



Parish *Bulletin*

Summer 2008



Big boost for affordable homes in Suffolk Coastal

Local people wanting an affordable home to rent or buy have received a big boost with the news that the district is set to receive nearly £4 million from the Housing Corporation that will help build 147 new homes.

A range of proposals submitted by local housing associations have been given the thumbs-up, which would include seeing homes being built at 20 different rural locations across the district.

“This is excellent news with £3.94 million coming from the Housing Corporation to support the Council-backed proposals to build some much-needed new affordable homes in our district,” said Councillor Ray Herring, Leader of Suffolk Coastal.

“We have gained nearly 40 per cent of the cash allocated to councils in the Haven Gateway Sub-region, and our total of 147 homes is over twice that of our next highest partner council,” added Cllr Herring.

Most of the homes, 107, will be for rent, but 40 of them will be available under the home buy new build scheme, the new name for shared ownership, which will allow more local people to get their first foot on the housing ladder.

Suffolk Coastal had supported bids to the Housing Corporation from Flagship Housing Group, Hastoe Housing Association, Orwell Housing Association, Bedfordshire Pilgrims Housing Association, and further bids are under consideration.

What will be the future shape of Suffolk?

High noon is on July 7

The Boundary Committee will be revealing at 12 noon on Monday, July 7 what its proposed new-look for local government across Suffolk will be.

We will be producing a special edition of Parish Bulletin to keep you informed about what is proposed and how everyone can have their say.

Suffolk Coastal’s preferred option for unitary government in the county is to create three new unitary councils - East Suffolk, West Suffolk, and Ipswich (based on the town’s current boundaries). To keep fully up to date on what is being proposed, visit the special section of our website www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourcouncil/future or visit www.boundarycommittee.org.uk

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Volunteers helping to keep district clean and green

Suffolk Coastal has pledged to give the growing number of volunteer litter pickers in the district its continued full support following the success of the annual Suffolk Spring Clean.

Over 2,700 residents, encouraged by the annual Spring Clean and by the 'don't be a tosser' campaign running on BBC Radio Suffolk, registered litter-picking activities with the Council - up from 1,900 last year.

"As a Council we fully encourage and support local people's efforts to make sure our environment stays clean and green for everyone who lives in or visits the district. For all the local groups who take part in litter picking activities we can provide gloves and plenty of rubbish and recycling sacks, and we will arrange for the litter to be picked up and disposed of," said Councillor Andrew Nunn, Cabinet Member for the Green Environment.

"I am personally extremely grateful and proud that we have such a large number of dedicated people in this district who are willing to give up some of their free time to pick up the rubbish left by a thoughtless minority," added Cllr Nunn.

Anyone caught dropping litter faces a Fixed Penalty Fine of £80, or court proceedings which could result in a conviction and a fine of up to £2,500.

The penalties for fly-tipping are even heavier. Fly-tipping is officially the act of illegally depositing waste onto any land where there is no licence to accept waste. Anyone caught fly-tipping could face a fine of up to £50,000 or up to five years in prison. To report fly-tipping or dropped litter of any sort, call SCS on 01394 444000. SCS will

arrange clearance from public land and attempt to catch the person responsible. SCS can also provide a chargeable clearance service for private landowners.

Some tips on how the public can cut down on litter

- Never drop rubbish or leave it behind - take it home
- Use a litter bin if there is one available - there are nearly 1,500 in the district
- Recycle it if possible
- Place your household waste and recyclables into the correct wheeled bin if you have them
- If you do not have the wheeled bins yet, tie your household waste sacks and store them in a dustbin on your property to prevent animals from ripping them open and scattering the contents. When you put out paper for the fortnightly recycling collection, place the black sack on top of the paper. Avoid putting out your waste and recycling prior to your collection day.
- Never leave general waste at local recycling points - it is fly-tipping and is illegal
- Please do not leave recyclables on the ground at local recycling points. If the recycling banks are full, report them to us on 01394 444000.

Anyone organising a litter pick who would like assistance can contact SCS on 01394 444000 or complete the online registration form on the Council's website at www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourhome/waste/springclean/

The next issue of this Bulletin will be published in September 2008. This is your publication, if you have any items you would like included that would be of interest to other Towns and Parishes please contact the Communications Team on 01394 444741 or email communications@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk

Minister hears why communities want role in flood defences



Pictured above - Cllr Andy Smith points to the future at Felixstowe, with Minister Follett, Waveney's Cllr Simon Tobin and County's Cllr Guy McGregor

The Regional Minister for the East of England, Barbara Follett MP, saw first-hand in June the £10m coastal defence works underway at Felixstowe to protect 1,600 homes and businesses.

