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ASBO action taken against 17-year old Woodbridge youth



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05 Apr 2005

Archived press release.

Ipswich Magistrates yesterday (Monday) agreed to Suffolk Coastal's request to issue an interim Anti-Social Behaviour Order (ASBO) banning a 17-year old youth from parts of Woodbridge after a spate of recent vandalism.

Mark Aaron Stagg, of Peterhouse Close, Woodbridge, has been barred from entering the Turban Centre and Hamblin Road, along with the town's Elmhurst Park. Magistrates have also ruled that he is not allowed to drink in any public place in England and Wales.

The Magistrates were told that Stagg was thought to be the ringleader behind a series of incidents of vandalism, including petty damage and graffiti, in the centre of Woodbridge. The ASBO is in place for two weeks until April 18 when the Magistrates are due to meet to consider whether to extend it, potentially to two years.

Woodbridge sector commander Inspector Terry Byford said: "A lot of hard work is being put in by officers in order to tackle this type of anti-social behaviour. High profile patrols are being carried out on a regular basis and a number of arrests have been made for damage and other offences. We are committed to working with the council and other local agencies and Anti Social Behaviour Orders are an important additional tool for dealing with the minority who persist in causing trouble."

Suffolk Coastal is committed to working with the police to tackle all aspects of crime and disorder in this district, and as this case demonstrates, the Courts are ready to back up its actions.

This is the type of behaviour that ASBOs are designed to address. The Council's anti-social behaviour officer and the police are ready to use ASBOs to help those parts of our community blighted by the uncivilised actions of a few individuals.

Anyone who would like to report a problem of anti-social behaviour should first report it to the police, dialling 999 if it is a serious incident. If there has been a pattern or regular problems with anti-social behaviour then call Ian Abery, Suffolk Coastal's anti-social behaviour officer, on 01394 444763 or by email on ian.abery@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk

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Gambler counts the cost of conditional discharge



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05 Apr 2005

Archived press release.

Ipswich Crown Court yesterday (Monday) gave a conditional discharge to a Kesgrave man who had been paid over £600 of housing benefits in the months following a £100,000 gambling coup.

Nigel Ellis, 40, of Main Road, Kesgrave apparently won £100,000 playing poker at a Southend casino in late 2003 but failed to notify Suffolk Coastal of his windfall.

His massive change in circumstances came to light as a result of the on-going partnership between the Council's anti-fraud teams and other partners, including Government offices like the Department of Work and Pensions.

The use of new technology and data-matching is making it easier than ever for potential frauds to be identified.

District Judge Cooper heard that £624.96 of housing benefit had been overpaid to Mr Ellis between December 2003 and July 2004 and that this money is now being reclaimed.

Mr Ellis was given a conditional discharge by the Judge who ordered him to pay £150 costs to Suffolk Coastal. This unusual case again highlights the lengths that Suffolk Coastal will go to identify and pursue fraudsters. Between April 2004 and March this year, it had 19 successful prosecutions and the courts applied sanction in 15 other cases, and more cases are pending.

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

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



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Landlord fined for ignoring Council



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05 Apr 2005

Archived press release.

A Felixstowe man has been fined £1,000 with £50 costs after he failed to provide Suffolk Coastal with the evidence that he had carried out required improvements to one of his properties.

A first floor flat at 288 High Street, Felixstowe was inspected in June 2004 by environmental health staff from Suffolk Coastal after the tenant complained about the living conditions.

After the inspection, the landlord's agent was informed by the Council that the property was in urgent need of repair, needed a kitchen to be built, and was officially unfit for human habitation.

Since then the Council has tried to gain access to the property to officially confirm that the works have been carried out. Its initial correspondence was with the managing agent of the flat, ECPM Ltd, but it has since been trying to track down Robert J Baker, the apparent owner of the flat.

Mr Baker, of Maidstone Road, Felixstowe, has failed to reply to any of the Council's letters and was yesterday (Monday) convicted in his absence by the Magistrates Court in Ipswich for failing to reply to a notice requiring him to supply information to the Council about the flat that he apparently owns.

Legal notices were served to his Maidstone Road address after several reminder letters had been sent. The case was brought reluctantly by the Council, but with little choice after Mr Baker had failed completely to co-operate. The case shows that the Courts will impose heavy penalties where councils are being prevented from carrying out their statutory duties for the benefit of the community.



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The 'Coastal Card' is on its way



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05 Apr 2005



Archived press release.

From Friday, June 3 there will be a great new incentive to make use of one of the Council-owned leisure centres with the launch of a new discount card that will quickly save regular users pounds.

Suffolk Coastal's new 'Coastal Card'

The new initiative is called 'Coastal Card' and offers cheaper 'pay and play' prices at each of the four leisure centres as well as priority booking terms for a number of bookable sessions such as badminton and squash courts. There will also be a big discount for cardholders on Active Leisure activities.

"With a discount on the vast majority of the activities offered, cardholders will soon feel the benefits of having one," said Councillor Maggy Wilson, Cabinet Member with responsibility for sport and leisure.

"The 'Coastal Card' is being produced as a result of a partnership between the Council and Suffolk Coastal Community Leisure Association Ltd., the local branch of DC Leisure who manage our sports centres," continued Councillor Wilson.

The card costs £10 for adults and £5 for senior citizens, under 19s, disabled people and other concessionary groups. For people living outside of the district the cost of the card will be £20 and £10. Anyone who enjoys a bargain can apply for a card at half price under the 'early bird' scheme from April 18 through to the June 3 launch when it becomes usable.

The 'Coastal Card' will replace the current swim booklet scheme, providing holders with even cheaper swimming prices when prepaying for a number of swims.

To get a card, residents can pop into their local leisure centre at Felixstowe, Leiston or Woodbridge from April 18, and pick up an application form or it will be available on this website.

Completed application forms plus payment can be taken to any of the leisure centres or posted to Felixstowe Leisure Centre, Seafront, Felixstowe, IP11 2AE.

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ASBO breach earns youth a four-month sentence



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06 Apr 2005

Archived press release.

Ipswich Magistrates today (Wednesday) found a 17-year old youth from Woodbridge guilty of breaching an interim Anti-Social Behaviour Order (ASBO) the day after it was issued and sentenced him to four months in a youth detention centre.

Mark Aaron Stagg, of Peterhouse Close, Woodbridge, had been barred on Monday by the same Court from entering the Turban Centre and Hamblin Road, along with the town's Elmhurst Park. Magistrates had also ruled that he was not allowed to drink in any public place in England and Wales.

Mr Stagg reappeared before Magistrates today after being arrested by police in Elmhurst Park on Tuesday evening. As well as ordering him to be detained for four months, the Court also confirmed the ASBO, with all its previous conditions, for a period until April 2008.

The Magistrates had previously heard that Mr Stagg was thought to be the ringleader behind a series of incidents of vandalism, including petty damage and graffiti, in the centre of Woodbridge.

Suffolk Coastal is committed to working with the police to tackle all aspects of crime and disorder in this district, and as this case demonstrates, the Courts are ready to back up its actions.

This is the type of behaviour that ASBOs are designed to address. The Council's anti-social behaviour officer and the police are ready to use ASBOs to help those parts of our community blighted by the uncivilised actions of a few individuals.

Anyone who would like to report a problem of anti-social behaviour should first report it to the police, dialling 999 if it is a serious incident. If there has been a pattern or regular problems with anti-social behaviour then call Ian Abery, Suffolk Coastal's anti-social behaviour officer, on 01394 444763 or by e-mail on ian.abery@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk



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Candidates for Suffolk Coastal's county council seats



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07 Apr 2005

Archived press release.

Thirty-nine candidates have put their names forward to stand for the 13 Suffolk County Council seats up for election in the Suffolk Coastal district on Thursday, May 5.

This year sees some significant boundary changes take effect, and there are now 11 electoral divisions in the district with two of the divisions each returning two councillors.

The full list of candidates is as follows:

Aldeburgh and Leiston

Joan Iris GIRLING* Wood Farm, Westward Ho, Leiston - LABOUR
Lisabeth HOAD 5 King Street, Aldeburgh - LIBERAL DEMOCRAT
Ronald Andrew WARD* 84 Lee Road, Aldeburgh - CONSERVATIVE

Blything

David JERMY Hawthorn Farm, Gt Common Lane, Ilketshall St Andrew - LABOUR
Raeburn Harold (Rae) LEIGHTON* Shenburgh, The Street, Walberswick - CONSERVATIVE
John Barry SLATER Yew Tree Cottage, The Street, Middleton - LIBERAL DEMOCRAT
Donald Derek (Don) TRICKER 2 Fitzgerald Mews, Saxmundham - INDEPENDENT

Carlford

Anthony Peter BARRETT Hall Farm Cottage, Otley - LIBERAL DEMOCRAT
Peter Robert BELLFIELD* The Old Rectory, Grundisburgh Road, Clopton - CONSERVATIVE
Stephen John CONNELLY Post Office, Lower Street, Great Bealings - LABOUR

Felixstowe Coastal (two seats)

Mark CAMPBELL 100 Ranelagh Road, Felixstowe - LABOUR
Graham Leslie NEWMAN 1 Mellis Court, Felixstowe - CONSERVATIVE
Michael Robert James NINNMEY 119 High Road West, Felixstowe - LIBERAL DEMOCRAT
Doris May (Dot) PADDICK 8 Park Court, Langer Road, Felixstowe - LIBERAL DEMOCRAT
Ann RODWELL* 12 Lincoln Terrace, Felixstowe - CONSERVATIVE
Stephen Jeremy TUTHILL 18 Holland Road, Felixstowe - LABOUR

Felixstowe North and Trimley

John Ernest Robert GOODWIN 23 Beatrice Avenue, Felixstowe - CONSERVATIVE
David John ROWE* 8 Recreation Close, Felixstowe - LABOUR
Robert Peter SHERRATT 134 High Road West, Felixstowe - LIBERAL DEMOCRAT

Framlingham

Colin Richard Campbell HART Garden House, Bruisyard Road, Rendham - CONSERVATIVE
Andrew Mark HOUSELEY Hall Hill Cottage, Parham - LIBERAL DEMOCRAT
Edna Mary SALMON 114 High Street, Wickham Market - LABOUR

Kesgrave and Rushmere St Andrew (two seats)

John Aston BRIGGS 3 Fox Lea, Kesgrave - LIBERAL DEMOCRAT
Ronald ELSE 9 St Peters Close, Charsfield - LIBERAL DEMOCRAT
Nahida (Nikki) GOODCHILD 19 Wainwright Way, Kesgrave - LABOUR
Steven Courtenay HUDSON* Hillcrest, Westerfield Lane, Tuddenham - CONSERVATIVE
John Thomas KLASCHKA 7 Friends Walk, Kesgrave - CONSERVATIVE
Stanley Edward ROBINSON 8 Cuckfield Avenue, Ipswich - LABOUR

Martlesham

Thomas Charles GUEST 32 Westland, Martlesham Heath - LABOUR
John Macnair KELSO* 115 Carlford Close, Martlesham Heath - LIBERAL DEMOCRAT
Patricia Margaret O'BRIEN* Hill House, Newbourne Road, Bucklesham - CONSERVATIVE

Wickham

Clare Elizabeth AITCHISON 51 Melton Grange Road, Melton - CONSERVATIVE
Barry James HALLIDAY 77 Redwald Road, Rendlesham - LIBERAL DEMOCRAT
Valerie Judith PIZZEY 149 High Street, Wickham Market - LABOUR

Wilford

Rosemary Olive CLARKE 1 Stebbings Close, Hollesley - CONSERVATIVE
Peter David MONK* The Old Star Inn, The Street, Bawdsey - LIBERAL DEMOCRAT

Woodbridge

Diana Elizabeth BALL 7 Moorfield Road, Woodbridge - LIBERAL DEMOCRAT
Roy BURGON 5 South Close, Melton - LABOUR
Benjamin Paul Norton REDSELL* 11 Melton Meadow Road, Melton - CONSERVATIVE

Those marked with an * above are seeking re-election as a County Councillor. The successful candidates will be elected for a four-year term at County Hall. Because the Government has announced that May 5 will also be the day for the General Election, polling stations will be open longer than normal for local elections. Those on the electoral roll will be able to cast their votes from 7am through to 10pm. Polling cards informing residents where they should go to vote will be delivered before the election.

