

[2008 news archive](#)

How do you rate this information or service?



[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2008 news archive](#) >

CCTV cameras go up in Felixstowe



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02 Jul 2008

Archived press release.

The first of four closed circuit television cameras that are being installed in Felixstowe was erected yesterday (Tuesday) at the Triangle in preparation for the scheme being fully launched later this month.

The scheme has been made possible thanks to a successful bid by the Suffolk Coastal Community Safety Partnership to the Home Office for £37,000 of funding and has also been backed by the local town council, the chamber of commerce and the county council.

“We are now just a small step away from having an important additional tool that will assist local police in working to combat and prevent crime. This scheme has taken longer than any of us would have liked to put in place as we had some significant hurdles to overcome,” said Cllr Doreen Savage, Chairman of the Felixstowe CCTV Partnership.

“However, thanks to the commitment and perseverance of the partnership, this month will see four cameras in place that will keep an eye on what is going on in seafront area between the Leisure Centre and the Spa Pavilion, and also around the shopping area in Hamilton Road.

“I would like to particularly thank Felixstowe Town Council and the Felixstowe Chamber of Commerce for agreeing to meet the running costs of the scheme. Once it is fully up and running, the cameras will feed into a control room at the local police station where it will be monitored at peak periods by a special volunteer group,” added Cllr Savage.

Full details of the scheme and the background to the innovative volunteer group will be made available later this month, to tie in with the official launch on Tuesday, July 22.

2008 news archive

How do you rate this information or service?



[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2008 news archive](#) >

The great Green roll-out continues



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02 Jul 2008

Archived press release.

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

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

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

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

All those due to get the new service have already been contacted and given the opportunity to attend information roadshows which have proved very successful in the past in ensuring that any potential problems are identified and ironed out in advance.

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

“We are rolling out the improved service as quickly as we can, but financial restraints mean it will be 2010 before every home is reached. I can only urge people to make as much use of the services they have as possible, and to remember that all their waste food, cooked or uncooked, can go in their brown wheeled bins,” added Cllr Nunn.

For further information about recycling services, please visit www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourhome/waste/recycling or telephone 01394 444050. The new service will begin for those areas in the week commencing July 14 when their grey lidded bin is due to be emptied, with their brown and blue-lidded bins emptied a week later.

2008 news archive

How do you rate this information or service?



[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2008 news archive](#) >

Candidates announced for Witnesham by-election



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04 Jul 2008

Archived press release.

Two candidates will be standing on Thursday, July 31 for the seat of Witnesham on Suffolk Coastal District Council which became vacant following last month's resignation of Kate Waddell because of increasing work commitments.

Nominations for the vacancy closed at 12 Noon today by which time two completed forms had been submitted. The candidates are:

Andrew Mark Houseley	Hall Hill Cottage, Parham	Liberal Democrats
Steven Courtenay Hudson	Hillcrest, Westerfield Lane, Tuddenham St Martin	Conservative Party

Polling stations will be open from 7am to 10pm and those eligible to vote will receive a polling card that will inform them of which station to attend.

Electors should take note that the deadline for new applications to vote by post or to change, cancel or redirect existing postal or proxy arrangements must reach Suffolk Coastal's election team by 5pm on Wednesday, July 16 if they are to be effective for this election. New applications to vote by proxy must be received by the Electoral Registration Officer by 5pm on Wednesday, July 23. More information can be obtained by the elections team on 01394 444329 or visit www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourcouncil/elections/

The May 2007 election result for Witnesham was:-
 Anthony Scott Labour 119 (17.5% share of vote)
 Kate Anna Waddell Conservative 562 (82.5% share of vote)
 The electorate was 1,620 and the turn-out was 42.5%.

The current make of Suffolk Coastal is as follows: - Conservatives 43 seats, Liberal Democrats nine seats, Labour one seat, and two vacant seats.



2008 news archive

How do you rate this information or service?



[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2008 news archive](#) >

Partnership brings councils £1 million bonus



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04 Jul 2008

Archived press release.

A partnership of three Suffolk district councils has struck an important deal to help make collective savings of over £1 million.

Suffolk Coastal, Waveney and Babergh wanted to see if joint working could help them negotiate a better deal for their insurance costs and their efforts will realise huge savings on insurance premiums across the next five years.

Cllr Chris Punt, Waveney's Portfolio Holder for Performance believes this is an excellent achievement. He said: "Effective partnerships between councils deliver efficiency and real value for money and I am delighted that we are all able to make such a considerable saving.

"We have a duty to the council tax payer to provide high quality services and to use the resources available to us as wisely and efficiently as possible. Thanks to the efforts of three neighbouring councils we have made a saving that can only benefit the people we serve."

Following their recent success, with Ipswich, in reducing the cost of banking services, the three councils have done it again, according to Cllr Robert Whiting, Suffolk Coastal's Cabinet Member for Resources.

"We managed to save £76,000 between the four councils on banking costs, but that figure is clearly dwarfed by this excellent result in driving down our shared insurance bill by £1.3 million. This is yet another example of how working together is helping deliver more efficient services," he said.

Cllr. Humphrey Todd, Babergh's Procurement Champion added "We are constantly seeking out ways of reducing costs and delivering services more efficiently especially by working in partnership – this five-year contract is yet another example as to how successful we are in this."

After a lengthy tender process Zurich Municipal emerged as the preferred insurance company. The new five year contract with Zurich will begin shortly and will include an option to extend by a further two years.

The tendering process was led by Waveney and the other parties provided financial and legal support.

A joint press release issued by Suffolk Coastal, Waveney and Babergh District Councils

2008 news archive

How do you rate this information or service?



[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2008 news archive](#) >

What a carve up! Leader slams reorganisation proposals



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07 Jul 2008

Archived press release.

Suffolk Coastal's Leader has reacted angrily to today's (Monday) announcement by the Boundary Committee of England (BCE) for the proposed reorganisation of Suffolk, describing the process to date as a farce.

After a whirlwind four months of looking at how local councils in Suffolk could be reorganised, the BCE has proposed merging Ipswich with Felixstowe and Kesgrave, and leaving the rest of the county minus Lowestoft run by one giant council trying to serve 400,000 people.

"This is a farcical situation whereby the BCE have ignored the solutions offered to them and are instead looking to impose something which has no understanding of the communities of Suffolk," said Cllr Ray Herring, Leader of Suffolk Coastal.

"In a very short time period, a range of interesting proposals for the future were offered, yet the BCE have come up with a solution for Ipswich based on a couple of maverick proposals and paired it with an option that nobody requested, with an alternative that again nobody wanted.

"This was a golden opportunity to provide better, more efficient services that engaged with and served local communities, but it has been squandered with a carve-up that has butchered our county and our districts. One option is unworkable while we have been given an alternative which is unthinkable. I note that the BCE's motto is that 'democracy counts'. Well it has not lived up to that claim so far but I can only hope for all our sakes that it will now listen to the voice of our communities," added Cllr Herring.

The BCE is now requesting that responses be made on the proposals by September 26 by filling in an online form, or in writing. The BCE said it reached its draft proposals based on five criteria – affordability, value for money services, neighbourhood empowerment and engagement, broad cross section of support, and strategic leadership.

"Putting aside the annexation of Felixstowe, Kesgrave and 19 of our parishes for a moment, I find it impossible to fathom how the rest of Suffolk Coastal can best be served by becoming part of a massive council with 400,000 people.

"Looking at the criteria, I cannot see how creating one geographically massive new council will be locally accountable, while to date there has been absolutely no support for such a hare-brained idea.

"Our residents are used to receiving good, value for money services, and I honestly cannot see how creating one of the country's biggest councils will continue to deliver that success," added Cllr Herring.

Four of the eight councils in Suffolk, including Suffolk Coastal, had backed proposals for three unitaries to be created, offering locally accountable, strategically powerful new councils, in East, West and Ipswich, while two others had backed at least an East/West split to take account of the differing challenges and needs of the communities of Suffolk.

“At the root of this review was the Government’s desire to achieve unitary status for Ipswich, but they have done it in a way that ignores logic and community ties. Our proposal would have seen Felixstowe in the same council as Lowestoft which made far more sense as they both face similar coastal defence and regeneration challenges. Now we have the ridiculous prospect of three different councils managing our county’s coastal defences.

“The communities that make up Felixstowe now face the threat of becoming part of an aspiring city that needs to expand to achieve its goals, and with urban and social issues that are not those of a resort town.

“I am equally concerned about our communities between Felixstowe and Ipswich who have made it crystal clear that they do not want to be seen as some kind of Outer Ipswich. Their voice has been ignored so far, and what chance would they have to protect their largely rural lifestyles in a new unitary that will inevitably have urban regeneration as its biggest goal?

“The next part of the process is for the public and interested parties to have their say on the proposed options, and I would strongly urge everyone to put forward their views. I can only hope that they will pay more attention to our communities than they have to their representatives,” added Cllr Herring.

The proposed unitary Ipswich, would include Felixstowe and Kesgrave and these other parishes of Suffolk Coastal Brightwell, Martlesham, Bucklesham, Nacton, Falkenham, Newbourne, Playford, Foxhall, Purdis Farm, Great Bealings, Rushmere St Andrew, Hemley, Stratton Hall, Trimley St Martin, Kirton, Trimley St Mary, Levington, Waldringfield, and Little Bealings, as well as 19 parishes of Babergh, and seven in Mid Suffolk.

Responses to the draft proposals can be made by filling in an online form at www.boundarycommittee.org.uk or email reviews@boundarycommittee.org.uk or in writing to Review Manager (Norfolk and Suffolk Review), The Boundary Committee for England, Trevelyan House, Great Peter Street, London SW1P 2HW. The period for responses closes on September 26.



2008 news archive

How do you rate this information or service?



[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2008 news archive](#) >

Explore thousands of years of local history at Flowfest



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09 Jul 2008

Archived press release.

The public are being invited to experience all the different elements of the Ebb and Flow project at Flowfest, a free, one day event at Snape Maltings on Saturday, July 19. The day will be a culmination of months of work undertaken in the community to capture the rich history of life along the rivers Alde and Ore.

Visitors to Flowfest will be treated to a full programme of events, including live music, storytelling sessions, guided walks along the river, exhibitions of art and photography, archaeological finds, craft workshops, river trips and more. There will be a sculpture trail to follow, and some of the stories from 24 residents who recorded their memories of life along the river can be heard at two special listening posts at Orford Quay and along the Sailors Path.

Cllr Mary Neale, Cabinet Member for Leisure and Countryside, said, "The Ebb and Flow project has been a huge success, involving people from across the community in projects which have helped unlock and preserve the history of the area so it can be retold to a modern audience.

"Flowfest will be an interesting and enjoyable way to celebrate the project's achievements and is packed full of activities and attractions that will show people what the project has been all about," added Cllr Neale.

The attractions run from 10am to 4pm, with live music from Andy Pearson at 10am and 2.45pm, Hannah Scott at 11.30am and 3.30pm, while at 12.45pm Singing The River will be performed by a choir with Syzewell Gap. This is a special work for voices and a folk band that has been inspired by the River Blythe and created by Bridget Cousins.

The storyteller John Row will be on hand at 10.45am and 2pm, while there are guided walks at 11am and 2pm, and even a river trip at 3.30pm. The walks can be booked by calling 01394 384948 and the river trip by calling 01728 688303.

There are also art workshops on offer for people of all ages, archaeology sessions when visitors can view some of the items found along the river, or bring their own objects to be identified, a story booth when local personalities will share their own local history and knowledge, and an Aldeburgh oyster farmer will be on hand to explain the past and present use of oysters.

The Ebb and Flow project began last year as a partnership between Suffolk Coastal and Suffolk Coast and Heaths, who both helped fund it with further backing from the Heritage Lottery Fund, the Sustainable Development Fund, Aldeburgh and District Local History Society, and Alde and Ore Association.

Over the last few months the archaeology of the area has been tracked over 6,000 years, while maps from 1500 to the present day were studied, and local residents recorded their thoughts on the way they have seen things alter during their lifetimes. Two hundred children from eight schools were involved, as well as over 40 adult volunteers.

The five and a half miles long Sailors Path, which runs from the centre of Snape to the beach at

Aldeburgh, is one of five local Ebb and Flow walks that are featured in a new 28-page souvenir booklet which is full of photographs, helpful advice and history. The Ebb and Flow River Heritages Walks booklet can be bought for £2.99 from Suffolk Coastal's Tourist Information Centres at Aldeburgh, Felixstowe or Woodbridge or most good local bookshops.

More information about the Ebb and Flow project can be found on www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourfreetime/arts/ebbandflow

2008 news archive

How do you rate this information or service?



[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2008 news archive](#) >

Fun for all at Felixstowe at the Xtremefest



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10 Jul 2008

Archived press release.

Felixstowe is home again to a free one-day event promoting and celebrating alternative sports, beach activities and healthy living, with this year's Xtremefest being held at Brackenbury Fort on Sunday, July 27 from 10am to 5pm.

The day, sponsored by SkiSurf, will be packed with activities and attractions for people of all ages and promises to be a treat for all the family. Among the things on offer will be a skateboard half-pipe competition sponsored by EdgeRiders, a display from the MAD mountain bike team, a synthetic ice rink, a climbing wall, Laser Quest, Human Gyroscope, a rodeo surfboard, a bungee run and a music stage with live local young bands and DJs from the Soundwaves project.

