

# COASTLINE

The Newsletter of Suffolk Coastal District Council

Issue 30, Winter 2006

## **Suffolk Coastal's new Green agenda**

Suffolk Coastal has committed itself to helping to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases by signing the national Nottingham Declaration on climate change.

“Climate change is widely recognised as the greatest environmental challenge facing the world, with rising global temperatures changing weather patterns, sea levels and increased frequency and intensity of extreme weather,” said Councillor Joan Sennington, Chairman of the Green Issues Task Group.

“Our district will be facing one of the most significant threats – sea levels are predicted to rise significantly above current levels by 2080, causing coastal erosion and flooding, and would inevitably have considerable economic and social impact on our local communities.

“Signing the declaration is a public commitment by the Council to improve our own performance in reducing energy consumption and carbon dioxide emissions and to influence others within the community to achieve similar improvements,” added Councillor Sennington.

The task group was recently set up to take a fresh look at how Suffolk Coastal is tackling environmental issues and help set some new additional green targets for the organisation.

The Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change is a voluntary pledge to address the issues of climate change. It is a high-level, broad statement of commitment that over 140 Councils, including Suffolk County Council, have signed.

“The Council is already working with the Energy Saving Trust to establish a baseline for its carbon dioxide emissions and once this carbon footprint has been established we will be able to set targets to improve our performance,” added Councillor Sennington.

## **Your Christmas rubbish details**

There is an important change to recycling and refuse collection services over the Christmas and New Year period with this year the collection teams coming one day later than usual over the holiday fortnight except for those who were due a collection on Christmas Day.

There will be no collections on Christmas Day, Boxing Day or New Year's Day and until Monday, January 8, residents are being asked to put their rubbish and recycling out one day later than normal - except for those who were due a collection on December 25 who are asked to put it out two days earlier, on Saturday, December 23.

For full details, see the leaflet that is being delivered to every home, or turn to page 10, or keep an eye on the Council's website, [www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk](http://www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk)

Residents are asked to recycling as much as possible, cut down the amount of waste, and put their stuff out for collection on the right day by 7.30am.

## **Has your community got its own website yet?**

Framlingham Computer Club was a recent winner at an event that put the spotlight on Suffolk's top community-based websites as part of the second birthday celebrations of onesuffolk – Suffolk's super website.

The awards ceremony at Kesgrave War Memorial Community Centre was held to recognise the hard work put in by the local people who run parish and community websites, powered by onesuffolk.

Set up two years ago through a partnership between county, district and borough councils, with the police, onesuffolk hosts more than 150 free community websites and there is loads of room for many more. To find out more visit [www.onesuffolk.co.uk](http://www.onesuffolk.co.uk)

“Suffolk leads the country when it comes to providing community websites. This is thanks to all the hard work put in by the volunteers who run them and are committed to providing people with information about what is going on in their communities,” said onesuffolk project manager, Adrian Lynch.

## **An early present for tourists**

The Suffolk Coast Holiday Guide will be launched ready for the Christmas rush to start planning next year's holidays. Since 1974, the Council has distributed over 1.5 million copies of the Guide and this latest edition will have a print run of 85,000 that will be sent throughout the British Isles and well beyond.

“The Guide remains a massively popular and useful way to find out where to stay and what to do in our district, and it will also be available on the tourism section of our website, [www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/tourism/](http://www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/tourism/) which attracted over 100,000 visits this year,” said Cllr John Perry, Cabinet Member for the Economy and Tourism.

There are over 160 entries listed in the Guide, which includes accommodation and places to visit, plus a list of some of the main events planned for the year. It is estimated that tourism brought in £170 million into the district in 2003 and it is one of the important local growth employment areas, with 4,000 full-time equivalent jobs.

## **TIC for Christmas**

With Christmas looming fast, Suffolk Coastal's Tourist Information Centres (TICs) at Aldeburgh, Felixstowe, and Woodbridge are worth a visit with a range of charity Christmas cards to choose from, and many unusual gifts as well.

“The TICs can also offer other services to help at this busy time, including booking London theatre and accommodation packages for most of the West End shows, they can book National Express tickets and at Woodbridge and Felixstowe rail tickets can be purchased, and they can also organise airport parking including an overnight stay if required,” said Councillor John Perry, Cabinet Member for the Economy and Tourism.

The TICs are open Monday to Friday 9am-5.30pm and 9am – 5pm on Saturday. Last year they dealt with over 100,000 visitors and answered 200,000 telephone and written enquiries.

The TICs are closed December 24-26 and 31, plus January 1, but are open 9am -5.30pm on December 27 - 30, although they close at 5pm on the 30th.

## **Budget Webchat with the Leader**

Suffolk Coastal's Leader and Chief Executive will be online to answer your questions in the first ever chatroom held on the Council's website on **Wednesday, December 6 between 6pm and 9pm.**

The Council is seeking views on how it can plan its budget and deliver its services, and Councillor Ray Herring and Stephen Baker will be online to field your questions.

This is your chance to quiz them about the Council's spending or its services. All you will have to do is visit the Council's website [www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk](http://www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk) and follow the link off the home page. Full details will be on the website on how you can take part.

Visitors to the website can also play the budget game and make their spending decisions on nearly 40 different local services, and see the impact on the services and the Council Tax bill.

“This is a fun way to involve people in what is a very serious subject and I do hope that our residents will take a few minutes to play this budget game, as the Council is keen to listen to their views as we draw up a budget for 2007/08 and plan our services and spending for the next three years,” said Cllr Ray Herring, Leader of Suffolk Coastal.

“This is another way that local people can help us bridge our budget £850,000 gap.

“We are doing all this because we want as wide a range of views as possible. We have made £6 million of efficiencies and additional income over the last five years, which on a budget of nearly £14 million is a real achievement, but we do now need more help to bridge our financial gap,” added Cllr Herring.

## **Your views are being heard**

Responses to the budget survey in the last edition of CoastLine are still being received, and will be reported back to councillors. You can still have your say by using the online questionnaire available on the Council's website or call 01394 444345 if you need another copy of the autumn edition of CoastLine.

The Suffolk Speaks partnership recently surveyed residents for their views and these are the results from this district on service and spending related issues. A majority of the 598 responses backed a moderate increase in Council Tax to maintain a similar level of service, or a significant increase in Council Tax to improve services. Only 42 per cent wanted some services reduced to keep Council Tax increases as low as possible.

There were strong calls for services such as car parks, sports and leisure facilities, and the arts to be funded by the users of the services rather than from Council Tax, whereas the survey strongly thought that the costs of toilets and country parks should still be met from Council Tax.

The top five services, out of the 21 on offer, that people most wanted to see an increase in spending were community safety and crime prevention, coastal protection, household waste/recycling, encouraging the provision of affordable housing, and health improvement /independent living. Do you agree? Give us your views.

The top five services (out of 21) that people said would be most suitable for reduced spending were beach huts and resort activities, licensing (of pubs, bars and taxis), arts and heritage, car parks, and planning and building control.

