

COASTLINE

**The Newsletter from Suffolk Coastal District Council
Issue 38, Winter 2008**

LOCAL SERVICES MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER

The impact of the credit crunch and the current economic downturn will make the local services provided by Suffolk Coastal more important than ever to its residents, which has prompted a call for a pause in the review of local government.

“We want to reprioritise our services to offer the best possible support to people and businesses but trying to deliver new council structures ready for April 2010 will be a virtually full-time distraction. I would hope that the changed circumstances facing us all would lead to any proposed changes at the very least being put on hold until the national and local economy has stabilised,” said Councillor Ray Herring, Leader of Suffolk Coastal.

Local Government Minister, John Healey, has said it is important that councils take local action to ‘help foster resilience to the downturn’. Suffolk Coastal is already looking to work with its partners to help local residents and businesses maximise their potential incomes during the recession.

The Council is expecting more calls for help to its benefits service and homelessness prevention team, and will be encouraging more people to claim all the benefits they are entitled to, or the home energy efficiency grants on offer that can help cut fuel bills.

Page 4 of Coastline includes helpful advice for residents and businesses.

ANN RODWELL

On November 7 the death of Ann Rodwell, after a long battle with cancer, was announced.

A Conservative county councillor for 24 years, and its current Chairman, Ann was also a district councillor for Felixstowe North between 2003-07 and was Mayor of Felixstowe Town Council in 2006/07.

CHRISTMAS OPENING HOURS

Suffolk Coastal's Melton Hill offices will close at 3pm on December 24, but will be open again to the public from 10am to 3pm on Monday – Wednesday, December 29-31, before reopening as normal from Monday, January 5.

The Council's website www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk gives you a range of services that are available 24 hours a day throughout the year, including its online payment service. For details of the recycling and refuse arrangements during the holiday period, please see the back page, while the Council's out of hours emergency number is 07771 816535.

IT IS EVEN EASIER TO RATE OUR SERVICES

Customers now have a new and easy way to say what they think about the services Suffolk Coastal provides. The new GovMetric system means that people calling the Council or using its Melton Hill offices or website can make an instant comment about the service they have just received.

“Customer comments are important as they help us to continue to improve our services, and they help us to check if we are meeting our targets. GovMetric gives us a snapshot of how customers are relating to eight of our key services and we are using this information to keep in touch with the needs of people living in the district,” said Councillor Doreen Savage, Cabinet Member for Customers and Partners.

At Melton Hill office there is a touch-screen panel so people can say what they thought of the service they received, while those who call the main phone number can give feedback through an automated system at the end of their call. Online customers can rate any page of the website at the click of a mouse.

ADASTRAL PARK PLANS

Suffolk Coastal is holding an exhibition about the major planning application for the development of Adastral Park and adjoining land, including up to 60,000m² net additional employment floor space, 2000 homes, mixed use local centre, primary school, hotel, energy centre, public park, and new road connections/ changes to the junctions on the A12.

At Martlesham Parish Room, Felixstowe Road, Martlesham, IP12 4PB on December 16, 11am to 9pm; and December 17, 9.30am to 12.30 pm, planning officers will be on hand to help explain the proposals. For more information visit www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourdistrict/devcontrol/adastralpark

Suffolk Coastal District Council

Melton Hill

Woodbridge IP12 1AU

www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk

Fax 01394 385100

Minicom 01394 444211

E-mail scdc@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk

Emergencies outside office hours 07771 816535

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

Office Hours

Monday to Thursday	8.45am - 5.15pm
Fridays	8.45am - 4.45pm

Refuse and Recycling 01394 444000

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

CALLING OLD FIRE-FIGHTERS

In the 60th anniversary of Suffolk getting its own fire brigade, Suffolk Fire and Rescue wants to hear from anyone who has served since 1948. Please contact Sonia McLoughlin on 01473 260575.

TICs FOR CHARITY CARDS

A selection from the 'Cards for Good Causes' Christmas card range is now on sale at Suffolk Coastal's tourist information centres (TICs) in Woodbridge, Felixstowe and Aldeburgh, with 79 pence of each £1 card going to charity.

NOTHING TO CROW ABOUT

Eagle-eyed Jean Crossley contacted us about the last Coastline to say that the bird pictured with a black rubbish sack was in fact a Hooded Crow usually only found in Scotland and not seen in our district since the 1960s.

BULLETIN

The latest edition is available on:
www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourbusiness/econdev/bulletin
or by calling: 01394 444451
or email: development@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk

LAURA'S SHINING EXAMPLE

Kesgrave High School's Laura Cotton made a great splash winning the Aquaforce National Young Volunteer of the Year Award 2008 for her work for Deben Swimming Club.

"I had convinced myself I had not won. I thought there must be somebody else in the country doing more than me, but there was not, so I got the award! It is a great achievement, for me and for the club," said Laura who started as a poolside helper at 14.

“Don’t listen to your friends if they say you shouldn’t work if you don’t get paid as you can get so much out of volunteering. I have gained qualifications and learned key skills, plus it is fun and you get to meet loads of people,” added 17 year-old Laura.

Volunteering gave her the opportunity to gain teaching and coaching qualifications and to train as a lifeguard. She now teaches three times a week and regularly accompanies Deben Swimming Club to competitions and events.

Laura has also taken on the role of disability liaison officer for the club, helping disabled members in their sessions and giving them the confidence to move into mainstream squads.

“I would like to add my congratulations to Laura. Laura is not only helping people of differing age groups but very importantly has taken on the role of helping members with disabilities to achieve their potential,” said Councillor Doreen Savage, Cabinet Member for Young People.