The Minister also had talks with senior councillors from the County, Suffolk Coastal and Waveney Councils, as well as representatives of Norfolk councils and local MP John Gummer. The meeting followed a letter to the Government from the three Leaders of the local councils expressing urgent concerns about the Environment Agency's (EA) proposed policies towards river estuaries.

"We were glad to have the opportunity to share with the Minister our relief at seeing work underway at last to protect South Felixstowe from flooding, and to secure the future of many of the resort facilities", said Councillor Andy Smith, Suffolk Coastal's Deputy Leader.

"However, we cannot rest on this success, and our attention is now firmly on the apparently uncertain future of much of the East Suffolk coastline, and particularly its estuaries, which has been put firmly in the spotlight with the EA's proposals for the Blyth," added Cllr Smith.



Pictured above - the lead speakers at the conference, including Suffolk Coastal's strategic director Jeremy Schofield. Below, one of the workshops.

A conference about flooding and erosion in our estuaries and on the coast attracted nearly 90 local representatives.

The goal of the June conference was to help East Suffolk's communities play a more active part in the management of coastal protection and measures to prevent estuary flooding, and to help improve the dialogue with Government on how to manage and fund defences.

Sponsored by Suffolk County, Suffolk Coastal and Waveney Councils, the day also looked at the issues raised by the proposals for the Blyth and the potential regional and national implications of the Environment Agency's (EA) plans.

Town and parish councillors from around East Suffolk's estuaries were joined by councillors from the three councils, as well John Gummer MP, along with representatives of many interested organisations.

"Coastal flooding and erosion and the provision of adequate defences are major issues for East Suffolk and its communities, especially after the EA's 'no active intervention' proposals for the Blyth which could be repeated in the Alde/Ore, Deben and Orwell

estuaries, or indeed on sections of the open coast. We heard from North Norfolk Council how their experience, like ours on the Blyth, has highlighted the failure of the current assessment system to take proper account of the real costs and benefits of proposals on local areas," said Councillor Andy Smith, Suffolk Coastal's Deputy Leader.

"Days before the conference we had a very encouraging meeting with Barbara Follett, the Minister for the Eastern Region, who recognised the need to involve communities more in planning future coast and estuary defence policies. This conference aimed to help give local communities and interested organisations a helping hand in developing their role, and in working with local and national government to develop future plans for managing the coast which properly recognise the importance of coastal communities, economy and culture," added Cllr Smith.

The day also heard about what has been done around the Blyth, and how its local communities, landowners and Natural England have united to carry out repair work to the existing defences, and how this approach can be developed elsewhere.



Government heralds a new era of 'Parish Power'

The Government's Communities Secretary Hazel Blears spoke in May of a new era of 'parish power' where parishes have a real purpose in modern society - a far cry from the way she said they can often be perceived as outdated, 19th century institutions.

Speaking in Eastbourne to representatives of local parish councils, she praised local parishes as a force for local pride and empowerment. As the smallest unit of local democracy, there are 10,000 parish and town councils covering 90 per cent of the country.

She was trailing the 'Empowerment' White Paper, which it is claimed will reinvigorate local democracy and devolve power to the grass roots, and which will be complemented by separate powers for parishes including

- Plans to make it easier to bring in local experts onto parish councils to help drive key priorities and shape services that matter. Parishes will be able to temporarily appoint local experts as additional councillors to advise on issues within their field of expertise, such as teachers on schools or businessmen on finance.
- A new 'wellbeing' power for eligible local parish councils. This would shift more power locally, so eligible parish councils can freely make decisions as long as they are in their community's interest and promote the wellbeing of its area. This might be for example, local town centre development, support for a community rail service, or new initiatives to create jobs. The wellbeing power is currently only applicable to Local Authorities.

The Government appears to now be recognising that parish councils have an important contribution to make in reinvigorating local democracy - and that they are often the most immediate form of representation, acting as a focal point for local debate and identity.

Hazel Blears said:

"We are seeing a new era of modern 'Parish power'. It's high time we got away from stereotypes that parishes are sleepy, out of touch operations. Parishes are about local democracy in action and I'm proud to be strengthening their arm.