## **We will want your views on our LDF**

Watch out for the next stage of the consultation on Suffolk Coastal's Local Development Framework (LDF), the document that will set out the development needs of the district for the next 15 years.

In January and February, the Council will be asking the public for their views on the distribution of housing across the district

and new planning policies that will help improve the quality of life.

“These homes will meet the needs of the whole district, including the unmet demand for more affordable homes, the reduction in household size and the growth of the Port of Felixstowe,” said Councillor Ray Herring, Leader of the Council.

“These will be vital to preserve this district's well-being because without these additional new homes our social and economic lifeblood will leave as our young people will have nowhere to live,” added Cllr Herring.

Suffolk Coastal is faced with an urgent need to identify suitable sites in the district for a further 10,200 homes by 2021. Unlike counties such as Essex and Hertfordshire, who are facing enormous pressure from the Government to cater for ever greater growth, in Suffolk Coastal the level of new housing that the Council has agreed, in the East of England Plan, of 500 homes a year until 2021, is similar to that which has been built annually over the last 20 or so years.

"We will be giving everyone a full opportunity to make their comments during the consultation. This Council is looking forward to involving everyone in that process. I expect us to do it in a way that will be as wide-reaching as possible because we are committed to encouraging widespread and informed public consultation,” added Cllr Herring.

The LDF consultation has been delayed because of new Government advice, but it is hoped to publish a final version of this important document in the autumn next year when again everyone will be asked for their comments. and views on what is being proposed. Watch out for more details in CoastLine or visit [www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk](http://www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk)

## **Keep rescue service afloat**

The Felixstowe Volunteer Coast Patrol Service wants more volunteers to come forward to help take it into its 10th year of service at the resort.

Its boat, the Volunteer, recently had two new engines, partly thanks to a grant from Suffolk Coastal. If you are over 18, reasonably fit, a swimmer and can give a commitment to the community of a minimum of one day a month, and are willing to be trained, then call the Chairman of the Service John Cresswell on 01394 270929 or the crew manager Simon Comber on 07715 371649.

## **Grants signposted on the net**

Details of funding sources available to local groups can now be found on the Council's website at [www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/helpingpeople/communitygrants/](http://www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/helpingpeople/communitygrants/)

It also includes details of Grantnet, a free service purchased by Suffolk County Council.

Suffolk Coastal itself issues over £150,000 a year to support local organisations that are providing useful services or facilities across the district. These can either be capital grants, for expensive equipment or building improvement, or revenue grants for more routine running or day-to-day costs. To find out more contact us on 01394 444626 or email [committee.section@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk](mailto:committee.section@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk)

The grant-aiding organisations included on the webpage include

Action for Market Towns  
0845 644 6202

Awards for All

0845 600 2040

Biffaward

0870 036 1000

Big Lottery Fund - Community Buildings

0845 410 2030;

Big Lottery Fund -

Reaching Communities

0845 410 2030

Charles Hayward Foundation

0207 370 7063

English Heritage

01223 582700

Esmee Fairbairn Foundation

0207 297 4700

Football Foundation

0845 345 4555

Foundation for Sports and the Arts

0151 259 5505

Garfield Weston Foundation

020 7399 6565

Grants for the Arts

0845 300 6200

Heritage Lottery Fund

01223 224 881

Lankelly Chase Foundation

01235 820044

Paul Hamlyn Foundation  
0207 227 3500

Single Suffolk Gateway  
01473 264653;

Sport England  
0845 8508 508

Suffolk ACRE - Funding for Parish Plans  
01473 242533

Suffolk ACRE -  
Local Network Fund  
01473 242532

Suffolk Environmental Trust  
01394 675299

## **Village of the year**

Council Chairman Sir Peter Batho recently handed over the trophy to the district's village of the year, with Michael Argent of Wickham Market Parish Council receiving it on behalf of the victors.

## **Need money to help local children**

The Local Network Fund is Government funding for children and young people facing disadvantage, and Suffolk's share for 2006/07 is £441,380, of which there was recently still around £300,000 unclaimed.

Any local community/voluntary groups who are charitable or not for profit organisations can apply for a grant of between £250 and £7,000 for projects that will improve or enhance the

lives of disadvantaged children and young people aged 0 –19 years or up to 25 for young people with learning disabilities. Applications must cover one of the following five areas - being healthy, staying safe, enjoying and achieving, making a positive contribution, and/or achieving economic well-being.

The scheme is run in the county by Suffolk ACRE and if you would like to find out more call Christine Abraham – on 01473 242532 or email [christine.abraham@suffolkacre.org.uk](mailto:christine.abraham@suffolkacre.org.uk)

There are also full details and an application form on [www.suffolkacre.org.uk](http://www.suffolkacre.org.uk)

## **Hacheston's Green**

Local television personality Peter Purves was on hand recently to help officially open a new village green at Hacheston which was largely funded by the Countryside Agency and the Big Lottery. The Doorstep Green project also gained £5,000 of backing from Suffolk Coastal in support of the initiative which has provided the village with its own green and play area for all to enjoy.

## **Local store will offer an even better service**

Alderton Peninsula Pantry and Post Office Store is the first rural service in Suffolk Coastal to receive a grant from the re-launched Suffolk Rural Services Scheme.

The Alderton store got up to £3,600 towards the cost of a new blast chiller for ready meals, a re-shelved retail area and improved the lighting.

“This initiative offers help to people who run an essential village service, such as an independent shop, pub or garage, who want to improve or increase the service they offer to their local communities,” said Councillor Ray Herring, Chairman of the Suffolk Coastal Local Strategic Partnership (LSP).

The scheme also funds essential rural community services such as childcare provision or maintenance of village halls and is funded by grants from the East of England Development Agency, as well as Suffolk Coastal LSP, district and borough councils with rural areas such as Suffolk Coastal, Suffolk County Council and the Suffolk Development Agency.

“I hope more of our independent rural businesses will take advantage of the business and funding advice on offer and grants of up to £5,000 towards meeting half the project costs of any proposed expansion or improvement to their service.

“One of the LSP’s key issues is access to services as there has clearly been a general decline in rural areas both nationally and locally. This decline is not inevitable and businesses, with assistance to make improvements and the support of their community, can reverse this trend,” continued Councillor Herring.

Last year, four local businesses in Bredfield, Hollesley, Otley and Peasenhall received help. To find out more contact Stephen Watt or Dawn Smith on 01473 264832 or 01473 264817 or email [stephen.watt@suffolkcc.gov.uk](mailto:stephen.watt@suffolkcc.gov.uk) or visit [www.suffolk.gov.uk/BusinessAndConsumer/RegenerationAndCommunityDevelopment/RuralandCommunity/](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/BusinessAndConsumer/RegenerationAndCommunityDevelopment/RuralandCommunity/)

## **New boost for voluntary sector**

The district's voluntary and community organisations have gained an important boost from the appointment of Karen Lawson to give them specialist help, thanks to funding from the Suffolk Coastal Local Strategic Partnership (LSP).