Riding the real waves, will be the UK Windsurfing Association performing slalom racing, tricks and wave riders with national racers all competing for Xtremefest racing honours. Alton Water Sports Centre will also be providing sailing for the spectators, while there will also be refreshments and stalls with a mix of spectator sports and 'try it' sessions.

"This year's Xtremefest promises to be even better than last year's, which was held on the forecourt of the Leisure Centre, with even more activities and attractions that should keep people of all ages fully interested and occupied. Whatever the weather, I am sure the event will brighten up Felixstowe as this should be one of the best activity days of the year. A Park and Ride facility has been arranged from the train station and The Grove/Eastwood Ho car park to the event to avoid parking problems at Brackenbury Fort/Green." said Cllr Doreen Savage, Cabinet Member for Young People.

"I would like to thank SkiSurf for their support for Xtremefest which has been organised by Suffolk Coastal in partnership with UK Windsurfing Association, RYA Onboard, Keith Atkinson (British Windsurfing Champion), Alton Water Sports Centre and Felixstowe TV," added Cllr Savage.

Bands that have been lined up by Soundwaves to take part include Cheeky Cheeky and the Nosebleeds, fresh from an appearance at the Latitude Festival, and a Japanese Band called Unshin. The other confirmed musical attractions are Hey Zuuz, The Fuzz, White Water, Non-stop Movement, The Banter, Clay, and Containz Nutz.

For more information about Xtremefest contact 07775 586 545, or 01394 444652, or email active.communities@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk or visit www.xtremefest.org.uk

2008 news archive

How do you rate this information or service?



[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2008 news archive](#) >

Ebb and Flow villagers save river heritage stories



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14 Jul 2008

Archived press release.

More than 30 hours of memories and long-forgotten facts have been recorded among the local villagers from the communities of the Alde and Ore rivers as part of an oral history marking the changing life on the two rivers.

The oral history recordings form part of the Ebb and Flow project, a Heritage Lottery funded programme, organised by Suffolk Coastal and the Suffolk Coast and Heaths Unit.

“The Ebb and Flow project was set up to explore the rich history of life along the Rivers Alde and Ore and has involved all sections of the local community in examining different aspects of the changing river landscape”, said Cllr Mary Neale, Cabinet Member for Leisure and Countryside.

The rivers Alde and Ore flow through the villages of Aldeburgh, Orford and Snape and 14 volunteers from these communities were trained by the British Library Sound Archive in how to use digital recording equipment and conduct professional oral history interviews.

The volunteers are from a diverse range of backgrounds including members of the Aldeburgh and District Local History Society and the Alde and Ore Association. They all share a common interest in preserving local heritage stories.

Over 20 people have been interviewed from Aldeburgh, Snape and Orford, totalling more than thirty hours of recordings. Long forgotten facts and insights have been re-discovered through the storytelling of the local villagers.

The interviews will contribute to an archive of rich stories about the river landscape, rural life, the old Maltings at Snape, the war years and sailing and fishing on the Alde and Ore.

Pansy Ehlert, one of the interviewees, recalls that as children that she and her friends used to play in the fields around the village of Orford and were always mystified by a particular row of oak trees which had metal tacks scattered at their base. The children discovered that the tacks were used by two lovers to pin their love letters to the trees and exchange messages.

Another villager, Pat Lord, reminisces about the days when Princess Margaret used to water ski at Iken Cliff during her visits as a house guest to Sir Arthur Penn, the Queen’s Private Secretary who lived at Sternfield house. Pat also tells an animated story of her brief sighting of Sir Winston Churchill in Snape during the Second World War. “On D-Day most of the traffic came through there. And I sat on the bridge one day watching and who should come over but Winston Churchill, Montgomery and Eisenhower all in big limousines and we all waved like mad.”

The stories will be made available to the general public via innovative ways, incorporating state of the art technology such as listening posts to be installed along river walks of the Alde and Ore. A special booklet is also being published and some of the memories can be heard by visiting www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourfreetime/arts/ebbandflow/oralhistory/

One of the oral historians involved in the project, Juliana Vandegrift, is thrilled with the stories that have been captured. “Listening to the stories has really brought home how village life has

changed in the countryside in the last fifty years or so. One man as a boy used to walk home in the evenings through the streets of Orford after an afternoon's duck hunting in November and the whole village would smell of frying sprats wafting out of people's houses because it was the season for them.

"He said he knew every single person who lived in Orford when he was growing up, but it's not the case now. One of the rewards of an oral history project, such as this, is that you rediscover overlooked details about community lives which tend to be ignored in the mainstream history books."

The Ebb and Flow recordings will be exhibited this weekend at the Flowfest exhibition at Snape Maltings on Saturday, July 19. More information on Flowfest can be found on www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourfreetime/arts/ebbandflow

2008 news archive

How do you rate this information or service?



[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2008 news archive](#) >

Unison strike may hit refuse and recycling collections



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15 Jul 2008

Archived press release.

Domestic refuse and recycling services in Suffolk Coastal are planned to be operated as fully as possible on Wednesday, 16 July and Thursday, 17 July 2008.

In the event that the planned strike by the local government union Unison does prevent the collection of residents' waste and recycling, Suffolk Coastal Services Ltd, who carry out the service on behalf of the Council, is asking residents to please do the following:-

- Take in your waste and store it on your premises.
- If you should have had a collection on Wednesday, 16 July, please present again for collection from 7.30am on Friday, 18 July 2008.
- If you should have had a collection on Thursday, 17 July, please present again for collection from 7.30am on Saturday, 19 July 2008.

As a consequence of Strike Action on 16 & 17 July 2008, the collection service on 18 July 2008 may be affected, and also collections for week commencing 21 July 2008.

- If you should have had a collection on Friday, 18 July, and this does not take place, please present again on Monday, 21 July 2008.

For scheduled collections during week commencing 21 July 2008:-

- Please present your waste and recycling for collection from 7.30am on your normal scheduled collection day.
- In the event this is not collected on your scheduled collection day, please present again the following day when it will be taken.

Everything will be back to normal from Monday, 28 July 2008. The SCS Customer Services Help-line, 01394 444000, will be manned on 16 & 17 July and all working days following during normal office hours. In addition, a facility will be available to leave messages at other times, or you can email SCSLtd@Suffolkcoastal.gov.uk

"If there is strike action on Wednesday and Thursday, there could be a knock-on effect to our services on Friday and indeed the following week. At this stage, it is impossible to judge how the services that SCS provide will be affected but SCS have plans in place to catch up as quickly as possible," said Cllr Andrew Nunn, Cabinet Member for the Green Environment.

"It is a shame that the negotiations between the national representatives of the union and the employers have failed to successfully prevent this strike occurring, and I would apologise to all our residents for any inconvenience they may experience over the coming days. However, I can promise that SCS will do everything it can to continue with its normal excellent service and if necessary get it back up to full strength as quickly as possible," added Cllr Nunn.



2008 news archive

How do you rate this information or service?



[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2008 news archive](#) >

Young people sign up for Operation Camouflage



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

15 Jul 2008

Archived press release.

For some youngsters, the biggest mission of the holidays is to avoid being bored, but thanks to a link-up between Suffolk Coastal and Rock Barracks Army base some 50 local youngsters have found the answer with Operation Camouflage being held from Monday, July 28 to Friday, August 1.

The 50 young people aged eight to 16 have signed up for a variety of exciting and different activities and challenges as part of a team. From 9.30am to 4.30pm every day, the lucky recruits will have the chance to tackle the base's assault course, have a go on the firing range with water pistols, learn some bush craft skills, scale a climbing wall, or some of the more routine activities like basketball, archery, rounders, art and streetdance.

Cllr Doreen Savage, Cabinet Member for Young People, said, "Operation Camouflage will be a first this year and we are really excited about the fantastic opportunity it will offer young people in the district to get involved in a range of activities they may not otherwise get a chance to do anywhere else.

"This event would not be possible without the full support and involvement of the Army, and we are very grateful to them for showing such commitment to the local community.

"We are already fully booked for what should be a great week of fun, but there is now a reserve list that people can join in case any of our recruits drop out."

Anyone who wants to put themselves on the waiting list can call the Council's Community Safety Team on 01394 444652.

2008 news archive

How do you rate this information or service?



[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2008 news archive](#) >

CCTV launched in Felixstowe



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

21 Jul 2008

Archived press release.

A network of four closed circuit television (CCTV) cameras are now in place helping local police combat crime thanks to a partnership that has been backed by the Home Office.

The Felixstowe CCTV Partnership will officially launch the new system at 10am on Tuesday (July 22) at Felixstowe police station where the pictures captured by the cameras will be monitored by a special volunteer team.

“Thanks to a successful bid by the Suffolk Coastal Community Safety Partnership to the Home Office for £37,000 of funding we have been able to get the cameras but we would not have been able to proceed with the scheme without the support of the local town council, the chamber of commerce and the county council,” said Cllr Doreen Savage, Chairman of the Felixstowe Community CCTV Partnership.

“This will be an important additional tool to assist local police in working to combat and prevent crime and disorder. Thanks to the commitment and perseverance of the partnership, we now have four cameras in place that will keep an eye on what is going on in the seafront area between the Leisure Centre and the Spa Pavilion, and also around the shopping area in Hamilton Road.

“I would like to particularly thank Felixstowe Town Council and the Felixstowe Chamber of Commerce for agreeing to meet the running costs of the scheme. The cameras are now fully operational and are feeding their images into a control room at the local police station where it will be monitored at peak periods by a special volunteer group,” added Cllr Savage.

The use of the volunteers will be the key to making the system a success. While the CCTV system records all camera images 24 hours a day, seven days a week, it will be the dedicated band of volunteers who will provide the support by monitoring the service at peak times to make the service responsive to whatever is being caught on screen.

All the volunteers will of course have to undertake security checks and training before being allowed to perform this vital role.

Felixstowe Neighbourhood Inspector Steve Gallant said: “The system will be an invaluable tool in our continued fight against crime and disorder within our town. The use of CCTV not only allows us to identify offenders but more importantly acts as a significant deterrent for those with criminal intent that are looking for easy low risk targets across the region.”

He went on to say: “Our newly recruited Volunteer Co-ordinators are working hard to recruit, train and deploy a group of able volunteers who will live monitor the system at key times. They will have the facility to direct Police patrols to incidents occurring within the town.”

2008 news archive

How do you rate this information or service?



[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2008 news archive](#) >

Please put your waste and recycling out on normal days



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

21 Jul 2008

Archived press release.

Suffolk Coastal residents are being asked to put their refuse and recycling out on their normal days this week, even though collections are still being affected by the Unison strike action taken last Wednesday and Thursday.

For scheduled collections throughout the week commencing Monday, July 21:

- Please present your waste and recycling for collection from 7.30am on your normal scheduled collection day.
- In the event this is not collected on your scheduled collection day, please present again the following day when it will be taken – with any waste and recycling not collected on Friday, July 25 being collected on Saturday, July 26.

Suffolk Coastal Services waste and recycling teams are working hard to catch up with their normal service and while the Council would apologise to anyone who may suffer a bit of inconvenience over the coming few days, everything will be back to normal by next Monday, July 28 at the latest.

For the moment, people can help SCS by putting their items out for collection on their normal day, and put them back out again the following day if they are not collected.

The SCS Customer Services Help-line during normal office hours is 01394 444000, and messages can be left out of hours, or can be emailed to scltd@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk.

2008 news archive

How do you rate this information or service?



[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2008 news archive](#) >

Butterfly celebration marks new nature reserves



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22 Jul 2008

Archived press release.

Butterflies will be at the centre of celebrations to mark the successful efforts that have seen 10 hectares of countryside being officially designated as Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) by Natural England.

The public are being invited to come along on Sunday, July 27 to a range of fun events being held between 10am and 1pm at the Sandlings, which is off Larkhill Rise, Rushmere St Andrew.

“Both The Sandlings and Mill Stream open spaces have won the classification after a great deal of work by Suffolk Coastal’s countryside and open spaces team, supported by Rushmere St Andrew Parish Council and the Greenway Project, who have managed to get these sites up to meet the tough requirements of Natural England,” said Cllr Mary Neale, Cabinet Member for Leisure and Countryside.

“LNR designation confirms that local people value these areas extremely highly and that both sites need protecting and managing for current and future generations. It’s good news for local people, and the flora, fauna and wildlife that call these sites their home,” added Cllr Neale, who will be formally declaring the sites at 10am on the day.

Butterflies are the most significant residents of Sandlings, with 22 out of a possible 31 species having been seen on the site, including the White-letter Hairstreak which is scarce in Britain and has a high butterfly conservation priority status and has been proposed as a BAP (Biodiversity Action Plan) priority species.

On the day there will be an orienteering quiz to find the hidden butterflies, with a first prize of a digital camera and butterfly book, along with a chance to design a butterfly to add to a butterfly tree, and there will also be storytelling. Light refreshments will be on offer.

Sandlings is an area of redundant agricultural land which was formerly used for grazing livestock and most recently horses. It is mainly grassland and oak scrub, with several remnant hedgerows and areas of young secondary woodland.

Mill Stream is predominantly an area of public open space that has been managed by Suffolk Coastal for several years. It is a stream valley comprising a mosaic of fen vegetation and alder and willow carr with several areas of open water, which support a high biodiversity. It is most notable for water voles, a BAP species, which are present on the site.

Any resident wanting more details about the celebration day or the new nature reserves can contact the Council’s countryside and open spaces team on 01394 444619.

2008 news archive

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[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2008 news archive](#) >

Get all the latest on Xtremefest



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

24 Jul 2008

Archived press release.