"As the smallest unit of local democracy, their small size belies the big impact they can have. The truth is new parishes can revive democracy, and modernise communities by putting more power into local people's hands. That's why we are boosting the power of parishes, devolving more power from central and local governments to local people.



Hazel Blears, Communities Secretary

"Our forthcoming Empowerment White Paper will herald a significant shift of power, giving people a real say over the local issues that matter to them - schools, hospitals, police and housing. We need to learn from the best, and many parish councils are past masters at giving local people a voice."

● A survey by Aberystwyth University found that 75 per cent of parish and town councils were expecting to make use of the wellbeing power, once it is in operation. The new power was extended to eligible parish and town councils by last year's Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act. Secondary legislation is being drawn up, in order to bring it into operation later this year. Any parish or town council can decide to use the power, if it meets criteria that are currently being finalised.

- The Local Government Act also introduced a new power for parish councils to appoint a limited number of additional councillors in order to bring extra skills and expertise to their work, on a temporary basis. This provision will also be brought in later in 2008.
- Last year's Local Government Act devolved responsibility for creating parish councils to local authorities. Parishes - the most local form of local government - generate high levels of local participation. For example, 4000 parishes across England have involved people in drawing up a parish plan - sometimes getting input from nine in ten residents.
- In May, Hazel Blears also announced 'three new rights to right local wrongs' under next year's legislative programme that could be enjoyed by local parishes including:
 - A new right to ask for a stronger say on spending decisions that affect them or their communities;
 - A new right to ensure councils consider the sale or transfer of under-used properties, lands or parks to local community groups, co-ops and social enterprises;
 - and a new right to force a debate on specific local issues onto the council agenda.

For more information on the forthcoming Empowerment White Paper visit:

www.communities.gov.uk/news/corporate/712771

Bealings celebrates opening of playing fields

Whit Monday was a special day for The Bealings when Jill Ganzoni formally opened the playing field in memory of her brother John Belstead who had been a resident of Great Bealings for many years.

The event culminated three years of work to raise £150,000 and refurbish the old playing field at Bealings Village Hall. Roger Roseboom, Chairman of Bealings Village Hall Trust, and chief fundraiser, thanked all of the funders and Jenny Shaw, project leader and guiding force of the campaign, also thanked the Friends of Bealings Playing Field for their fantastic support.

The playing field now has something for everyone and there were sporting activities for everyone to enjoy on the big day. During the afternoon local farmer Nigel Rolph formally opened a new permissive path on his land offering a much needed safe route for Great Bealings' families to the village hall, playing field, and the local primary school. County Councillor Peter Bellfield, whose Locality Budget paid for the work and also supported the playing field project funding, was present at the opening of the path as were many local residents.

The multi-sports court can be booked online at



bealings.ibooka.com or by phone to the volunteer administrator: 07925 181390 or email playingfield@btinternet.com

The project was funded by the Lord Belstead Charitable Trust; Biffaward (Rural Action East); Suffolk County Council (Peter Bellfield), Local Network Fund (Suffolk Acre), Suffolk Coastal District Council, Bealings Parish Councils, The Suffolk Foundation. Viridor Credits (Suffolk Environmental Trust), Barclays Bank and HSBC. The John Belstead Playing Field project has been short-listed in this year's National Biffaward competition.

Family fun day at Yoxford



There was a good turn out to the Family Fun Day run by the Suffolk Coastal Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) at Yoxford's primary school and village hall during the Easter holidays.

Over 30 different stands were on offer for visitors of all ages, as well as a host of other activities and attractions particularly for young people,

with free admission and most of the activities costing nothing as well.

"This is the third year that the LSP has held special events aimed at helping local people get more out of life, with an excellent mixture of fun activities and useful information on offer on the day, and local groups involved and promoting themselves," said Cllr Ray Herring, Chairman of the Suffolk Coastal LSP.



Can you help rising stars succeed?

Volunteers are being sought to back Suffolk's top athletes and help them compete nationally and internationally.

The Suffolk SportsAid Foundation was launched last December to raise money for the athletes, and is now looking for volunteers to organise fund-raising lunches, get financial



support from local businesses, promote the foundation to athletes across the county, raise the profile of athletes supported by the foundation, maximise publicity for business partners, and run the foundation's website.

To find out more about volunteering go to the foundation's website: www.suffolksportsaid.com The Foundation provides grants of between £250 and £500 to Suffolk athletes.

Jim Bidwell is new Chairman

Melton and Ufford's councillor, Jim Bidwell officially became the district's new first citizen after he was elected the Chairman of Suffolk Coastal District Council at its Annual Meeting in May.



