a poll card - including those who have opted to vote by post.

People can [email](#) the elections team to find out whether they are registered. A partially completed application form will be sent to anyone who wants to register or who wants to vote by post. The Council is trying to make it as easy as possible, and will include a postage paid envelope for replies.

Anyone wanting more information can contact Suffolk Coastal's election team on 01394 444329

or by [email](#).

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## Don't miss out on Green energy advice



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28 Mar 2007

### Archived press release.

This Thursday, March 29, there is a great chance for people to find out all they need to know about tapping their home into environmentally friendly renewable energy.

Suffolk Coastal's energy efficiency team have been working with the Energy Saving Trust Advice Centre to put on the special Power to the People event at Lowestoft College on Thursday night.

"Our team have held two very successful events in our district that were so busy that people even had to be turned away. They are now using their experience to help put on this event on Thursday in Lowestoft in our neighbouring district to help spread the Green home energy message," said Teresa Howarth, environmental health officer housing and energy.

"This event is aimed both at the public but also those working in the industry so we can link up potential installers of home renewable energy sources with manufactures as a first step toward setting up a regional installation network," added Ms Howarth.

The free event runs from 6.30pm to 8.50pm at the Astral Centre, Lowestoft College, St Peters Street, Lowestoft and anyone interested is urged to ring 0800 512012 or email [advice@est-anglia.org.uk](mailto:advice@est-anglia.org.uk)

There will be information to potential domestic renewable energy installers on how they can become trained and accredited in one of the country's new growth industries.

The public can get impartial information on those domestic Green energy options currently available, with an explanation of how they work, how much they cost, what grants are available and how quickly their investment will be paid back.

The Energy Saving Trust Advice Centre Anglia is the first point of contact for householders in Suffolk, Norfolk and Cambridgeshire interested in renewable energy and can be contacted on 0800 512012 or visit its website on [www.est.org.uk/anglia/](http://www.est.org.uk/anglia/)

Residents of Suffolk Coastal can visit the Council's website on [www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourhome/energy/](http://www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourhome/energy/) to find out more about energy efficiency.

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## Improving service is just the ticket at Woodbridge TIC



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28 Mar 2007

### Archived press release.

From next month, Woodbridge Tourist Information Centre will be offering a really first class service to rail travellers with a big improvement in the service it offers.

For many years, visitors to the TIC next to Woodbridge railway station have been able to buy rail tickets for travel across the country but from Monday, April 2 it will be much easier to do so.

“We will now be able to sell tickets throughout the day, every day of the week except Sunday, and it will also be much quicker, as thanks to some new equipment we can issue tickets at the same speed as any main line railway ticket office,” said Clare Baker, Suffolk Coastal’s visitor services officer.

“Our old service had always been a popular way to get tickets, but it did struggle to come up to the standards we want to offer. It could be quite a struggle to get through tickets to other parts of the country, and could often take 20-25 minutes to complete the transaction.

“This new computerised system is much more customer-friendly so we should be able to sort everything out in a couple of minutes. It is also much easier for our staff to use, so we can ensure that the service is on offer all day, rather than being closed over lunchtime as is currently the case,” added Mrs Baker.

Over the last 12 months, the Woodbridge TIC sold over £180,000 worth of rail tickets, a rise of 20 per cent over the previous year. In addition, the TIC offers a full ‘holiday extras’ service to personal callers including airport and port parking (with or without accommodation), reservations for airport and port lounges, London show and accommodation packages, Eurolines and National Express coach tickets and major attraction tickets, and in the near future Travelstyle European and British coach holidays.

“Our network of TICs offer excellent services which are useful not just to visitors to our district but also to our residents. Anyone popping into a TIC is guaranteed a friendly welcome and the chance to access a treasure trove of information,” added Mrs Baker.

From April, the Woodbridge TIC, and indeed the TICs at Aldeburgh and Felixstowe, is open Monday to Sunday from 9am to 5.30pm, although the ticket booking facility will close at 4.15pm every day. Felixstowe TIC also offers a top quality rail ticket booking service.

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## Keep recycling or it will cost us all the earth



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29 Mar 2007

### Archived press release.

Residents in Suffolk Coastal are being urged to keep up their recycling habits and use all the Council services on offer as the cost of disposing of rubbish will rise by another three pounds a tonne next month.

The Government levies a landfill tax on all rubbish and from April this will rise from £21 to £24 a tonne, with the Chancellor confirming in his budget that next year will see a further £8 rise.

“Thanks to the efforts of our residents, we have seen recycling rates as high as 40 per cent mark during the last 12 months but none of us can afford to hold back on these efforts as the environmental and financial costs of rubbish are getting worse,” said Jeremy Schofield, Strategic Director at Suffolk Coastal.

“I would again strongly urge everyone to take the time to separate their rubbish, and use the kerbside collection services we offer to recycle as much as possible, and to save items up for visits to bottle banks and other similar facilities.

“Many people are tidying up their gardens at this time of year, and they should really use either their brown wheelie bins or their own compost bins to dispose of their green waste in the most environmentally friendly way,” added Mr Schofield.

Suffolk Coastal has been warning its residents that if recycling rates do not increase, then the annual cost of disposing of the current amount of household waste could rise by £9 million over the next few years, a figure which is more than the Council raises for all its spending from Council Taxpayers.

All homes in the district receive special fortnightly collections so they can recycle their newspapers and green waste, including shredded paper, cardboard, cooked and uncooked food, while around one-fifth of homes also have an improved service which takes away cardboard, cans, plastic bottles and tins.

In addition, there are scores of recycling banks across the district, as well as the three recycling centres at Felixstowe, Foxhall and Leiston.

“We are trying to make it easier for everyone to get into the recycling habit and I hope that everyone will take that extra second before throwing something away to think whether they can recycle it. Taking that extra step will benefit us all,” added Mr Schofield.

Keep recycling or it will cost us all the earth

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## Parking boost for Woodbridge shoppers



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29 Mar 2007

### Archived press release.

Thanks to a partnership between the Woodbridge Town Centre Management Group (WTCMG) and Suffolk Coastal, there will be more parking spaces than ever on offer on Saturdays in the busy town.

The car park at Suffolk Coastal's Melton Hill offices will be open every Saturday from this week, March 31, in a three-month experiment to free up some of the spaces in the town centre.

"From 7.30am to 6.30pm on Saturdays our Melton Hill car park will open for free parking which we hope will prove attractive to those working in Woodbridge's shops," said Catherine Thornber, Suffolk Coastal's economic development and regeneration manager.

"It is only a three minute stroll from our car park to The Thoroughfare and we want to see if we can divert some of the shops' workers into our car park, so freeing up more space in the main car parks.

"We know from talking to the representatives of the town's traders that the main parking problem facing Woodbridge's shops is the lack of spaces so thanks to the financial support of WTCMG we can offer this extra service that should be a boost for workers and shoppers alike," added Ms Thornber.

This initiative follows a pre-Christmas bonus when the Council and the WTCMG again linked up to offer free parking at the Melton Hill offices.

"I am pleased that we have again been able to join together in partnership with the Council. Thanks to the Town Centre Management Group meeting the costs it will be free for anyone to park at the Melton Hill car park which has over 100 spaces," said Marion Wells, the Woodbridge Town Centre co-ordinator.

"We hope it will attract many of the staff working at the shops on Saturdays, so that more spaces will be available to shoppers at the town's more central car parks. However, I would stress that it is only the Melton Hill car park that is free on Saturdays," added Dr Wells.