This Sunday sees Felixstowe hosting its second Xtremefest, and people can find out all the latest about this special one-day free event promoting celebrating alternative sports, beach activities and healthy living by visiting www.xtremefest.org.uk

The day, sponsored by SkiSurf, is being held at Brackenbury Fort on the Green on Sunday (July 27) from 10am to 5pm and is packed with activities and attractions for people of all ages. It should be a treat for all the family.

“To keep in touch with all that is planned for a packed day of fun, I recommend people visit xtremefest.org.uk which has been set up especially to promote what promises to be even bigger and better than last year’s event which was held on the forecourt of the leisure centre,” said Cllr Doreen Savage, Cabinet Member for Young People.

Among the things on offer will be a skateboard half-pipe competition sponsored by EdgeRiders, a display from the MAD mountain bike team, a synthetic ice rink, a climbing wall, Laser Quest, Human Gyroscope, a rodeo surfboard, a bungee run and a music stage with live local young bands and DJs from the Soundwaves project.

Riding the real waves, will be the UK Windsurfing Association performing slalom racking, tricks and wave riders with national racers all competing for Xtremefest racing honours. Alton Water Sports Centre will also be providing sailing for the spectators, while there will also be refreshments and stalls with a mix of spectator sports and ‘try it’ sessions.

“The website also has all the information about the Park and Ride facility that will be running from the train station and The Grove/Eastwood Ho car park to the event to avoid parking problems at Brackenbury Fort/Green.

“I would like to thank SkiSurf for their support for Xtremefest which has been organised by Suffolk Coastal in partnership with UK Windsurfing Association, RYA Onboard, Keith Atkinson (British Windsurfing Champion), Alton Water Sports Centre and Felixstowe TV,” added Cllr Savage.

Bands that have been lined up by Soundwaves to take part include Cheeky Cheeky and the Nosebleeds, fresh from their appearance at last weekend’s Latitude Festival, and a Japanese Band called Unshin. The other confirmed musical attractions are Hey Zuuz, The Fuzz, White Water, Non-stop Movement, The Banter, Clay, and Containz Nutz.

For more information about Xtremefest contact 07775 586 545, or 01394 444652, or email active.communities@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk or visit www.xtremefest.org.uk

2008 news archive

How do you rate this information or service?



[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2008 news archive](#) >

Signs up to prevent motor homes parking at sea wall



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24 Jul 2008

Archived press release.

Signs have now been erected at Slaughden Quay car park to advise drivers of motor homes/motorised caravans that they may no longer use the sea wall in a move that is intended to protect the area.

After long discussions with Aldeburgh Town Council, Suffolk Coastal announced that it was taking this action to tackle the local concerns that had been raised about problems linked to overnight parking and motor homes.

“The sea wall at Slaughden had become an increasingly popular attraction for motor homes but it was never designed for, or can cope with, the numbers that it was attracting. I know that motor home drivers are a responsible group of people and will respect the new restriction – indeed since we first publicised our intention, the numbers have fallen already,” said Cllr Andy Smith, Cabinet Member for car parks.

“The sea wall is a critical part of our sea defences, and is under threat. It has a loose shingle surface and the turning of large vehicles has caused increased problems with pot-holing, which could quickly lead to significant erosion. To help protect the sea wall and still allow other visitors the chance to enjoy the view, motor homes can no longer go up there, and we are also introducing a ban on any overnight parking by any vehicle.

“I would stress that motor homes are still welcome in Aldeburgh and indeed at Slaughden Quay car park, but only on its lower level and during the day. There are plenty of local caravan and campsites and our local tourist information office has details for anyone looking for somewhere to stay overnight,” added Cllr Smith.

There had been regular reports of more than 30 vehicles being parked overnight at Slaughden Quay, with local residents raising concerns about congestion, increased erosion, noise and litter in an area which is next to an historic Martello Tower and an internationally important estuary.

“I am sure that people will respect these new restrictions, particularly when they realise that the reasons for doing it is to protect the very place that they want to visit. Slaughden Quay does offer a spectacular view for visitors and residents alike and we expect that keeping a check on the usage of the sea wall will preserve it for future visitors and residents.

“We will be reviewing this policy with the Town Council later this year when the views of motor home owners will also be considered. We have already listened to some of their concerns by keeping the lower part of the car park open to them and I can promise that we will continue to do our best to balance the need of our visitors with that of protecting our tourism attractions,” added Cllr Smith.



2008 news archive

How do you rate this information or service?



[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2008 news archive](#) >

Suffolk Coastal sends PM some holiday ideas



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24 Jul 2008

Archived press release.

The rumours that the Prime Minister could be spending part of his holidays at Walberswick has prompted Suffolk Coastal to send him some of their latest publications to help him plan his break.

The latest editions of the Council's monthly What's On guide have been sent to Number 10, as well as the summer activities guide for children, the summer issue of Coastline, the Council's magazine for residents, plus a booklet produced from the Ebb and Flow project and a copy of the 2008 holiday guide produced by the Council.

"There is no better place to visit than Suffolk Coastal as the half million annual visits made by holiday makers show, as I am sure the Prime Minister will soon be able to confirm. I thought it would be a nice touch to let him see what's on offer over the next few weeks across our district," said Cllr Colin Hart, Cabinet Member responsible for Tourism.

"We are also sending him, hot off the press, the river heritage walks booklet that was produced as part of the Ebb and Flow project which offers five walks around the Alde and Ore and offers a short history of the area.

"I hope he also takes the chance to read Coastline, with all the latest news about our district, including what the Boundary Committee has dreamt up for us and how we are working in partnership to improve our coastal defences. If he would like to find out more about either of those two subjects, I am sure we could briefly explain why both are so important to the future of our communities," added Cllr Hart.

Copies of the Ebb and Flow booklet, What's On and holiday guides are also available at the Council's three tourist information centres - the nearest to Walberswick is the one at Aldeburgh - while Coastline is being delivered to homes across the district.

The Council's website is also packed with useful information for tourists and residents. Its detailed tourism pages, which includes where to stay, can be found on www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/tourism/ while detailed information about the Ebb and Flow project, including soundbites from local residents giving an oral history of the area, is on www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourfreetime/arts/ebbandflow/ while the latest edition of Coastline is on www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/news/coastline/ For the latest and fullest guide to what's on in the district visit www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourfreetime/calendar/whatson



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How do you rate this information or service?



[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2008 news archive](#) >

Hoops of fun at Kesgrave



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29 Jul 2008

Archived press release.

Cedarwood Green basketball court and football pitch will celebrate its first birthday in style on Wednesday, August 13 with a free day of fun and activities for all ages.

There will be lots to see and do on the day, from entering into the football and basketball competitions, to having a skate on Suffolk Coastal's mobile skatepark. There will be dancemats, a BBQ and live music, plus Kesgrave Radio will also be broadcasting live from the event.

Cllr Mary Neale, Cabinet Member for Leisure and Countryside said: "This event is part of an extensive programme of summer activities in the district and will be a fitting first birthday celebration for what has become a valuable and much used community facility in Kesgrave. Everyone is welcome to join in the fun – there will be plenty of activities for all ages."

The event, which has been organised by Suffolk Coastal's Active Communities team and Kesgrave Town Council, will start at 11am and finish around 6pm. All activities are free.

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How do you rate this information or service?



[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2008 news archive](#) >

Smaller scale Maverick Festival to proceed



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29 Jul 2008

Archived press release.

The decision by Suffolk Coastal to refuse a premises licence for a planned three day Americana and country music festival at Easton Farm Park has forced the promoter to put on a much smaller-scale event.

The Maverick Festival will now proceed at Easton Farm Park at the end of August because the promoter of the event has the support of the venue and has successfully served three temporary event notices (TENs).

“A meeting of the Licensing and Health Sub-Committee this month heard all sides of the debate on whether a version of the festival which was originally planned to attract 5,000 people should be allowed to proceed. After serious consideration we agreed not to grant it a licence but the promoter has drastically scaled back his plans and got the police’s go-ahead to proceed,” said Cllr Les Binns, Chairman of the Licensing and Health Sub-Committee.

The promoter, Paul Spencer, failed to get Council approval for his attempt to have a premises licence to run from August 29-31 at Easton Farm Park, but subsequently served three TENs – two for fields at the venue, and one for its farmers’ market barn.

A TEN does not need Council approval with only the police having the power to block any such event on the grounds of possible crime or disorder within 48 hours of it being received. There can only be a maximum of 499 people at any place where a TEN is being used.

“TENs are intended to allow small-scale community events to proceed without going through all the hurdles that a larger event must do, with only the police able to intervene. Unlike a premises licence, neither the Council nor residents have any say on it.

“I can understand if some residents feel frustrated that despite their efforts to stop the event, there will still be a festival at the end of August. However, they should take some considerable solace from the fact that their input has helped prevent a much-larger event being held, with the promoter now talking of a maximum of 1,000 people attending, and it may even be less than that in reality,” added Cllr Binns.

The TENs that were served by the promoter mean that the farmers’ market barn can be used between 7pm and 11pm on Friday, August 29, from 11am to 11pm on Saturday August 30, and from 10am to 1pm on Sunday, August 31. The areas know as pets paddock and the main green can both be used from 11am to 6pm on Saturday, August 30.

The Sub-Committee had agreed not to issue a licence for the event on the grounds that there could be a disproportionate impact on local residents.



Text size: [A](#) [A](#) [A](#)

2008 news archive

How do you rate this information or service?



[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2008 news archive](#) >

Still some delays with waste and recycling collections



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29 Jul 2008

Archived press release.

Suffolk Coastal residents are being asked to continue to put out their refuse and recycling on their normal days this week, even though a few collections are running late following the recent Unison strike action.

Nearly all refuse collections are back to normal, but up to half of the brown bin service for food and garden waste is still running behind schedule.

The advice from Suffolk Coastal Services is that residents should put their waste and recycling out for collection on their normal day from 7.30am and if it is not all picked up on the due day, to put it out again from 7.30am on the following days until it is collected.

The SCS Customer Services Help-line is available during normal office hours on 01394 444000 for any resident wanting more details, and messages can be left out of hours, or can be emailed to SCSLtd@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk

2008 news archive

How do you rate this information or service?



[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2008 news archive](#) >

Xtremefest proves big hit with everyone



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29 Jul 2008

Archived press release.

Around 2,000 people enjoyed the Xtremefest experience on Sunday (July 27) when Felixstowe's Brackenbury Fort hosted the one-day free event promoting and celebrating alternative sports, beach activities and healthy living.

Thanks to sponsorship by SkiSurf, Suffolk Coastal's active communities team were able to pull together an exciting range of activities and attractions that kept everyone happy.

"It really was an amazing event, with so many varied and interesting things going on, and I would like to thank Suffolk Coastal's Sarah Shinnie, her team, SkiSurf and everyone else who made it such a great day for everyone," said Cllr Doreen Savage, Cabinet Member for Young People.

"I would also like to publicly thank Bob Spalding Marine and Leisure of Levington who stepped in on Friday to supply stand-by rescue boats for the water based activities, filling the gap left after the original boats had their engines stolen.

"A sign of how well the event was organised was the comments I received from those living close by who all seemed very positive about the day and joined in with many of the activities. It was great to hear people say that we need more events like Xtremefest in Felixstowe, and that the Brackenbury Fort/Green should be used more often," added Cllr Savage.

Among the attractions were a skateboard half-pipe competition sponsored by EdgeRiders, a display from the MAD mountain bike team, a synthetic ice rink, a climbing wall, Laser Quest, Human Gyroscope, a rodeo surfboard, a bungee run and a music stage with live local young bands and DJs from the Soundwaves project.

Riding the real waves were Alton Water Sports Centre who provided sailing for the spectators, while there was refreshments and stalls with a mix of spectator sports and 'try it' sessions.

Xtremefest was sponsored by SkiSurf and organised by Suffolk Coastal in partnership with UK Windsurfing Association, RYA Onboard, Keith Atkinson (British Windsurfing Champion), Alton Water Sports Centre and Felixstowe TV.

Follow this link to see a [slideshow of the event](#) or for more information visit www.xtremefest.org.uk.



2008 news archive

How do you rate this information or service?



[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2008 news archive](#) >

Conservatives hold Witnesham seat



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01 Aug 2008

Archived press release.

The Conservative candidate won yesterday's (Thursday) by-election at Witnesham which was called following June's resignation of Kate Waddell because of increasing work commitments.

Steven Hudson held the seat after taking 53.7 per cent of the votes, with a majority of 44 over the only other candidate, and will now represent Witnesham until May 2011 when all the Suffolk Coastal seats are due to be contested.

The full result was:-

Andrew Mark Houseley	Liberal Democrats	272
Steven Courtenay Hudson	Conservative	316

The electorate was 1,634, the majority was 44 and the turn-out was 36.6 per cent.

Polling stations had been open from 7am to 10pm at Playford Village Hall, Tuddenham Village Hall, Westerfield Village Hall, and Witnesham Village Hall. Cllr Hudson is also a county councillor for Kesgrave.

The result in May 2007 for Witnesham was Anthony Scott (Labour) 119 (17.5% share of vote), and Kate Waddell (Conservative) 562 (82.5% share of vote), with a turn-out of 42.5% from an electorate of 1,620.

Yesterday's result leaves the current make of Suffolk Coastal as follows: - Conservatives 44 seats, Liberal Democrats nine seats, Labour one seat, and one vacant seat (Woodbridge Riverside).