Karen is the Voluntary and Community Sector Development Co-ordinator, and is based with the Suffolk Association of Voluntary Organisations (SAVO).

“This is a key role in helping to support and develop the work of voluntary and community organisations in our district. These groups provide services enjoyed by thousands of our residents and it is a recognition of their importance that they are now being described nationally as the third sector, after the business and public sectors,” said Councillor Ray Herring, Chairman of the Suffolk Coastal LSP.

Among the immediate goals of the new job will be to create a database of all the voluntary and community organisations in the district, offering support and advice to the groups so they can achieve better training and funding, and promote their activities and the need for volunteers.

“Funding is becoming increasingly difficult with a wide variety of funders, each with strict criteria. The demands on existing volunteers, and the need for new ones, is also becoming greater. The LSP and SAVO hopes that Karen will play a vital part in helping groups to grow and be better informed about developments so that they are able to continue their excellent work throughout our district,” added Cllr Herring. To contact Karen Lawson call her on 01473 275195 or email [karen.lawson@savo.co.uk](mailto:karen.lawson@savo.co.uk)

## **Help on hand for rural businesses**

Thanks to the Haven Gateway Partnership and Suffolk Coastal, specialist help and advice is on hand from a rural affairs advisor whose goal is to safeguard existing jobs, encourage new jobs and help attract inward investors to the rural areas in the south of the district.

Since April, Ed Bennett, the rural affairs advisor, has been giving support to a number of local businesses, farmers and landowners, and has helped set up a survey to identify redundant rural buildings.

"Part of Ed Bennett's role is to help farmers and landowners bring about the change of use of old agricultural buildings to help either create new jobs or safeguard existing ones," said Councillor John Perry, Cabinet Member for the Economy and Tourism.

"As businesses develop, it is inevitable that they need new premises and making use of farm buildings is an extremely good way of making the most of this district's existing options, rather than having to identify and build new sites.

"The Haven Gateway Partnership, of which this Council is an active member, is working to attract new investment and jobs into the southern part of our district. Ed Bennett is a key part of that strategy and I would recommend rural businesses in that area to contact him and see what help he can provide," added Cllr Perry.

Anyone wanting to contact the rural affairs advisor, Ed Bennett an email [ed.bennett@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk](mailto:ed.bennett@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk) or call 01394 444239.

## **Healthy walks**

Whether it's to get fit, help recover from an illness or just for the enjoyment of walking with other people, the Stepping Out guided walks held across the district area offer the lot.

The latest programmes of walks have now been published and anyone who is interested in improving their health through regular walking to invited to join in.

“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 Sherrie Green, Cabinet Member for Community Well-being.

Suffolk Coastal District Council, Suffolk Primary Care Trust and members from the voluntary and community sector have developed these health walks across the district ranging from ones on easy flat good surfaces to more challenging ones which may include steeper slopes and rough ground.

For more information contact Sharon Jarrett, Suffolk Coastal’s Health Improvement Manager, on 01394 444697. The programme of health walks can be found on [www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourfreetime/steppingout](http://www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourfreetime/steppingout)

### **Temporary changes to some NHS services**

While Felixstowe General Hospital has a £1.4m transformation into a modern community hospital some services are being temporarily relocated to the Bartlett Hospital in Undercliff Road.

Please contact the relevant department on clinic days for more information and advice.

- Minor Injury Unit and Outpatients Clinics - call 01394 458 848
- Audiology (hearing appointments) - call 01394 458 848
- Speech and Language Therapy - call 01394 458 833
- Podiatry call - 01394 458 891 • Leg Ulcer Club - call 01394 458 848
- SuffDoc (doctors on call) - call 01473 299 622

Childrens' Services will move to St Felix Church Hall, Gainsborough Road, and Felixstowe Library, Crescent Road for the same period - telephone 01394 458 840.

Main hospital telephone numbers remain unchanged. Felixstowe General Hospital is 01394 458 820 and Bartlet Hospital is 01394 458 870.

## **You know it makes sense**

If you are looking for a healthy and wealthy new year resolution, then a burning £5 note rolled up to look like a smouldering cigarette may be just the prompt you need.

The above image is part of a Suffolk Stop Smoking Service campaign that focuses on the financial rather than the health cost of smoking.

"Everyone knows that smoking is bad for your health but if you smoke 20 cigarettes a day, quitting could be like a wage increase of over £2,000 a year – which could buy you a fantastic family holiday, a designer wardrobe or top football club season tickets for you and your mates," said Hilary Andrews, the service's co-ordinator.

"People who smoke are four times more likely to quit if they take advantage of genuine help and support rather than trying to tough it out by themselves, which is why we're asking anyone who wants help to contact us," added Ms Andrews.

The Suffolk Stop Smoking Service is funded by Suffolk Primary Care Trust (PCT) and Great Yarmouth and Waveney PCT. Last year, the service helped 3,740 smokers in the county to quit. You can contact the service on its freephone number 0800 085 6037, or email [suffolk.stop.smoking@ipswichhospital.nhs.uk](mailto:suffolk.stop.smoking@ipswichhospital.nhs.uk) or text 01473 704314. Alternatively, visit [www.suffolkstopsmokingservice.co.uk](http://www.suffolkstopsmokingservice.co.uk)

## **Helping local children lose weight**

A recent survey showed that this district had fewer obese children than other areas in Suffolk, but that worryingly over one in eight of them were obese, according to Suffolk's Primary Care Trusts (PCTs).

As part of a national campaign, Suffolk PCTs worked with schools last term to weigh and measure all children in Year 6 (10-11 year olds) and Reception year (4-5 year olds). This showed that 13.9 per cent of those in East Suffolk were obese, compared to 15.1 in Ipswich, 14.7 in West Suffolk and 16.5 in Waveney.

The countywide figures showed that the 10-11 year olds showed the most worrying trend with 32.62 per cent being either overweight or obese. In the younger age group, 23.06 per cent of children are either overweight or obese.

“We know that obesity causes many conditions in adults, including heart disease and diabetes, that can be debilitating and life-threatening. We also know that obesity costs Suffolk's health services about £17.5m a year. We need to help some of our young people to lose weight so that they become fitter and healthier and do not become obese adults,” said Norman Foster of Suffolk PCT's Public Health Team.

Suffolk PCTs are working with partners, including the Suffolk Coastal Local Strategic Partnership, to put on courses for children, and their parents or carers, to help them overcome the problem. These MEND courses (Mind, Exercise, Nutrition and Diet) have been devised by Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children and cover all of the complex issues affecting obesity in young people. For more information about MEND call 01449 618240.

## **Homes can be warmer and greener**

With the increasing national and international focus on climate change, local residents should remember that for many of them there is help on hand to make their homes more energy efficient.