Anyone wanting to apply for a postal vote has until 5pm on Tuesday, April 26 to return their completed forms to the Suffolk Coastal election team. Copies of the application form for a postal vote are available on the Council's website or by calling the election team on 01394 444329.

Additional note - April 14 2005

Stephen Jeremy TUTHILL 18 Holland Road, Felixstowe - LABOUR

was originally listed as a candidate for the Felixstowe Coastal electoral division but withdrew after the initial closing for nominations.

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Felixstowe man guilty of benefit fraud



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13 Apr 2005

Archived press release.

Magistrates at Ipswich this week (Monday) ordered a Felixstowe man to undertake 60 hours community service after hearing that he had cashed over £700 in housing benefit giro cheques after he had started work.

David Bennett, 39, of Sea Road, Felixstowe continued to cash the giro cheques despite receiving a notification letter from Suffolk Coastal weeks after he started work advising him that his benefit was still being paid on the basis that he was claiming Income Support.

Mr Bennett alleged that he had written to the Council saying that he had started work but no such letter was received by the Council's housing benefits team which continued to pay Mr Bennett until his change in personal circumstances was discovered by its Counter-Fraud Team.

Officers used data-matching to detect that Mr Bennett had failed to declare his employment to the Council. Every month, the Council shares its records with the Department of Work and Pensions to check that its information about people receiving housing or Council Tax benefits is up to date.

District Judge Cooper told Mr Bennett that he must have thought that all his Christmases had come at once when the cheques continued to be delivered to him.

Mr Bennett was ordered to undertake 60 hours community service by the Judge who ordered him to pay £50 costs to Suffolk Coastal which is also taking action to reclaim the fraudulently paid money.

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

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

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Candidate withdraws from County Council elections



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21 Apr 2005

Archived press release.

There has been a last-minute change to the list of candidates for the Felixstowe Coastal seats being contested on Thursday, May 5 following the withdrawal of Stephen Jeremy Tuthill who was going to be standing for Labour.

Mr Tuthill's name will now not be included on the ballot papers to fill the two seats on Suffolk County Council and it is too late for any other candidate to be added to the list.

The final full set of candidates for the Felixstowe Coastal electoral division where the two receiving the highest votes will be elected to serve at County Hall for four years is:-

Mark CAMPBELL 100 Ranelagh Road, Felixstowe - LABOUR

Graham Leslie NEWMAN 1 Mellis Court, Felixstowe - CONSERVATIVE

Michael Robert James NINNMEY 119 High Road West, Felixstowe - LIBERAL DEMOCRAT

Doris May (Dot) PADDICK 8 Park Court, Langer Road, Felixstowe - LIBERAL DEMOCRAT

Ann RODWELL* 12 Lincoln Terrace, Felixstowe - CONSERVATIVE

* indicates an existing County Councillor seeking re-election

The full list of candidates for the 13 seats up for election in the Suffolk Coastal area can be found on the Council's website at www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/info/may5elections.html

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Candidates announced for General Election



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21 Apr 2005

Archived press release.

Five candidates have put their names forward to stand for the Suffolk Coastal Parliamentary Constituency on Thursday, May 5 when 77,423 are entitled to cast their vote.

The five candidates are:-

Richard John Curtis - UK Independence Party
44 Darby Road, Beccles

John Selwyn Gummer - The Conservative Party Candidate
Winston Grange, Winston, Stowmarket

David John Rowe - The Labour Party Candidate
8 Recreation Close, Felixstowe

Paul Michael Whitlow - Green Party
Le Regan, 40B Orchard Valley, Holton, Halesworth

David Andrew Young - Liberal Democrat
82 Beaconsfield Road, Lowestoft

Polling stations across the district will be open from 7am to 10pm, with the votes being counted at the Martlesham Police Headquarters. Postal votes can still be obtained by contacting Suffolk Coastal's elections team on 01394 444329 but completed forms must be returned by 5pm on Tuesday, April 26. The forms can also be downloaded by visiting the Council's website – www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk

The result in the June 2001 General Election for the Suffolk Coastal constituency when the turnout was 66.4% was John Gummer (Conservative) 21,847 (43.4%); Nigel Gardner (Labour) 17,521 (34.8%); Tony Schur (Liberal Democrat) 9,192 (18.2%) and Michael Burn (UK Independence Party) 1,847 (3.7%).



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Do not miss out on your vote, but do not try cheating



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21 Apr 2005

Archived press release.

Residents have only three more weeks to guarantee themselves a postal vote on Thursday, May 5 which has been confirmed as the date for both the General Election and also the polling for a new set of Suffolk County Councillors.

Polling stations will be open across the Suffolk Coastal district from 7am to 10pm on the day, but anyone in the district who is registered on the electoral roll can apply for a postal vote.

“Prior to last week’s High Court case, when an Election Commissioner ruled that polling should be rerun in two Birmingham wards where there was evidence of postal fraud, Suffolk Coastal had already decided to carry out an audit of its postal voting applications. This included a check of all the addresses that postal votes will be sent to with particular emphasis on any that are non-residential, where the address is different from where the elector is registered, and addresses where six or more electors are registered,” said Jan Ormondroyd, Acting Chief Returning Officer and Chief Executive of Suffolk Coastal.

“In Suffolk Coastal over 11,500 people are currently registered to vote by post but the audit has not revealed anything suspicious – if it had the police would have been asked to investigate. Many more applications are expected before the closing date and staff have been briefed to watch out for electoral fraud.

“This district really does not have lots of homes of multiple occupation that seem to be exploitable for electoral fraud, nor do we have any record of previous complaints. However, we cannot afford to be complacent, and I would warn anyone tempted by this week’s publicity to try and cheat the system that we will be vigilant. We owe it to all our electors to ensure that the voting on May 5 is seen to be as fair and free as possible. The action we have taken should reassure voters that postal voting is a good option,” added Mrs Ormondroyd.

The Electoral Commission and the Association of Chief Police Officers have just issued guidance on the prevention of fraud to all electoral registration officers and police forces.

Copies of the application form for a postal vote are available on the Council’s website – www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/info/voting.html – or can be obtained by calling Suffolk Coastal’s election team on 01394 444329.

The completed forms must be returned to the election team by 5pm on Tuesday, April 26.



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How do gardens turn green?



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21 Apr 2005

Archived press release.

Gardeners who want to know more about turning their gardens green should pop along to this weekend's Spring Garden Show at the Suffolk Showground, and visit Suffolk's county and district councils' stand.

Garden waste accounts for about half of the rubbish put into landfill but it's so easy to compost instead. For those gardeners who have not yet discovered the joy of a free source of nutrients that a home composter yields, there will be sample bins to look at and details of what should be put into them. Composters can be bought for as little as £5 by calling 0845 0770759.

Recycling officers will be on hand to give helpful tips on other garden recycling initiatives such as using empty yoghurt pots or egg cartons to plant seedlings, or purchasing garden furniture made from recycled plastic.

Visitors to the stand will be invited to complete a survey on composting habits, and be entered for a prize draw.

Suffolk Coastal's recycling officer will be at the stand on Friday, April 15 when he will be available to give information on the Council's Coastal Ploughback garden waste recycling scheme. This scheme offers virtually every home in the district with a garden a brown wheelie bin to collect garden waste. The bins are emptied fortnightly as part of the kerbside collection service.

The Spring Garden Show runs from Friday, April 15 through to Sunday, April 17 and is open from 10am – 5pm daily. The cost of admission is £5.00 for adults, and free for accompanied children under 16.



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Karen helps 'Coastal Card' to make a big splash



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21 Apr 2005

Archived press release.

Karen Pickering, Britain's most decorated female swimmer, today (Monday) launched the Coastal Card, a new leisure card that will quickly save pounds for regular users of Suffolk Coastal's indoor sporting facilities.

The Coastal Card, which can be used from June 3 onwards, offers reduced pay and play prices at each of the Council's four leisure centres as well as priority booking terms for a number of bookable sessions such as badminton and squash courts. It also offers a big discount for cardholders on Active Leisure activities.

"With reduced prices available on the vast majority of the activities offered at the leisure centres, cardholders will soon feel the benefits of having one, and anyone who enjoys a bargain can apply for a card at half price under the early-bird scheme from today through to June 3," said Councillor Trevor Hawkins, Chairman of Suffolk Coastal.

The card normally costs £10 for adults and £5 for senior citizens, under 19s, disabled people and other concessionary groups. For people living outside of the district the cost of the card will be £20 and £10.

The Coastal Card will replace the current swim booklet scheme, providing holders with even cheaper swimming prices when prepaying for a number of swims.

Joining Karen at the launch were ten leisure centre users who had entered a lucky draw, plus Albert Webster who represented his country at the Helsinki Olympic Games in 1952 when he finished 5th in the 880 yards final. Karen presented Albert and the winners with a free Coastal Card, whilst they modelled the Coastal Card Tshirts that they had also won.

"Coastal Card has been produced as a result of a partnership between the Council and Suffolk Coastal Community Leisure Associations Ltd. the local branch of DC Leisure who manage our sports centres.

I hope as many people as possible dive in and buy the card which is their passport to cheaper leisure in our district," continued Councillor Hawkins.

To get a card residents can pop into their local leisure centre at Felixstowe Leisure Centre, Brackenbury Sports Centre, Leiston Leisure Centre or Deben Pool in Woodbridge and pick up an application form or visit Suffolk Coastal's website www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk

Completed application forms plus payment can be taken to any of the leisure centres or posted to Felixstowe Leisure Centre, Seafont, Felixstowe, IP11 2AE.



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Suffolk Coastal's Chief Executive set to leave



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21 Apr 2005

Archived press release.

Suffolk Coastal's current Chief Executive is leaving to take on a very senior and challenging post at one of the country's major authorities.

Jan Ormondroyd was appointed last May and took up her role as Chief Executive in September, but is keen to stress that her move to Hull City Council is because it offers a 'not to be missed' opportunity.

"I will be sad to leave Suffolk Coastal at a time when we are beginning to make significant inroads into creating a high performance culture. Suffolk Coastal is fortunate to have so many enthusiastic, committed and talented staff," said Jan Ormondroyd.

"I have had excellent support from the Leader and all parts of the Council, and I really appreciate the help I have had during my relatively short time here.

"Working at Hull as the Deputy Chief Executive promises to be an even more challenging and hopefully rewarding task. Hull has been highlighted as being in need of significant improvements and I hope to play a major part in helping turn that council around," added Mrs Ormondroyd.

Prior to joining Suffolk Coastal, Jan had been a regional director of local government practice with the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM), after previously being the director of scrutiny and performance management at Bradford Metropolitan District Council. She had worked at a senior level in local government for 15 years, including the roles of head of executive office and corporate strategy and partnership manager, before becoming a director.

Before her departure in July, Jan will be focussing on ensuring key areas of work are progressed, with robust arrangements in place, to help ensure future improvements in services are delivered.

The vacant post will be advertised shortly, and the Council will be considering whether any interim arrangements need to be put in place.

The Leader of the Council has thanked Jan for her very valuable contribution, and wished her success for the future while admitting his considerable disappointment at her decision to leave.

When appointed to Suffolk Coastal, Jan was one of 37 applicants for the job, which was initially reduced to a 'long list' of 11 that the Employers Association that helped the Council in its recruitment process said was the best it had seen for such a post.

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A brown bin is a gardener's friend



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25 Apr 2005

Archived press release.