2008 news archive

How do you rate this information or service?



[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2008 news archive](#) >

Don't risk services with cheap promises, Leader warns



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04 Aug 2008

Archived press release.

The Leader of Suffolk Coastal has warned residents not to be hoodwinked by claims that just one council for the whole of Suffolk would be the cheapest option as the Boundary Committee for England (BCE) reviews local government in the county.

A leaflet produced by Suffolk County Council suggests that having one giant council for Suffolk would be the cheapest, easiest and closest for residents, but as yet there appears to be little to back up these claims.

"Clearly a £100 off their Council Tax bills must be very appealing to all residents but perhaps someone should check it first with trading standards as there is nothing yet to back up this extra special offer, which appears to be spread out over five years, rather than as a one-off permanent cut. I have certainly never met anyone who has said that because their council had gone unitary they now had an extra £100 in their pocket," said Cllr Ray Herring, Leader of Suffolk Coastal.

"I am also worried about the focus of this countywide unitary being cheapest. No-one is demanding Harrods-style quality or City-style salaries for senior officers, but our communities do ask for real value for money. They want, expect and deserve better services and even better value, which our proposed East Suffolk Council would deliver. I am sure that they will share my concerns that the one Suffolk unitary appears to be focussed on being cheap, rather than better," added Cllr Herring.

Whichever unitary council option is ultimately recommended by the BCE, it must be able to deliver savings compared to the current costs. Whether it is the East Suffolk option as part of three new councils, or even the giant one Suffolk proposal, they all have to offer savings, which will inevitably occur because there will be less councils providing services.

"The fact is that councils, just like any business, can get too big, and get to the stage where they cannot deliver services efficiently and are also remote and unaccountable to and from their communities. Experience shows that one giant Suffolk council will not be able to deliver the same type of value for money that three councils could because it would need a much larger layer of middle managers and admin staff so it could cover all its widespread communities. To indicate otherwise at this planning stage would be pretentious to say the least.

"It is equally hard to take seriously claims that it would be easiest and closest for residents. We know that our residents would rather call a local office for their services than having to ring a more remote central call centre.

"The proposed giant council would have 10 community boards filled with unelected and unaccountable people but all the key decisions will be made centrally. I fear that these boards would be glorified talking shops with no real powers, and the things that really matter like policies, budgets and priorities will all be decided within the corridors of power at Endeavour House.

“The BCE describes the giant Suffolk proposal as its fall-back option but at the moment there is still nothing better on offer than the three councils serving East Suffolk, West Suffolk and Ipswich. I would strongly urge everyone to look at the proposals on the table and make their views known to the BCE, who have made it clear that they are now willing to listen to people and change their proposals” added Cllr Herring.

The Director of the BCE has said that the Committee ‘has not finalised its proposal for a pattern of unitary local government in Suffolk. In the light of representations received, the Committee will review its draft proposal and consider whether it should be altered before submitting it to the Secretary of State.’

People can express their views on the BCE proposals by using the online form at www.electoralcommission.org.uk/boundary-reviews/all-reviews/eastern/suffolk/suffolk-structural-review or writing to: Review Manager (Norfolk/Suffolk Review), The Boundary Committee for England, Trevelyan House, Great Peter Street, London SW1P 2HW or email: reviews@boundarycommittee.org.uk

2008 news archive

How do you rate this information or service?



[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2008 news archive](#) >

2012 Olympic flag helps serve up a tennis treat



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12 Aug 2008

Archived press release.

To help mark the countdown to the London 2012 Olympic Games, a fun doubles tennis tournament is being held on Sunday, August 24 in Felixstowe at one of the district's training facilities that are set to be used by overseas competitors.

Felixstowe Lawn Tennis Club will on behalf of the district also fly the London Olympics 2012 flag which is being hoisted across the country in celebration of the return of the world's leading sporting event returning to these shores.

"Every council is being asked to fly the flag for the London Olympics after the official ending of the Beijing 2008 Games, and we thought what better way to do it than link it in with one of our leading sporting facilities and give people the chance to have a game," said Cllr Mary Neale, Cabinet Member for Leisure and Countryside.

"I would like to thank Felixstowe Lawn Tennis Club not just for agreeing to hoist the flag, but also for opening up all 21 courts from 10am to 2pm for a fun doubles tournament, when anyone can come along and take part. I hope that in four years time we will be able to see local sports people proudly taking their place representing this country at the London Games," added Cllr Neale.

The tennis club at Bath Road is one of four local training facilities for the 2012 games, with Bentwaters being on offer for cyclists, Otley College for equestrian teams, and the Ipswich Town training facilities at Bent Lane also available.

Anyone wanting to take part in the fun doubles tennis tournament can just turn up on the day or contact the club in advance on 01394 282940. There will also be tennis coaching on offer for those who need help to improve any aspect of their game. The day is open to members and non-members, and as long as you are appropriately dressed you do not even need to bring a tennis racquet.



Text size: [A](#) [A](#) [A](#)

2008 news archive

How do you rate this information or service?



[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2008 news archive](#) >

Angling for something to do this month?



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12 Aug 2008

Archived press release.

Bored youngsters in the Suffolk Coastal area can net themselves a real treat this month by reeling in a great fishing offer from the Council and the Environment Agency.

Every weekday this month until Friday, August 29, any youngster aged eight or over can go fishing at the Manor Farm Fishery in Swilland for a discounted price of £12.50 per session for someone with a Coastal Card or £15 to those without one.

"This is a great chance for young people to either get hooked on a new pastime or improve their fishing know-how by learning some extra skills from qualified coaches," said Cllr Mary Neale, Cabinet Member for Leisure and Countryside.

"We hope that these sessions will turn out to be fun and help give the young people something to do during the long summer break. They can meet some new friends and hopefully catch some fish, which has to be much better than hanging around, getting bored with nothing to do," added Cllr Neale.

Anyone aged 12 or over, must have a fishing licence which can be got from any post office. The sessions run from 9am to 12 Noon, and 1pm to 4pm.

The fishing sessions are just one of a month's worth of summer fun on offer from Suffolk Coastal. For full details pick up a copy of the summer activities guide 2008.



2008 news archive

How do you rate this information or service?



[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2008 news archive](#) >

Help shape the future of the district



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12 Aug 2008

Archived press release.

Comments are wanted from all sections of the community to the draft Sustainable Community Strategy that sets out the priorities and vision for the district from now until 2021.

The Suffolk Coastal Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) has drawn up the draft strategy and is seeking views from anyone who lives or works in the district.

“The draft Sustainable Community Strategy sets out the overall strategic direction and long-term vision for the economic, social and environmental well-being of the Suffolk Coastal district, and in a way that will be sustainable,” said Cllr Ray Herring, Chairman of the Suffolk Coastal LSP Board.

“It has been drawn up by the LSP which is made up of representatives from across the public, private, voluntary and community sectors in our district and is the district’s most important document or strategy as it impacts on all aspects of life.

“Suffolk Coastal has, at 92 per cent, one of highest quality of life ratings among its residents of anywhere in the country, and the goal of this strategy is to do everything possible to maintain that status, while meeting the very real needs and challenges facing our communities,” added Cllr Herring.

Among the issues facing the district are affordable homes, the needs and aspirations of older people, young people, access to services, health and wellbeing, crime and the fear of crime, vulnerable people, business growth, improving skills and learning, climate change, waste and recycling, the district’s rich and valued environment, and its coast and estuaries.

The LSP recently consulted on its 10 key issues, and in the strategy goes on to explain its vision for the district for 2021 of being a place where people want to live and to invest, to care for others and the environment.

“Our more detailed vision for life in 2021 explains how we want our residents to access services, with strong and supportive communities, in a district facing up positively to the challenges of climate change, with a strong economy and skilled workers, with healthier lifestyles for all, with young people playing a central role in the future.

“We have identified our priority outcomes that we want to achieve between now and 2021 and they are challenging but achievable. What we now want to check is whether people agree with our vision, with our goals and targets and I would ask everyone to take the time to give us their views,” added Cllr Herring.

The full draft strategy can be found on the LSP’s website www.sclsp.org.uk/keyissues along with an [online form](#) that gives people the opportunity to give their comments. Copies of the draft strategy are also in local libraries and at Suffolk Coastal’s Melton Hill offices. People can also send their comments to Suffolk Coastal LSP c/o Melton Hill, Woodbridge IP12 1AU.

Comments should be made by Friday, October 10, and various organisations across the district with a key role to play in the future of the district have also been asked for their views, including

town and parish councils, local businesses, community and voluntary organisations.

Press release issued by the Suffolk Coastal Local Strategic Partnership

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2008 news archive

How do you rate this information or service?



[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2008 news archive](#) >

Nominations sought for Woodbridge by-elections



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14 Aug 2008

Archived press release.

A date has been set for the by-elections to fill the vacant seats on Suffolk Coastal District Council, Woodbridge Town Council and Suffolk County Council and nominations are now being sought from potential candidates.

The polling stations will be open on Thursday, September 18 between 7am and 10pm if candidates come forward for the vacancies before 12 noon on Thursday, August 21.

The seats became vacant on June 30 after the Independent councillor Ben Redsell submitted his resignation to all three councils.

Whoever is elected to take on the Woodbridge Riverside District Ward is due to be on the District Council until May 2011, which is the same period for the Woodbridge Riverside Parish seat. The Woodbridge County Division seat is next due to be contested in May 2009.

Nomination forms can be obtained from Suffolk Coastal's elections team, who are in charge of all three elections, either by calling at the Melton Hill offices or by calling 01394 444329.

Completed forms must be returned to the elections team by 12 Noon on Thursday, August 21. More information can also be found on the Council's website www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourcouncil/elections/standing/

The closing date for anyone wanting to apply for a postal vote, or to change existing proxy or postal vote arrangements, is 5pm on Wednesday, September 3.

The District Council result in May 2007 was:- (share of vote)

Andrew Craig-Bennett	Liberal Democrat	208	24.3%
Howard Needham	Labour	80	9.3%
Ben Redsell	Conservative	467	54.5%
Anthony Taylor	Green Party	102	11.9%

Turn-out 53.4% Majority = 259

The Town Council result in May 2007 (when four seats were elected) was:-

Stan Hewitt	Conservative	413
Howard Needham	Labour	204
Charles Notcutt	Conservative	401
Ben Redsell	Conservative	448
Martin Sylvester	Conservative	419

The County Council result in May 2005 was:-

Diana Ball	Liberal Democrat	1,698	39.47%
Roy Burgon	Labour	884	20.55%
Ben Redsell	Conservative	1,720	39.98%



Text size: [A](#) [A](#) [A](#)

2008 news archive

How do you rate this information or service?



[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2008 news archive](#) >

Roll up and have a say on Woodbridge's skatepark



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15 Aug 2008

Archived press release.

A special meeting is being held on Tuesday about Woodbridge skatepark as the countdown begins to when it can welcome its first set of keen users.

Suffolk Coastal and Just 42 have arranged the meeting on Tuesday, August 19 at Woodbridge Youth Centre, in The Avenue, between 6.30pm and 7.30pm so that everyone can find out the latest news.

“Work on site next to Deben Swimming Pool is just getting underway, and in eight weeks time we expect to have an exciting new facility for the young people of Woodbridge,” said Cllr Doreen Savage, Cabinet Member for Young People.

“We are calling on all boarders, BMXers, and bladers to come along to find out the latest on what will be their skatepark, and we would welcome any parents along as well.

“No-one can deny that the skatepark has taken a long time in becoming a reality, but the great news is that work has now started and everything should be ready in October, and we want young people to get involved now in working out how it should be run,” added Cllr Savage.

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



Text size: [A](#) [A](#) [A](#)

2008 news archive

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[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2008 news archive](#) >

Tips on how to make the most out of your food



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

15 Aug 2008

Archived press release.

Residents are being asked to consider the benefits of a new waste minimisation campaign that has been launched to encourage people to cut down on the estimated one-third of food that is bought but just thrown away uneaten.

The Love Food, Hate Waste campaign claims that 6.7 million tonnes of perfectly good food is wasted every year across the country, with each home throwing away the equivalent of £610 worth of food.

“The campaign is trying to encourage people to minimise food waste by offering helpful tips on how to buy and prepare the right amount of food. A lot of the current waste is happening because too much is being cooked or prepared, or not being used by its sell-by date,” said Cllr Andrew Nunn, Cabinet Member for the Green Environment.

“At a time when many of us are feeling the pinch with ever-rising prices at our supermarkets, simple advice that could reduce food waste can only be good news with potential savings of up to an average £8 a week off household bills,” added Cllr Nunn.

Information about the campaign can be found on www.lovefoodhatewaste.com which includes details on how to look after cooked food so it can be safely reused, and recipes for using up leftovers.

People in Suffolk Coastal still have two green options for what to do with any food items that they cannot reuse. Fruit and vegetable scraps, as well as teabags, can be added to a compost heap or compost bin, while any raw or cooked food waste, including bones and fish heads, can be placed in the brown bin taken away for composting at Parham.

“Food waste is not just a waste of money that could be better spent at home, but it does add to the problem of climate change if it is taken to landfill. I am pleased that so many of our residents have got into the recycling habit, with more home compost bins than anywhere else in Suffolk, and our popular brown bin service which takes away all food waste, cooked or uncooked, and turns it into compost,” added Cllr Nunn.

Love Food, Hate Waste is run by the Government-funded Waste Resource Action Programme (WRAP).