HELPING LOCAL STUDENTS GET NEW SKILLS

Over 400 local students took part recently in Suffolk Skillz, a new scheme aimed at encouraging them to develop new personal, learning and thinking skills in readiness for a future career with a local Suffolk employer. Hosted at BT’s Adastral Park, the event dedicated a different day each to Year 7, 9 and 11 students who all had the chance to enjoy activities organised by BT, Hutchison Ports, Suffolk Education Business Partnership, Milsom Hotels, Suffolk Constabulary and Suffolk Coastal.

“The day for the students included hands-on activities to encourage teamworking, debating skills, creative thinking, problem-solving and challenging their way of thinking. We gave them the chance to think about all the things involved in either

opening their own bistro or designing a new park,” said Councillor Doreen Savage, Cabinet Member for Young People.

“I was there for all three days, and it was a really excellent event which gave young people the chance to learn valuable skills direct from potential employers. Thanks to BT for hosting it and I hope this will become a regular date on the calendar,” added Cllr Savage.

To find out more about Suffolk Skillz, visit www.suffolkskillz.co.uk

HELPING YOU COPE WITH THE CREDIT CRUNCH

Low-income householders are to be helped under a new Energy Best Deal campaign which will train Citizens Advice (CABs), housing associations, credit unions and other organisations to advise customers on finding the best deals.

Energy regulator Ofgem found many vulnerable customers, particularly pensioners, the unemployed and those on low incomes, needed more guidance about tariff and payments options.

The three main CABs serving this district are at 2- 6 Orwell Road, Felixstowe, telephone: 01394 275958 or www.felixstowecab.org.uk , 14 Colonial House, Station Road, Leiston, telephone: 01728 832193 or www.leistoncab.org.uk and 19 Tower Street, Ipswich telephone: 01473 219777 or www.ipswichcab.org.uk

In addition drop-in advice or a telephone service is offered by the CABs in Framlingham, Martlesham, Rendlesham, Saxmundham, Walton, Wickham Market and Woodbridge.

SEAL A WARMER HOME

If you, or a member of your household, is 70, or on one of a range of benefits, you are entitled to free cavity wall and/or loft insulation. The qualifying benefits are Income Support, Housing or Council Tax benefit, Jobseekers or Attendance Allowance, Disability Living Allowance, War Disablement Pension, Disablement Pension Credit, Child Tax Credit or Working Tax Credit if your household income is less than £15,592, or State Pension Credit.

For more information call free on 0800 0288 938 or 01394 444506. If you do not meet any of the criteria, you can still cut your fuel bills and save £50 off our Council Tax thanks to a British Gas subsidised cavity wall and/or loft insulation scheme. You do not have to be a British Gas customer – call 0855 971 7731 and give the SCCT reference to find out more.

HAVE YOU GOT YOUR WINTER FUEL ALLOWANCE?

The Government is again making Winter Fuel Payments to most people aged 60 or over for winter 2008/09, which means if you are aged 60 to 79 you could get either £125 or £250, while if you are aged 80 or over you can get either £200 or £400, depending on your circumstances.

If you have not had it before then call 08459 151 515 8.30am to 4.30pm, Monday to Friday to make sure that you qualify for this grant, which is not taxed. You need to have been 60 by September 25, 2008 and you must claim no later than March 30, 2009. You can also visit www.thepensionservice.gov.uk/winterfuel/home.asp

TIPS ON KEEPING WARM AND WELL

The Department of Health has issued a Keep Warm, Keep Well leaflet. Among its tips to keep your home warm and your bills down are to set your heating at between 18 and 21 degrees centigrade, and to take a hot water bottle to bed, rather than leave your heating on. Don't forget to turn off, rather than leave on stand-by, all your electrical appliances, use draught-proofing to seal any gaps around windows and doors, and don't forget to draw your curtains.

BUSINESSES CAN USE EXPERTISE

Local businesses can tap into the academic expertise at University Campus Suffolk (UCS) and other seats of learning by using i10, a special contact service which helps them find out how they can benefit from the pool of talent and knowledge, plus the region's cutting-edge technologies and world-class research services.

There are many different ways in which universities can support businesses, including research and development projects, providing expert advice on key technical issues or placing students or graduates within a company.

Businesses interested should call 0845 234 2314 or visit www.i10.org.uk which includes an online service which posts enquiries from businesses to experts in all eleven local universities, GRANTnet which helps businesses find finance to work with a university and GradsEast, a free online graduate recruitment service for employers.

RATE RELIEF FOR BUSINESSES

Local businesses with rateable values below £10,000 could have their business rates bill cut by up to half between 2007 and 2010. Any eligible business has until September 2010 to apply but why wait?

Full details and a copy of the application form can be found on www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourbusiness/businessrates/reliefs/smallbusiness/ or contact Suffolk Coastal's Business Rates Team on 01394 444546 or 444544 or email businessrates@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk

BUS USERS GET ON BOARD WITH PORTRAITS PROJECT

A bus shelter in Hamilton Road, Felixstowe has become compulsory viewing, thanks to the Bus Stop Portraits project which saw local young people using photography to capture how the community thinks and feels.

Local photographer James Fletcher worked with members of Felixstowe's Level 2 youth group, with support from Suffolk Coastal ARTS, to create a montage of images and text which is being exhibited in the bus stop's shelter. Members of the youth group approached people waiting at bus stops and their answers and images were then compiled.

“The standard of work has been very high. Alex and Harry, who are members of Suffolk Coastal Teen Voices as well as being part of the Level 2 youth group, particularly excelled. I urge people to see the results of this very imaginative project,” said Councillor Doreen Savage, Cabinet Member for Young People.