Suffolk Coastal has a long-standing policy of offering grants of up to £5,000 to pay for improvements to some of the district's least energy efficient homes.

"To help those in the most need, we target our grants at those who are aged over 65 or are in receipt of benefits and the grant can cover improved insulation, and new central heating systems," said Councillor Chris Slemmings, Cabinet Member for Housing.

"These grants not only improve the quality of life of many of our residents, with warmer homes and cheaper fuel bills, but also help the environment by the use of more energy efficient heating systems.

"Anyone who would like to make their homes warmer and greener can contact our private sector housing team for more information about the grants. Even if they are not eligible for them, our team can offer expert advice on how to make their homes more energy efficient," added Cllr Slemmings.

On offer are schemes aimed at everyone, with an insulation scheme that offers a £50 rebate off the Council Tax bill. The Council also supports a solar water heating scheme which offers very competitive rates without a high pressure sales pitch. Details of the grants scheme is available on the Council's website [www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourhome/housing/grants/minorworks/](http://www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourhome/housing/grants/minorworks/) or can be obtained from the private sector housing team on 01394 444506. For details of the £50 Council Tax rebate for insulation and the solar water heating scheme call 0800 028 8938

## **Helping towns and parishes plan for the future**

The complicated but important task of making plans for their area's future will now be much easier for the district's town and parish councils thanks to a link-up between Suffolk Coastal Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) and Suffolk ACRE.

A new post of Town and Parish Plan Co-ordinator has been funded by the LSP and Sunila Osborne is already in place at the Suffolk ACRE offices.

"The LSP has set Sunila the tough target of helping 60 per cent of the 100 plus town and parish councils develop their own plans for the future of their areas by 2008," said Councillor Ray Herring, Chairman of the Suffolk Coastal LSP.

"She will be able to make it easier for them, offering guidance and support to all those towns and parishes that want to put in place their own parish plan which will identify the future needs and desires of their community.

"Having a parish plan in place makes it far easier for towns and parishes to attract funding, as well as giving a clear and accurate snapshot of an area and how it's community agrees it needs to change," added Cllr Herring.

The goal is that by 2010 every town and parish in the district will have their own parish plan, which will help plan the delivery of services and development across Suffolk Coastal.

Suffolk ACRE has now written to every town and parish clerk informing them about the help now on offer.

"Parish plans are an excellent initiative but they do require a good deal of work which is where this new post will prove so important. It is vital to involve as much of the local community as possible to make the final documents truly reflective of the

needs and views of the people in the area covered," added Cllr Herring.

Any town or parish that would like more information about this latest LSP initiative can contact Sunila at Suffolk ACRE on 01473 242544 or can email [sunila.osborne@suffolkacre.org.uk](mailto:sunila.osborne@suffolkacre.org.uk)

## **Grants on offer to encourage more homes for rent**

The district's growing need for more homes for rent at affordable prices is being partly met by Suffolk Coastal's cash incentive of *repair to let* grants of up to £20,000 to landlords.

The Council's private sector housing team is ready to help people who need to carry out essential repairs or maintenance work that will bring an empty property up to scratch so it can be rented out.

"At present we are willing to fund 40 per cent of the cost of these works, with the only proviso being that the home should be rented out at an affordable level," said Councillor Chris Slemmings, Cabinet Member for Housing.

"In the last 15 months we have paid out nearly £28,000 of support to landlords to help increase the number of rented homes in our district.

"We are looking at how we can make the scheme even more effective, and as well as consulting with our Landlords Seminar, I would welcome the views of people on how we can make it even better as it is important that we make more use of the district's existing housing. This is just one of the initiatives we are taking that has helped 41 vacant homes come back into use since April," added Cllr Slemmings.

For more information visit [www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourhome/housing/grants/renovatio](http://www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourhome/housing/grants/renovatio)

n/ or call the private sector housing team on 01394 444506. Comments on how the scheme can be improved can be sent to Peter Kerridge at Suffolk Coastal District Council, Melton Hill, Woodbridge IP12 1AU, or by email to [peter.kerridge@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk](mailto:peter.kerridge@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk)

## **Suffolk Coastal Local Strategic Partnership**

Over 70 local organisations recently attended the annual forum of the Suffolk Coastal Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) to help play their part in improving the quality of life in the district. In this edition there are also many articles which mention the LSP and this feature puts the spotlight on the LSP.

### **What is a LSP?**

The Government identified Local Strategic Partnerships (LSP) as the best way of promoting the social, economic and environmental well-being of communities.

The Suffolk Coastal LSP brings together public, private, voluntary and community organisations to work together to enhance local quality of life.

It aims to ensure that the key decisions made today are sustainable and will not have a negative impact on future generations.

One of the major roles of the LSP is to prepare and implement a Community Strategy for the district.

**Suffolk Coastal 2021**, the Community Strategy for the Suffolk Coastal district, was drawn up after consulting local people so that its aims reflect what the community wants.

Suffolk Coastal 2021 identifies the ambitions of the LSP and where it believes that it can uniquely make a difference by working together.

The 12 key issues identified for the district in Suffolk Coastal 2021 are:

- **Feeling safe and being safe from crime**
- **Affordable housing**
- **Providing support for vulnerable adults and young people**
- **Estuary and coastal management**
- **Developing tourism, maritime and high technology industries**
- **Helping older people living in their own homes and communities**
- **Tackling regeneration in priority areas like Felixstowe**
- **Young people**
- **Community development**
- **Access to services**
- **Healthy lifestyles**
- **Economy, learning and skills**

The Suffolk Coastal LSP will take a lead role in delivering on these ambitions and its Board will oversee the work of the Partnership. The work of the LSP is resourced by the local partners.

### **Want to find out more about the LSP**

Look out for news in CoastLine or visit [www.sclsp.org.uk](http://www.sclsp.org.uk)  
Or you can email [sclsp@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk](mailto:sclsp@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk) or call 01394 444252, or write to the Suffolk Coastal LSP, c/o Suffolk Coastal District Council, Melton Hill, Woodbridge IP12 1AU

### **Who are on the LSP's board?**

The Woodbridge Garrison of the Army, BT Exact, local care organisations, Environment Agency, local sports and recreation groups, the Greenprint Forum, Job Centre Plus, Learning & Skills Council for Suffolk, social housing landlords, Suffolk

ACRE, Suffolk Association of Voluntary Organisations, Suffolk Association of Local Councils, Suffolk Coastal Business Forum, Suffolk Coastal District Council, Suffolk Primary Care Trust, Suffolk Constabulary, Suffolk County Council, Suffolk Development Agency and Suffolk Police Authority.

The Board is supported by a wide range of other local organisations from across the district.

### **The issues that the LSP is concentrating on**

Currently 94 per cent of people in the district tell us they are satisfied with Suffolk Coastal as a place to live, but we and our residents know that things could still be better.

The Suffolk Coastal LSP identified 12 key issues for improvement, one of which is **reducing crime and the fear of crime**. The Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership, as part of the LSP, is working to achieve that goal.