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How do you rate this information or service?



[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2008 news archive](#) >

Signs up to help police tackle rowdy drinking



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

18 Aug 2008

Archived press release.

Three more parts of the district now have designation orders in effect from today (August 18) to help police deal with local problems caused by people drinking in the streets.

The signs have been erected to mark out the new zones in Wickham Market, Saxmundham and Kelsale-cum-Carlton, as well as changes to areas in Felixstowe.

“I am pleased to announce that these new zones are now officially places where the police have more powers to tackle those who are drinking in public and acting anti-social,” said Cllr Sherrie Green, Cabinet Member for Community Health

“The town and parish councils of these areas recognised the need to create these designated zones, which mean that in those areas the police can deal with anyone misbehaving or acting in an anti-social manner while drinking alcohol and seize any in their possession.

“We have already introduced similar restrictions in Felixstowe, Leiston, Woodbridge, Framlingham, Kesgrave, Martlesham and Rushmere St Andrew and they have helped the police improve the quality of life for those who live there. As well as the introduction of three new orders, the changes to the ones in Felixstowe that were made after listening to the public, the town council and the police have also come into effect,” added Cllr Green.

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

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

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



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[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2008 news archive](#) >

Suffolk Coastal wants to give the district a starring role



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18 Sep 2008

Archived press release.

Suffolk Coastal has teamed up with ScreenEast, who are the agency responsible for promoting, developing and supporting the film and media industries in the East of England. They want to hear from people who own a building or land worthy of appearing on the big screen to help encourage more location filming to take place in the district.

“Large buildings, period properties, modern properties and vacant and derelict industrial buildings are all in demand for use in films, adverts and television. If you own something you think might be suitable, contact ScreenEast for more information by visiting www.screeneast.co.uk or phoning 01923 495051,” said Cllr Colin Hart, Cabinet Member for Economic Development.

“They are also compiling a list of businesses in the service industry that could be useful to production teams, such as florists, caterers and drycleaners. If you want your organisation to be involved, let ScreenEast know,” added Cllr Hart.

Before the new link-up, Suffolk Coastal was dealing with the enquiries of film crews and production teams without the specialist expertise to support them, while ScreenEast lacked in-depth of knowledge of the district and was unable to inform their clients properly.

“Our knowledge of locations that might suit filmmakers’ needs and links with the local community will be invaluable to ScreenEast as they seek to attract production teams to the area, and the district will benefit from the revenue generated by location fees and the film crews’ use of services in the area such as hotels and restaurants. That is why we are keen to get people involved,” said Cllr Hart.

“There is also the added bonus that, if the film or television drama proves popular, it can generate tourism, which will be a great boost both to the economy and to our reputation.

“Our district has already got an impressive show reel. For example, Top Gear and Dog Borstal recently filmed on location at Bentwaters Park. With ScreenEast at our side, we can look forward to Suffolk Coastal reaping the benefits,” added Cllr Hart.



2008 news archive

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[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2008 news archive](#) >

Candidates announced for Woodbridge by-election



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21 Aug 2008

Archived press release.

At the closure of nominations, 11 candidates had come forward for the three by-elections that will be held on Thursday, September 18 to fill the vacant seats on Suffolk Coastal District Council, Woodbridge Town Council and Suffolk County Council.

The polling stations will be open on that day between 7am and 10pm and the full list of candidates is as follows:-

Woodbridge Riverside (District)

Roy Burgon	5 South Close, Melton	Labour
Geoffrey Edwin Holdcroft	9 Station Road, Woodbridge	Conservative
Guy Nicholas John Jewers	14 Beaconsfield Road, Woodbridge	Liberal Democrat
Anthony Taylor	125 Ipswich Road, Woodbridge	Green Party

Woodbridge Riverside (Town)

Roy Burgon	5 South Close, Melton	Labour
Robert Martin Grimwood	24 Briarwood Road, Woodbridge	Conservative
Victor James Harrup	13 Beaconsfield Road, Woodbridge	Liberal Democrat

Woodbridge Division (County)

Nigel Paul Barratt	3A Thoroughfare, Woodbridge	Conservative
Roy Burgeon	5 South Close, Melton	Labour
Caroline Anne Page	117 Ipswich Road, Woodbridge	Liberal Democrat
Michael Arthur Weaver	1 Clements Road, Melton Park	Independent

The seats became vacant on June 30 after the Independent councillor Ben Redsell submitted his resignation to all three councils.

Whoever is elected to take on the Woodbridge Riverside District Ward is due to be on the District Council until May 2011, which is the same period for the Woodbridge Riverside Parish seat. The Woodbridge County Division seat is next due to be contested in May 2009.

The closing date for anyone wanting to apply for a postal vote, or to change existing proxy or postal vote arrangements, is 5pm on Wednesday, September 3.

The District Council result in May 2007 was:-			(share of vote)
Andrew Craig-Bennett	Liberal Democrat	208	24.3%
Howard Needham	Labour	80	9.3%
Ben Redsell	Conservative	467	54.5%
Anthony Taylor	Green Party	102	11.9%
Turn-out 53.4%			Majority = 259

The Town Council result in May 2007 (when four seats were elected) was:-

Stan Hewitt	Conservative	413
Howard Needham	Labour	204

Charles Notcutt	Conservative	401
Ben Redsell	Conservative	448
Martin Sylvester	Conservative	419

The County Council result in May 2005 was:-

Diana Ball	Liberal Democrat	1,698	39.47%
Roy Burgon	Labour	884	20.55%
Ben Redsell	Conservative	1,720	39.98%



2008 news archive

How do you rate this information or service?

[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2008 news archive](#) >

Do not risk your health with counterfeit vodka

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21 Aug 2008

Archived press release.

Environmental health officers are warning residents that a national alert has been issued by the Food Standards Agency about bottles of counterfeit vodka that have been found to have excessive levels of methanol which could cause ill-health.

Counterfeit Spar brand Imperial vodka bottles have been found in Northumberland and North London and while none have been reported in Suffolk there is a risk that they could turn up anywhere, so the advice is to be vigilant.

The counterfeit bottles say they are Imperial Vodka, 70cl, specially selected by Spar, pure and smooth, triple distilled. The 70cl bottles are not genuine and while branded as Spar they are based on a pre-2007 label design. Inspection of the label shows that the Duty stamp is incorrect and does not fluoresce under UV light, while the body of the text is blurred in places, particularly around the back of the label, while some of the images are also blurred.

The actual bottles are also different from the normal Spar Imperial bottles. The counterfeits are Quinn Glass and have the code of QI:1445c and a smudged inkjet code which looks like 102234 04/08/02.

Legitimate bottles are Rockware glass bottles and have 700ml66mm followed by two symbols and the numbers 8809. Another simple difference is that the counterfeit bottles have no lot code on the neck, whereas the legitimate ones do.

As they are counterfeit stock, it is difficult to track where they are likely to be found, although there has been a report that a bottle has been bought from an independent non-Spar retail outfit.

An excess intake of methanol could cause poisoning, with symptoms such as nausea and vomiting, abdominal pain, drowsiness and dizziness, blurred vision leading to blindness, and breathing difficulties.

The symptoms of methanol poisoning can take several hours to develop, so anyone who may have drunk the counterfeit vodka should seek immediate medical advice.

Last month a similar warning was issued over fake bottles of Glen's Vodka after reports of two people needing hospital treatment in Surrey after drinking it.

People need to be careful and bear in mind that counterfeit goods are not subject to the same rigorous safety standards that are applied to genuine products and as a result can pose a significant risk to the public.

Any member of the public or retailer who is worried that they may have one of the counterfeit bottles can contact their local environmental health team for expert advice – in Suffolk Coastal they should call 01394 444357.

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2008 news archive

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[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2008 news archive](#) >

Make sure you have got a vote



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22 Aug 2008

Archived press release.

Nearly 60,000 forms are being sent out to homes across the district to help update the electoral register and Suffolk Coastal is urging all residents to either send them back or go online and do it all at a push of a button.

The annual canvass to update the Electoral Register began this week, with each home being asked to check the details currently held for that property and to make any relevant changes.

“The Council is responsible for keeping the Electoral Register up to date and accurate but obviously we are completely reliant on the co-operation of our residents to provide the right details that will ensure that everyone who is eligible for a vote gets a vote,” said Stephen Baker, Suffolk Coastal’s Chief Executive.

“If residents want to vote at elections it is essential that they complete and return the form. If you are not on the register then you cannot vote.

“Those aged 16 and 17 should also make sure that they get their names on the form as it will put them on the register ready for when they can legally vote. The electoral register is also one of the most important proofs of residence used by many organisations and companies, so it makes sense to ensure that all details are up to date,” added Mr Baker.

If all the details on the registration form are correct, it really could not be easier to confirm them as it can be done online by going to www.registerbyinternet.com/suffolkcoastal or by calling 0800 197 7694 (24 hours - calls are free).

Anyone using the website or freephone number will be asked for a two-part security code in order to access the system. This security code can be found on the form. The online and phone services can also be used to choose whether the names of electors in the household will appear on the edited register and or to apply for a postal vote.

Anyone wanting to make changes to the current form, by adding or removing names, must return their form by post. The information provided will be used to publish the Register of Electors on December 1, 2008. The qualifying date is October 15, 2008.

Since 2002, the Council has had to keep two versions of the electoral register – a full version and an edited one. The full register can only be used for elections, and by law enforcement and credit reference agencies. The edited register is available for general sale and can be used for any purpose. It can be bought by any person, company or organisation and could be used for commercial activities such as marketing.

“We realise that some residents prefer not to be listed on the Electoral Register, which is why the form includes a box to allow them to make that choice and so avoid being contacted by marketing companies,” added Mr Baker.

Make sure you have got a vote



2008 news archive

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[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2008 news archive](#) >

Suffolk Coastal wants Suffolk to be three



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22 Aug 2008

Archived press release.

Suffolk Coastal's Leader has revealed that the Council is pressing ahead with plans to propose a three-way split of Suffolk that would keep Felixstowe and Kesgrave in a new East Suffolk unitary council.

The Council will submit by September 26 to the Boundary Committee for England (BCE) its outline of how Suffolk could be split into three, with each of its distinct communities having councils that would be able to offer value for money services and be locally accountable.

"We have thoroughly reviewed our proposals for how unitary councils could best be introduced in Suffolk and have made some important changes to what we originally suggested in February. However, we cannot ignore the local realities and as such we are insisting that Felixstowe and Kesgrave should not become part of Ipswich," said Cllr Ray Herring, Leader of Suffolk Coastal.

"In the same way that it is clearly wrong to make Lowestoft part of Norfolk, we believe that Felixstowe is incompatible with Ipswich and that its future should be as part of a new East Suffolk council.

"The BCE has recognised the need to break up the county for unitary government to work, but it needs to go one step further and create three rather than two councils. I appreciate that it has had to carry out its review at breakneck speed, but it must have more time to properly consider the future of the communities that make up East Suffolk.

"Officers and councillors across Suffolk are currently trying to work out the budget and service implications of the BCE's proposed options, but it is completely wrong that this frantic 30-day exercise should determine the future of local government in Suffolk for the next 30 years.

"All of us, the councils and the BCE, need to have a few more weeks – whether it is provide all the relevant information, or to chew over the facts before reaching conclusions that will have a massive impact on communities across Suffolk," added Cllr Herring.

The BCE is carrying out a review of local government in Suffolk and Norfolk at the request of the Government with a view to seeing if unitary councils could be introduced. After seeking views from all local councils it published its draft recommendation on July 7 which proposed making two unitary councils, one covering Ipswich and Felixstowe and the area between the two towns, and the other covering the rest of Suffolk but without Lowestoft.

"The proposals presented by the BCE were a complete surprise because absolutely no-one had suggested them. Five of Suffolk eight main councils have all called for three councils to be created and on reflection I still believe that is still the best way forward for everyone if unitary councils are to be introduced.

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

“We are suggesting a larger Ipswich, which would take in the Shotley peninsula and the Hadleigh area now being proposed by our colleagues at Babergh. That would make this Ipswich and South Suffolk council large enough to stand on its own feet and meet its own particular challenges.

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

Linking Lowestoft and Felixstowe into East Suffolk would mean that one council would be responsible for all the coastal defence issues. At the same time, more than any other part of the county, East Suffolk is home to regional centres of excellence, with Felixstowe and Lowestoft Ports, BT/Adastral Park, its ‘power corridor’ of low carbon energy providers, as well as Snape Maltings and Sutton Hoo.

A large part of East Suffolk is an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, while it also has many market towns and picture-book villages and some of the highest quality of life ratings in the country. It is therefore little surprise that so many tourists visit the attractions and resorts in East Suffolk, and that nearly ten per cent of jobs are linked to tourism.

A leaflet explaining Suffolk Coastal’s latest plans, and urging people to have their say in the future of local government in their county has been produced. It can be found on www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourcouncil/future where there is also an online form that people can fill in to give their views.

2008 news archive

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[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2008 news archive](#) >

Over 6,000 homes set to get improved recycling service



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28 Aug 2008

Archived press release.

The end of October will see nearly 6,500 more homes being added onto Suffolk Coastal's improved recycling service and the invites have already gone out to attend one of a series of information roadshows that start next week.

People are now being asked what size recycling bin they want delivered which will take paper, cans, foil, cardboard and plastic containers away for recycling every fortnight.