ARTS SHINE SPOTLIGHT ON ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

Felixstowe's Deben High School, a specialist college for the visual and performing arts, has recently collaborated with four local primary schools, Colneis Junior, Grange, Kingsfleet and Langer on a special art, dance, drama and music project.

The theme of ArtsFour was the environment and the damage that mankind is inflicting upon it, which was inspired by Fran Crowe and her exhibition held at Landguard Fort earlier this year. Pictured are Weapons of Sound.

BRIGHTENING UP A KESGRAVE SUBWAY

Local children have been using their artistic talents to bring colour to the underpass near the Police Headquarters in Martlesham, thanks to a graffiti art project supported by local schools, Suffolk Coastal, the Kesgrave and District Youth Forum, the Safer Neighbourhood Team and 3PT (Three Parishes Together).

“Led by artist Theronda Hoffman, the young people have turned this eyesore into a bright, attractive subway for the Martlesham community,” said Councillor Mary Neale, Cabinet Member for Leisure and Countryside.

The project was organised by Andrew Down, Suffolk County Council's extended schools service development officer, and Kirk Jackson, student support officer at Kesgrave High School.

FREE PARKING SPACES OFFERED AT WICKHAM MARKET

Suffolk Coastal is changing 11 spaces in a long-stay car park in Wickham Market to give drivers the chance of a half-hour stay at no charge as part of its latest moves to improve parking in and around the market town.

“Car parking charges were introduced at Wickham Market because we needed to do something to free up the parking spaces around its centre, and to make things fairer across the district,” said Councillor Andy Smith, Suffolk Coastal’s Cabinet Member with responsibility for car parking.

“In April we introduced charging at two of the village’s car parks but made it clear that we would monitor its effectiveness over the coming months and revise it if necessary.

“We have listened to the comments we have received, and looked at the evidence that we have gathered and been given, and met with the Parish Council. We have now fine-tuned our arrangements in a way that we think should resolve many concerns,” added Cllr Smith.

As well as the 11 additional free parking for half an hour spaces, charging at the car parks will now start an hour later at 9am to help motorists dropping their children off at school.

GO ONLINE AND HELP US PLAN OUR BUDGET

Local residents can help Suffolk Coastal bridge its budget gap of over £700,000 by visiting its website where people have the chance to plan the budgets of 40 local services.

Despite saving about £8 million since 2001, Suffolk Coastal has a £712,000 gap between its expected income and spending next year, and the Council's Leader wants ideas on how services can be made even more responsive and efficient.

“Thanks to our efforts to successfully deliver long-term efficiencies while still improving services, the budget gap we are now trying to bridge is a bit smaller than in recent years,” said Councillor Ray Herring, Leader of Suffolk Coastal.

“We are constantly reviewing our services but the fresh perspective that could be on offer from our communities could prove invaluable as every little bit helps in our drive to offer better services and even better value,” added Cllr Herring.

Suffolk Coastal's Council Tax single percentage rises have been below the national average for the last 12 years, and it has been near the top of the Government's table for making efficiencies.

“The stark reality is that a rural council like us does not get a fair share of the money that Government hands out to local government, and the result is greater pressure on services. I can assure residents that we know it is more important than ever to keep any Council Tax increase to a minimum,” added Cllr Herring.

Visit

www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourcouncil/budget/haveyoursay or send your ideas on how the Council could be more efficient or where it could do things better to Freepost RLYABTTE-CKTR, Budget 2009, Suffolk Coastal District Council, Melton Hill, Woodbridge IP12 1AU or email budget2009@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk

At present, only 10.1 per cent of the average Council Tax Band D £1,398.40 bill in Suffolk Coastal goes to the district council,

with 76 per cent going to Suffolk County Council, 10.7 per cent to the police, and 2.6 per cent to town or parish councils.

HELPING WOODBRIDGE'S SHOPPERS

There's an early Christmas present for shoppers visiting Woodbridge, with every Saturday an extra 200 parking spaces available free of charge, thanks to Suffolk Coastal and Woodbridge Town Centre Management Ltd (WTCM).

The car parks at the Council's Melton Hill offices will be open from 7.30am to 6.30pm on Saturdays until January 3 after WTCM came to an agreement that will also see the car park open on some peak Saturdays during 2009.

"There is an exciting range of shops at Woodbridge offering a wide choice of food and potential gifts for the coming Christmas festivities and we expect that its car parks, like the shops, will be even more busy than usual, so we are pleased that we can open up some extra spaces," said Councillor Andy Smith, Cabinet Member responsible for car parking.

PARTNERSHIP MANAGER IS NAMED NATIONAL CHAMPION

Laura Hack, partnership manager for the Suffolk Association of Voluntary Organisations (SAVO), has won the Compact Champion of the Year Award 2008 for improving the way Suffolk Coastal and other councils in the county work with local voluntary and community organisations.

The Compact in Suffolk is an eight-page agreement between the voluntary and community sector, local councils, other organisations such as the county's primary care trust, the Police, the Learning and Skills Council, Go East and Local Strategic

Partnerships (LSPs), which sets out how they will work together to improve their services.

Laura and the other winners were invited to Number 11, Downing Street by Chancellor Alistair Darling, where they met senior ministers and posed for photographs.

RAISING ASPIRATIONS ACROSS THE DISTRICT

The partnership that is working to improve local quality of life held its annual forum in November with over 140 representatives meeting to help draw up a programme of work that will raise aspirations across the district.