Residents are being urged to get into the habit of taking their new Suffolk Coastal brown wheellie bin around their garden to help take the strain out of weeding and tidying, and then to put it out bright and early for emptying.

Over 99 per cent of homes in the district have been offered the wheeled bin service for garden waste and in the first three weeks of the extended service they produced nearly 750 tonnes of material for composting.

Residents are being advised that it is important that they put the brown bins out for collection by 7.30am as it will take a while for the Suffolk Coastal Services collection crews to work out how to make their new rounds as efficient as possible.

The Coastal Ploughback brown bin service was extended this month to nearly 19,000 more homes, meaning that over 50,000 are now served with a fortnightly collection.

The first week, beginning April 4, was a roaring success with households from all over the district keen to get in their gardens and send their garden waste for composting. The material is taken by Suffolk Coastal to Viridor Waste (Suffolk) Ltd, who turn the material into soil improver.

The soil improver is available to the public at the County Council's household waste recycling centres at Felixstowe, Foxhall and Leiston, and is available directly from Viridor in large quantities for agricultural and horticultural use by contacting them on 01473 836903.

The brown bins can be used for grass cuttings, weeds, straw, dead flowers, bedding plants, leaves, light shrub cuttings, hedge trimmings, sawdust, untreated wood chippings, and fruit and vegetable waste from the garden.

Anyone wanting more information about recycling in Suffolk Coastal can call the recycling team on 01394 444000 or email waste.management@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk

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Help us draw up framework for local development


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25 Apr 2005

Archived press release.

Major changes have been introduced by the Government in the way that land in districts like Suffolk Coastal is zoned for future developments and the Council is asking for help to make it happen.

Local Plans, which acted as blueprints for the future development and protection of districts, have been replaced by Local Development Frameworks (LDFs), with each district having to produce its own LDF.

The LDF will be made up of separate but interrelated documents dealing with different areas or distinct issues of planning policy, and the goal is to involve the public even more in planning.

To help this take place, the Council must first produce a Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) - one of several compulsory documents that will make up a new LDF for the district.

The SCI has a different role from these other documents as it is only concerned with community involvement and not actual planning matters. It will make clear how people will be involved in producing either new or changed plans, who will be involved and when. It will also cover community involvement when the Council has to make decisions on major planning applications.

Suffolk Coastal aims to ensure that everyone has full opportunities to be involved in local planning matters from an early stage and has sent out a questionnaire as the first step in producing a SCI for the district.

The easy to understand and complete questionnaire has gone out to local organisations like Parish and Town Councils to invite their views and comments, but anyone with an interest in the future planning of the district is invited to respond to this and subsequent exercises.

The closing date for responses is Tuesday, May 3 – see the Council's website http://www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/planning/local_plan/replacement.html for more information where there is also an electronic copy of the questionnaire.

Also on the website is the Local Development Scheme (LDS), which has been approved by the Government Office for the Eastern Region and contains the details of what documents will be in the new LDF and when each of them will be produced.

Any member of the public that wants further information about the LDF, SCI or the LDS can call Rich Cooke on 01394 444252, or email development.policy@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk



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Sewer problems means temporary loss of toilets



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25 Apr 2005

Archived press release.

The toilet block at Beach Station Road in Felixstowe will remain closed until at least Monday while workers continue to tackle a problem with sewage that has made the toilets unsafe for public use.

The popular block opposite the market site has been closed since Tuesday when a gassy smell was discovered which was traced to a chamber underneath the toilets that had filled with sewage.

Workers from Suffolk Coastal Services and NJB Contractors have been trying to clear out the cause of the smell. The resulting gas is strong enough to mean that it is still not safe to allow the toilets to be used, and efforts to get the problem sorted in time for the weekend have failed.

Work will begin again on Monday to resolve the problem, but in the meantime Suffolk Coastal is apologising for any inconvenience. The next nearest toilets are at Felixstowe Leisure Centre and at West End.

This is not the first time this has occurred although it has proved to be the toughest one to resolve. The cause of the trouble is a blocked mains sewer which has sent about a metre deep of sewage into the chamber below the toilet block.



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Talks continue on former Red Cross centre



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

27 Apr 2005

Archived press release.

The doors to Felixstowe's former Red Cross Centre on the seafront could soon be open again to elderly and disabled visitors to the resort.

The Red Cross has now surrendered its lease for the building to Suffolk Coastal, which is currently finalising negotiations with a local group to get the centre open for the summer.

Suffolk Coastal wrote to six interested local organisations in an urgent attempt to keep open a very popular community facility after the Red Cross announced that it no longer had any use for the building.

It is hoped that the talks could be concluded within the next few days to confirm that someone is ready to take it over after some minor works have been completed by Suffolk Coastal.

Constructed with money raised by the local Round Table, the building was on land owned by Suffolk Coastal, with a 999-year lease that after lengthy negotiations the Red Cross has now agreed to surrender.

The centre has been attracting parties of 50 and more people every day from Easter onwards all the way through to October and the Council has been keen to ensure that the elderly and disabled people who come from across the region would still be able to use it.

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Tennis served up at Saxmundham



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

27 Apr 2005

Archived press release.

People of all ages and abilities can try out their tennis skills at a Play Tennis Open Day to be held in Saxmundham.

The Saxmundham Sports Tennis Club will be hosting this Lawn Tennis Association's initiative, to encourage people to take up tennis, on Sunday, May 8 at their Carlton Park courts.

The morning session from 11am to 1pm is for junior players and their supervised activities will include free coaching, playing against the ball machine and a speed gun to measure that ace serve. Adult players of all standards can play informal tennis with members from 2pm onwards and will be able to use the opportunity to learn more about the activities of the club.

There is no need to book these sessions, all that people have to do is turn up at the courts at the Carlton Park sports ground north entrance.

Anyone wanting further information should contact Fiona Foreman, Club Secretary on 01728 602194



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The ABC way to tackle Trimley's anti-social youths



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

03 May 2005

Archived press release.

Acceptable Behaviour Contracts (ABCs) are set to be issued to young people in the Trimley area as the latest stage in Felixstowe Police and Suffolk Coastal District Council's campaign to tackle anti-social behaviour.

Both organisations have received complaints over a period of time from residents in the Trimley community about acts of anti-social behaviour in that area.

In a partnership approach to the problem the two agencies have been dealing with the matters in a number of ways, which has so far included obtaining through the Courts an Anti Social Behaviour Order (ASBO) on an identified offender who cannot be named for legal reasons.

This weekend a number of ABCs will be issued by the police on other youths have been committing similar anti-social actions in the area. ABCs are a written contract which spell out exactly what types of behaviour the person receiving them should not do, with the warning that if they are not adhered to the next stage could be injunctions, ASBOs or criminal prosecutions.

Suffolk Coastal is committed to working with the police to tackle all aspects of crime and disorder in this district. The Council's anti-social behaviour officer and the police are ready to use ASBOs to help those parts of the community blighted by the uncivilised actions of a few individuals.

Anyone who would like to report a problem of anti-social behaviour should first report it to the police, dialling 999 if it is a serious incident. If there has been a pattern or regular problems with anti-social behaviour then call Ian Abery, Suffolk Coastal's anti-social behaviour officer, on 01394 444763 or by email on ian.abery@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk

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Voting system is secure enough but needs improving



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27 Apr 2005

Archived press release.

Some of the basic flaws of the current postal voting system that has gained national coverage over the last few weeks were highlighted yesterday (Tuesday) by a BBC TV reporter revealing that he had fraudulently gained one for an address in Friston.

Suffolk Coastal's Chief Executive has reassured residents that her officers have been keeping a close eye out for possible frauds, that there has been no history of any incidents in the district before but that it is not possible to prevent abuse.

"The closing date for postal votes was yesterday and we have received nearly 14,000 forms applying for one, three times more than at the last General Election. That is a lot of paperwork to process during a very short time period and without the additional resources to do it," said Jan Ormondroyd, Chief Executive and Acting Returning Officer.

"This year we have been carrying out closer checks because we are aware of the examples of organised fraud that has occurred nationally, and that means we have been looking carefully at any applications where there are more than six people at one address, or where a business address has been used.

"However, it is not possible to guarantee with the current forms and laws that every single postal vote has been legally requested. There are flaws in the current rules and it now seems certain these will be addressed by Parliament after the General Election, but all we can do is follow those rules and I am confident we have done as good a job as we can," added Mrs Ormondroyd.

The incident set up by the BBC saw one of its reporters signing a form claiming to be a Suffolk Coastal resident and giving his London address for the vote to be sent to. His action was done with the full agreement of the Friston resident. Because the application form was received after the polling cards had been printed, a polling card was subsequently delivered to the Friston address.

"People should realise that a polling card is just a reminder where to vote and the opening hours – it does not in itself entitle someone to a vote. Anyone turning up at a polling station to vote who has already been sent a postal vote will quickly discover that the official register is marked to notify the polling clerks that they are not entitled to be given another ballot paper.

"This simple system itself helps prevent and identify fraud – anyone fraudulently claiming a postal vote takes the massive risk that the real voter will turn up at the polling station and want to vote. It is not a foolproof system but it has worked efficiently for many decades.

"In a district like ours I am confident that the massive increase in requests for postal votes is because people find it much more convenient, rather than it being a sign of any concerted attempt to cheat the ballot box. What Parliament now needs to do is to put in place tighter rules that we can enforce to ensure that the public are reassured that any cheats will be thwarted," added Mrs Ormondroyd.

The Council would also take this opportunity to issue a reminder that polling stations will be open across the Suffolk Coastal district from 7am to 10pm on Thursday, May 5.

After the General Election was called, the Electoral Commission and the Association of Chief Police Officers issued guidance on the prevention of fraud to all electoral registration officers and police forces.



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Thirteen county councillors elected for Suffolk Coastal

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06 May 2005

Archived press release.

In the early hours of this morning (Friday), the results were announced for the 13 Suffolk County Council seats up for election in the Suffolk Coastal district.

This year saw some significant boundary changes take effect, so making it difficult to assess the results as gains or holds or losses, but the district has now returned 13 Conservative councillors to County headquarters.

The full results are as follows:

Aldeburgh and Leiston

Joan Iris GIRLING* LABOUR 1671
Lisabeth HOAD LIBERAL DEMOCRAT 1325
Ronald Andrew WARD* CONSERVATIVE 2091 **ELECTED**

Turn-out = 56% Majority = 420

Blything

David JERMY LABOUR 892
Raeburn Harold (Rae) LEIGHTON* CONSERVATIVE 1807 **ELECTED**
John Barry SLATER LIBERAL DEMOCRAT 1539
Donald Derek (Don) TRICKER INDEPENDENT 508

Turn-out = 60.7% Majority = 268

Carlford

Anthony Peter BARRETT LIBERAL DEMOCRAT 1324
Peter Robert BELLFIELD* CONSERVATIVE 2828 **ELECTED**
Stephen John CONNELLY LABOUR 916

Turn-out = 67.1% Majority = 1504

Felixstowe Coastal (two seats)

Mark CAMPBELL LABOUR 2692
Graham Leslie NEWMAN CONSERVATIVE 3714 **ELECTED**
Michael Robert James NINNMEY LIBERAL DEMOCRAT 3087
Doris May (Dot) PADDICK LIBERAL DEMOCRAT 3226
Ann RODWELL* CONSERVATIVE 3757 **ELECTED**

Turn-out = 56.9% Majority = 488

Felixstowe North and Trimley

John Ernest Robert GOODWIN CONSERVATIVE 1960 **ELECTED**
David John ROWE* LABOUR 1754
Robert Peter SHERRATT LIBERAL DEMOCRAT 1339

Turn-out = 58.9% Majority = 206

Framlingham

Colin Richard Campbell HART CONSERVATIVE 2355 **ELECTED**
Andrew Mark HOUSELEY LIBERAL DEMOCRAT 1645
Edna Mary SALMON LABOUR 827

Turn-out = 63.3% Majority = 710

Kesgrave and Rushmere St Andrew (two seats)

John Aston BRIGGS LIBERAL DEMOCRAT 2731
Ronald ELSE LIBERAL DEMOCRAT 2055
Nahida (Nikki) GOODCHILD LABOUR 2343
Steven Courtenay HUDSON* CONSERVATIVE 3547 **ELECTED**
John Thomas KLASCHKA CONSERVATIVE 3567 **ELECTED**
Stanley Edward ROBINSON LABOUR 1936

Turn-out = 58.6% Majority = 816

Martlesham

Thomas Charles GUEST LABOUR 1109
John Macnair KELSO* LIBERAL DEMOCRAT 2359
Patricia Margaret O'BRIEN* CONSERVATIVE 2622 **ELECTED**

Turn-out = 63.4% Majority = 263

Wickham

Clare Elizabeth AITCHISON CONSERVATIVE 2123 **ELECTED**
Barry James HALLIDAY LIBERAL DEMOCRAT 1590
Valerie Judith PIZZEY LABOUR 1161

Turn-out = 59.4% Majority = 533

Wilford

Rosemary Olive CLARKE CONSERVATIVE 2171 **ELECTED**
Peter David MONK* LIBERAL DEMOCRAT 2147

Turn-out = 62.5% Majority = 24

Woodbridge

Diana Elizabeth BALL LIBERAL DEMOCRAT 1698
Roy BURGON LABOUR 884
Benjamin Paul Norton REDSELL* CONSERVATIVE 1720 **ELECTED**

Turn-out = 58.7% Majority = 22

Those marked with an * above were seeking re-election as a county councillor. The successful candidates will be elected for a four-year term at County Hall.