"Our average recycling rate across the district has been 45 per cent, but those homes on the new service have been regularly hitting 54 per cent which is why we are trying to roll out the service to the remaining homes as quickly as possible. This latest expansion will mean that roughly two-thirds of our district is being reached, or 36,000 homes in all," said Cllr Andrew Nunn, Cabinet Member for the Green Environment.

"To help make the launch of the new service as smooth as possible, we always hold a round of information roadshows when members of our recycling team are on hand to answer any questions that people may have about how to make the best of the service.

"We also display the choice of recycling bins, so that people can choose whether to stick with the standard size or go with a smaller one. About one-fifth of people took the smaller option when 6,000 homes came on stream in the spring. Giving people the chance to find out more has played a big part in minimising any potential problems with the new service, and I would recommend that people get along to one of the roadshows," added Cllr Nunn.

The areas included in the October expansion of the service are Kelsale, Ufford, Cransford, Bromeswell and parts of Yoxford, Saxmundham, Rushmere St. Andrew, Kesgrave, Felixstowe, Aldeburgh, Aldringham, Rendlesham, Martlesham, Melton, Pettistree, Framlingham and Trimley St. Mary.

The full list of roadshows is as follows:-

Wednesday, September 3 – 10am, Memorial Playing Field, Saxmundham

Wednesday, September 3 – 1pm village car park, Low Road, Kelsale

Thursday, September 4 – 10am The Meadows Church car park, Rushmere Street, Rushmere St. Andrew

Thursday, September 4 – 1pm Millennium Sports Field car park, Millennium Way, Kesgrave

Friday, September 5 – 10am Kings Field, Aldeburgh

Friday, September 5 – 1pm, Walnut Tree Avenue, Rendlesham

Monday, September 8 – 10am public open space, Philip Avenue, Felixstowe

Monday, September 8 – 1pm verge between High Road and New Road, Trimley St. Mary

Tuesday, September 9 – 10am new car park, Eagle Way, Martlesham Heath

Tuesday, September 9 – 1pm recreation ground, The Street, Martlesham

Wednesday, September 10 – 10am Lindos Centre car park, Saddlemakers Lane, Melton

Wednesday, September 10 – 1pm recreation ground car park, The Avenue, Ufford

Thursday, September 11 - 10am village hall car park, Cransford

Thursday, September 11 – 1pm Westbury Centre car park, Fairfield Road, Framlingham
Friday, September 12 - 10am village hall car park, School Lane, Bromeswell

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

“We are rolling out the improved service as quickly as we can, but financial restraints mean it will be 2010 before every home is reached. I can only urge people to make as much use of the services they have as possible, and to remember that all their waste food, cooked or uncooked, can go in their brown wheeled bins,” added Cllr Nunn.

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

2008 news archive

How do you rate this information or service?



[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2008 news archive](#) >

Plug pulled on Woodbridge Skate Jam



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28 Aug 2008

Archived press release.

This Saturday's planned Skate Jam in Woodbridge has been cancelled but young people have been urged to keep an eye out for future events.

The Soundwaves Summer Tour has already taken in Felixstowe's Xtremefest in July and this month's Skate Jam at Leiston, and was originally due to appear at Woodbridge's new skate park on Saturday, August 30.

"We had planned to have an alternative venue ready as it was always unlikely that the skate park would be ready in time, and indeed work has only just begun on building this much-needed new facility for young people in Woodbridge," said Cllr Mary Neale, Cabinet Member for Leisure and Countryside.

"Unfortunately, our attempts to resite the event have fallen through, and I am sorry to say that Saturday's planned one day festival of skating and local bands has had to be cancelled," added Cllr Neale.

Tomorrow's (Friday, August 29) planned visit by Suffolk Coastal's mobile skate park to Woodbridge Primary School will still go ahead, weather permitting. All this month, the skate park has been set up at Framlingham, Rendlesham, Felixstowe and Woodbridge, and tomorrow will now be its last date of the summer holidays. Skaters can attend from 10am to 5pm, with the chance for coaching and lots of fun for only £1 per hour, or £6 for the whole day.

Soundwaves is a music project for young people in the Suffolk Coastal area, staging live music and providing gigging and development opportunities for young bands. To find out more about Soundwaves call 07984 144 598 or email suffolksoundwaves@hotmail.com or visit www.myspace.com/soundwavesmusic



2008 news archive

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[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2008 news archive](#) >

Councils are still united over future shape of Suffolk



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02 Sep 2008

Archived press release.

Suffolk Coastal's Leader has insisted that most of the county's local councils are still united in wanting three unitary councils to be established even though there are disagreements on how the boundaries should be drawn.

The review of Suffolk by the Boundary Committee for England has proposed splitting the county into two new unitary councils, with one covering Ipswich and Felixstowe and the area between them, and the other covering the rest of Suffolk with the exception of Lowestoft which would be moved into Norfolk.

"Five of Suffolk's seven district and borough councils have called for there to be three councils, rather than two, as the best way to provide value for money services that are locally accountable to their communities if unitary government is introduced. All of us are also united in demanding that Lowestoft should not be moved into Norfolk," said Cllr Ray Herring, Leader of Suffolk Coastal.

"What we have not been able to agree between us is the future shape of the unitary council around Ipswich. As the representatives of the communities of Felixstowe and Kesgrave we better than anyone know these areas. We know that they would be best served by being part of East Suffolk, rather than becoming satellites of the aspiring city of Ipswich.

"We have revisited the Ipswich boundaries and have made suggestions that we believe are sensible and workable but because of our local knowledge we know that communities like Felixstowe and Kesgrave should be at the heart of East Suffolk, not an addition to Ipswich," added Cllr Herring.

Suffolk Coastal is pressing ahead with its own proposals for three councils that it will submit to the BCE by September 26 that are based on an East Suffolk, West Suffolk and an Ipswich and South Suffolk Council.

Linking Lowestoft and Felixstowe into East Suffolk would mean that one council would be responsible for all the coastal and estuary defence issues. At the same time, more than any other part of the county, East Suffolk is home to regional centres of excellence, with Felixstowe and Lowestoft Ports, BT/Adastral Park, its 'power corridor' of low carbon energy providers, as well as Snape Maltings and Sutton Hoo.

A large part of East Suffolk is an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, while it also has many market towns and picture-book villages and some of the highest quality of life ratings in the country. It is therefore little surprise that so many tourists visit the attractions and resorts in East Suffolk, and that nearly ten per cent of jobs are linked to tourism.

"The BCE has recognised that if unitary councils are to be introduced then the county needs to be broken up, but I hope it will now take the time to reconsider its proposals and recognise that on closer reflection that three councils is the way forward.

"In the same way that I expect that the BCE will accept the strong local reasons for keeping Lowestoft in Suffolk, I would hope it would understand that would make its Rural Suffolk proposal

unbalanced and that the best solution would then be an East Suffolk council.

“An East Suffolk without Felixstowe and Kesgrave as part of it is as unthinkable as Lowestoft being in Norfolk. It may at the moment seem that is only those who live in this area who recognise that but I trust the BCE to be open-minded enough to see the strength of our argument, if unitary councils must be introduced,” added Cllr Herring.

2008 news archive

How do you rate this information or service?



[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2008 news archive](#) >

Green light for work to protect coast at Bawdsey



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04 Sep 2008

Archived press release.

The unique partnership that came together to provide much-needed coastal defence works around East Lane, Bawdsey is celebrating the news that work should get underway this month.

Because the defence works were low on the list of priorities for national funding, an innovative community partnership was created which has helped raise the money by building homes on three nearby sites.

“Suffolk Coastal has now received the necessary funds from the East Lane Trust (ELT) for the coastal defence works to proceed, which together with the unexpected and hence doubly welcome contingency commitment from the Environment Agency, means that the contracts for the work can be signed,” said Cllr Andy Smith, Cabinet Member for Coastal Management.

“I want to pay tribute to all those involved, not least Gerry Matthews of the ELT and all the other members of the Trust particularly the landowners who helped make it all possible, for the most amazing community vision and courage.

“I am proud of the role that Suffolk Coastal has been able to play in this project. There can have been few ever examples of such close, effective and productive joint working between the community and the statutory bodies as this project, and it has been a privilege to be associated with it,” added Cllr Smith.

A series of emergency works worth nearly £250,000 have been funded by Suffolk Coastal over recent years. Further emergency coastal defences were put in place during the 2007 winter to help protect Bawdsey’s East Lane cliffs. Suffolk Coastal District Council worked closely with the local community and the Environment Agency to help shore up an area that suffered some of the most dramatic impacts of coastal erosion over the last few years.

The assets most obviously risk of further erosion at East Lane are a Martello Tower and two adjacent homes, but the loss of the cliffs would also have seen a serious flood threat to large areas of low-lying land in Bawdsey, Alderton and Hollesley. The Shoreline Management Plan recognises the importance of this stretch of the coast.

“The reality of the situation united the three parishes. We all worked hard to produce a local answer to the funding gap caused because there is not enough money set aside nationally for coastal defence work,” said Gerry Matthews of the East Lane Trust.

“The Trust came up with its own imaginative way of locally funding the cost of the permanent defence works, by selling housing development land, for which we had to get the backing of both Suffolk Coastal and then the Government.

“These were exceptional circumstances and we have delivered a unique local solution which will deliver the vital coastal protection for East Lane and beyond. I would thank everyone who has been involved in our partnership, and I look forward in a few weeks to being able to celebrate the start of the work,” added Mr Matthews.

The contract for the project has been awarded by Suffolk Coastal to Dean and Dyball Construction Ltd, and work is expected to start on site on Monday, September 29.

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2008 news archive

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[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2008 news archive](#) >

Suffolk Coastal calls on BCE for more time for public views



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04 Sep 2008

Archived press release.

The Leader of Suffolk Coastal has written to the Boundary Committee for England (BCE) asking for people to be given an extra week to respond to the draft proposals on the future shape of local government in Suffolk.

Everyone had been given until September 26 to give their views on the draft proposals from the BCE and offer their alternatives, but it has been confirmed today that some of the key financial information will now be published a week later than planned.

"I am calling on Archie Gall, the Head of Boundaries Review and Director of the BCE, to accept responses from local residents and community organisations for a week after its original deadline because some of the most important information will now not be available until September 19," said Cllr Ray Herring, Leader of Suffolk Coastal.

"I know of many town and parish councils in our district who were reserving judgement on the draft BCE proposals until the financial workbooks for them had been produced.

"This whole process is being driven through by the Government at great speed, but I am sure that one extra week for people to give their considered views should be something that should not derail the process and I hope that Mr Gall will see the sense of this request," added Cllr Herring.

The delay in meeting the original deadline in producing the financial workbooks has been caused by last week's announcement by the BCE that it wanted both its draft proposals, and its fall-back option of one giant Suffolk council, to also include the implications of including Lowestoft in Suffolk.

When the BCE produced its original draft proposals in July it caused amazement by offering options that no council in Suffolk had suggested, and a unanimous storm of protest with its plan to include Lowestoft in Norfolk.

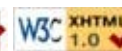
Since then, Suffolk Coastal's Leader, along with other councils and community leaders, has been pressing for Lowestoft to be brought back into Suffolk, preferably as part of a new East Suffolk Council if unitary government is introduced.

"I have previously raised my concerns about this frantic 30-day exercise which is determining the future of local government in Suffolk for the next 30 years and that all of us, the councils and the BCE and most importantly the people and the communities we serve, need a few more weeks – whether it is to provide all the relevant information, or to chew over the facts before reaching conclusions that will have a massive impact on communities across Suffolk.

"This whole consultation process is fundamentally flawed because since July 6 people have been asked for their views on how their councils and services are run in the future and one of the key questions they have is about the future level and cost of those services.

“All that any of us have truthfully been able to say is that unitary councils will be cheaper, and while large figures have been banded around, there has been nothing to back those glib promises up. We need people to have more than seven days to be able to consider them, and an extra week is really the bare minimum that the BCE should consider offering,” added Cllr Herring.

In his letter to Mr Gall, Cllr Herring states his concern ‘because many town and parish councils are waiting for the financial information ... before they finalise their views. In the interests of full and thorough public consultation and public engagement, I urge you to allow the public to submit their views up to a week after the formal end of consultation’.



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[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2008 news archive](#) >

Boundary Committee wants to hear all views



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09 Sep 2008

Archived press release.

Suffolk Coastal's Leader has reassured residents and community groups that the Boundary Committee for England (BCE) is ready and willing to hear whatever views they may have on the future shape of local government in Suffolk.

At the moment, people have until September 26 to make their comments on the BCE's draft proposals, although Suffolk Coastal has called for that deadline to be extended by a week.

"What is becoming increasingly clear is that some people, and indeed some town and parish councils, are not sure exactly what they can say to the BCE, and feel that they have to choose from has been currently proposed by the BCE," said Cllr Ray Herring, Leader of Suffolk Coastal.

"I would like to reiterate that the BCE has made it clear that it will welcome all comments and that it is ready to review and alter its proposals in the light of the responses it receives.

"People must not believe that there are only the two options open to them, or the alternative final solution of one giant Suffolk. I am aware of local town and parish councils who feel that they must opt for one of these choices even though they are very reluctant to give their backing to what has been proposed.

"It has probably not been made clear enough that if they want to ask for a different type of unitary set-up, whether it be this Council's option or any other, they then should tell the BCE. Equally, I hear that some of our local councils would prefer no change or an improved version of the current two-tier structure. Whatever your views, my advice is that the BCE wants to hear from you," added Cllr Herring.