The Suffolk Coastal Local Strategic Partnership (SCLSP) has drawn up a new C o m m u n i t y Strategy for the district which is set to be approved by the Council and which will be featured in the next edition of Coastline.

November's Forum featured a series of w o r k s h o p s which focussed on some of the key issues facing the district, including how local communities can become more involved and have a bigger role in the decisions that affect their lives and work together to tackle climate change, how businesses can work together to become more profitable, how positive action can help stop prolific offenders being a problem, and giving a voice to young people.

The LSP recently agreed its action plan for the coming year and the £130,000 support it will give to projects making a difference across the district.

- Transport for young people – providing transport for young people so they access leisure, sport and educational services.

- Encouraging communities to tackle climate change – helping local communities take action in their areas to reduce their carbon footprint.
- Deben Estuary Partnership – helping the Deben’s local communities to work together to manage and protect their area.
- Biodiversity – helping three parishes in 2009 draw up a parish wildlife action plan for their area.
- Starter packs, as pictured – helping new voluntary and community groups develop and grow.
- Help for voluntary and community groups – helping existing groups grow and prosper.
- Community exercise – extending and supporting the health walks and chair based exercise programme.
- Warmer healthier homes – identifying those people whose homes need improved heating and insulation.
- Activities for young people – activities in local areas.
- Linking businesses with young people – encouraging the links between businesses and schools so there is a better match between students’ skills and the needs of local companies.
- Home cameras – special ‘memo cams’ to tackle and catch those who carry out distraction burglaries.

GIVE YOUR VIEWS ON OUR LDF AND HELP SHAPE THE FUTURE LOOK OF THE DISTRICT

WHAT IS THE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK?

The Local Development Framework (LDF) is a new type of plan which will replace the Suffolk Coastal Local Plan. A number of documents form the LDF, each of which must go through various consultation stages. Various studies on housing, employment and other issues have been carried out and will be the evidence and justification for much of the content.

THE CORE STRATEGY

The most significant LDF document is the Core Strategy, which establishes the context for the rest of the LDF and the future pattern of development in the district. It identifies where growth is going to occur and where protection is essential, and contains policies covering the whole district that will be used in determining planning applications.

The Government's Regional Spatial Strategy, also called the East of England Plan, identifies a minimum requirement for new housing in Suffolk Coastal, and the east of Ipswich specifically. The Core Strategy sets out how and where these new homes will be distributed across the district, with a strategy for each town to govern its future growth.

It also looks collectively at the district's villages and its countryside, and sets guidelines to determine the type and amount of future development. It also examines such subjects as employment, transport, shopping and climate change.

WHAT DO WE WANT YOUR VIEWS ON?

Suffolk Coastal has consulted regularly while drawing up its Core Strategy and the document now contains proposals backed up with an explanation for each of them. It sets out a 'Vision' for the district in 2025, and the Objectives that a planning strategy must work towards for this Vision to be achieved.

Strategic Planning Policies then follow, with an emphasis on the individual towns and villages and their interrelationships. Whenever a choice has been made from a number of options, reasons are given for the preferred strategy. Finally, a suite of Policies then pick up any detailed aspects.

The Core Strategy is the subject of extensive public consultation.

Once all comments have been considered, the Council will draw up the final Core Strategy but there will be another chance to influence its contents when representations on the document will be invited.

A public Hearing will then take place, conducted by an independent Inspector when the representations will be considered or debated in a public arena.

The Inspector's conclusions will be binding on the Council. This should be the end of the process, with the document adopted by mid-2010.

WHERE WILL THE NEW HOMES BE LOCATED?

To comply with Government policy, the total requirement for new homes in the district between 2008 and 2025 is 7,710, but over half of these can already be accounted for in terms of land that has planning permission, or by the potential redevelopment of existing land within towns and villages. The remainder that requires specific land to be identified by the Council, much of it on undeveloped 'greenfield' land.

Of this, land for just over 1,000 new homes needs to be found to the East of Ipswich. After a thorough investigation, Suffolk Coastal has identified its preferred general location as being to the east of the A12 at Martlesham and Martlesham Heath.

This is considered to have considerable advantages over other potential locations because of the proximity to an expanding employment base, good public transport links and generally poor land quality.

Elsewhere, Suffolk Coastal proposes that new homes, be located at Felixstowe, the district's largest town. Development is appropriate here given the size of the town and its role as an

employment and commercial centre. It will also help to address many interrelated negative trends that have become evident in recent years, notably:

- A population imbalance - more people of retirement age and or loss of young generations
- Lack of affordable housing
- Low supply of housing that is not meeting demand from within the community
- Housing development has not kept pace with local employment growth (especially the Port)
- School rolls are falling because there are fewer children and
- There is a serious threat to the viability of the town centre

About 1,600 new homes will need to be located on greenfield land given the current lack of redevelopment opportunities within the town. Suffolk Coastal has examined potential general locations around Felixstowe, Walton and the Trimleys and concluded that the preferred approach is that those houses are created through ‘organic and evolutionary growth’ in the Felixstowe and Trimleys area over a mixture of sites whilst preserving as far as possible prime agricultural land for essential food production.

A separate exercise will be conducted, in association with local communities, to identify potential land for development consistent with this general approach.

Elsewhere in Felixstowe, the general strategy is one which seeks to tackle issues around the dependency on the Port for employment, the future of the resort, a shortage of community and social infrastructure, and traffic on the A14.

Elsewhere in the district new homes will also need to be created. These will occur within the other towns, each of which has its own strategy, and the many villages. Only about 870 new homes

will need to be located on greenfield land that does not have planning permission already.

