

COASTLINE

The Newsletter of Suffolk Coastal District Council

Issue 32, Summer 2007

More homes get improved recycling service

Another 4,500 homes switched in July to Suffolk Coastal's improved recycling service, joining 9,500 homes which since last year have been able to recycle cans, tins, foil, plastic containers, cardboard and paper every fortnight in their special blue-lidded bins.

“Those on the new service will now have two more wheelie bins, to add to their brown one for composting, with the blue-lidded and brown recycling ones being emptied one week, and the one for household waste being emptied the other week,” said Councillor Andrew Nunn, Cabinet Member for the Natural Environment.

“As our brown bins can take all food waste, cooked or uncooked, all our residents can still have a weekly collection of these materials. This avoids the problems, reported by the national media, which have been experienced in other areas,” added Cllr Nunn.

The areas included in this third phase of the rollout are Grundisburgh, Hasketon, Knodishall, Friston, Waldringfield, Bramfield and parts of Framlingham, Kesgrave, Felixstowe, and Yoxford. Residents had the chance to choose their size of bin and attend information roadshows.

“This new service has proved very popular so far, and I know that there are many people who are looking forward to joining it. I wish we could do the whole district now but it is a £1 million plus investment so we are phasing it until 2011,” added Cllr Nunn.

Got an empty business property?

Commercial property owners are being warned of a significant Government change being introduced from April 1 next year that may leave them with a bigger rates bill.

At present, any empty commercial property is not liable for business rates for the first three months, and after that only pays half of what is due, while there is no charge at all on empty factories or warehouses.

From next year, empty commercial property will be liable for the full business rate after three months, or six months for factories and warehouses.

For more information:

www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourbusiness/businessrates
or phone 01394 444546/544 or email
businessrates@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk

A more welcoming Woodbridge

Pedestrians, motorists, rail and bus travellers, will all get a much better welcome to Woodbridge this summer thanks to some big changes to the area around the town's railway station.

The car parking area at the front of the station is being improved to make it much more accessible to everyone and with a bigger emphasis on safety.

“We will have buses able to stop at the station for the first time, safer and dedicated footpaths for pedestrians, a new link to the car park behind the community hall, and an extra 12 parking spaces,” said Councillor Andy Smith, Deputy Leader of Suffolk Coastal and Cabinet Member for the Built Environment.

“This important £250,000 improvement scheme has been made possible because of a partnership between this Council, the County Council, Network Rail and One Railway, with the two councils each providing about half the cost. Millcard also assisted by providing part of the link road,” added Cllr Smith.

It’s easy to pay

Over 15,000 payments totalling more than £2 million have been made since Suffolk Coastal made it even easier for people to pay their Council Tax, business rates, car park excess charge notices, housing benefit invoices, or other invoices.

All you need is internet access or a push button phone, your invoice or excess charge notice and your debit or credit card. An automated phone payment can be made by dialling 0845 880 1312 and calls are charged at local rates. The online payment service can be found on www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourcouncil/contactus/payments/ for more info call 01394 444541 or email payments@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk

Council Taxpayers can visit www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourhome/counciltax/online and with their own PIN number view their own personal account details.

New-look Coastline

We hope you like our redesign which has helped by the comments of readers, one of who, Laura Bishop of Hollesley, won two tickets to Latitude, courtesy of Mean Fiddler. Thanks for all your views - if have any more comments email coastline@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk

Charity fund raising

Over £500 was raised by big-hearted Suffolk Coastal staff on a charity day organised by the Council's Sports and Social Club to help the British Heart Foundation. Since 1994 staff have raised a staggering £26,000 for charity.

No to Ipswich

Suffolk Coastal has written to the Government with its objections to Ipswich Borough Council's bid for unitary status. It fears that it would be a backward step in Suffolk Coastal's drive for partnerships that will help it deliver better services and even better value.

How to contact us

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

Cash Office

Monday to Thursday 9.00am - 4.30pm

Fridays 9.00am - 4.00pm

Refuse and Recycling 01394 444000

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

Tourist Information Centres

Aldeburgh 01728 453637

Felixstowe 01394 276770

Woodbridge 01394 382240

Leisure Centres (managed by DC Leisure)

Felixstowe 01394 670411

Brackenbury 01394 270278

Leiston 01728 830364

Deben Pool 01394 384763

New members join Cabinet

Following May's local elections, Suffolk Coastal's Leader unveiled his new Cabinet, with three changes being made to the team that make the day-to-day policy decisions at the Council.

Cllr Colin Hart returns to the Cabinet after a two year break, while Cllrs Kevin Keable and Mary Neale are making their debuts after being elected for the first time to the Council on May 3.

“I would like to thank all those who took the time to vote. The results, which strengthened the Conservative majority, was I think largely a vote of confidence in our policy of better services

and even better value,” said Councillor Ray Herring, who was re-elected Leader of the Council at May’s Council meeting.