Cllr Bidwell will be Chairman for 12 months, and represents Melton, Ufford, and Pettistree on the Council, having first been elected to the Council in 2003 for the Trimleys and Kirton ward.

A former Mayor of Woodbridge, Cllr Bidwell is a retired schoolmaster who has lived in Melton for 36 years, having previously served in the Army and lived and worked in Kenya.

“It is a great honour to have been elected as Chairman of the Council for the area in which I have lived for over 35 years. I quickly came to recognise and enjoy the

unique qualities of this district's environment and people which makes this part of East Suffolk such an outstanding place to live, work or visit,” said Cllr Bidwell.

Cllr Stephen Burroughes of Peasenhall was elected the Vice-Chairman. Cllrs Ray Herring and Andy Smith were re-elected Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council respectively and full details of committee membership can be found on www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourcouncil/councillors

The great Green roll-out continues

Nearly 5,000 more homes are set to receive an improved recycling service from July that means paper, cans, foil, cardboard and plastic containers can be recycled every fortnight in the new blue-lidded bin.

This will be the second phased roll-out of the service this year, which by the end of October will see the total number of homes being served having doubled to 36,000, or roughly two-thirds of the district.

“Across the district, our residents have been recycling a record 45 per cent of their household waste during the last year, and those with the improved service have been hitting 54 per cent. I cannot stress how important it is that we all make the effort to get into the recycling habit because it will cost us the earth if we do not,” said Cllr Andrew Nunn, Cabinet Member for the Green Environment.

The latest areas to get the service are Tuddenham St Martin, Eyke, Campsea Ashe, part of Trimley St Martin, part of Saxmundham, part of Leiston, Westerfield, Stratford St Andrew, Little Glemham, Farnham, Swiland, Witnesham, part of Martlesham, Cratfield, Walpole, Huntingfield, Linstead, Ubbeston, Heveningham, Chediston, Bawdsey, Alderton, part of Hollesley, Culpho, Great Bealings, and part of Kelsale.

For further information about recycling services, please visit www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourhome/recycling or telephone 01394 444050.

The new service will begin for those areas in the week commencing July 14 when their grey lidded bin is due to be emptied, with their brown and blue-lidded bins emptied a week later.

Last orders set to be called on anti-social drinking

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

June's Cabinet meeting gave its go-ahead to proposals to introduce designation orders in parts of Wickham Market, Saxmundham and Kelsale-cum Carlton, and they will now go before a Full Council on June 26 for approval.

“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 Health.

“These proposals would make parts of these communities designated zones. This means that in these areas the police can deal with anyone misbehaving or acting in an anti-social manner while drinking alcohol and seize any in their possession.

“Similar restrictions have been introduced in Felixstowe, Leiston, Woodbridge, Framlingham, Kesgrave, Martlesham and Rushmere St Andrew and have helped the police improve the quality of life for those who live there. As well as backing the introduction of three new orders, we are also proposing changes to the ones in Felixstowe after listening to the public, the town council and the police,” added Cllr Green.

In designated areas the police 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.

Parishes can help give homes a greener light

Suffolk Coastal's Green Team would like to hear from any town or parish councils who are willing to give their residents a free low-energy light bulb in return for them signing a personal carbon dioxide (CO2) reduction pledge.

"With ever-increasing energy bills, this is a great chance for people to get some free help to play their part in protecting the environment by reducing CO2 emissions and so tackling the effects of climate change," said Councillor Andrew Nunn, Cabinet Member for the Green Environment.

Anyone signing a personal pledge form to reduce their carbon footprint will get a free low-energy light bulb, plus a voucher entitling them to five per cent off their first order of more bulbs.

"By linking up with town and parish council, I hope that we will be encouraging more residents to take a serious look at how they can do more to cut their own CO2 use. There are so many simple steps that we can all take that can make a difference and that can help save money as well as our

environment," added Cllr Nunn.

Leiston Town Council has already asked to take part and any other town or parish council wanting to give out green light bulbs in their area can contact Dee Hibble on 0800 028 8938 or email seal@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk This new initiative has been made possible by CRed Suffolk, the countywide partnership that provides information and advice to help identify easy, everyday energy savings.

CRed tips include switching to a low energy light bulb to save around 26 kilos of CO2 each year, turning the TV off and not leaving it on standby to save around 30 kilos of CO2 a year, and drying clothes outside rather than using a tumble dryer as that emits around 1.5 kg of CO2 every time it is used.