The LSP is concentrating on five main issues:

**young people** - we want them to have their voice heard so they can be more involved in the services and decisions that affect their lives now and give them a stake in the future of the district.

**economy, learning and skills** – we want to support local businesses to enhance prosperity across the district, including rural areas. We want people to develop their skills to make the most of local job opportunities.

**access to services** - the LSP wants local people to be able to access key services such as education, employment, health care, shops, and leisure facilities. We are supporting transport and other initiatives, particularly in rural areas, that will improve access.

**community development** - the demand on our voluntary and community groups has never been greater. We will help them develop their valuable work across the community.

**healthy lifestyles** - we will promote healthy living and support those people who need help to give up smoking, to become more active, or to reduce their weight.

The LSP is working with other organisations and partnerships that are already tackling the remaining six key issues.

### **What happened at the forum**

Representatives from over 70 different organisations attended the annual forum of the LSP hosted at Snape Maltings at the start of November. After an introduction by the Chairman of the LSP Board, Councillor Ray Herring, and a resumé of the activities of the LSP, the audience was split into four groups. These groups then had the chance to have their input on four key aspects of the work of the LSP. The representatives were able to give their views and ask questions on the subjects of the crime and disorder reduction partnership, engaging with young people, volunteering, and the LSP Board. Each workshop session threw up a range of useful ideas and these are now being assessed as the LSP plans its future work.

### **Recent LSP achievements**

- The LSP has someone working with parishes to develop effective parish plans (see page 7 for more details)
- Supported the local MEND (Mind, Exercise, Nutrition and Diet) initiative which helps obese children lose weight (see page 6 for more details)

- The LSP has someone working with young people so they can be more involved in the services decisions that affect their lives now and give them a stake in the future of their district
- A series of Quality of Life events held in Felixstowe, Woodbridge and Leiston during the summer to inform residents about the information and opportunities on offer to become healthier and also more involved in their communities
- Helped fund a mobile skate park so it could provide fun activities for young people across the district, including rural areas
- Funding for targeted action to reduce crime and disorder which will include working with young people, and publicity campaigns (see page 13 for more details)
- The LSP has someone working with voluntary organisations across the district to help them grow and attract new funding and volunteers (see page 5 for more details)
- Helps fund the Suffolk Rural Services Scheme for independent village shops, pubs or garages to improve or increase the service they offer to their local communities (see page 5 for more details)

## **Go local for your special presents**

Don't forget that local shops across the district have a range of special items that could make the ideal Christmas present and save you spending hours on the internet or fighting through the queues at the superstores or battling in and out of Ipswich.

Whether it is Felixstowe, Woodbridge, Framlingham, Saxmundham or Aldeburgh to name but a few, there are loads of local stores selling things that could be an ideal gift this year – and don't forget that the Council's three Tourist Information

Centres are packed with goodies as well. So whether it is books or clothes, fancy foods or fancy trinkets, try looking locally.

Woodbridge is again offering a range of seasonal events to attract shoppers with a snow machine at the late-night shopping event on Market Hill on Friday 15 December.

Sunday 3 December will see the traditional Christmas Street Fair, with Stax of Sax and a Punch and Judy show, plus a Crafts for Christmas Fair at the Community Hall.

Friday 8 December from 4.00 to 6.00pm is the Children's Christmas Evening in the Thoroughfare, including Santa with his sleigh, plus a parade of Chinese lanterns, and choirs and musicians. Thursday 21 December at 6.30pm, on Market Hill is a Carol Concert with Santa making a return visit.

## **Funding plea for Woodbridge's SkatePark**

The Woodbridge SkatePark Project Partnership is asking the community to help it find the £50,000 needed to turn into reality the long-term dream of a facility for the town's youngsters. The SkatePark has planning permission and has already gained promises of over £79,000 of funding but is still some way short of its target. So, the Partnership is writing to over 200 local businesses asking for sponsorship, as well as seeking grants from the National Lottery and the Suffolk Environmental Trust.

“It is important for Woodbridge that we deliver this project as soon as possible. After years of planning we are now at the stage of do or die. Either we raise the money soon, or we will simply have to walk away as the Town Council's financial commitment is only on offer until August next year,” said County Councillor Ben Redsell, who chairs the partnership.

“We have planning permission on this site, we are a long way towards raising the money, now we need the local community to

come together to help us over the finishing line," added Cty Cllr Redsell.

The Partnership is made up of Woodbridge Town Council, Suffolk Coastal District Council and Just 42. Local young people have raised several hundred pounds over the years.

## **Get set for sports awards**

Suffolk Coastal community sports network is organising the district's first annual Sports Awards. Nominations will open early December and the actual event will take place in mid-February. The Awards are designed to reward people and organisations who have shown throughout 2006 that they have achieved notable success or made a significant contribution towards their chosen sport.

Nominations will only be accepted for people and organisations residing and/or participating within the Suffolk Coastal district area. The Award categories are: Sports Personality, Young Sports Personality (under 18 on 31 August 2006), Disabled Sports Person, Club of the Year; Coach of the Year; Sporting School; Volunteer of the Year; Lifetime Achievement.

In addition, Suffolk Coastal Sports Awards Winners will automatically be put forward to the Suffolk Sports Awards 2007 where the three finalists will be invited to attend the ceremony in October 2007.

Nomination forms can be obtained by contacting either Richard Baldwin, 01394 444318, Sarah Shinnie 01394 444652 or emailing [active.leisure@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk](mailto:active.leisure@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk)

## **Christmas week collections December 2006**

If you normal collection would be on      Mon 25 Tues 26 Wed 27 Thurs 28  
Fri 29

Then it will be made on      Sat 23 Wed 27 Thurs 28 Fri 29  
Sat 30

## **New Year collections January 2007**

If you normal collection would be on      Mon 1    Tues 2    Wed 3    Thurs 4  
Fri 5

Then it will be made on      Tues 2    Wed 3    Thurs 4 Fri 5  
Sat 6

At this time of year, more rubbish than ever is put out for collection. Please recycle as much as possible – remember that unwanted food can now go in your brown bin.

Because of the extra demand, the collection teams may call earlier than usual so please put out your items by 7.30am on collection day. All services will be back to normal from Monday, January 8.

For more information about recycling and refuse collection days call 01394 444000, or visit [www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk](http://www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk).

## **More protection for Felixstowe's sea wall**

The sea defences in South Felixstowe have been bolstered by a further 1,500 tonnes of rock to help ensure they will be effective during the winter months.

The Council's contractors added two 50-metre stretches of rock defences in front of the sea wall on either side of where the 350-metre length of emergency work was carried out during the summer. The temporary defences worked effectively against the tide surge at the end of October.

“This is a precautionary measure which we expect will prevent a repeat of the situation at the end of May when part of the sea wall collapsed and the promenade cracked in several places,” said Councillor Andy Smith, Cabinet Member for Coast Protection and Deputy Leader of the Council.