New development in villages will largely be influenced by the nature of each settlement and its position in a ‘hierarchy’ (see page 10 for the settlement hierarchy).

WHAT IS THE HIERARCHY OF TOWNS AND VILLAGES?

Suffolk Coastal has a population of over 122,000 distributed over a large geographical area, and with about 120 settlements, ranging from the two major centres of Felixstowe and the area East of Ipswich (which comprises Kesgrave, Martlesham Heath, Purdis Farm, and Rushmere St Andrew) to the small countryside hamlets such as Burgh, Iken and Ubbeston.

To establish whether a particular settlement should be allowed to grow and by how much, each settlement has been classified into one of six types on the basis of what services and facilities they have (e.g. shops, access to public transport, community halls, schools, GP surgeries, post offices, pubs). This represents the “settlement hierarchy” that determines the scale of development that would be allowed in principle for housing, employment and retail services. It is, therefore, a very important list for it will influence the future of all the district’s communities. Basically, the higher up the hierarchy the more likely it is that development will be acceptable. Those at the bottom are likely to be constrained. The Core Strategy contains a list of all the district’s parishes and their position in the hierarchy.

THE SETTLEMENT HIERARCHY

Settlement type	Description
Major Centre (Felixstowe and the area east of Ipswich)	Sub regional centre for commercial and social facilities
Town (Aldeburgh, Framlingham, Leiston, Saxmundham and Woodbridge)	Focal point for employment, shopping and community facilities
Key Service Centre (24 villages in all)	Settlements which provide an extensive range of specified services
Local Service Centre (42 in all)	Settlements providing a smaller range of facilities
Other Village (22 in all)	Settlements with a few or minimal facilities
Countryside (25 parishes in all)	The area outside the settlements above

WHAT ABOUT THE TOWNS?

In **Aldeburgh** the strategy is to give priority to new affordable housing for younger sectors of society to enable them to remain within the locality, to protect the character of the town, to support the provision of good public transport to Leiston with its leisure faculties, employment and secondary education, and to manage tourist traffic. No major housing development is proposed.

In **Framlingham** the Council will seek to maximise the redevelopment of existing land rather than development on ‘greenfield’ in order to meet future housing and employment needs of the area, to identify and fill current shortcomings in social and community provision, and to support and underpin its existing role as a service centre and tourist destination.

In **Leiston** the strategy is to encourage physical environmental enhancement schemes in order to improve the physical appearance of the town, to maximise benefits to the town if a new nuclear power station is to be built, and to improve social and community facilities in the town. Modest amounts of new housing development will be encouraged.

In **Saxmundham** there will be support for the provision of new employment, improvements to the provision of facilities, and good foot, cycle and transport links within the town. The current proposal in the existing Local Plan for development east of the Fromus will continue.

In **Woodbridge** the Strategy will be to develop a more integrated transport hub, to secure improved public transport provision to benefit residents and tourists, to identify new housing opportunities to cater particularly for affordable housing and housing specifically to meet the needs of older people, and to promote environment enhancement schemes between the town centre and other key areas of the town.

THE SITE SPECIFIC ALLOCATIONS AND POLICIES DOCUMENT

This second document will identify sites for housing, employment, retail opportunities and other uses. It will also eventually map all the village ‘envelopes’.

The Council is seeking views on the first ‘Issues and Options’ stage of this document, which contains details of all the sites that have been put forward by landowners and agents for different types of development throughout the district. The Council has not given any opinion on these sites. We want to know what you think of the sites before assessing them.

This document also invites comments on what criteria should be used when deciding where to draw the physical limits boundaries, or ‘envelopes’, of those settlements where new development will be directed.

To assist with this, we have suggested some criteria that could be used to identify where the line should be drawn, in order to ensure there is consistency across the district and to allow for flexibility and growth where appropriate.

WHERE CAN I SEE THESE DOCUMENTS AND HOW CAN I COMMENT?

The Core Strategy - Preferred Options document and the Site Specific Policies & Allocations – Issues & Options document are available for public consultation between December 1, 2008 and February 9, 2009.

The fastest and easiest way to comment upon these documents is to use the Council’s online consultation system (available at: www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourdistrict/planning/review) where you will also be able to view comments already submitted. Should you wish to submit postal comments then forms are available from the Council and these should be sent to “LDF Consultations, Planning Services, Council Offices, Melton Hill, Woodbridge, Suffolk, IP12 1AU”.

When you comment, make sure you make it clear which document and what part of the document you are commenting

on. For further information on any of these important LDF documents, or how to respond, then please contact development.policy@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk or telephone 01394 444250.

FIND OUT MORE AT OUR EXHIBITIONS

You can view our proposals at a series of exhibitions during the consultation period. At some there will be planners available to discuss issues and answer your questions. Details will be publicised on www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourdistrict/planning/review

TURNING WOODBRIDGE GREEN

Inspired by Norwich becoming the first Transition City, a group has been set up to achieve Transition status for Woodbridge and has already held its first meeting with 10 people signed up for this ambitious goal.

“There was lots of discussion about green issues, the issues of local food sourcing, the need for reskilling our communities and relationship building. We are looking to generate more local interest with some possible ideas such as carbon footprinting, bulk purchasing of green products, community allotments and showing films and other events to attract support,” said Matthew Ling of the Woodbridge group.

The group will be at the Woodbridge Street Fair on Sunday, December 7 when they will also be showing the film Story of Stuff at Woodbridge library. On Wednesday, January 14 they will screen the Power of Community film at St John’s Church.