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Wheelchair will open up access to Aldeburgh's delights


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

07 May 2005

Archived press release.

People with mobility problems will no longer have to miss out on some of the wonders of Aldeburgh thanks to a new 'all-terrain' wheelchair that will help them access the beach and local nature reserve this summer.

The specially designed wheelchair has been tested on the shingle beach by representatives from Rethink Disability, the registered charity which works for the right of disabled people to equal participation in every aspect of life, and it was found to be highly successful.

"It has long been the national belief that it is virtually impossible to offer suitable access for disabled people on shingle beaches, but we decided to challenge that view after a number of people expressed their disappointment that they could not visit Aldeburgh's Scallop," said Cllr Maggy Wilson, Cabinet Member for Community Well-being.

"We set about investigating all the options and found this American-made wheelchair which is especially designed for use on soft or rough ground. With the help of Rethink Disability, we tested it out on the beach and were very pleased to see how successful it was.

"Most of the £3,600 cost of buying the chair and its storage shed was paid for by donors who contributed to the public subscription for the Scallop, since disabled access was always envisaged as a necessary part of this project. I believe this will be an example for others across the country who are managing similar beaches and I know that fund-raising is being investigated in Felixstowe," added Cllr Wilson.

The wheelchair will be stored in the Council's car park in Thorpe Road, and it is available for free use for up to two hours per user. The key to the shed can be obtained from the Tourist Information Centre in Aldeburgh between 9am and 5pm on deposit of a Blue Badge, driving licence or similar document.

Aldeburgh Beach and The Haven Local Nature Reserve are owned by Suffolk Coastal, while the nature reserve is managed in partnership with the RSPB and Suffolk Wildlife Trust.

Many thousands of people visit the beach each year and Maggy Hambling's Scallop has added to the town's attractions. The management of the nature reserve is aimed at conserving the rich shingle flora and ground-nesting birds and visitors are asked to tread carefully when crossing the shingle to the sea.

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New life for former Red Cross Centre



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11 May 2005

Archived press release.

Elderly and disabled visitors will once again this summer be able to use Felixstowe's former Red Cross Centre on the seafront after Suffolk Coastal agreed to licence the premises to the town's Old People's Welfare Association.

Suffolk Coastal had written to six interested local organisations in an urgent attempt to keep open a very popular community facility after the Red Cross announced that it no longer had any use for the building. Three organisations expressed interest of which Felixstowe Old People's Welfare Association (FOPWA) was one.

FOPWA has now signed a licence to take over the centre for the summer season and it is open again with some minor works being carried out by Suffolk Coastal to bring it back up to scratch.

"It is excellent news that FOPWA is ready and able to take on the running of the building which they are going to formally name 'The Hut' as this is how it is referred to by its many users when they book the building," said Cllr Doreen Savage, Cabinet Member for Customers and Partners.

"Felixstowe is a seaside resort that guarantees a friendly welcome to visitors and I am delighted that we can ensure that elderly and disabled people from across the region can still enjoy their visits this summer.

"As beach huts have always been part of the Felixstowe seaside experience it seems very appropriate that the centre should be known affectionately as The Hut by the numerous visitors who enjoy it every year. I hope it will be another great summer for everyone at Felixstowe," added Cllr Savage.

FOPWA is a registered charity formed over 50 years ago and best known for running the senior citizens' centre in Orwell Road, Felixstowe. Visitors are guaranteed the same friendly welcome from The Hut as always as FOPWA has managed to take on all of the existing team of volunteers.

"What we have done is basically take under our wing the team in its entirety, with all its experience and commitment. We are delighted to be able to step into the breach and ensure that this popular seaside facility for elderly and disabled people will once again be open this summer. This partnership between ourselves and Suffolk Coastal will mean that thousands of people will still be able to enjoy the delights of Felixstowe," said Richard Holland, Chairman of FOPWA.

Constructed with money raised by the local Round Table, the building was on land owned by Suffolk Coastal, with a 999-year lease that after lengthy negotiations the Red Cross has now agreed to surrender.

The centre has been attracting parties of 50 and more people every day from Easter onwards all the way through to October and the Council has been keen to ensure that the elderly and disabled people who come from across the region would still be able to use it.

The Hut is already fully booked for virtually the whole of the summer season, but anyone who

would like to find out more about it can call Barbara Lowe (Bookings Organiser) on 01394 270828.

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Recruitment of Council's new Chief Executive begins



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11 May 2005

Archived press release.

Advertisements have been placed for a new Chief Executive for Suffolk Coastal to take over from Jan Ormondroyd who is due to leave to start a new job in July.

The message in the advert is that Suffolk Coastal is looking to build on the radical changes that have been made to achieve excellence by recruiting an exceptional individual who can inspire, lead and deliver.

"We are looking for an exceptional individual to build upon our wide-ranging change programme, provide community leadership, inspire new ways of thinking and facilitate new ways of working," said Cllr Ray Herring, Leader of Suffolk Coastal.

"We need a Chief Executive who can build upon what we have already achieved and can inspire and lead our employees, work with elected members and our partners, and deliver service improvements for the benefit of our community.

"The organisation is now much more externally focussed on meeting the needs of our community, and the Council's Management Team has made a good start towards implementing the Council's vision and priorities. We are now seeking a dynamic individual to carry on the good work commenced by Jan and her team," added Cllr Herring.

The £90,000 a year post is now being advertised, with a closing date of May 24, with the interviewing process due to take part in early to mid June. The salary is in line with the regional going-rate for Chief Executives.

Applicants will receive a ringing endorsement for the post from the outgoing Chief Executive. "Suffolk Coastal is fortunate to have so many enthusiastic, committed and talented staff. I have had excellent support from the Leader and there is a great opportunity to work with elected Members who are committed to improving services for the local communities of the district," said Jan Ormondroyd who is leaving to take on a challenging post at Hull City Council.

Application packs can be obtained from Suffolk Coastal's Human Resources team on 01394 444365 or more information can be found on the Council's website by visiting <http://www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/info/chiefexecutivejob.html>

The Council is also advertising for a new senior manager, a Head of Service for its Customer and Strategic Services. This post was given the go-ahead recently when it was announced that the Strategic Director Peter Collicott would have to take early retirement due to ill-health. A new senior management structure was agreed that results in further savings of £17,000 a year from the Council's budget.

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Partnership action will leave 'boy racers' in a jam



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19 May 2005

Archived press release.

Local police and Suffolk Coastal have linked up to take action to prevent anti-social motorists making a misery of the lives of residents and visitors to Felixstowe.

Warning notices that a crackdown is about to be launched and that the police can seize vehicles have already gone up around the resort and local residents are being asked to play their part.

"We intend to tackle the issue of anti-social use of motor vehicles over the coming weeks, initially targeting the area of Sea Road and Undercliffe Road West. With the lighter evenings and the warmer weather, the seafront attracts people who want to make an impression with their cars, but sadly it is one that is often a great nuisance to other people," said Sgt Mick Richardson of Felixstowe Police.

"The type of behaviour we want to prevent is the appearance of cars with loud exhausts and blaring music which is also sometimes combined with a lack of consideration to other road users. Some of the problems are caused by 'boy racers' but it is wrong to just say they are the only ones.

"Over the coming months Felixstowe police will be mounting a concerted campaign to deal with the real anti-social issues of drivers of cars or mopeds whose vehicles really should not be on the road, or are being driven in a way that is causing annoyance to residents," added Sgt Richardson.

The police will be carrying out random checks of vehicles to ensure that they meet the necessary standards, along with checking licence, insurance and ownership records.

Vehicles can be seized from drivers if two warnings inside a year have been given about it being used anti-socially. Reclaiming a seized vehicle will cost someone £105, plus £12 a day for storage, with the threat that it will be disposed of if it is not claimed within 21 days.

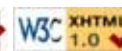
"This is an excellent initiative to address the type of problem that can plague any seaside resort during the summer months, and I am sure that the residents of Felixstowe will wish it success," said Cllr Patricia O'Brien, Cabinet Member for Community Well-being and Chairman of the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership.

"Residents too have an important part to play as they can keep a record of this type of anti-social behaviour. Many homes in the streets around the seafront have already been given a copy of our anti-social behaviour report form and more copies are available.

"We would like residents to assist the partnership by recording on the forms when problems happen, a description of the vehicle, driver and passengers, and, if possible, the vehicle registration number. By doing this, the local community can aid this Council and the police in their efforts to tackle this very intrusive form of anti-social behaviour," added Cllr O'Brien.

Sgt Richardson can be contacted by email on mick.richardson@suffolk.pnn.police.uk or by calling 01473 383376, while anyone wanting a reporting form can contact Ian Abery, Suffolk Coastal's anti-social behaviour officer, on 01394 444763 or by e-mail on ian.abery@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk

Suffolk Coastal is committed to working with the police to tackle all aspects of crime and disorder in this district. Anyone who would like to report a problem of anti-social behaviour should first report it to the police, dialling 999 if it is a serious incident. If there has been a pattern or regular problems with anti-social behaviour then call Ian Aberly, Suffolk Coastal's anti-social behaviour officer.



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Web pages point the way for Rights of Way



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19 May 2005

Archived press release.

Walkers, landowners and other lovers of the countryside can now access an excellent new one-stop source of information that is aimed at all residents who want to know anything about Rights of Way in Suffolk.

The onesuffolk website now contains a very detailed section on Public Rights of Way and Access to the Countryside that is there for both the benefit of landowners and those who want to know more about Public Rights of Way.

“I would recommend a [visit to the onesuffolk site](#) which is packed with useful information, including the rights and responsibilities of landowners and users of the thousands of miles of publicly accessible country paths in Suffolk,” said Cllr Colin Hart, Suffolk Coastal’s Cabinet Member for Rural Issues.

Among the other topics covered are an online form to report problems that goes direct to the County Council’s maintenance team, and links to pages about countryside walks, cycling, events and horse rides.

Suffolk Coastal’s Carol Ramsden, Sharon Berry from Mid Suffolk, Kirsty McLaughlin from Suffolk County Council, and Kerry Burn of onesuffolk have taken the lead on creating the new pages on behalf of the Rights of Way and Countryside Access services at all of the local authorities in the county.

“The onesuffolk Rights of Way and Countryside Access web pages are a fine example of what can be achieved with effective partnership working, sharing expertise and resource between the local authorities,” added Cllr Hart.