On average, our actions result in around 9,000 kilos of CO2 emissions each year, but anyone wanting to find out more about how they can cut their own carbon footprint can call CRed Suffolk on its free helpline 0800 028 8938 or visit www.cred-uk.org/suffolk

Join the district's home composting army

Join Suffolk Coastal's massive home composting green army, which is already showing the way to the rest of the county with over 14,000 subsidised home compost bins having been bought.

"Home composting is the most environmentally friendly way to deal with your compostable garden

waste and some food waste such as fresh fruit and vegetable peelings," said Councillor Andrew Nunn, Cabinet Member for the Green Environment.

"We have got Suffolk's best record for people composting at home. Regularly using your own compost bin also leaves more room in our brown bin for food and other items you cannot compost at



home but which is converted by the Parham composter," added Cllr Nunn.

Suffolk Coastal's brown bins are emptied every fortnight and are perfect for food scraps such as cooked and uncooked meat, fish and dairy products, as well as larger amounts of cardboard. The hi-tech facility at Parham turns it all into an organic waste which is used on local agricultural land as a soil improver.

Home compost bins are on offer at subsidised prices to residents. A 220 litre Compost Converter costs £17, the 330 litre is £20, and a 250 litre modular KOMP bin is £40. Prices include free delivery and can be ordered by calling 0845 077 0757.

Give bags the sack

Suffolk Coastal recently gave its unanimous support to a proposal from Councillor Marian Andrews of Saxmundham seeking to make Suffolk Coastal a plastic bag free district as soon as possible.

The Council agreed to work proactively with businesses and local communities to make real progress towards this goal over the next two years.

With an estimated 15 billion disposable plastic carrier bags issued free in the UK by supermarkets alone, the problem is huge. Only one in 200 ever gets recycled. The rest end up either in landfill or as environmental blight - littering our streets, countryside and beaches, or polluting the rivers and oceans.



Cllr Andrews is now calling on towns and parishes to take up the challenge. "Success will depend on local communities. The aim may be a plastic bag free district but the battle of the bag can only be won town by town and village by village," said Cllr Andrews.

Saxmundham is determined to do its bit with local businesses pulling above their weight by encouraging customers to use linen, hemp, jute, paper and even recycled wallpaper bags instead of plastic. BOS (Businesses of Saxmundham) are working on the production of a generic non-plastic bag which would be available from every retailer with the suggested logo 'Sacks for Sax' - look out for it!

Parish noticeboard

Free publicity for your activities

Are you putting on something for young people and children this summer? Two websites aimed at that audience would love to hear from you.

To appear on www.coastalpotato.co.uk email active.communities@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk and to appear on www.sctv.org.uk email enquiries@sctv.org.uk

TICs get official status

The Council's three Tourist Information Centres (TICs) in Aldeburgh, Felixstowe and Woodbridge have been awarded 'official partner' status by Enjoy England, the country's official tourist board.

Don't miss out on SBRR

If there are any ratepayers who have not applied for Small Business Rate Relief (SBRR) for the financial year April 1, 2007 to March 31, 2008 please either ring the Business Rate team on 01394 444546 or 444544 or email

businessrates@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk now. Application forms must be received by September 30, 2008 otherwise you will be too late to apply for relief for that financial year.

To qualify for SBRR you do not have to be running a business from the property or letting it out, the scheme is actually based on the rateable value of the property held in the valuation list. The property must be occupied/in use. Contact the team now for further information.

Have you got an Empty Business Property?

Since 1 April 2008 most property that had been empty for more than three months or, in the case of industrial property six months, no longer receive relief from rates.

Owners/Leaseholders of empty commercial property became liable for the full business rate after three months, or six months for factories and warehouses.

For further information visit www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourbusiness/businessrates or call 01394 444546 or 444544.

Want to get to Stansted?

Bookings for the new Air Direct coach service running from Ipswich bus and railway stations to Stansted Airport. can be made any of the Council's three Tourist Information Centres. Operated by Excel Coaches, the new service runs every two hours, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The TICs have also entered into partnership as agents with Galloway Travel who are a local coach operator with an excellent reputation. They specialise in quality coach holidays both in the UK and overseas as well as exciting day excursions.

View your Business Rates (NDR) on line

Since April 1, 2008 there has been a facility available whereby you can view your business rate account on-line. For more information visit www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourbusiness/businessrates (select Business Rates Online) and follow the instructions.