“We have been unsuccessful in gaining the necessary Government funding to carry out the planned groyne replacement programme that would provide this area of Felixstowe with the long-term defences that our community really needs and deserves. Until that funding is finally approved, we will continue to do our best to provide effective but temporary protection,” added Cllr Smith.

The Council is still hopeful that the Government will approve its bid for its £6 million groyne replacement scheme to begin next year. This latest temporary work will cost £130,000 and will bring the total cost of the work carried out by the Council since May to £500,000, a cost which it expects to recoup from the Government by the end of the financial year.

## **Opening up a box can rekindle memories at home**

Two of the district's local museums have been involved in an exciting new project that uses boxes of historical items to help families stimulate the memories of relatives who are suffering from the early stages of dementia.

Felixstowe Museum and Leiston Long Shop Museum have linked up with two branches of the Alheimers' Society to get involved in a project that has proved to be both revealing and heart-warming.

“Working with objects and images from a person’s past can activate a part of the brain least affected by short-term memory loss and can bring out even the most withdrawn individuals. Museums are in an ideal position to help people in the earlier stages of dementia retain their dignity and Felixstowe’s memory box being used at an event in the East Anglia Transport Museum sense of self-worth through providing opportunities for them to stimulate their long-term memory, ideally with members of their family or professional care workers,” said Cllr Rhona Sturrock, Vice-Chair of the Association for Suffolk Museums.

In all, eight museums across the county have been involved and 16 boxes of memories have been tested by families in their own homes and by Alzheimer support workers. In addition, some of the people involved visited one of the museums to have a ‘memory day’.

“The initial feedback has been very positive, with the boxes helping family members understand the importance of past things as a way of stimulating the memories of their elderly relative. The items in the box act as a prompt that stimulates conversation and increases their confidence.

“The next stages of the project will create more boxes, involve more people, and provide skills sharing for people who support families with a member who has dementia. We also hope to encourage family carers to develop their own confidence in memory techniques by providing a family event designed to engage wider family members,” added Cllr Sturrock.

The £15,000 project has been supported by Lloyds TSB Foundation and the Museums Specialism Fund and the old fashioned suitcases used as memory boxes have been sponsored by a private company, TTS.

“The project is being managed through the Association for Suffolk Museums but it is the museum volunteers who have been essential to the success of the project; they have gone out of their way to collect inspiring items for the boxes, present them in an appealing way and continue to work with the community – even when they are officially closed for the winter months. Museums really do make people’s lives brighter!” added Cllr Sturrock.

Anyone who wants more information about this project can contact Lyn Gash, Suffolk Museums Development Manager at Suffolk County Council on 01473 265241

## **A new life for your rubbish**

Ever wondered exactly what happens to all the materials you leave out for recycling or put in one of the district's recycling sites? Here is a quick explanation of how we try and reuse the materials you are recycling – and thanks a lot for all your efforts, and please make it a resolution for 2007 to get even more into the recycling habit.

Green waste - everything collected from your brown bins is delivered to the Bioganix Parham recycling centre for processing using the latest composting technology. Waste is mixed and chopped before entering large steel drums which rotate to mix and aerate the waste and massively accelerates the composting and pasteurising process. The end product is high in many essential plant nutrients that have proved highly desirable to farmers for crop production and is an attractive alternative to artificial fertiliser. From June 12 to the end of October this year, you have sent over 5,300 tonnes of compostable waste to Parham. Don't forget you can put all your food, cooked or uncooked, in your brown bin.

Paper - the paper collected from those residents using the separate collection paper for recycling is sent to Foxhall before

being transported to the Great Blakenham Materials Recycling Facility (MRF), where it is baled before going to paper mills to become newsprint and possibly your daily paper. From June 12 to the end of October this year, nearly 1,500 tonnes of paper had been collected separately from homes in the district.

Blue-lidded bin recycling - all the recyclables collected are taken to the Great Blakenham MRF for sorting and onward processing. The mixed recyclables are loaded onto conveyor belts, and sorted by a combination of manual hand pickers and machinery involving lasers and magnets. The paper, card, plastics and metals are separated before being baled.

Items such as textiles, polystyrene and plastic bags have to be picked out by hand while waste such as food scraps and nappies cause blockages in the machinery and the facility needs to be stopped while these are cleared. Help the MRF by not putting these types of items in your blue-lidded bin if you have one.

Bales of recyclables are then transported to reprocessors before being used in the manufacture of new products. From June 12 to the end of October this year, over 500 tonnes of paper, cans, foil, plastic containers, and cardboard have been collected from the 9,500 homes in the district with a blue-lidded bin. This will rise each year as more homes join the scheme.

Bring sites - there are over 230 recycling sites across the district for glass bottles and jars, textiles, books, paper, cans, tins and foil. As well as providing local community groups with extra funding through the Community Recycling Grants scheme, these local facilities have diverted huge amounts of recyclable materials away from landfill.

During 2005/06, the following quantities were collected for recycling:

- Paper - more than 1,100 tonnes - goes to paper mills to become

newsprint

- Textiles - more than 80 tonnes - reusable clothes go to Eastern Europe and Africa to be resold, rags remain in UK for the flocking and filling industries
- Books - nearly 14 tonnes - resold in local Oxfam book shops
- Cans, tins and foil - more than 60 tonnes - recycled into new steel and aluminium in the UK
- Glass - over 2,300 tonnes - recycled into new glass bottles and jars in the UK

## **Lowbiza nights**

Young people partied the night away at two recent Halloween-themed Lowbiza events in Leiston and Felixstowe aimed at 13 to 17-year-olds.

Both events were alcohol, smoke and drug free and were organised by The Lowbiza Partnership. The partnership includes Suffolk Constabulary, Suffolk Coastal District Council, Suffolk Primary Care Trust, the Millennium Enjoying the sounds at the Sizewell Sports and Social Club Volunteers, Suffolk County Council's Community Education Team, local Crime Prevention Panels, Neighbourhood Watch Associations and the venues involved.

For details of the next Lowbiza nights at Felixstowe, Leiston and hopefully Woodbridge, around Valentine's Day in February, call the Lowbiza hotline on 01986 835307.

## **Scheme will put Felixstowe crime on camera**

The Felixstowe Community CCTV Initiative has been offered Government funding for a mobile closed circuit television (CCTV) system for the resort. The partnership behind the bid includes Felixstowe Town Council, Felixstowe Chamber of

Commerce, Suffolk County Council, Suffolk Coastal and Felixstowe Police.

The £36,500 grant would enable four mobile CCTV cameras to be used by the police in the town's hotspot areas to help prevent crime and identify those who are causing criminal damage and other offences.

"This could be a real success for this district as we have always struggled to obtain national funding as the Government allocates its grants to those places with serious problems and the reality is that Suffolk Coastal is one of the safest places in the country," said Councillor Sherrie Green, Cabinet Member for Community Well-being.