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Game, set and match at Woodbridge



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25 May 2005

Archived press release.

For four days from the end of May the sound of ball on racket will be heard as the Gotelee & Goldsmith Community Parks tennis tournament gets underway at the Woodbridge School in Burkitt Road.

Twelve astroturf courts and six hard courts will be in action during the half-term holiday (May 30 to June 3) as this Lawn Tennis Association contest gets underway for everyone from five to 18 year olds.

As well as the tournament, youngsters have the chance to join coaching sessions on Tuesday and Wednesday for under 10s, and Thursday and Friday for 11-18 year olds. All sessions run from 9-11am.

“This tournament is aimed at all levels of ability. Youngsters who have never played or consider themselves beginners and who want to be involved can join the morning coaching courses. More experienced players may like to take advantage of the coaching, before they play in the competitive events,” said Councillor Maggy Wilson, Cabinet Member for Community Well-being.

“Sarah Shinnie, our leisure development officer, will also be at the tournament looking to recruit youngsters who were born in 1992 or after to represent Team Suffolk Coastal at this year’s Suffolk Games,” added Councillor Wilson.

For further information on the tournament, the coaching sessions, or to request a player’s registration form contact Jill Yates on 01473 735663, email wctp@aol.com or write to Jill at 35 Post Mill Gardens, Grundisburgh, Suffolk, IP13 6UP.

The closing date for completed registration forms is Friday, May 27.

The Gotelee & Goldsmith Community Parks tennis tournament has been organised by Suffolk Sport, Suffolk Coastal’s Active Leisure Team and Woodbridge Tennis Club.

The event is sponsored by Gotelee & Goldsmith.

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Record-breaking website is becoming easier to use



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25 May 2005

Archived press release.

From this weekend, the many visitors to Suffolk Coastal's website are being given their first chance to make use of a redesigned, user-friendlier version.

Figures just released show that Suffolk Coastal's website broke all records during the last 12 months, with a 60 per cent rise resulting in the 800,000 barrier for the year being broken.

"Since our website was first launched back in October 1999, more and more useful information has been placed on the site with increasing numbers of people visiting it. Over the last year we have taken the chance to review not only the content but also the way it is filed to make it simpler for people to find what they want," said Cllr Colin Hart, Cabinet Member responsible for Communications.

"Between April last year and the end of March, 805,355 visits were made to our site, with 87,000 visits in March alone. The website is proving to be an ever more important and popular way for people to access information about their Council 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

"We have now grouped the information into different sections including your home, your district, your business and your council. This should make it easier for people to get the information they need and it will be interesting to see the comments on the new style," added Cllr Hart.

From Friday (May 27) the new-look site will initially be available from the home page of the current site, www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk

There are still parts of the old site that are being updated and transferred but by early July this process should be completed. Anyone who has any comments on the website can email website.administrator@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk or call 01394 444305.

"Thanks to the input of many officers and councillors, we now have an up-to-date site we can be proud of and I would like to particularly thank Chris Doncaster for leading on this project since August," added Cllr Hart.

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Council ready to put stop to illegal building



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26 May 2005

Archived press release.

Planning officers are already using their new powers to stop builders proceeding with developments that do not have official permission or are not built in accordance with approved plans, as one home-owner in Kesgrave has already discovered.

Marcus Horner of St Olaves Road, Kesgrave was served on Friday (May 20) with a temporary stop notice instructing him to stop work on the eastern elevation of the new bungalow at 23 Windrush Road, also in Kesgrave.

"In December 2004, this Council agreed that a bungalow could be built on the site but it appears that Mr Horner has been working to a plan which was rejected in March this year," said Cllr Ivan Jowers, Chairman of the Development Control Committee.

These plans were refused because it would have meant windows being installed that would have overlooked the neighbouring home, and so would have meant a loss of privacy and light intrusion for those in number 25.

"When one of our enforcement team visited on May 12, it became clear that the builder had been given the wrong plans and the builder agreed to stop working on that part of the new bungalow. However, on May 18 the Council became aware that work was continuing in line with the rejected plans.

"This Council is not prepared to have its decisions so blatantly ignored, and since March we now have new powers to take action to bring a halt to such work. I agreed to issue a temporary stop notice that, if contravened, has a maximum penalty of £20,000 if breached for a first offence, with a possible unlimited fine if work still continues.

"This case should be a loud warning to agents, builders and developers across the district that we now have additional powers that we will not hesitate to use to ensure that the Council's democratic planning decisions, taken on behalf of the people of this district, will be enforced and must not be ignored," added Cllr Jowers.

The Town and Country Planning Act 1990 was reinforced by the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. A local planning authority can now issue a temporary stop notice as soon as it judges that there has been a breach of planning control and this will last for 28 days, giving the Council time to decide whether it needs to issue an enforcement and stop notice.

"I do not expect there to be a massive spate of stop notices being issued as I would hope that builders, agents or developers would recognise and accept their mistake once it has been highlighted. But I would warn that we do have these powers and that we will use them if people show that they are prepared to knowingly break the rules," added Cllr Jowers.

Anyone wanting to report an incident where they think a breach of planning control has happened can contact Suffolk Coastal's enforcement team by calling 01394 444636, or email d.c.enforcement@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk





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Thousands dive in for new Coastal Card



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

26 May 2005

Archived press release.

Over two thousand people have already signed up for Coastal Card, the new leisure card that will quickly save pounds for regular users of Suffolk Coastal's indoor sporting facilities.

It is only five weeks since the medal-winning Karen Pickering launched the Coastal Card, and cardholders are now waiting on the blocks counting down the days until Friday, June 3 when they can start using them.

"Our cardholders will get a real double bonus, as the price they pay for using our leisure centres will drop back to the rate charged in March and they will not be affected by the price increases being introduced on June 3. Coastal Card is itself available at half-price until June 2, so I would urge everyone to get one now to maximise their savings," said Cllr Maggy Wilson, Cabinet Member for Community Well-being.

"This passport to cheaper leisure has been produced as a result of a partnership between the Council and Suffolk Coastal Community Leisure Association Ltd, the local branch of DC Leisure, which manages our sports centres," added Cllr Wilson.

Available at half-price until June 2, Coastal Card normally costs £10 for adults, and £5 for senior citizens, under 19s, disabled people and those in the other concessionary groups, or £20 and £10 for those living outside of the Suffolk Coastal district.

The cards can be got from any of the four Council-owned facilities, Felixstowe Leisure Centre, Deben Pool, Brackenbury Sports Centre and Leiston Leisure Centre, on line at <http://www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/leisure/coastalcard.html>

Prices for cardholders will be frozen until the end of March 2006 at the rates charged at the centres on March 31 this year, while charges for most leisure activities at the centres are due to rise on June 3 for non-card holders by a quarter. Coastal Card holders will also benefit from priority booking terms, cheaper prepaid swims, free equipment hire and a free regular newsletter.

"A few eyebrows may be raised at the rise in prices on June 3, but I would reinforce the fact that any Coastal Card holder will not be affected, which makes it another good reason to buy one.

"Even after the increase, our prices for non-card holders will still be cheaper than other competing leisure facilities because we manage to provide quality services at a value-for-money price," added Cllr Wilson.



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Council appoints Malcolm Minns as new chairman



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27 May 2005

Archived press release.

The new Chairman of Suffolk Coastal District Council was elected at last night's (Thursday) Annual Meeting of the Council.

Councillor Malcolm Minns will be Chairman for the next 12 months. He was elected to the Council in 1995 and currently represents the Felixstowe South-East ward. He has been a member of Felixstowe Town Council since 1992 and has twice been Mayor of Felixstowe.

Born in Bury St Edmunds, Councillor Minns moved to Felixstowe in 1991, prior to which he and his wife Josephine ran the Post Office Stores at Ufford for five and a half years. They will be celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary this year, and have three children and six grandchildren.

Councillor Minns was Chairman of Suffolk Coastal's Resources Sub-Committee and represents the Council on the Crime & Disorder Partnership and the Regional Employers Organisation. He is currently Chairman of Suffolk Sport.

With a life long involvement in sport, Councillor Minns is currently a Vice-President of Felixstowe Hockey Club and Felixstowe Tennis Club.

Councillor Minns is also a member of the Chartered Institute of Marketing.

"I look forward to my year in office and during this time I will actively be encouraging the Council's mission to improve its links with the public and other partner organisations," said Councillor Minns.

"As Chairman I provide civic and ceremonial leadership of the Council and Chair and manage the meetings of Full Council, ensuring that the Constitution is upheld. It is the duty of the Chairman to rise above party politics and to act as the Council's representative at about 200 formal or informal public engagements a year," added Councillor Minns.

Councillor Sir Peter Batho was elected Vice-Chairman and the outgoing Chairman, who served for one year, was Councillor Trevor Hawkins.



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New faces in Cabinet after County headhunting



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27 May 2005

Archived press release.

Suffolk Coastal's Leader of the Council has revealed his new Cabinet members who are replacing two councillors who have joined the equivalent policy-making body in the new-look Suffolk County Council and also providing short-term cover for the Deputy Leader.

Stephen Burroughes has rejoined the Cabinet with responsibility for Rural Issues, and Sherrie Green takes on the role of Community Well-being, with particular focus on food and safety, community safety, licensing, health promotion and emergency planning.

"I am pleased to welcome Stephen back into the Cabinet and Sherrie for the first time to take on these two key posts. They have a tough act to follow as Patricia O'Brien and Colin Hart have both stamped their own mark with skill and enthusiasm on the services for which they had responsibility. Their success was obviously a factor in them gaining their new roles at Suffolk County Council," said Cllr Ray Herring, Leader of the Council.

"While it is a shame to lose their expertise, I am sure they will be able to put into effect the Suffolk Coastal philosophy of ensuring quality value-for-money services are provided.

"I hope that Colin and Patricia will be at the heart of the drive to improve partnership working between the County Council and Suffolk's district and borough councils. The goal has to be to ensure that, as in this district, the focus is on improving services while identifying ways of providing them more efficiently," added Cllr Herring.

Cllr O'Brien was a founder member of the Cabinet in December 2001, while Cllr Hart joined after being elected to the Council in May 2003. Both will remain District Councillors for their respective Nacton and Hacheston seats. At the County Council, Cllr O'Brien will now be the portfolio holder for children, schools and young people's services, while Cllr Hart will have the environment, waste and economic development.

"The Deputy Leader Andy Smith will be taking a short sabbatical from Cabinet duties to assist recovery from a heart attack earlier in the year but it is envisaged he will be back within six months. An experienced pair of hands in the form of Councillor Rae Leighton has joined the Cabinet to cover the Environment Natural and Built portfolio (Planning and Coast Protection). Chris Slemmings will be taking on the Deputy Leader's role over the same period," added Cllr Herring.

The rest of the Cabinet remains unchanged – the full list is as follows, along with their responsibilities:

Cllr Ray Herring – Leader of the Council
Council policy and strategy, external issues

Cllr Chris Slemmings – Deputy Leader of the Council, Housing
homelessness, housing advice, travellers, housing benefits, fraud investigations, NHS scrutiny

Cllr Rae Leighton – Environment Natural and Built
Planning/Local Plan, building control, conservation and design, rights of way, coastal

management, car parks, South Seafront project

Cllr Stephen Burroughes – Rural Issues

accessibility, transport, concessionary fares, communications, parish liaison, community grants, IT/ICT, Best Value

Cllr Andrew Nunn – Environment Natural and Built

environmental protection, pollution control, waste management, local agenda 21

Cllr John Perry – Economy

economic development and policy, regional economy, European issues, tourist information

Cllr Doreen Savage – Customers and Partners

customer service centre, consultation, partnerships, local strategic partnership, Member training, social inclusion, young people

Cllr Robert Whiting – Fiscal and Democratic Process

democratic services, land charges, Council Tax/NNDR, accounting, audit/risk management, asset management/estates, budgets, human resources

Cllr Maggy Wilson – Community Well-being

leisure, theatre and arts, countryside management, older people

Cllr Sherrie Green – Community Well-being

food and safety, community safety, Port health, health promotion, licensing, emergency planning.