Water on Paper

The Ebb and Flow project offers an illustrated talk by Edward Martin about the changing landscape of the Alde and Ore as revealed through 500 years of local maps. Thursday, July 15, 6.30-8.30pm at Snape Village Hall - admission free.

Paying your Business Rates

You can make an Automated Telephone Payment by Debit or Credit Card - Call 0845 880 1312. NOTE - there is a 2% charge on any payment made by Credit Card

Interested in war pensions?

The Eastern War Pensions Committee needs four new members to cover Suffolk and five other counties. The closing date for applications is August 8, 2008 and to find out call 01603 622822 or visit www.veterans-uk.info using ref EWPC/08/01M.

Eating Out in Suffolk Coastal

The Council's free guide to local eating places can be found on www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourfreetime/foodanddrink, or the three Tourist Information Centres.

Council issues warning over air traffic plans

Plans to alter the way aircraft are directed to fly in eastern England are unlikely to have any significant impact on this district is the conclusion from Suffolk Coastal after seeking local views and opinions.

The National Air Traffic Service (NATS) asked Suffolk Coastal for its views on the proposed development of the Terminal Control North which governs the way that commercial aircraft are managed over eastern England and a large part of London and the south.

"This consultation by NATS is strictly about the way flights are managed in our region and has nothing to do with any possible expansions of airports or increases in air travel. This Council has been asked for its comments and we contacted our town and parish councils to find out what were their views," said Cllr Andrew Nunn, Cabinet Member for the Green Environment.

"After looking at the few responses we received and the detailed proposals, and a very useful meeting with NATS representatives, our conclusion is that it is unlikely that the

proposed changes will have a significant impact on our district.

"However, we have pointed out that the changes could have a more significant impact on some rural communities in neighbouring councils, and we have expressed our opposition to the principle that aircraft should be routed away from urban areas to more sparsely populated rural communities as noise from aircraft, although quite low, is more intrusive in the quiet of the countryside than in towns," added Cllr Nunn.

The NATS proposals would see a change in the way that the airspace is controlled over Suffolk, Cambridge and Essex, the full details of which are on www.consultation.nats.co.uk

"We have also made it clear that we would expect our district not to be adversely affected by any future changes to air traffic handling arrangements in the region because so much of our district is an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). We would demand that the Coast and Heaths AONB be given the same protection that has been awarded to Dedham Vale," added Cllr Nunn.

Play space fund backing Aldeburgh

Much-needed new play equipment is set to be installed at Kemps Field in Aldeburgh after Suffolk Coastal agreed to back the project with £28,000 from its outdoor play space fund (OPSF).

In January 2008, Suffolk Coastal transferred the ownership of Kemps Field, which is a small area of land used by local children, to Aldeburgh Town Council.

'Kemps Field has been in need of a facelift for some time, and with all the ownership issues finally resolved, now was the ideal time to give the backing to plans for new and exciting play equipment to be installed," said Cllr Mary Neale, Cabinet Member for Leisure and Countryside.

"I am pleased that we have been able to work in partnership with the Town Council, who have drawn up a scheme for £43,000 worth of new equipment after consultation with children from the nearby primary school and local parents.

"We agreed at June's Cabinet to put in £28,000 from our OPSF which has paid out over £500,000 in the last five years. This innovative fund was introduced by Suffolk Coastal to ensure that housing developers were putting something back to help meet the recreational needs of the areas that they were working in," added Cllr Neale.

Aldeburgh Town Council will meet the rest of the cost of the

Kemps Field scheme, which will include a climbing unit, a two-seater toddler swing, a springy toy, and an octagonal shelter.

Last year 23 different projects across the district were helped by the OPSF, which was set up by the Council to ensure that recreation facilities kept pace with new housing developments and requires builders to make a contribution to the fund when they gain planning permissions.

"The fund is helping our many partners make a real difference in their area, giving people of all ages improved local facilities and I would urge others to bid for support," added Cllr Neale.

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

Retained fire fighters wanted

Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service is currently looking to recruit people for its stations at Saxmundham, Orford, Aldeburgh, and Framlingham, which are all crewed by retained fire fighters.

The retained crews attend a variety of incidents, from fire in domestic or commercial premises, road traffic collisions, rescues, serious flooding, and dealing with hazardous chemicals.

Assistant Divisional Officer Gary Clark wants to hear from anyone who lives or works in any of the four areas who would like to join the fire fighting team. Applicants should be over 18 and in good health. There is no height requirement or upper age limit.