"We succeeded because we highlighted the fact that a large proportion of our offences happen in parts of three particular wards in Felixstowe. In the 12 months to March 2006 there were 477 incidents of criminal damage in these wards, over a quarter of all these type of offences in our district.

"The CCTV cameras will back up an initiative funded by the Suffolk Coastal Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) which is again targeting these areas. The goal is to reduce the amount of crime and anti-social behaviour in Felixstowe and make it a safer place for those who live there," added Cllr Green.

The planned CCTV system uses the very latest technology and delivers live images to a personal or laptop computer. Each of the four units can be easily installed and moved to provide surveillance wherever the police think they can be of most use.

Felixstowe Town Council is leading the Partnership and talks are now underway with the Police to see when the systems can be introduced.

"It should be stressed that these offences that we are tackling are largely criminal damage to property or cars. The CCTV cameras should be a real boost for the local police, and the LSP-backed campaign should also make an impact in successfully tackling this problem," added Cllr Green.

The wards of Felixstowe West, North and South have also been marked out for local publicity campaigns, increased police activity, and additional diversionary activities for young people.

### **Don't suffer in silence**

The Christmas holiday period is traditionally a time for families, but for some families in our district the harsh reality is that it will be when the festivities are marred by domestic violence.

Across Suffolk, domestic violence accounts for more than a third of all violent crime and affects people of all ages from all social, economic, and geographical backgrounds.

Domestic violence is taken increasingly seriously by the Police, and all its community safety partners, and is a crime that should not be suffered in silence. Please report it so that you can receive the sensitive support and assistance of those who are committed to preventing and reducing domestic violence.

In an emergency, do not hesitate – call Police on 999. They will respond, investigate and assist you. For non-emergencies and advice ring 01473 613500. There is also a National Domestic Violence Helpline on 0808 2000 247 (calls are free) which offers 24 hour confidential domestic violence helpline for women, children and their supporters and the Suffolk Domestic Violence and Abuse Helpline is 0800 783 5121 (calls are free). The Ipswich Women's Aid 24 hour helpline is 01473 745111.

A specially created website - [www.breakthepattern.org.uk](http://www.breakthepattern.org.uk) – which gives comprehensive information and advice on where and how to get help has been set up by the Suffolk Domestic Violence Forum which is a partnership of all the county's crime and disorder reduction partnerships.

Domestic violence and abuse can take many forms, and can happen repeatedly. It is a cycle of abuse that, if left unchallenged, will become more frequent and severe. Domestic violence can include physical, sexual or emotional abuse and could involve some of the following behaviour - actual or threat of physical harm; deprivation of food, sleep or money; biting, pushing, kicking, punching; name calling and verbal threats; sexual threats or forced sex; use of weapons; emotional blackmail; isolation from family or friends; imprisonment in your own home; humiliation or belittlement; using your children against you.

The Council and the Suffolk Coastal Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership actively supports the work of Ipswich and Coastal Domestic Violence Forum in tackling and reducing domestic violence within the district. For more information about the Forum visit

[www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourhome/protecting/domestic/icdvf](http://www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourhome/protecting/domestic/icdvf)

## **Day when students made Port even safer**

Over 100 school students took part in a special event organised by the Port of Felixstowe, plus the Suffolk Education Business Partnership and the Haven Gateway Partnership, testing out the Port's plans for coping with an emergency.

The event at Kesgrave Community Centre could also help positively shape the youngsters' futures as it also made them aware of the growing employment opportunities within the Haven Gateway, with a particular focus on the ports and logistics sector.

“As the Haven Ports continue to prosper and expand, there will be an increasing demand for young people with the right skills and abilities. We hope that this exercise will serve to give them a taste of the type of exciting careers and opportunities open to them in the maritime and logistics sector,” said Chris Lewis, Chief Executive Officer of Hutchison Ports (UK) Limited, which owns the Port of Felixstowe.

## **Supplying goods safely**

A national initiative to encourage the safe movement of goods was recently launched at the Port of Felixstowe, the UK’s largest container port. The initiative will be delivered through a partnership between the Health and Safety Executive, Suffolk Coastal and other councils across the country.

The aim is to reduce injury and ill health arising from the movement of goods through supply chains - in the logistics, road haulage and goods delivery sectors. The primary focus is preventing accidents happening at delivery/collection sites, be they to LGV/delivery drivers or other workers involved in the process of goods despatch/receipt.

"We welcome this opportunity to work closely with the Health and Safety Executive on this important new national initiative. As well as the HSE, Suffolk Coastal has linked up with Ipswich and Tendring so we can jointly promote Moving Goods Safely at the Haven Ports where they, and the many businesses that operate out of the Ports, have a key role in the distribution of goods imported into this country," said Councillor Sherrie Green, Cabinet Member for Community Wellbeing at Suffolk Coastal District Council.

This initiative is part of wider partnership working between Las and the HSE to try and coordinate efforts on key risk areas and use resources more effectively to reduce accidents and injuries in targeted premises. It will also raise awareness about the key

risks from moving goods and provide duty holders with information about what they can do to control those risks.

## **Businesses face new fire safety rules**

Businesses across the district should be aware that since October new fire safety laws came into effect with the abolition of fire certificates and a new emphasis on prevention and risk assessment. There is now a new requirement to have one person responsible for ensuring the safety of everyone who uses the premises, including carrying out checks on fire protection equipment and facilities.

To help business, the Government has reinforced the comprehensive suite of guidance already published with a new, interactive feature on the Fire Gateway website [www.fire.gov.uk](http://www.fire.gov.uk) which allow users to self-assess the risk to their premises.

The local Fire and Rescue Services will be carrying out audits to check compliance with the new rules, and there are guides to fire risk assessments available on [www.firesafetyguides.communities.gov.uk](http://www.firesafetyguides.communities.gov.uk) or from the fire and rescue service.

Businesses covered include, offices and shops, premises providing sleeping accommodation, residential care, meeting rooms, factories and warehouses, theatres and cinemas, educational premises, healthcare premises, transport premises and facilities, and open air events.

## **New gangmaster law in force**

Since October a new law requires all gangmaster businesses in agriculture and food processing to be licensed. Gangmasters who continue to trade without a licence will be acting illegally and face potential penalties of up to 10 years imprisonment and an unlimited fine.

The Gangmasters Licensing Authority (GLA) has welcomed those businesses who were eager to distance themselves from the rogues and demonstrate that they were operating legitimate businesses.

“The GLA will use all means available to find illegal operators and prosecute them. There are no excuses for anybody in this industry to deal with the rogue operators,” said Mike Wilson, Chief Executive of the GLA.

The new powers will be used by the GLA to investigate, gather information, interview, arrest and prosecute those operating in the sector without a licence. A list of licensed labour providers is accessible via the GLA website - [www.gla.gov.uk](http://www.gla.gov.uk)

## **Farm Park was a Big Draw**

Over 300 people of all ages were drawn to Easton Farm Park recently for some artistic fun using materials more often associated with farm life than the art room, including wool, feathers, straw, hay, and that old farm favourite, mud!