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Latest edition of Business Bulletin hits the district



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

31 May 2005

Archived press release.

The latest information-packed edition of Suffolk Coastal's Business Bulletin has just been published and is being distributed to nearly three thousand businesses in the district over the next couple of weeks.

Produced by Suffolk Coastal's development team, this seventh edition of the Business Bulletin includes features on disability employment, loans available to small businesses and social enterprises, solar power offer, Small Business Rate Relief, computer crime, The Licensing Act 2003, events in the district and details of Sutton Hoo's Conference Centre.

Health and safety issues are covered with an article on the withdrawal of approval of use or storage of Cymag pesticide, details of a Workplace Smoking Policy Seminar and the dates of Suffolk Coastal's health & safety training courses

There is useful information on the General Food Regulations 2004, Sudan 1 and how to receive food alerts from the Food Standards Agency. Dates for the 2005/06 Food Safety Courses are listed and businesses are invited to give their views on a proposed Food Hygiene Award Scheme.

"The Business Bulletin is a valuable publication for the district's business community. It is packed with useful and relevant information and, as it is included on our website, it can be called up instantly 24 hours a day, across the district and beyond," said Cllr John Perry, Cabinet Member for the Economy.

Anyone who would like to see the Business Bulletin can [download it in PDF format from our website](#) or they can call Dawn Easter, Business Development & Regeneration Manager on 01394 444239.

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Have a fun swim at Felixstowe's winning beaches



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

03 Jun 2005

Archived press release.

Visitors to Felixstowe are being reminded that the resort has two award-winning beaches that have met the tough requirements of cleanliness and good management set by ENCAMS.

The Dip at Felixstowe once again recently won a Rural Seaside Award while the main resort beach at Felixstowe South was honoured with its Blue Flag for the fifth year running.

The Seaside Awards given by ENCAMS recognise clean, well-managed resort and rural beaches that comply with the legal minimum standards of water quality as laid down by the European Union. All bathing water is tested and only those beaches that meet the strict European guidelines are eligible for an award.

“ENCAMS measures nearly 20 different criteria before the awards are decided, and to win the Blue Flag, Felixstowe South beach had to meet additional categories on dog control, supervision and first aid facilities during peak hours and the provision of parking and toilets for disabled visitors,” said Cllr Andrew Nunn, Cabinet Member for the Environment Natural and Built.

“A lot of effort goes in each year to keep our beaches clean, fun and safe, and I am so pleased that ENCAMS recognises the good job being done by Suffolk Coastal in Felixstowe.

“As the weather is getting warmer, now seems a good time to not only remind people where our award-winning beaches are but also to ask them to play their part in keeping them that way by using a bin for litter or taking it home,” added Cllr Nunn.

Both beaches are clearly indicated by the flags flying by them and if anyone is unsure where they are they should contact the Felixstowe Tourist Information Centre on 01394 276770.

Sticking to these beaches does guarantee swimmers or beach strollers the official stamp of approval that does not exist with most beaches. Only 221 others in the country have met the standard of Felixstowe South and the Dip, with the rural ones at Aldeburgh, Thorpeness and Sizewell being the others in this district.

There are no official guarantees about the quality of other beaches, as was highlighted recently by a resident who notified Suffolk Coastal of a stagnant area of water on a stretch of beach north of the Dip in Felixstowe.

“Apparently the water is becoming stagnant, due to algae growing in it. It is believed that the Crown estates own the beach. No-one has any legal responsibility to test the water or to put up warning signs, but I think common sense would warn people that it would be best not to swim there and instead stick with the tried and tested beaches on offer at the Dip and Felixstowe South,” added Cllr Nunn.



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The 2005 edition of Where to Eat guide now available online



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03 Jun 2005

Archived press release.

Visitors and residents wanting to find out more about places to eat in the area can visit Suffolk Coastal's website where the 2005 edition of the "Where to Eat Guide" is available at a touch of a button.

The guide lists various types of eating places from hotels and restaurants to tea rooms and pubs and also gives information on whether an establishment has disabled access/facilities, a designated 'No Smoking' area and for how many it can cater. It is divided into four main areas - Aldeburgh, Felixstowe, Saxmundham/Framlingham and Woodbridge, all of which are easily reached from all parts of the district.

"Suffolk Coastal has many fine restaurants, as well as excellent hotels, pubs and cafes and we hope that this guide will make it easier for visitors and residents to choose the type of food they are looking for whether it be a celebration meal or a pub lunch," said Councillor John Perry, Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Tourism.

Copies of the guide are available from Suffolk Coastal's Tourist Information Centres at Woodbridge, Felixstowe and Aldeburgh and from 30 Tourist Information Points sited in post offices, pubs, restaurants and local shops throughout the district.

Establishments that are not featured in the guide and who would like to have an entry, can contact the Council's tourism and resort team on 01394 444538 for further information.



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Acceptable behaviour contracts issued in Woodbridge



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09 Jun 2005

Archived press release.

Three Acceptable Behaviour Contracts (ABCs) have been issued to young people in the Woodbridge area as part of Woodbridge Police and Suffolk Coastal District Council's campaign to tackle anti-social behaviour in the area.

Both organisations had received complaints from the community about acts of anti-social behaviour including fighting and abusive language.

"There is ongoing action by the police and the Council to address anti-social behaviour within the Woodbridge area and ABCs are one of the many tools that we can use," said Councillor Sherrie Green, Cabinet Member for Community Well-being.

"Suffolk Coastal is committed to working with the police to tackle all aspects of crime and disorder in this district and the Council's anti-social behaviour officer and the police are ready to use ABCs to help those parts of the community blighted by the uncivilised actions of a few individuals," added Councillor Green.

Anyone who would like to report a problem of anti-social behaviour should first report it to the police, dialling 999 if it is a serious incident. If there has been a pattern or regular problems with anti-social behaviour then call Ian Abery, Suffolk Coastal's anti-social behaviour officer, on 01394 444763 or by e-mail on ian.abery@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk.



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Leaders support calls for closer ties between County, Boroughs and Districts



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10 Jun 2005

Archived press release

Leaders and Chief Executives of local authorities across Suffolk have agreed to find new ways of working together. Their aims are to improve customer service, reduce costs and free up money to be re-invested in frontline services.

Ray Herring, leader of Suffolk Coastal District Council, hosted the meeting today (10 June) in Woodbridge. Leaders, Senior Councillors and Chief Executives from Suffolk County Council, Babergh District Council, Forest Heath District Council, Ipswich Borough Council, Mid Suffolk District Council, St Edmundsbury Borough Council, Suffolk Coastal District Council, and Waveney District Council attended the meeting.

After the meeting the leaders issued the following joint statement:

“The people of Suffolk want value for money and good service in all aspects of their lives. Modern, well-regarded organisations are successful because they focus on meeting the needs of the people they serve. They put the customer before the organisational or professional boundaries. They put value before cost and simplicity before complexity. The same can and must be true in local government.

“We believe Suffolk people want us to work together in this way. There are already examples of how authorities are achieving improved services through partnerships across the County such as the countywide Waste Management Consortium. Suffolk Coastal District Council manages the internal audit function for Ipswich Borough Council and Ipswich provides CCTV for both Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils.

“In Lowestoft, Suffolk County Council is working with Waveney District Council to provide single access through the Navigator service. St Edmundsbury and Forest Heath are exploring a number of opportunities for joint delivery of services, and Mid Suffolk District Council and Suffolk County Council have formed a joint venture with BT to improve customer service.

“There is even cross border co-operation between Suffolk and Norfolk County Councils with Great Yarmouth Borough and Waveney District Councils to form an Urban Regeneration Company as well as the Anglian Revenues and Benefits Partnership including Forest Heath and Breckland District Council

“We are committed to extending this work. We are committed to working better together to bring about long lasting changes that deliver real benefits to the people of Suffolk.”

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Suffolk Coastal backs the 'Backs 2005' Campaign



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

14 Jun 2005

Archived press release.

During the summer Suffolk Coastal will be supporting the Health and Safety Executive's major national campaign focussed on reducing the incidence of back pain at work.

The overall aim of the "Backs! 2005" initiative is to promote the use of lifting and handling aids and help encourage sensible ways of reducing work-related back problems. A nationally co-ordinated publicity, education and inspection programme over a four week period from June 13 to July 8 will form the main phase of the campaign.

"Currently lifting and other manual handling activities are a major cause of back injury and as many as one in six work-related sickness absences are due to bad backs - bad both for people and for business," said Councillor Sherrie Green, Cabinet Member for Community Well-being.

"Warehousing and distribution has been identified as a problem area and the Council's Food and Safety Team will be focusing their attention on those businesses in our district whose main activity relates to warehousing.

"The team will be visiting a number of businesses during June and July and carrying out specific in-depth inspections of the handling tasks that present the highest risk to employees' health and safety.

"Any action taken by the Food and Safety Team will be in line with our Enforcement Policy which can be found on the Council's website" continued Councillor Green.

In 2003/04 there were approximately 204,000 new cases of Musculo Skeletal Disorders (MSDs) resulting in 11.8 million lost working days. In the United Kingdom an estimated 1.1 million people suffer from a MSD that they believe was caused or made worse by their work.

Information on prevention of back injuries, recovery following a period of back pain, manual handling training and employer's responsibilities can be found on the Health & Safety Executive's website www.hse.gov.uk/betterbacks/index.htm

For further information on this campaign or other health and safety related issues contact the Food and Safety Team on 01394 444357.



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Council not surprised by Landmark East decision on Dunwich



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16 Jun 2005

Archived press release.

Suffolk Coastal has been closely following the progress of the competition since its inception. It has given assistance to the promoters of 'the Lost Churches of Dunwich' with their feasibility study to ensure that the wide range of issues that could affect the village of Dunwich and the surrounding parishes were addressed.

The Council recognised that of the four projects short-listed for the feasibility stage, Dunwich was likely to be most challenging. It is no great surprise that EEDA has concluded that the environmental and infrastructure issues associated with the village and the surrounding area make such a project undeliverable at Dunwich.

"While the concept behind the proposal of recognising the effects that the North Sea has had on our coastal communities is very worthwhile, there were just too many hurdles in the way to prevent the project becoming a reality in Dunwich. Perhaps the idea could be taken forward in a different way, at a different location on the Suffolk Coast, and people could still be provided with a lasting reminder of the fragility of our coastline," said Cllr Maggy Wilson, Cabinet Member for Community Well-being.

It has already been reported that the artists behind the Dunwich proposal are looking at an alternative location for a sculpture symbolising erosion, with a fresh proposal expected in September.

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Trimley youth ordered to be on good behaviour



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16 Jun 2005

Archived press release.

Magistrates in Ipswich this week (Tuesday) imposed a five-point anti-social behaviour order on a 17 year-old youth, Robert Paul Louis Williams of High Road, Trimley St Mary, after he pleaded guilty to one charge of public harassment and one charge of public nuisance.

This case is the latest result of an on-going campaign by Felixstowe Police and Suffolk Coastal to tackle anti-social behaviour in the Trimley area, which has included a number of youths being served with acceptable behaviour contracts (ABCs).

“Both ourselves and the police have received complaints over a period of time from residents in the Trimley community about anti-social behaviour in that area, and this case shows how seriously the issue has been taken,” said Cllr Sherrie Green, Cabinet Member with responsibility for community safety.

“I am pleased that the Courts have backed the police and the Council in our campaign by agreeing to impose a Criminal Anti-Social Behaviour Order (CRASBO) on this youth who has been identified as being at the core of many of the problems in the Trimley area.