"We need people who can be committed to respond to incidents at any time of day or night, and who have employers who are willing to release them at a moment's notice. We do not expect anyone to provide 24/7 cover and we aim to be flexible to allow people to combine the role with their normal lives," said ADO Gary Clark.

Initial training involves a seven day course, with two further week-long courses during the next two years, plus attendance on a two-hour weekly training session every Monday night at 7pm.

In return, retained fire fighters get £2,719 per annum, plus £15.97 for every time they respond to an incident, and £12.41 per hour. There is also compensation for loss of earnings for attending training courses.

Anyone interested in finding out more about how they can help keep their local community safe can call 01473 260588 or visit their local retained fire station between 7pm and 9pm on Mondays.

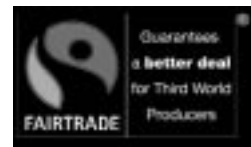


Framlingham - a Fairtrade town



Fairtrade Fortnight was launched in Framlingham on Saturday, February 23, with the presentation of the Fairtrade Town certificate to the Chairman of the Town Council, Stephanie Bennell, by the Rector of St Michael's Church, the Reverend Graham Owen (as pictured above). The ceremony took place in Carley and Webb, a shop in the town with a long history and a great supporter of Fairtrade. Framlingham is one of around 320 places in the country to be

awarded this certificate by the Fairtrade Foundation in the UK. To achieve this award, the town had to show a level of availability of Fairtrade goods, and general support in the community, relative to the size of the population. The criteria include forming a steering group, which in our town is comprised of representatives from Churches Together, the business community, Christian Aid, a Fairtrade importer and the Town Council. This last is most important, some campaigns have been stuck in the doldrums for years due to lack of support from the local council, as it is a requirement that the local council passes a resolution supporting



Fairtrade.

Framlingham Town Council supports the Fairtrade group in several ways; a Fairtrade representative has been appointed, who can keep the Council up to date with monthly reports presented at full council meetings, the Town Council's committee room and photocopier is made available to the group at no charge; and a Fairtrade information leaflet is put in with the Council's Welcome Packs for new arrivals in the town.

Framlingham has achieved Fairtrade Town status remarkably quickly, the steering group being formed only just over a year ago. This is mainly because Fairtrade and Tradecraft have been alive and well in the town for some years and the interest was already there; and also because the Town Council has been unanimously supportive - it just needed a group of people to work together with a common purpose in a focused way.

Article by Stephanie Bennell

Parish tree scheme and countryside training events



This year sees the continuation of the Parish Tree Scheme whereby the Council can supply native trees and hedge plants to enhance the environment. Our budget is topped up by contributions from the recipients to help us provide trees and hedges for community schemes and small land holdings.

Native plants, local (and UK) provenance and specific species help to increase local biodiversity. Advice on hedge and tree management and planting techniques and species is also available on site or over the telephone.



Parish Tree Scheme applications are often inspired by local tree wardens and other committed volunteers.

Pictured left is the Wickham Market team who include Anne Westover, joined by Suffolk Coastal's Cabinet Member for Leisure and Countryside. Pictured top right are the team in action, and pictured above are some young trees on the road at ????????



This year sees several local and one regional event for our volunteers:-

- Thursday 3rd July 7pm: Pond dipping and nightjar walk at Minsmere.
- Monday 7th July 7pm: A walk around Parham's wildlife projects.
- Saturday 4th October 10am - 4pm: Constable and the Dedham Vale landscape.
- Sunday 21st September, all day: East Anglian Tree Wardens' Forum to be held in Brundall, Norfolk (full details will go to Tree Wardens from the Tree Council)
- Saturday 15th November, am: Aftercare of young trees, - details to be arranged.

These events may interest all volunteers or others involved in environment groups, community woodland and countryside management projects.

Anyone interested in the Parish Tree Scheme or the above events please contact: Peter Ross (Countryside Officer) 01394 444619 or email: peter.ross@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk or Anne Westover (Landscape Officer) 01394 444420 or email: anne.westover@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk

We are also pleased to announce that a new Arboricultural Officer will be starting at SCDC in June. Martin Minta can be contacted on 01394 444241.

Set sail for FlowFest

For six hours from 10am on Saturday, July 19, Snape Maltings will be home to FlowFest, a voyage of discovery about life along the river Alde and Ore.