“My new Cabinet will work hard to deliver on the main priorities facing this district, and we have some new faces joining us who will bring new skills and experiences on board.” added Cllr Herring.

The Cabinet in full

Cllr Ray Herring Leader; Cllr Andy Smith Deputy Leader and Member for the Built Environment; Cllr Andrew Nunn Member for the Natural Environment; Cllr Sherrie Green Member for Community Wellbeing; Cllr Chris Slemmings Member for Housing; Cllr Robert Whiting Member for Fiscal and Democratic; Cllr Doreen Savage Member for Customers and Partners, Cllr Colin Hart Member for Economic Development; Cllr Mary Neale Member for Rural Issues/Community Development; Cllr Kevin Keable Member for Community Well-being.

New Chairman of Council

Woodbridge’s Cliff Cocker is officially the district’s first citizen after being elected as Chairman of Suffolk Coastal District Council at its Annual Meeting in May.

“It is a great honour to have been elected as Chairman of the Council for the coming year. I have now lived in Suffolk for 37 years and recognise the unique qualities of this district’s people and our environment that makes it such a great place to live, work or visit,” said Councillor Cliff Cocker, Chairman of the Council.

All votes counted

A grand total of 127 candidates contested the 55 seats on Suffolk Coastal District Council in May, when the Conservative Party increased its majority.

The final results saw the Conservatives finish with 45 (up three), the Liberal Democrats with nine (down two), and Labour with one (down one). In total, 41.9 per cent of the district's eligible 91,411 electorate voted either in person or by post.

Fifteen of the district's town and parish councils were also contested this year, while a staggering total of nearly 800 residents put themselves up to be town or parish councillors across the district. All the results can be found on the Council's website www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourcouncil/elections2007/

Planning success

The ongoing success story of Suffolk Coastal's planning service has been further recognised with the news that it is one of 56 more councils officially recognised as meeting or exceeding national targets.

ASBO issued

A 16 year old Felixstowe youth was given a two-year anti-social behaviour order in May that bans him from Felxistowe's Orwell High School and Maidstone Road and from committing, or encouraging others to commit, anti-social acts.

We have all gone smokefree

From Sunday, July 1, it became illegal for people to smoke in virtually all enclosed public places and workplaces under new smokefree laws that aim for a healthier environment where everyone can socialise, relax, travel, shop and work free from any second-hand smoke.

For more information call 01394 444501, email smokefree@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk or visit www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourbusiness/smokefree

Want help to stop smoking? Call 0800 085 6037 or visit www.suffolkstopsmokingservice.co.uk

Safer neighbourhoods

Policing in Suffolk Coastal has radically changed with the introduction of ten Safer Neighbourhood Teams (SNTs), with police officers, police community support officers and other police staff working alongside councils, community partners and volunteers.

The teams have regular meetings where problems identified by the local community will be prioritized for action, and their own websites www.safersuffolk.org.uk to keep people informed about progress.

Your Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT)

Colneis Peninsula SNT
(Trimleys, Kirton and Nacton)
Led by Sgt Neil McKay
colneis.snt@suffolk.pnn.police.uk

North Felixstowe SNT
(Felixstowe North, South East and East)
Led by Sgt Jim Kerr
northfelixstowe.snt@suffolk.pnn.police.uk

South Felixstowe SNT
(Felixstowe West and South)
Led by Sgt Jim Gooding
southfelixstowe.snt@suffolk.pnn.police.uk

Wilford Peninsula SNT
(Sutton, Hollesley, Eyke, Orford, Tunstall and Rendlesham)
Led by Sgt Mark Woodmansee
wilford.snt@suffolk.pnn.police.uk

Wickham Market Rural SNT
(Witnesham, Grundisburgh, Otley and Wickham Market)
Led by Sgt Deborah Lydford
wickham.snt@suffolk.pnn.police.uk

Woodbridge and Melton SNT
(Melton, Ufford, Riverside, Kyson, Seckford and Farlingaye)
Led by Sgt Chris Gilmore
woodbridge.snt@suffolk.pnn.police.uk

Kesgrave and District SNT
(Rushmere St Andrew, Kesgrave West and East plus
Martlesham)
Led by Sgt Mick Richardson
kesgrave.snt@suffolk.pnn.police.uk

Framlingham SNT
(Hacheston, Framlingham, Peasenhall and Earl Soham)
Led by Sgt Tony Watts
framlingham.snt@suffolk.pnn.police.uk

Saxmundham SNT
(Snape, Saxmundham, Yoxford and Walberswick)
Led by Sgt Andrew Willows
saxmundham.snt@suffolk.pnn.police.uk

Leiston and Aldeburgh SNT
(Leiston and Aldeburgh)
Led by Sgt Richard Gubbins and Sgt Andy Buck
leistonaldeburgh.snt@suffolk.pnn.police.uk
**All the teams can be contacted by phone as well. Just call
01986 835300 and ask for your team.**

Leaflet has designs on reducing anti-social behaviour

The ideas and designs of five local youngsters have been used to create a leaflet aimed at young people.