The driving force for the group is to create a resilient community that tackles the twin challenges of climate change

and Peak Oil. To find out more about the group, go along to one of its events, or email ttwoodbridge@googlemail.com and for more information about Transition visit www.transitiontowns.org

HELP IMPROVE THE DISTRICT'S AIR QUALITY

The public's views are wanted on proposed action by Suffolk Coastal to improve air quality around Felixstowe's Port and any suggestions they may have to help reduce emissions of nitrogen dioxide.

The Council's air quality team have been regularly monitoring Felixstowe and its investigations confirmed the need for an air quality management area (AQMA) at the Dooley Inn, Ferry Road.

“We have also produced a detailed assessment for Felixstowe which takes account of when the Port's expansion has opened. This has helped us identify that nitrogen dioxide levels around Adastral Close could rise in 2010 but there are already proposed actions that could prevent that occurring,” said Councillor Andrew Nunn, Cabinet Member for the Green Environment.

The Port has been working with the Council to identify ways to reduce emissions, and has been investigating installing electricity supply points for some of its container handling equipment to use when idling, a move which could mean that air quality targets are not breached in Adastral Close in the future.

The report has been approved by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, who advised that the Council's monitoring, and its joint work with the Port, should continue so that it can be officially confirmed that the objectives are not breached in the future.

The Council's detailed assessment, its new AQMA order for the Dooley Inn, and its 2008 annual air quality progress report for the whole district are available on www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourdistrict/envprotection/airquality/reports/ They can also be seen at its Melton Hill and Felixstowe offices.

If you have any comments on the documents, or have ideas on how to reduce nitrogen dioxide, then email environmental.protection@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk or write to the Head of Health, Suffolk Coastal District Council, Melton Hill, Woodbridge IP12 1AU.

GREEN FARM LEADS THE WAY

A farm hidden away in the countryside is leading the way when it comes to going green, with its firm commitment to enhance nature and minimise any negative impacts on the environment. And members of Suffolk Coastal's Greenprint Forum were fortunate enough to be given a guided tour this summer.

The farm's green catalogue of good practice includes using reclaimed nonplastic materials on all refurbishments, using ecofriendly paints and energy efficient lighting and its own reed bed waste water treatment for the waste and grey water from the 12-15 people who use the farm house and for the run off from the stables.

The change it is most proud of is that all its agricultural vehicles and its boiler being run on 100 per cent biodiesel from locally grown oil seed rape. This seed is processed onsite using equipment identified by Bio Integrated Organics, with the left-over husks being used in animal feed.

To find out more about biodiesel or the Greenprint Forum visit www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourdistrict/greenissues/greenprint/forum/farmvisit/

GIVING OUR COASTLINE A BETTER FUTURE

The pioneering work of the East of England's Coastal Initiative, which is aiming to create a better social and economic future for the coastal areas, was spotlighted at a conference held in Lowestoft in October.

Recognising that the East of England has one of Britain's most environmentally rich, most scenic and economically diverse landscapes, the initiative is the first of its kind in the country.

“Coastal Initiative is bringing together a wide range of government, local councils, non-government, voluntary, and business groups, and using their combined knowledge and resources,” said Councillor Andy Smith, Suffolk Coastal's Deputy Leader and member of Coastal Initiative.

“The aim is to create an effective, stream-lined approach that involves the local communities to tackle some of the economic and social challenges the coastal area faces, and build new and sustainable opportunities for coastal communities.

“The initiative will also fully address the challenges and opportunities for coastal communities and environments in the region as a result of climate change. This is a very exciting project that could mean a much brighter future for our coastal communities,” added Cllr Smith.

The importance of the project was highlighted by the presence of the Government's Minister for the East of England, Barbara Follett, who opened the conference and drew attention to the challenges facing those living in coastal areas.

“Not least among these are the pockets of deprivation to be found in many local communities; the difficulties people living there have accessing transport, jobs and health services and, in particular, the effect that coastal erosion is having on homes and businesses,” said Ms Follett.

“These challenges are complex and multi-faceted with no easy solutions. That is why the Coastal Initiative is so important. It provides a really good way for the Region to pool its expertise and resources to find really effective ways of tackling these issues in the short, medium, and long term,” added Ms Follett.

The Minister also spoke enthusiastically at the conference of how she was working to gain recognition at Westminster of the importance of defending the coast where that is feasible.

The Lowestoft conference agreed how the partners will work together to ensure effective delivery of the objectives, and the Minister will report back to Government with the evidence and potential solutions to dealing with the key challenges faced by coastal areas in the region

WHAT WILL COASTAL INITIATIVE DO?

- Gather evidence on the key challenges facing the coastal area
- Engage with coastal decision makers and communities to agree ways to address these issues
- Establish ways with local and national decision makers to deliver solutions

WHAT HAS COASTAL INITIATIVE FOUND OUT SO FAR?

- 1.6 million people live in coastal districts in the East of England and the area adds £24 billion to the UK economy each year. These coastal communities are huge contributors to the overall success of the region.
- The areas under-perform on most measures of economic vitality when compared to the East of England as a whole. Some areas suffer from deprivation and unemployment and are also vulnerable to the effects of climate change, water stress, coastal erosion and flooding. If the region is to grow these issues need to be addressed.

DEFENDING OUR COASTLINE

A year on from the Environment Agency's (EA) bombshell that it no longer intended to defend the Blyth estuary, Suffolk Coastal and its partners have had considerable success in raising this policy from a local issue to a national one.

October's visit by the new Chairman of the EA, Lord Chris Smith, was just the latest sign that the battle is being won to gain national recognition of the importance of defending the nation's coastline, including that in Suffolk.