The BCE announced on July 6 its draft proposals of a North Haven unitary council covering Ipswich to Felixstowe, and a Rural Suffolk covering the rest of the county but with Lowestoft moving into Norfolk, with a fall-back alternative of one giant Suffolk council but still minus Lowestoft.

On July 6, the BCE Director, Archie Gall, wrote to all the Councils saying that 'the Committee has not finalised its proposal for a pattern of unitary local government in Suffolk. In the light of representations received, the Committee will review its draft proposal and consider whether it should be altered before submitting it'.

"Since then, the BCE has indicated that it will be looking at whether Lowestoft should be brought back into Suffolk, a move clearly made after responses from the public and community leaders.

"The BCE has already shown a willingness to change its proposals, as Mr Gall said it would. If people, or local councils, community or business leaders, are not happy with the current options, then the BCE is ready to hear the suggested improvements, so my advice is do not feel hand-cuffed by the draft proposals," added Cllr Herring.

At present, people have until September 26 to give the BCE their views on what the future shape of Suffolk should be. There is a special online form on www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourcouncil/future or a similar facility at

www.electoralcommission.org.uk/boundary-reviews/all-reviews/eastern/suffolk/suffolkstructuralreview or email reviews@boundarycommittee.org.uk or write to Review Manager, (Norfolk/Suffolk Review), The Boundary Committee for England, Trevelyan House, Great Peter Street, London SW19 2HW. All responses will appear on BCE's website.

Suffolk Coastal is pressing ahead with its own proposals for three councils that it will submit to the BCE by September 26 that are based on an East Suffolk, West Suffolk and an Ipswich and South Suffolk Council.

Linking Lowestoft and Felixstowe into East Suffolk would mean that one council would be responsible for all the coastal and estuary defence issues.

At the same time, more than any other part of the county, East Suffolk is home to regional centres of excellence, with Felixstowe and Lowestoft Ports, BT/Adastral Park, its 'power corridor' of low carbon energy providers, as well as Snape Maltings and Sutton Hoo.

A large part of East Suffolk is an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, while it also has many market towns and picture-book villages and some of the highest quality of life ratings in the country. It is therefore little surprise that so many tourists visit the attractions and resorts in East Suffolk, and that nearly ten per cent of jobs are linked to tourism.



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[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2008 news archive](#) >

Customers help us help them



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09 Sep 2008

Archived press release.

A new Customer Access Strategy, backed up with improved service standards, has been agreed by Suffolk Coastal after it consulted with some of the people who use its services.

During June a number of customer focus groups were held to find out their particular needs and their views on the way the Council's services are delivered.

"As the local council, we recognise the importance of providing good services that are accessible to all parts of our community, and this updated strategy is a simple statement of our commitment to our customers," said Councillor Doreen Savage, Cabinet Member for Customers and Partners.

"All the groups were very useful in providing us with a good insight into how Suffolk Coastal is viewed by our customers and how we will be able to work with customers to make improvements.

"They also helped us revamp our customer service standards, making sure that we were providing the standards, and making the improvements, that matter to our customers. It helped confirm that people do not want a remote call centre but prefer a friendly local voice to deal with their calls and problems," added Cllr Savage.

The Customer Access Strategy sets out a clear message of what customers can expect when dealing with Suffolk Coastal - whichever service they are accessing across the Council.

"The standards are also backed up by an action plan showing what we are going to do over the next two years to help reach our goals of excellent service delivery and customer satisfaction," added Cllr Savage.

The Customer Service Standards in full are as follows:

Our aim is to ensure that all users of the Council's services are satisfied with the service they receive, however they choose to contact us.

We will achieve this by:

- Being polite, welcoming and courteous and treating all people fairly and with respect.
- Providing access to a number of methods of communication that suit the needs of all our customers.
- Responding to customer enquiries in a timely fashion.
- Attempting to answer all enquiries first time or ensuring that the enquiry is passed to the appropriate person for response.
- Using information appropriately to determine where services require improvement.
- Engaging with the users of our services to understand where improvements can be made.

- Ensuring services are delivered in the most cost effective manner.

We will know if we have achieved this by:

- Continually measuring satisfaction levels of the users of our services.
- Delivering the actions set out within the Customer Access Strategy.

The underlying Action Plan expands on all these points.

“I would like to thank all customers who participated in the customer focus groups during June and we plan to hold them every year so we can continue to ensure we are delivering services in the right way for our customers.

“The Council welcomes any feedback, compliments, complaints or suggestions about our services and there are numerous ways in which you can let us know your views. We do take all comments seriously and they can help us improve our service to all our customers,” added Cllr Savage.

Anyone can make their views known by picking up one of the forms available at the Melton Hill reception, or by speaking to a Customer Services Officers at Woodbridge or Felixstowe, or via the Council's website www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourcouncil/contactus/feedback/ or email customerservices@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk or just call 01394 383789.

Any resident who would like to know more about the strategy, join a future focus group or has any comments please contact the Performance Improvement Team on 01394 444205 or email sandra.lewis@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk.

Follow this link to view the [Customer Access Strategy \(new window PDF 598KB\)](#) in full.

Follow this link for [help with downloading and opening PDF files](#).

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[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2008 news archive](#) >

Public promised a full say on Adastral Park plans



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12 Sep 2008

Archived press release.

Suffolk Coastal has moved quickly to assure local communities that there will be a lengthy public consultation about, and a thorough assessment of, the plans submitted today (Friday) for the redevelopment of the BT/Adastral Park and the adjacent area.

Detailed proposals were delivered to the Council's offices today by the agents working on behalf of BT which, as well as the creation of an Innovation Park with linked university provision, new community facilities, and significant changes to the local road network, also include a major housing development of 2,000 houses.

"I would like to make it clear to everyone concerned that this is just the start of what will be a lengthy process as this is a major application which requires a great deal of consideration before it will be formally considered by the Council," said Cllr Andy Smith, Suffolk Coastal's Cabinet Member for Planning.

"This Council has made no secret of its desire to see Adastral Park develop in a way that will cement its role as a world-leader for research into new technologies and we will be soon consulting upon new supplementary planning guidance for the existing BT site and the industrial estate, as well as progressing the Local Development Framework (LDF).

"Any proposed residential development submitted as part of an application must be linked with this Council's vision of the future of our district. To date, we have only got as far as identifying a possible site for housing development in the Martlesham area to the east of the A12, and it will be at least six months before we will be able to confirm what the intended planning policy will be. Before then, we will be consulting again with residents about our LDF Core Strategy and their views will influence what will happen across our district generally, and around Adastral Park specifically," added Cllr Smith.

The vision for the future of the district is being defined in the district's first LDF, and in July the Task Group considering the LDF recommended an area to the east of the A12 and south of Main Rd at Martlesham as the location for future housing development.

However, this recommendation still has to win the backing of the Council's Cabinet next month, and will then be subject to a further public consultation before the Council aims to finalise its draft LDF Core Strategy next spring, for submission to the Government. There will then be a public enquiry, and not until that is completed and the Inspector's decision has been published, will the Strategy finally become firm policy. That is not likely to be until early 2010 at the earliest.

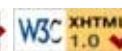
There will also separately be a specific period of public consultation on the planning application submitted today, which will be considered independently of the LDF process, but is not likely to be determined by councillors until after the draft LDF has been agreed.

"It is an extremely detailed application that will need a great deal of examination from this Council. It will also deserve and be given close scrutiny by those local communities most affected," said Cllr Ivan Jowers, Chairman of the Development Control Committee.

"We will attempt over the coming months to give people plenty of opportunity and information so

that they can come to a firm understanding of what is being proposed and how they can give their views to my committee, which will carefully look at all the comments that are received," added Cllr Jowers.

The Council will be putting all the relevant planning information that it can on a special section of its website – www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourdistrict/devcontrol/adastralpark although this will not be available until early next week.



2008 news archive

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[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2008 news archive](#) >

Come along and help keep our beaches clean



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16 Sep 2008

Archived press release.

Volunteers are wanted this Saturday (September 20) for the annual Beachwatch litter survey and clean-up at Bawdsey Quay, organised by the Marine Conservation Society (MCS), Suffolk Coast and Heaths Unit and Suffolk Coastal's Green Team.

Beachwatch is helping to keep East Suffolk's beaches beautiful, and to reward those who give up their Saturday morning, all adult volunteers will be given an Adnams drinks voucher and a cup of tea or coffee at The Boathouse Café.

"Beachwatch's survey allows the MCS to monitor the volume and type of litter being dropped on our beaches, to compare coastlines, and to follow the progress of beaches' cleanliness from year to year. This information is used by local councils and action groups to increase public awareness of the issue and to try and stop litter accumulating in the future," said Cllr Andrew Nunn, Cabinet Member for the Green Environment.

"The MCS is also keen to use the Beachwatch to publicise the impact litter has on marine wildlife. Mammals and birds are all at risk of swallowing, or becoming caught in, carelessly left waste. Our coastline is one of our country's most important natural assets and maintaining it should be a matter of pride as well as of environmental conservation," added Cllr Nunn.

The day starts at 9:30am and finishes at 1pm. All ages are welcome, though those bringing children will be required to fill out a form stating that they will be responsible for them. Dogs are also allowed, as long as they are kept under control. Places can be booked by calling Anne on 01394 444642 or emailing environmental.protection@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk The Council would also like to thank Adnams and the Boathouse Café for their support.

"If the Beachwatch efforts inspire any residents or community groups to organise a clean-up in a park or green space near them during September or October, they should join Clean Your Green, which is part of The Big Tidy-Up, a national litter-picking scheme. Contact Daniel Wareing or Michael Porter on 01394 444033 with information on the proposed event, and they will provide cleaning materials and support," added Cllr Nunn.

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[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2008 news archive](#) >

Help draw up a vision of Felixstowe's future


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16 Sep 2008

Archived press release.

Residents of and visitors to Felixstowe are being invited to get creative and take part in the Felixstowe Big Draw, which is to be held in the resort on Saturday and Sunday, October 4 and 5.

Felixstowe's Big Draw hopes to bring to light how people see and feel about the future of the town and will provide inspiration for a public art project for the planned new Martello Park, which will be part of the proposed South Sea Front regeneration scheme.

"Over the two days there will be a variety of drawing materials provided, with pencils, pens, crayons, and chalk, or even sticks for drawing in the sand. They are free, and can be collected from The Spa Pavilion and Spa beach hut 22, between 11am and 3pm," said Cllr Mary Neale, Cabinet Member for Leisure and Countryside.

"This event is open to everyone, regardless of age or ability. All that is required is a vision of how Felixstowe should be in the coming years and the willingness to commit those wonderful ideas to paper," added Cllr Neale.

Hill Jephson Robb, the artist commissioned to carry out the public art project, will attend the event and will be looking to channel the thoughts and innovations he discovers at the Draw to produce art which reflects a future vision of Felixstowe.

"We hope that the community's imagination will be fired up by The Big Draw so that the artist's work engages with their points of view and communicates something beautiful and meaningful to locals and tourists alike.

"It would be marvellous if we had a big turn-out for this event. Felixstowe is changing, and we want everyone to make their feelings known and be a part of its future," added Cllr Neale.

The weekend is part of the 9th National Big Draw Campaign, which will see similar events being held across the country in the aim of encouraging the general public to pick up their pencils.

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[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2008 news archive](#) >

More time given for people to give their views



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17 Sep 2008

Archived press release.

Following the recent call by the Leader of Suffolk Coastal, the Boundary Committee for England (BCE) has agreed that people can have more time to respond to the draft proposals on the future shape of local government in Suffolk.

Everyone had been given until September 26 to give their views on the draft proposals from the BCE and offer their alternatives, but the BCE has now confirmed it will 'receive and take into account' responses received after that date.

"I would like to publicly thank Archie Gall, Director of the BCE, for agreeing to my request that they should accept responses from local residents and community organisations after the original deadline," said Cllr Ray Herring, Leader of Suffolk Coastal.

"The announcement two weeks ago that the financial workbooks were going to be available a week later than originally planned was a big problem for many town and parish councils in our district who were reserving judgement until they had been produced.

"I take this as another positive sign that the BCE is prepared to listen. The main reason for the delay is because it has asked for additional work to be done to allow for Lowestoft to be considered as still part of Suffolk, and now they are giving everyone more time to respond.

"The BCE is showing encouraging flexibility and I hope that will continue when they look at whether to recommend introducing unitary councils in Suffolk, and our case for there being three councils if new councils are to be brought in. I would urge people to take this opportunity to give the BCE their views," added Cllr Herring.

The delay in meeting the original deadline in producing the financial workbooks has been caused by the BCE announcement at the end of August that it wanted both its draft proposals, and its fall-back option of one giant Suffolk council, to also include the implications of including Lowestoft in Suffolk.

In his letter to Mr Gall on September 4, Cllr Herring stated his concern 'because many town and parish councils are waiting for the financial information ... before they finalise their views. In the interests of full and thorough public consultation and public engagement, I urge you to allow the public to submit their views up to a week after the formal end of consultation'.

Mr Gall has responded by letter saying that 'I would be reluctant to agree a formal extension to the consultation timetable. However, in the circumstances, the Committee would be content to receive and take into account representations received after 26 September'.

Cllr Herring had previously expressed his concerns about 'this frantic 30-day exercise to determine the future of local government in Suffolk for the next 30 years' and that the consultation process was 'fundamentally flawed' as one of the key factors for people was information about the future level and cost of their services, information which is still not fully available.