The day will be a chance to explore 2,000 years of history and changes, and experience the original artwork, music and oral histories that the Ebb & Flow project has discovered.

The FlowFest will showcase of all the different elements involved in Ebb & Flow, including the launch of its sculpture trail between Aldeburgh and Snape with sculptures by Jonathan Keep and the special soundscape by Mike Challis.

There are also guided walks along the river, live (commissioned) music, John Row Storyteller, art workshops, local oral history interviews, exhibitions of original artworks and photography, archaeological finds.



Ebb and Flow has involved local primary schools in its work

To find out more visit www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourfreetime/arts/ebbandflow/

Resolving problems locally

A new local way for people to resolve any problems or complaints they have about their councillors is now on offer.

“Since May 8, anyone with a problem about one of their councillors can take it up with the local Standards Committee of Suffolk Coastal District Council, which is made up of independent members of the public as well as councillors,” said Kevin Williams, Chairman of the Standards Committee.

“On receiving a complaint, the Standards Committee will decide whether the complaint should be investigated, and we will hold a public hearing if there is an investigation which shows that the councillor has broken the rules of the Code of Conduct,” added Mr Williams.

If the Committee agrees that the Code of

Conduct has been broken, it has a range of possible actions, such as requiring the councillor to give an apology, or to undertake training. It can also censure the councillor’s behaviour or stop the councillor from acting as a councillor for a period of time.

“We are here to provide an independent local eye on the way councillors are behaving in this district. I hope this new arrangement will make it even easier for people to raise any problems that they have,” added Mr Williams.

For more information call Hilary Slater, Suffolk Coastal’s monitoring officer on 01394 444336, or email hilary.slater@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk The complaint form is on www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourcouncil/councillors/standards.htm

LDF Task Group meetings coming soon

After receiving over 2,000 comments, Suffolk Coastal’s Local Development Framework Task Group meeting is holding its next two meetings at Woodbridge Community Hall to try and meet the public demand to hear its discussions.

The Housing Options for the East of Ipswich will be discussed at its meeting on Monday, July 28, while the Housing Options for around Felixstowe and the Trimleys will be the subject of its Monday, August 4 meeting. Both meetings will begin at 9.30am,

and the format will mirror that which has proved successful at Development Control meetings, whereby there will be opportunities for views to be heard from the floor. The public speaking will be limited to those representing town and parish councils, members of the public speaking on behalf of local groups, and agents acting for landowners.

To see the full list of comments which stretch over 1,000 pages visit www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourdistrict/planning/review/corestrategy/furtherissues/

New Government planning guidance

June saw the publication of the new PPS 12 Local Spatial Planning. Planning. Policy Guidance Statements (PPS) set out the Government’s policies on different aspects of spatial planning in England.

The PPS explains what local spatial planning is, and how it benefits communities, updating and simplifying earlier guidance of the new preparation of new Local Development Frameworks (LDFs). It also sets out what the key ingredients of local spatial plans are and the key Government policies on how

they should be prepared. The PPS should be taken into account by local planning authorities in preparing development plan documents and other local development documents.

Publication of this guidance is particularly timely given progress with the Suffolk Coastal LDF and should act as a useful guide particularly to Parish Councils when commenting on the next stages of consultation. PPS12 is available at www.communities.gov.uk/planningandbuilding/planning/regionallocal/localdevelopmentframeworks/pps12/

Deciding priorities

Town and parishes have been asked to respond by Friday, July 4 about what they think are the most important local issues by the Suffolk Coastal Local Strategic Partnership (LSP).

The LSP is reviewing its priorities for a Sustainable Community Strategy, the document which sets out the goals for how the district should develop over the next decade.

An online response form is available on www.sclsp.org.uk/keyissues. After July, the LSP will publish its draft Sustainable Community Strategy, which will include its priorities, and will be asking for views from the public.

Sharing Chief Executive leads to big savings

Suffolk Coastal confirmed in April that the appointment of its Chief Executive Stephen Baker to a shared role with Waveney District Council will immediately save each authority around £40,000.

Mr Baker is being paid £125,000 and took up his new role with Waveney at the start of April. In seeking to create closer working relationships between the two councils, he is hoping to improve service delivery and efficiency throughout the East Suffolk region.

“This is an innovative and important agreement which will help both authorities deliver value for money to our council taxpayers in many areas. We sought independent external advice about the salary from an HR specialist and the savings we make will clearly benefit both organisations,” said Cllr Ray Herring, Leader of Suffolk Coastal.