“Magistrates have agreed a quite detailed list of conditions to control this individual’s behaviour and he is aware that a close eye will be kept to ensure he is complying with the orders. Failure to comply with the CRASBO could result in a period of detention and I hope that acts as a suitable deterrent,” added Cllr Green.

Among the conditions of the CRASBO are instructions not to contact directly or indirectly the occupants of five named houses in Trimley, or to associate with five named youths.

The Court also ordered the youth not to engage in behaviour likely to cause another person alarm, harassment or distress or to incite others to do so, or to use foul or offensive behaviour, spit or drop litter, along with a ban on possessing alcohol in any public place.

This is the second anti-social behaviour order served on a Trimley youth. ABCs are a written contract which spell out exactly what types of behaviour the person receiving them should not do, with the warning that if they are not adhered to the next stage could be injunctions, ASBOs or criminal prosecutions.

Suffolk Coastal is committed to working with the police to tackle all aspects of crime and disorder in this district. The Council’s anti-social behaviour officer and the police are ready to use ASBOs to help those parts of the community blighted by the uncivilised actions of a few individuals.

Anyone who would like to report a problem of anti-social behaviour should first report it to the police, dialling 999 if it is a serious incident. If there has been a pattern or regular problems with anti-social behaviour then call Ian Aberly, Suffolk Coastal’s anti-social behaviour officer, on 01394 444763 or by e-mail on ian.abery@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk



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Council set to appoint new Chief Executive?



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17 Jun 2005

Archived press release.

Stephen Baker is being recommended by senior councillors to Suffolk Coastal's Council meeting on Thursday, June 23 as the authority's new Chief Executive.

Currently the Chief Executive of East Northamptonshire Council, Mr Baker was previously employed by Ipswich Borough Council between 1982 and 2002 where he was an assistant to the Chief Executive.

"After a comprehensive and thorough interview process last Tuesday, I am very pleased to announce that the Appointments Committee is recommending that Stephen Baker be appointed as our new Chief Executive being the outstanding person from a quality range of candidates," said Cllr Ray Herring, Leader of Suffolk Coastal.

"We wanted to appoint an exceptional individual who can inspire, lead and deliver, building on the radical changes that have been made to achieve excellence at this Council. I believe that Stephen can make a difference for the benefit of the communities that make up Suffolk Coastal.

"The Appointments Committee felt that Stephen, who has a Suffolk background, demonstrated a real understanding of a rural district like Suffolk Coastal and the continued need to balance our very attractive and unique environment against the many pressures and opportunities of modern life," said Cllr Ray Herring, Leader of Suffolk Coastal.

Over 30 applications were received for the job, which was initially reduced to a 'long list' with 11 people being seen last week, before the final five were interviewed by the Appointments Committee, made up of six councillors including Cllr Herring this week (Tuesday).

The full Council meeting will be asked to agree that the position be formally offered to Mr Baker. The current postholder, Jan Ormondroyd, is leaving to become Deputy Chief Executive at Hull City Council.

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A big thank you to 1,200 litter pickers



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21 Jun 2005

Archived press release.

This year's litter campaign "Spring Clean 2005" has been a great success in Suffolk Coastal with 57 groups from 49 parishes organising litter picks in their part of the district.

Supported by the Council, 1,200 volunteers from town and parish councils, schools, residents' groups, youth groups and individual residents have collected 2,000 black sacks of rubbish.

"It is very encouraging that this year's annual litter pick has seen more people taking part, showing that local people have a real interest in the area in which they live, work and relax," said Councillor Andrew Nunn, Cabinet Member for the Environment, Natural & Built.

"Suffolk Coastal carries out regular monitoring of the district's cleanliness as part of the Local Environmental Quality Survey of England, and the latest survey has shown that Suffolk Coastal's cleanliness is improving. We would like to thank the volunteers who have helped the Council make this improvement possible," continued Councillor Nunn.

The Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act, which was passed in April this year, provides local councils and the Environment Agency with more effective powers and tools to tackle anti-social behaviour such as litter, fly tipping, and abandoned vehicles.

As well as supporting local litter pick initiatives, Suffolk Coastal carries out its own street cleansing programme, and the Council's enforcement officers issue Fixed Penalty Notices to people caught littering or failing to clear up dog mess.

Fixed Penalty Notices can be issued, by enforcement officers, to anyone dropping litter or allowing their dog to foul. If the penalty of £50 is not paid then prosecution for dropping litter onto open land, beaches, rivers, ponds or lakes can result in a fine of up to £2,500 if the case is taken to court.

Street cleansing and clearing up litter costs Suffolk Coastal residents £600,000 every year, and litter poses additional costs to the environment not only through pollution but also the hazard it causes to wildlife.

"It is disappointing that some people care so little about the local environment as to drop so much litter. There is no excuse for dropping litter, or for fly tipping. The district is well served with litter and dog waste bins at over 2,000 locations, we operate a low-cost special collection service for unwanted household items and there are three County-run household waste sites where household items can be disposed of free of charge," added Councillor Nunn.

Any parish, town council or organisation or individual who would like to help maintain or further improve the cleanliness of their neighbourhood by organising a litter pick can get support from Suffolk Coastal, including sacks, gloves and disposal of waste collected. Anyone who would like to participate can contact their parish or town council or call Suffolk Coastal on 01394 444000 or email waste.management@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk for events in their area or to register an event.

Suffolk Coastal can also arrange to visit schools to talk to pupils about litter and its environmental impact; any school interested in receiving a visit can contact Suffolk Coastal on 01394 444000.





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Community to check out Tesco receipt



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22 Jun 2005

Archived press release.

People in Woodbridge are to be asked over the summer for their views on projects that will contribute to the economic vitality of the town centre, funded from a £225,000 contribution by Tesco.

This large cash boost for the town was agreed by the supermarket giant and Suffolk Coastal to help compensate Woodbridge when planning permission was granted for the expansion of the Tesco store at Martlesham.

“It has been formally agreed that this money can only be spent on projects that improve and maintain the vitality and viability of Woodbridge town centre while reinforcing its character as an historic market town,” said Cllr John Perry, Cabinet Member for the Economy.

“The Woodbridge Town Trust has been delegated to take the lead on this, which includes developing projects and the submission of a detailed action plan. This is a great opportunity which I hope can be used to attract further funding to make a major impact on the town centre,” added Cllr Perry.



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Council pitches in with sporting boost



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22 Jun 2005

Archived press release.

Hopes for an all-weather sports pitch for Felixstowe have received a major boost after Suffolk Coastal agreed to put £90,000 towards the proposed development.

Planning permission has already been given to the football pitch-sized facility which is also set to have floodlights at its proposed site at Orwell High School.

“The total cost of the project is expected to be around £470,000 but, by showing its commitment to this project that will be available to all the community, the project can seek funding from national and regional bodies such as the Football Foundation,” said Cllr Maggy Wilson, Cabinet Member for Community Well-being.

“This would be a much-needed facility for both the school and the community. It would be a winter training ground for young footballers and would also help secure the future of Felixstowe Hockey Club.

“There has been a lot of hard work put in by the partnership behind the scenes and I am pleased that we are able to offer our support which hopefully will mean that this dream will now become reality,” added Cllr Wilson.

Suffolk Coastal’s Cabinet has agreed to release £60,000 of playspace funding and a further £30,000 for the facility which will be used by the school during the day and available to local clubs during the evenings, weekends and holidays. Orwell High School has already committed £20,000 of funding. Among those also involved in the partnership are local sports clubs, the Football Association, and Felixstowe Sports Council.

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Help keep the riverside shipshape



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22 Jun 2005

Archived press release.

This Saturday (June 25) will see the start of a campaign to keep the Woodbridge riverside area free of rubbish with the recruitment of a small volunteer army of litter busters.

The group behind this project to keep the area between Wilford Bridge and Kyson Point tidy is Woodbridge's Riverside Action Group who want all the community to play a part.

"Lots of local people take regular or occasional walks along the riverside and all we are asking them to do is to agree to be part of a team that takes responsibility for keeping a section of this area clean and tidy," said Peter Clay, Chairman of the Woodbridge and Melton Riverside Action Group (WAMRAG).

"On Saturday we will be carrying out a belated spring clean of the area when we want to get as many people along as possible to carry out a blitz on all the discarded rubbish.

"After that we want to have a rota whereby people will agree to pick up litter along agreed parts of the riverside. We hope to find a pool of people who will get into the habit to take a carrier bag with them to pick up rubbish as they go along their normal stroll along the riverside. Working together in partnership, we will be able to make a real impact and make this stretch of the Deben a place of which we can all be proud," added Mr Clay.

The litter picking will be an ongoing initiative and is open to everyone to get involved, whether it be on a daily or even monthly basis. An open evening is being held on Thursday (June 23) at the Woodbridge Community Hall, besides Deben swimming pool, between 6.30pm and 8.30pm when people can find out more or put their names down for cleaning up parts of the riverside.

Saturday's big clean-up starts at 10.45am, and is being supported by Suffolk Coastal Services Ltd who will be taking away all the collected rubbish at 12 noon by the Tide Mill. To find out more, contact Martin Wenyon on 07734 051305.

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Partnership issues young people with band on drinking



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23 Jun 2005

Archived press release.

Young people throughout the district are being issued with wristbands that glow in the dark as part of the Countywide Nightsafe initiative which is trying to reduce the amount of binge drinking and alcohol-related crime.

The Suffolk Coastal Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) is distributing the orange and yellow bands which bear the message 'have fun, keep safe' and are funded by the Home Office.

"This district is officially one of the safest in the country but we cannot afford to disregard the problems that the abuse of alcohol is causing to some people in our community whose enjoyment of life can be blighted by drunken anti-social behaviour," said Cllr Sherrie Green, Chairman of the Suffolk Coastal CDRP.

There is clear documentary proof linking alcohol consumption and violence, but there are other effects as well, such as making accidents more likely, and the risk of heart and liver disease.

"There are also significant risks regarding sexual behaviour and health, as people under the influence of alcohol have reduced inhibitions and are more likely to take part in risky or unprotected behaviour.

"The Nightsafe initiative recognises that the misuse of alcohol has wide-ranging implications and that no one single organisation can tackle it alone, which is why there is a partnership including the police, councils, licensees, health authorities and the Government to highlight the issues.

"This band contains a simple message that we hope will remind young people to drink sensibly and keep to their limits, so they and everyone else can have an enjoyable but safe night out," added Cllr Green.

The Nightsafe scheme has been instrumental in putting together a co-ordinated approach to dealing with a raft of issues related to the night-time economy and personal safety issues.

A thousand of the special wristbands are being given to young people in this district through licensees in the Felixstowe area, and youth organisations such as Rochford House, Just 42, CYDS, Kesgrave Youth Club, and Level 2.



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Serving all the community!



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23 Jun 2005

Archived press release.

Suffolk Coastal is putting to the test its commitment to ensuring its services are accessible by reviewing all its services.

Over the next three years, as part of its Services for All policy, the Council will assess how accessible its services are and introduce improvements to the way they are provided where appropriate.

“This is a large district with differing needs and we want to ensure that we make our services equally available to everyone regardless of whether they live in one of our towns or a remote rural village, and whatever their income, education, sex, race, disability or religious beliefs,” said Cllr Doreen Savage, Cabinet Member for customers and partners.

Suffolk Coastal is committed to treating all people with dignity and respect, providing high quality services that are appropriate and accessible to all sectors of the community, and consulting local communities to identify their needs and, where practical, to deliver services to meet those needs.

The Council also wants to encourage and enable all members of the community to participate in local decision-making, to treat people fairly as an employer, promote equality and diversity, and work with others to promote equal opportunities.

“Among our aims are to provide buildings that are accessible to all, offer clear information for all about our services, and to ensure that our employees understand our equality commitments so they can play their part in making Services for All a reality.

“We provide a wide range of services and, while I am sure we do not deliberately exclude some parts of our community, it is important that we double-check that we are being fair to everyone. Services for All is what we should be doing already, and this new commitment will ensure that we are,” added Cllr Savage.