People can give their views on www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourcouncil/future or www.electoralcommission.org.uk/boundary-reviews/all-reviews/eastern/suffolk/suffolk-structural-review or email reviews@boundarycommittee.org.uk or write to Review Manager, (Norfolk/Suffolk Review), The Boundary Committee for England, Trevelyan House, Great Peter Street, London SW19 2HW. All responses will appear on BCE's website.

Suffolk Coastal's preferred unitary option if changes must be introduced is for three councils based on an East Suffolk, West Suffolk and an Ipswich and South Suffolk Council.

Including Lowestoft and Felixstowe in East Suffolk would mean that one council would be responsible for all the coastal and estuary defence issues.

At the same time, more than any other part of the county, East Suffolk is home to regional centres of excellence, with Felixstowe and Lowestoft Ports, BT/Adastral Park, its 'power corridor' of low carbon energy providers, as well as Snape Maltings and Sutton Hoo.

A large part of East Suffolk is an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, while it also has many market towns and picture-book villages and some of the highest quality of life ratings in the country. It is therefore little surprise that so many tourists visit the attractions and resorts in East Suffolk, and that nearly ten per cent of jobs are linked to tourism.



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[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2008 news archive](#) >

Conservatives win district and town but not county seat



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19 Sep 2008

Archived press release.

The Conservatives won the contest to fill the District Council vacant seat of Woodbridge Riverside last night (Thursday) on a day when three elections were held following the recent resignation of Independent councillor Ben Redsell.

The result leaves the Conservatives with 45 seats on Suffolk Coastal, the Liberal Democrats with nine and Labour with one. The results in full were:

Woodbridge Riverside (District Council) Share of vote
 Geoffrey Holdcroft (Conservative) 313 46%
 Guy Jewers (Liberal Democrat) 254 37.4%
 Anthony Taylor (Green Party) 57 8.4%
 Roy Burgon (Labour) 56 8.2%
 Majority = 59 Turn-out = 42.9%

Woodbridge Riverside (Town Council)
 Robert Grimwood (Conservative) 263 46.3%
 Victor Harrup (Liberal Democrat) 246 43.3%
 Roy Burgon (Labour) 59 10.4%
 Majority = 17 Turn-out = 43.7%

Woodbridge Division (County Council)
 Caroline Page (Liberal Democrat) 970 41.8%
 Nigel Barratt (Conservative) 826 35.6%
 Michael Weaver (Independent) 378 16.3%
 Roy Burgeon (Labour) 147 6.3%
 Majority = 144 Turn-out = 37.2%

Cllr Holdcroft is due to be on the District Council until May 2011, which is the same period for Cllr Grimwood on Woodbridge Town Council. The Woodbridge County Division seat is next due to be contested in May 2009.



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[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2008 news archive](#) >

Grants make a difference to local communities



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19 Sep 2008

Archived press release.

Local communities are set for a big boost after Suffolk Coastal recently agreed to give over £75,000 to help fund improvements and new facilities for village halls and community groups throughout the district.

Following recommendations from the Grants Task Group, Cllr Mary Neale, Cabinet Member for Leisure and Countryside agreed that 17 organisations should be helped by the Council. Each one was considered on its own merits and the sums given were decided according to perceived need.

“Every year aid is given to deserving groups and schemes that use the grants either to maintain existing facilities or set up exciting new projects, both of which will certainly have a positive impact on the lives of people who live in the district,” said Cllr Neale.

“The grants help attract the attention of larger sponsors such as the National Lottery, and they give the Council the opportunity to recognise and support the enormous amount of time, thought and effort that the people behind these grant applications, many of whom are volunteers, invest in making a difference to the community,” added Cllr Neale.

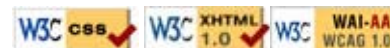
The recommended grants were:

- £6,000 to Bredfield Village Hall, for replacing the flat roof, upgrading the toilets, replacing windows, relaying patio and the purchase of new chairs and curtains.
- £1,720 to Bromeswell Village Hall to install disabled toilets.
- £10,000 to help build a Village Hall on parish land in Bruisyard.
- £4,000 to Easton and Letheringham Village Hall for replacing windows, putting in insulation, new toilets, a new hall floor and external decoration.
- £10,000 to Sutton Recreation Ground and Memorial Hall Trust to install wall and roof insulation and double glazing in the main and small halls.
- £5,000 to Wenhaston Village Hall to put in a new kitchen and disabled toilet.
- £3,000 to Felixstowe Old People's Welfare Association to replace windows and doors and install fire doors.
- £3,000 to the Rushmere Heath Heritage Project for restoring and maintaining the ecology, habitats and landscape of the area.
- £374 to Snape Bowls Club for the purchase of a set of bowls and a carpet.
- £4,000 to Sudbourne Cricket Club for cricket practice nets.
- £10,000 to Woodbridge Mill Trust to repair the mill's grindstones, protect the mill against erosion and install a viewing area, mitre gates and interactive attractions.

Grants will be given to the organisations below subject to their meeting certain conditions:

- £5,000 to Felixstowe Youth Development Group for the development of a BMX trail on Kirton recreation ground.
- £5,000 to the Colneis division headquarters of the Girl Guides to erect a new meeting hall, office, kitchen, toilets and showroom.
- £2,000 to Gt Glemham Village Hall for a hard surface car park.

- £2,500 to Deben Yacht Club in Woodbridge to improve the structural integrity of and extend their clubhouse.
- £5,000 to Deben Rowing Club in Woodbridge to upgrade their club building.
- £3,400 will go to the Deben Centre Water Sports Centre in Woodbridge for a storage shed and refurbishment of the main building.





2008 news archive

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[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2008 news archive](#) >

Walking in a healthy winter wonderland



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19 Sep 2008

Archived press release.

Walking is recognised as a gentle, enjoyable form of exercise, and with Suffolk Coastal running another series of health walks from October to January, it is easier than ever to get active and keep fit. Anyone can go on a health walk, but they are especially useful for those who are recovering from illness or need to improve their fitness levels.

Suffolk Coastal's health walks are supervised by at least two trained leaders, and everybody can go at their own pace. It is recommended to wear sensible shoes and to bring drinks. They last about an hour, and at the end the group will often be invited to stop in a café or pub for light refreshments.

"The nights are drawing in, but that is no excuse to let your fitness go. After all, these events are set to take place during the day! By taking up walking you will be improving your health and getting the chance to explore the district. Whether you prefer to tramp through fields, cross bridges, or be surrounded by pastel-hued villages, there is a walk to suit you," said Cllr Sherrie Green, Cabinet Member for Community Health.

"Suffolk Coastal's health walks are graded for difficulty, enabling you to choose ones that best match your abilities. There are even buggy walks on offer so that parents can take their babies out for a stroll with them. They will take place almost every day throughout October, November, December and January, and children and dogs are welcome if adequately supervised, so there is plenty of opportunity to get involved," added Cllr Green.

Regular brisk walking is said to improve general wellbeing and confidence as well as being able to reduce the risk of strokes, coronary heart disease, high blood pressure and osteoporosis.

For more information and a detailed schedule of event times and locations, contact the Health Walks Team on 01394 444501 and walks@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk or visit <http://www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourfreetime/steppingout/>



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[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2008 news archive](#) >

Help conserve the heritage of the district



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23 Sep 2008

Archived press release.

Residents of eight villages are being called upon by Suffolk Coastal's conservation team to help assess their local area to help conserve the unique features that give them special character.

As part of the Council's policy of involving local communities in conservation projects, residents in eight conservation areas have now been invited to help protect and enhance the best of their parts of the district.

"People who live in the conservation areas in Earl Soham, Grundisburgh, Melton, Orford, Peasenhall, Thorpeness, Westleton and Yoxford, are probably already aware of the buildings and features that make their home villages special. That is why the Policy, Design and Conservation Team wants them to speak out and provide us with information to help us appraise these areas," said Cllr Andy Smith, Cabinet Member for Planning.

Only places of special historic or architectural interest are given conservation area status. This means that the character and appearance of the area have been seen as being worthy of preservation. Conservation area status protects listed and unlisted buildings, open spaces, trees, and other distinctive features.

"If you are a member of the local community, the team would like to receive your comments on what you regard as the biggest challenges facing these Conservation areas, how you might deal with these, any ideas for the future, and your opinions on what our priorities should be.

"The appraisals will be drafted by March 2009. Then we will undertake a formal consultation. If you would like to contribute your thoughts, please contact Robert Scrimgeour, Senior Design and Conservation Officer on 01394 444616 or robert.scrimgeour@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk," added Cllr Smith.

In the meantime, the public are asked to watch out for further free talks organised by the Policy, Design and Conservation Team which offer advice on how to look after and repair historic properties.



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[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2008 news archive](#) >

New leisure path for Felixstowe



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25 Sep 2008

Archived press release.

As part of the ongoing regeneration of Felixstowe a new coastal leisure path is being designed to showcase the changing landscape, with art being incorporated into its design to establish it as another resort attraction.

Taking travellers from the Edwardian charm of Bawdsey Ferry, past five Martello towers, Landguard Fort, and other coastal defences to culminate in the spectacle of the Port of Felixstowe, it is hoped that the path will improve visitor access and create a new way for people to discover the area.

“I am delighted to announce that the artist Elizabeth-Jane Grose has been commissioned to produce artworks that will give the path an identity, one that represents how far Felixstowe has come in recent years and where it sees itself in the future,” said Cllr Mary Neale, Cabinet Member for Leisure and Countryside.

“As part of her research she is keen to hold a public consultation, in order to get to know the people of Felixstowe and be inspired by their memories, history, concerns and aspirations. This will probably take place later this year.

“Details of what the artist has planned will be revealed in March 2009. It is predicted that the path will take three years to complete,” said Cllr Neale.

A Suffolk Coastal ARTS initiative funded by the Environment Agency, the route will also be designed to bring to light some of the important issues coastal environments face, such as climate change and sea defences.

“We at Suffolk Coastal may have decided where the path will lead, but Elizabeth-Jane Grose will ensure that it engages imaginatively with those who choose to walk it,” added Cllr Neale.



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Council votes to Make Suffolk Three



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30 Sep 2008

Archived press release.

The Full Council meeting of Suffolk Coastal last week (Thursday) threw its support behind the call for a three-way split of Suffolk that would keep Felixstowe and Kesgrave in a new East Suffolk unitary council.

The Council has now submitted to the Boundary Committee for England (BCE) its outline of how Suffolk could be split into three, with each of its distinct communities having councils that would be able to offer value for money services and be locally accountable.

“Many of us remain unconvinced of the need for introducing unitary government in Suffolk but after a thorough review of our February proposals we have made changes that we believe would deliver the best unitary solution for our communities and all of Suffolk,” said Cllr Ray Herring, Leader of Suffolk Coastal.

“We are insistent that Felixstowe and Kesgrave should not become part of Ipswich, in the same way that it is clearly wrong to make Lowestoft part of Norfolk.

“The BCE has recognised the need to break up the county if unitary government is going to have a chance of succeeding in Suffolk, but it needs to go one step further and create three rather than two councils,” added Cllr Herring.

Suffolk Coastal has been highly critical of the review period, and has argued strongly that the Government has not given enough time for the BCE, or indeed councils, town and parish councils, and local communities, to consider all the potential implications of changing councils with a combined turnover of well over £1 billion.

“Officers and councillors across Suffolk have tried to work out the budget and service implications of the BCE’s proposed options, but it is completely wrong that this frantic exercise spread over a few weeks in the summer should determine the future of local government in Suffolk for the next 30 years.

“All of us, the councils and the BCE, and most importantly the communities that we serve and the town and parish councils we work in partnership with, needed more time before reaching conclusions that will have a massive impact on communities across Suffolk,” added Cllr Herring.

The BCE proposed on July 7 that there should be two unitary councils, one covering Ipswich and Felixstowe and the area between the two towns, and the other covering the rest of Suffolk but without Lowestoft.

“The proposals presented by the BCE were a complete surprise because absolutely no-one had suggested them. Five of Suffolk eight main councils have all called for three councils to be created and on reflection I still believe that is still the best way forward for everyone if unitary councils are to be introduced.

“I think that most people accept that one giant Suffolk council would be too large and too remote

to serve all its communities. While it might mean only one very well paid chief executive, that person would need many more middle managers to cope with such a geographically spread out area.

“We are suggesting a larger Ipswich, which would take in the Shotley peninsula and the Hadleigh area. That would make this Ipswich and South Suffolk council large enough to stand on its own feet and meet its own particular challenges.

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

Linking Lowestoft and Felixstowe into East Suffolk would mean that one council would be responsible for all the coastal defence issues. At the same time, more than any other part of the county, East Suffolk is home to regional centres of excellence, with Felixstowe and Lowestoft Ports, BT/Adastral Park, its ‘power corridor’ of low carbon energy providers, as well as Snape Maltings and Sutton Hoo.

A large part of East Suffolk is an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, while it also has many market towns and picture-book villages and some of the highest quality of life ratings in the country. It is therefore little surprise that so many tourists visit the attractions and resorts in East Suffolk, and that nearly ten per cent of jobs are linked to tourism.

The original closing date for people to express their views on the future of local government in Suffolk was Friday, September 26 but after a request by Cllr Herring, the BCE has agreed to continue to still accept comments. There is a special online form on www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourcouncil/future where the full response from Suffolk Coastal can also be found. People can also send their comments direct to Review Manager (Norfolk and Suffolk Review), The Boundary Committee for England, Trevelyan House, Great Peter Street, London SW1P 2HW.