On his appointment, Lord Smith said that Suffolk and Norfolk's coastal defences were one of his main concerns, a statement welcomed by Suffolk Coastal.

“We have been working ceaselessly to ensure that our coastline is properly defended, and it is clear that we are now definitely on the national radar. We shall keep up the pressure and can be cautiously optimistic for the future but it is vital that all our partnerships and our communities maintain their efforts,” said Councillor Andy Smith, Suffolk Coastal's Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Coastal Protection.

The Blyth Strategy Group, which includes Suffolk Coastal, has been working with the Blyth Estuary Group to persuade the Government and the EA to take a wider look at the future of the Blyth, and by implication other areas in future.

There were encouraging meeting with Government Ministers Barbara Follett and Phil Woolas, but Government changes means the lead on coastal defence is now Jane Kennedy, who has already been invited to see the issues at first-hand.

Local landowners have been repairing walls around the Blyth and the EA has agreed some limited additional maintenance but the campaign continues to win a firm commitment to continue to protect the Blyth's communities.

“We are also working in partnership to plan for the future of our coastal areas, with the new Coastal Initiative and the work on the East of England Integrated Coastal Zone Management, which is focussing on issues such as land use, regeneration activities, tourism, and coastal access, as well as coast and estuary defence. “We recognise that to defend the future of our coastal communities we have to address all aspects of their lives, as joining up all the various issues up will strengthen our case for these communities to be protected and supported,” added Cllr Smith.

There has been lots of recent positive news elsewhere along our coast, including the official completion of the £10 million partnership scheme between Suffolk Coastal and the EA to safeguard South Felixstowe, from the War Memorial to Landguard Common.

Thanks to a unique partnership between local landowners, Suffolk Coastal, local parish councils and the EA, new rock defences will be installed by March 2009 to defend Bawdsey and low-lying parishes beyond it, funded by the sale of land for housing.

The Government has already approved a strategy document for Central Felixstowe, from north of the War Memorial to Jacobs Ladder, just north of Cobbold's Point, which recognises the need for work similar to that in South Felixstowe in 2010. Design work and public consultation, is due to start by the end of this year.

At Thorpeness the beach appears to have improved, while Dunwich's experimental scheme is proving its worth. Work is continuing on the review of the Shoreline Management Plan which should go out to the public next Spring.

A draft strategy for the Alde and Ore will be produced by the EA early in 2009, focussing on the possibility of a breach at Slaughden, while a new group for the Deben has just met to consider the problems facing its communities.

COUNCIL VOTES TO MAKE SUFFOLK THREE

The September Full Council meeting of Suffolk Coastal threw its weight 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 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 Councillor 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.

The BCE will send its final recommendations to the Government at the end of December, and a decision to accept or reject them from the Minister is not expected until February.

AFFORDABLE, ACCESSIBLE HOUSING FOR KESGRAVE AND ORFORD

Two new housing developments in Orford and Kesgrave have opened with help from Suffolk Coastal, making these areas more accessible to those on low incomes and people with disabilities and enabling them to remain part of the community.

In Kesgrave, a site on Century Drive was used to build eight wheelchair-friendly bungalows for rent, two with three bedrooms and six with two bedrooms.

In Ipswich Road, Orford, two two-bedroom bungalows, two two-bedroom and four three-bedroom homes were available for rent, and one two-bedroom and two three-bedroom homes were offered through a shared ownership scheme.

“Suffolk Coastal’s planning team, Orford Parish Council and Flagship Housing chose the site for the new, affordable homes, and held a meeting to consult the public on the layout and design of the buildings before starting work,” said Councillor

Chris Slemmings, Cabinet Member for Housing. “To ensure the new housing in Kesgrave and Orford met the needs of the community, planning agreements were made so that homes could only be let or sold to people with a local connection,” added Cllr Slemmings.

SNAPE MALTINGS HERALDED AS A SHINING EXAMPLE

One of the best examples of constructive conservation in the country is English Heritage’s description of the efforts by Suffolk Coastal and others to conserve and renovate Snape Maltings, the district’s premier arts venue.

Suffolk Coastal’s planning officers worked with Aldeburgh Music, architects Haworth Tompkins, and English Heritage, to come up with new ways of using the Maltings’ buildings while remaining in tune with their historic features.

“What we have achieved at Snape Maltings is a case study in English Heritage’s new, Constructive Conservation in Practice book. Thanks to the success of the link-up, we have set a shining example for other organisations to follow, and saved some of our district’s finest buildings that otherwise would have fallen into ruin,” said Councillor Ivan Jowers, Chairman of the Council’s Development Control Committee.

Converting the buildings to new uses without destroying their unique character presented a whole range of challenges.

“The process of designing and converting these beautiful, historic buildings has involved many stakeholders and advisers, including English Heritage and Suffolk Coastal. New life is being successfully brought to this site, whilst maintaining its unique character,” added Jonathan Reekie, Chief Executive of Aldeburgh Music.

READY FOR A SCREEN TEST

A group of producers and others from the film and TV industry recently visited the district as part of a tour organised by Screen East to promote the area as an ideal destination for filming.

Suffolk Coastal has linked up with Screen East to encourage more to film in this district, and Screen East wants a selection of sought after locations to add to their location library such as large, period or ultra contemporary houses, or vacant or derelict industrial buildings. They would also like to hear from local companies such as couriers, construction companies, florists, cleaners and taxi companies who could support productions whilst shooting on location. Call Screen East on 01923 495051, email locations@sceneeast.co.uk or visit www.sceneeast.co.uk

PLAY BUILDER SUCCESSES

Two of the first six projects in Suffolk to gain funding from the Government's Play Builder scheme are in Suffolk Coastal, with Felixstowe's Skate park and Otley Community Council's play space each getting £50,000.