The Suffolk Coastal-backed event was part of the annual Big Draw month, and saw artists Bryony Graham and Suzannah Berry on hand to help people come up with artistic creations. This informal drop-in art session resulted in hundreds of expressive art works, with lots of people having so much fun they want to sign up for our regular monthly farm art workshops. These will start next spring in partnership with Framlingham Arts Trust and thanks to funding from Awards for All. If you would like more information contact Rachel Nightingale at [rachel.nightingale@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk](mailto:rachel.nightingale@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk)

The Big Draw is an annual UK-wide celebration of drawing and aims to create opportunities for drawing that are fun and celebratory, public and participatory.

## **Resolve to learn new performing skills**

The latest part of Suffolk Coastal's *So you want to Perform* training programme offers a New Directions workshop being held on Saturday, February 10 and Setting the Scene on Saturday, March 10.

Both events are at the Seckford Theatre in Woodbridge and are an excellent opportunity for those who want to develop their skills further in the New Year.

New Directions is led by David Farmer, an experienced theatre director, and is aimed at directors from local villages and towns looking for new ideas, inspiration and techniques. Topics will include the challenge of staging performances in non-theatre settings, working with a script, blocking a scene, sub-text, character development, mime, and movement with comic timing.

Danish designer, Signe Beckmann, will lead Setting the Scene with ideas on designing stage sets for anyone who is looking for inspiration and ideas. It will look at simple but effective means of creating stage set designs for theatre and non-theatre spaces, and will recognise that for most a limited budget and resources will be the reality.

Each day-long session will cost £15, and may also be of interest to drama teachers or sixth form students. This autumn saw the programme begin with a fully-booked session aimed at playwrights.

To find out more and to book a place, please call Nicky Corbett on 01394 444538 or email [nicky.corbett@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk](mailto:nicky.corbett@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk)

The sessions are organised as a partnership between Suffolk Coastal District Council and Mid-Suffolk District Council, with generous support from Seckford Theatre, who are offering their modern theatre space for free.

## **Help bring the art out of Martello Tower P**

Your ideas are being sought on how to make the most of the artistic potential of the Martello Tower that is at the centre of exciting plans to regenerate Felixstowe South Seafront.

Martello Tower P was one of five built along the Felixstowe seafront in the 19th century. It is one of a series that were intended to guard the country against a Napoleonic invasion.

"As part of the multi-million pound plans to breathe fresh life into the seafront in South Felixstowe, this Martello Tower has come into the Council's ownership and the letter P I think now stands for its Potential to become a home for the arts," said Councillor Rae Leighton, Cabinet Member for Community Well-being.

"We want to hear people's ideas for what this landmark building can be used for. Some of the ideas already suggested include an outdoor film projection site, a children's arts gallery, a recording studio, and a space for artists and students from far and wide.

"To help spark off ideas, we are holding a competition and are asking for ideas in written or art form. Write a piece of prose, a poem or a limerick, or make a model or create a picture, and share with us your vision for the future of the Tower," added Cllr Leighton.

Prizes will be on offer for the best entries and the Council would like to hear from people of all ages with a public exhibition of the suggestions being planned for next year.

The Tower's immediate future was guaranteed by the partnership between the Council and Bloor Homes which will see a leisure park with activities for all ages, funded by a housing development.

"The plans will see the Tower as the centrepiece of the development and Bloors have committed over £300,000 to help restore it. Now we want to find out the best way to make it an artistic focus for Felixstowe," added Cllr Leighton.

There will shortly be more information about the competition on [www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk](http://www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk) or you can now call Nicky Corbett on 01394 444538 or email [nicky.corbett@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk](mailto:nicky.corbett@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk)

### **Flights of Fancy lets children grow musical wings**

Groups of young children are getting their musical education off on the right note thanks to a scheme called Flights of Fancy.

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

The scheme sends professional musicians to visit local playgroups and schools.

### **Soundwaves on the web**

Soundwaves, the brand new music project for the district's young people, now has its own website and a top-notch new manager, international DJ/producer, and owner of OhMy! Recordings, Sophie McAdam who will help deliver a series of sessions in DJing, music technology, singing and songwriting, musicianship and preparing to record in a studio.

"These will all be taught by a team of tutors who are totally passionate about music and really know their stuff. The website, forum, myspace page and magazine will form the basis of the Soundwaves music community in the coastal area. We are on the look-out for local talent to contribute to all aspects of the

project from playing gigs to supplying magazine content," said Sophie McAdam.

To find out much more visit [www.suffolksoundwaves.co.uk](http://www.suffolksoundwaves.co.uk) and [www.myspace.com/suffolksoundwaves](http://www.myspace.com/suffolksoundwaves). Any young person, or any company interested in supporting the project, can email [suffolksoundwaves@hotmail.com](mailto:suffolksoundwaves@hotmail.com)

The project is backed with funding from Suffolk Coastal, Awards for All, Local Network Fund, Police Pathway Funds and extended schools in Felixstowe. Sophie can be contacted on 07973 632576 or by email at [suffolksoundwaves@hotmail.com](mailto:suffolksoundwaves@hotmail.com)

## **Contact details for Suffolk Coastal District Council**

### **Suffolk Coastal District Council**

Melton Hill  
Woodbridge  
IP12 1AU

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

Fax: 01394 385100

Minicom: 01394 444211

Email: [scdc@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk](mailto:scdc@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk)

**Emergencies outside office hours: 07771 816535**

<b>Planning Advice</b>	01394 444403
	01394 444423
<b>Council Tax</b>	01394 444855
<b>Housing Benefits</b>	01394 444838
<b>Business Rates</b>	01394 444544
<b>Port Health</b>	01394 614933
<b>General Enquiries</b>	01394 383789

## **Office Hours**

Monday to Thursday 8.45am - 5.15pm

Fridays 8.45am - 4.45pm

## **Cash Office**

Monday to Thursday 9.00am - 4.30pm

Fridays 9.00am - 4.00pm

## **Refuse and Recycling** 01394 444000

Also call this number for street cleansing, car parks, pest control, public toilets, abandoned cars, ground maintenance, coast protection - all provided by Suffolk Coastal Services Ltd.

## **Tourist Information Centres**

Aldeburgh 01728 453637

Felixstowe 01394 276770

Woodbridge 01394 382240

## **Leisure Centres** (managed by DC Leisure)

Felixstowe 01394 670411

Brackenburg 01394 270278

Leiston 01728 830364

Deben Pool 01394 384763

## **Christmas Opening Times**

Suffolk Coastal's offices will be closed to the public from 4.45pm (4pm for the cash office) on Friday, December 22 through to 8.45am on Tuesday, January 2. There will be the normal emergency cover provided across the holiday period – call 07771 816535 if it is urgent.