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Stepping out in Suffolk



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23 Jun 2005

Archived press release.

A "Stepping out in Suffolk" information pack is being launched at Aldeburgh next week which has details of health walks, maps of Suffolk Coastal's three marked walks and advice on a healthy lifestyle.

Anyone who would like to attend the launch of the pack and take part in a health walk led by the Leiston Walk Leaders, should meet up at the Fort Green car park in Aldeburgh on Wednesday, June 29 at 10.30am. The walk will then follow the marked route along Aldeburgh seafront finishing at the Haven car park, opposite the Scallop.

Suffolk Coastal District Council, Suffolk Coastal Primary Care Trust and members from the voluntary and community sector have developed health walks across the district and the new pack to accompany the "Stepping Out" programme.

"Walking improves both mental and physical well-being and these walks have been designed for people who are recovering from an illness, have arthritis or joint pain, want to get fit or just as a means of making new friends," said Councillor Maggy Wilson, Cabinet Member for Community Well-being.

"The walks are led by trained volunteers who will talk with each walker before starting to check that it is within their capabilities and there is a volunteer who walks at the back of the group to make sure that slower members do not get lost or neglected.

"They last for about an hour, covering a distance of one or two miles and are generally on the level. Some are suitable for wheelchairs or pushchairs," continued Councillor Wilson.

Three routes in the district at Felixstowe, Woodbridge and Aldeburgh have now been marked up as health walks that people can do on their own. These are recognisable by the "Stepping Out" logo and show the distance walked in half-mile intervals. More marked health walks are planned for those who want achievable and safe walks for their ability.

"The Health Walks and Lifestyle Information Pack has been produced to give people information on the "Stepping Out" programme of health walks and maps of the marked routes, but also contains key messages on a healthy lifestyle including physical activity and how to improve general health. Contacts of organisations such as the Primary Care Trust, the Council or the voluntary sector have been provided for people who are looking for support or advice to help them improve their health or well-being," added Councillor Wilson, who will be at the launch together with Councillor Sherrie Green.

The Rural Coffee Caravan will be parked at the Fort Green car park offering people the chance to have a drink and look at the information contained on board about local services.

For more information on the launch, the health walks or the information pack contact Sharon Jarrett, Health Improvement Manager, on 01394 444697.

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Council agrees new face at the helm



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24 Jun 2005



Stephen Baker, Suffolk Coastal's new Chief Executive

Archived press release.

Stephen Baker will this summer take on the post of Chief Executive at Suffolk Coastal after councillors backed a recommendation to appoint him to replace Jan Ormondroyd who is joining Hull City Council.

Currently the Chief Executive of East Northamptonshire Council, Mr Baker worked at Ipswich Borough Council between 1982 and 2002 where he was the assistant to the Chief Executive before leaving.

“Last night’s Full Council meeting backed the recommendation of the Appointments Committee which, after a comprehensive and thorough interview process, recommended Stephen Baker as our new Chief Executive as he was the outstanding person from a quality range of candidates,” said Councillor Ray Herring, Leader of Suffolk Coastal.

“We wanted an exceptional individual who can inspire, lead and deliver, building on the radical changes that have been made to achieve excellence at this Council. I believe that Stephen can make a difference for the benefit of the communities that make up Suffolk Coastal and I am pleased that the meeting shared that view.

“Stephen has a Suffolk background and he demonstrated a real understanding of a rural district like Suffolk Coastal and the continued need to balance our very attractive and unique environment against the many pressures and opportunities of modern life,” said Cllr Ray Herring.

Over 30 applications were received for the job, with the final five being interviewed by the Appointments Committee, made up of six councillors including Cllr Herring.

“It is a huge privilege to be appointed as Chief Executive at Suffolk Coastal and I am delighted to have been chosen to take over from Jan Ormondroyd,” said Mr Baker, who is aged 46, married and has two children.

To cover the period until September 5 when Mr Baker commences work with Suffolk Coastal, one of the Strategic Directors, Jeremy Schofield, will be Acting Chief Executive.

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Fraudster to carry out community service



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24 Jun 2005

Archived press release.

A Felixstowe man was this week ordered to carry out 100 hours of community service after admitting that he had fraudulently claimed over £11,000 of housing and council tax benefits from Suffolk Coastal.

John Clark, 61, of Grange Road, Felixstowe admitted in court that over nearly seven years, he had on eight occasions deliberately and dishonestly concealed the fact that he was receiving Industrial Injuries benefit.

“This attempt to defraud the benefits system was discovered thanks to our close working partnership with the Department of Work and Pensions. One of our joint procedures is to check claimants’ records against the data held by the other organisation – in short, it is now harder than ever for a cheat to get away with it in our district,” said Cllr Chris Slemmings, Cabinet Member for Housing and Benefits.

In passing sentence, District Judge Cooper said that it was a pity that having served his country for nine years in the army as a younger man, Mr Clark had gone on to cheat the country some years later. The Judge added that Mr Clark deserved to go to prison but because of his age a custodial sentence would not be imposed.

“In the last year the Council successfully prosecuted 19 individuals through the criminal courts and issued formal sanctions to a further 19 individuals. This puts us firmly in the top 25% among British councils,” added Cllr Slemmings.

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

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

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Roadshows will show the way to a healthier life



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24 Jun 2005

Archived press release.

A roadshow offering information and advice on where and how people can improve their quality of life will be touring the district this summer.

Organised by a partnership of Suffolk Coastal District Council, Suffolk Coastal Primary Care Trust and the voluntary sector, the roadshows aim to put people in touch with the local organisations that can help them and also promote healthy living.

“This district is officially one of the healthiest in the country, but we know that there are still many people who experience poor health or stress-related problems without knowing who they can turn to,” said Councillor Sherrie Green, Cabinet Member for Community & Well-being.

“This roadshow will help people get in touch with the large local network of organisations that can help, with lots of information on what our hardworking voluntary sector can offer and how a healthy lifestyle may also contribute to a feeling of well-being.

“People who want to get more active in their community by giving up some of their spare time to support the efforts of the voluntary sector, can also visit the roadshow to find out how they can become involved,” continued Councillor Green.

There will be various activities to take part in including quizzes, a prize draw and exercise and the Rural Coffee Caravan will also be visiting some of the venues.

The “Helping Us to Help You” roadshow will be from 10am to 3pm and will be visiting:

Felixstowe seafront (close to the Leisure Centre) on Saturday, July 2

Westleton – the Barrel Fair on Sunday, August, 21

Tesco Car Park, Martlesham Heath on Friday, September 9

Somerfield Car Park, Saxmundham on Friday, September 16

Woodbridge Turban Centre car park on Thursday, September 29

If a local community or voluntary group would like their information displayed at the roadshow, they can contact Sharon Jarrett at Suffolk Coastal on 01394 444697 or email

sharon.jarrett@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk.

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Public given a chance to comment on the future of Felixstowe's Coastal Defences



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28 Jun 2005

Archived press release.

An exhibition is being held in Felixstowe this week when people can find out all about, and give their views on, the latest proposals on how to defend part of the resort's coastline.

Consultants have been drawing up reports on behalf of Suffolk Coastal and the Environment Agency, which set out how the stated policy of 'hold the line' can be achieved in South Felixstowe. These will be on show at Felixstowe Leisure Centre from 2pm to 8pm on Wednesday, June 29.

"These proposals cover the frontage between the War Memorial and Landguard Common and so include the main tourist area in Felixstowe. It is the agreed view of both ourselves and the Environment Agency, which has been accepted by the Government, that the existing line between the sea and the land in Felixstowe should be maintained," said Cllr Rae Leighton, Cabinet Member for planning and coastal protection.

The Felixstowe coastline has three distinct zones and three different studies have been undertaken to assess what needs to be done in each. For this southern section, Halcrows produced a strategy in 2003 which recommended rock fishtail groynes and/or off shore reefs. Black and Veatch have picked up the baton and have been looking at these and other options, such as timber groynes and straight rock groynes, with a view to starting work on the replacement of the existing concrete groynes in the Spring/Summer of 2006.

After carrying out an assessment process, the consultants are recommending 'T' shaped rock fishtail groynes that are 40 metres long, with a 20 metres long section at the seaward end. These would be spaced 110 metres apart.

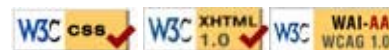
"The consultants have assured us that rock fishtail groynes are technically the best for Felixstowe and would also have fewer environmental impacts than other options, particularly as it is likely that the rock would be delivered by sea. They also tell us that a rock scheme is cheaper than timber and is therefore likely to be the only option that will get a full grant from the Government. What we now want is to hear the views of the public on these proposals and I hope as many people as possible come along on Wednesday to ask questions and air their views," added Cllr Leighton.

"Without the proposed new defences, continued exposure to rough seas, combined with sea level rise, will eventually result in the failure of the seawall and the promenade exposing the floodwall to direct wave attack. It could be that work would get underway on putting in new defences for this stretch of coastline as early as Spring 2006 but a lot will depend on what the public think of the ideas," added Cllr Leighton.

A number of recent studies have independently concluded that the beaches have been lowering because material has been moving offshore. Rock fishtail groynes are proven to be more effective at combating this offshore movement, and the most effective defence against erosion is a healthy beach.

Any member of the public who would like to find out more can contact Ken Gordon either by email to ken.gordon@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk or by telephone on 01394 444226, or Phil Clow of the Environment Agency on 08708 506506 or email phil.clow@environment-agency.gov.uk, or Ben Lutyens of Black and Veatch on 01737 856325 or email lutyensb@bv.com

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Inspector may halt Council's drive for affordable homes



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29 Jun 2005

Archived press release.

A Government-appointed planning inspector is threatening to undermine Suffolk Coastal's commitment to increasing the proportion of affordable homes in the district for local people.

Geoff Salter held a special Planning Inquiry on March 15 at the Council's Melton Hill offices to decide whether, through a series of recommendations, to give official backing for Suffolk Coastal's proposed new measures to address the district's need for affordable housing. The Council has now received his report.

"To help meet the increasingly urgent local demand for affordable housing, we proposed that one in three of all new homes in developments of three or more houses in villages, or six or more in towns, should be affordable housing," said Cllr Rae Leighton, Acting Cabinet Member for Planning.

"This sensible and important new tool is now in real danger of being blunted by Mr Salter who recommends that the thresholds for the application of the one in three homes rule should be increased to developments of nine in villages and 15 in towns respectively.

"I cannot see the logic for this recommendation which seems to fly in the face of the real needs of our district's communities as small villages so seldom have developments of nine or more houses. It goes against all the Government's statements about how important it is that councils encourage more affordable housing. We will now have to consider what we can do to ensure that the requirements of our residents are met," added Cllr Leighton.

The Inspector's report is due to be presented to a series of meetings, starting with the Local Development Framework Task Group on July 25 before finally the October meeting of Cabinet makes a recommendation to Council on the way ahead.

In his report, Mr Salter does support some policy changes suggested by the Council, including the consideration of granting planning permission on land outside of established town boundaries. These 'exception' sites would not normally be released for housing development. The draft report accepts this proposal for the edges of Aldeburgh, Framlingham, Leiston and Saxmundham but not for Woodbridge as the Council had also wanted.

Councillors now have to decide whether to accept the recommendations and then give the district a chance to comment on what would then be proposed modifications to the Local Plan, the existing planning blueprint for Suffolk Coastal.

A district-wide housing needs survey commissioned by Suffolk Coastal in 2000 revealed that 484 new affordable homes a year were required to meet local demand, with a particular need for rented housing. There has been a considerable amount of new house building in the district in recent years, but much of it has been targeted at people already on the rungs of the housing ladder.

Changing social trends such as more young single people wanting a home of their own, people

living longer and the break-up of relationships is creating a constantly increasing need for smaller and low-cost accommodation which has not been met by the market-led demand for large properties.