“The county has been awarded £1.1 million to support the development of innovative and challenging play areas for children and young people, and I am pleased that one-third of the first year's budget has been won by projects in our district,” said Councillor Doreen Savage, Cabinet Member for young people.

“The planning of any project must involve children and young people and it is a sign of how this Council has been working with that important section of our community that we have done so well this time,” added Cllr Savage.

Any proposal must include equipment targeted at children aged eight to 13, even if it is also suitable for other age groups, and grants of between £20,000 and £50,000 are available.

The proposed projects have to be drawn up with the local district or borough council, with the final decision being made by a panel made up of the Partners in Play, Suffolk group. To find out more can contact Jennie Catling on 01394 444321 (Tuesdays to Thursdays) or visit www.suffolk.gov.uk/play

VILLAGE ARTS

Want ideas on how to put on an arts event in your village? On Tuesday, March 26 go to the Cut Arts Centre in Halesworth, a special event called Down Your Lane.

Organised by the Lane Arts project, with support from Suffolk Coastal and Mid Suffolk Councils, this special seminar aims to inspire new arts programming in the smallest of communities.

Anyone attending can pick up a special promoters' pack full of advice and information about whom and what you can book in the area. To book a place or find out more email arts@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk or visit www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourfreetime/arts/ from January onwards.

WICKHAM MARKET COURTS LOTTERY SUCCESS

Wickham Market celebrated the official opening of its new tennis courts at the end of September, thanks to its successful bid to the Peoples Millions Big Lottery.

Wimbledon finalist, Christine James (above) led the opening ceremony and local people, young and not so young, joined in tennis activities on the courts, organised by the newly formed tennis club.

“The development of a tennis club was crucial to the sport’s success so part of the grant is being used to buy equipment as well as giving volunteers the chance to train as coaches,” said Cath Caudwell, a Trustee and Company Secretary of the Wickham Market Partnership.

The Partnership, a local regeneration charity, led the bid after two surveys showed overwhelming support for the sport. To find out more about the pay and play facilities or membership can contact Hilary on 01728 747414.

A BLOOMING HELPFUL SERVICE

Anyone looking for help in their garden can turn to Suffolk Coastal Services’ (SCS) gardening service which can carry out all general maintenance tasks.

Call SCS on 01394 444000 to book a meeting with one of the officers who will visit, find out what work needs to be done, and give a quote for how much the work will cost.

CLEAN YOUR GREEN

Small groups of volunteers set out to tackle litter problems around their homes and workplaces after signing up to Suffolk Coastal Services' (SCS) Clean Your Green campaign.

Natalie Bailey and her two 4 year old sons Harvey and Jack decided to tidy up Ufford Recreation Ground and collected two bags of litter of which more than half was recyclable. The boys enjoyed the tidy up so much; they can't wait to do another!

It does not take long to help make our district even cleaner and greener. Call SCS on 01394 444033

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR COLLECTIONS

No refuse or recycling collections will be made on Christmas Day, Boxing Day or New Year's Day. Over the Christmas and New Year period collections will be made as follows

Christmas Week Period

If your normal collection day is	Then it will be made on
Monday 22nd Dec	Saturday 20th Dec
Tuesday 23rd Dec	Monday 22nd Dec
Wednesday 24th Dec	Tuesday 23rd Dec
Thursday 25th Dec	Wednesday 24th Dec
Friday 26th Dec	Saturday 27th Dec

New Year Week Period

If your normal collection day is	Then it will be made on
Monday 29th Dec	Monday 29th Dec
Tuesday 30th Dec	Tuesday 30th Dec
Wednesday 31st Dec	Wednesday 31st Dec

Thursday 1st Jan 2009
Friday 2nd Jan 2009

Friday 2nd Jan 2009
Saturday 3rd Jan

Your collections may take place at a different time from normal during the Christmas and New Year period, so please ensure that your refuse and recycling is out by 7.30am. From January 5th 2009 normal collection days will apply. Thank you for continuing to support the Council's successful recycling services at this time of year contributing towards our improved recycling and composting performance.

HAVE A GREEN CHRISTMAS

- Think green this year and buy a real tree that can either be planted out or re-potted for next year, or composted after the festive season in the brown bin if its branches are less than one and a half inches in diameter or at the Foxhall, Leiston and Felixstowe Recycling Centres.
- Recycle all your cards and wrapping paper, or why not send an electronic card and cut down on waste.
- Shop locally for your presents – it can save you lots of time as well as fuel costs.
- Make a New Year resolution to recycle even more.

RECYCLE YOUR DRINKS CARTONS

There are now five recycling banks in the district just for paper-based food and drink cartons, with the latest two at Woodbridge Community Centre and Framlingham Sports Club, in addition to the ones at the Household Waste Recycling Centres at Foxhall Road, Brightwell, Lovers Lane in Leiston and Carr Road, Felixstowe.

The carton recycling banks only accept paper-based cartons used to hold food and drink products such as milk, juice, soup or chopped tomatoes, which are made of aluminium and plastic as well as cardboard. Because they are made of different types of material they must be processed separately when recycled.

MORE HOMES HAVE NEW RECYCLING BINS

Nearly 6,500 more homes this autumn joined Suffolk Coastal's improved recycling service, meaning that over 35,000 homes now have blue-lidded wheeled bins for paper, cans, tins, foil, plastic containers and cardboard, which will roll out to all the district by March 2010.