“The Suffolk Coastal Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) wanted a leaflet that explained to young people what antisocial behaviour is, its consequences and how to report it. We thought that the best people to help us get this important message across were our local youngsters so we held a competition asking for designs for a leaflet,” said Cllr Sherrie Green, of the Suffolk Coastal Local Strategic Partnership.

The five winning designers of ‘ASBO wot eva’ were Gemma and Becky Oakes from Dennington, Eloise Vest from Martlesham, Ellen Wright and Terry Dean of Felixstowe.

Total crime rates in Suffolk Coastal are among the lowest in the country but reducing anti-social behaviour is one of the main targets of the CDRP whose partners have carried out a number of initiatives. The CDRP is part of the Suffolk Coastal LSP and the leaflet can be seen on its website www.sclsp.org.uk/crimedisorder

New DVD promotes respect

A new DVD is helping to tackle anti-social behaviour after students at Deben High School, Felixstowe worked with East Coast Productions to create the unique characters of Mr Green and Mr Young.

Funded by the Suffolk Coastal Local Strategic Partnership, the DVD is part of the national ‘Respect’ campaign, and includes scenarios acted by BTec students, and interviews with local people and police officers.

The Let’s Get a Life DVD has been nominated for national awards and will be used in schools and youth groups across the

county to challenge perceptions of anti-social behaviour and promote positive action.

Looking to a brighter future for Felixstowe

People in Felixstowe are being asked to help draw up a blueprint that will shape the future of their town, with a focus on the seafront area from Cobbold's Point to Landguard Point, and significant parts of the town centre and surrounding areas.

Leading planning consultants David Lock Associates are producing the Master Plan, which will contain proposals to rejuvenate the town as a seaside resort, enhance its shopping environment and provide improved access between the seafront and the town centre.

The Felixstowe and Trimleys Peninsula Futures Group has obtained funding for the project from the Haven Gateway Partnership. Stephen Bracewell, chairman of the Futures Group and Chief Executive of the Harwich Haven Authority said: "This Master Plan could be the key to unlocking a much brighter future for Felixstowe but we want it to be based on what those who live and work in the town think. It is their town and their future, and we want them to come up with the ideas on the best way forward.

"Delivering a new-look Felixstowe will only occur if all the relevant partners work together to make the most of the opportunities now on offer, but the most important partner in this process has to be the local community who need to share and agree the way ahead."

You can send your comments and ideas to Felixstowe Futures, Suffolk Coastal District Council, Melton Hill, Woodbridge, IP12 1AU or email felixstowe@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk The Master Plan is expected to be completed in the autumn of this year – visit www.felixstowefuture.com for more details.

Working to keep pubs safe and legal

The new Suffolk Coastal Licensing Partnership is making sure that all pubs, clubs and other licensed premises in Suffolk Coastal are providing a safe and legal service to their customers.

“By working in partnership we can provide a better service to both the public and our licensed premises. In one visit we can carry out a detailed check of whether the laws are being complied with regarding issues such as food and drinks, fire safety, noise, and under-age drinkers.

“This new approach is about ensuring that those standards are being met with a one-off MOT style inspection,” said Councillor Sherrie Green, Suffolk Coastal’s Cabinet Member for Community Well-being.

“Where premises are shown to be causing problems within a local neighbourhood they can be dealt with appropriately via various methods of enforcement under the legislation and this could even result in a review of the licence, resulting in more robust conditions being imposed,” added Sgt Neil Reid of Suffolk Police.

The SCLP includes representatives of the licensing team, fire service, trading standards, the police, environmental protection, and food safety, and is the first of its type in the county.

New code of conduct

A new Code of Conduct for councillors has been officially adopted by Suffolk Coastal and 40 of the district’s town and parish councils.

The new Code is based on the latest Government guidance and can be seen at the Council’s Melton Hill offices or on www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk

As well as Suffolk Coastal, the new Code has been adopted by the following councils, Bawdsey, Blaxhall, Boyton, Brightwell, Boxhall and Purdis Farm, Chediston and Linstead, Clopton, Dennington, Earl Soham, Easton, Eyke, Framlingham, Great Bealings, Great Glemham, Huntingfield, Kesgrave, Kirton and Falkenham, Leiston, Levington and Stratton Hall, Kesgrave, Little Bealings, Little Glemham, Martlesham, Melton, Middleton, Nacton, Otley, Parham, Peasenhall, Pettistree, Playford, Rendlesham, Rushmere St Andrew, Saxmundham, Saxtead, Theberton, Tuddenham St Martin, Tunstall, Ufford, Walberswick, Wickham Market, and Woodbridge

Feeling Safer

A recent survey showed a big drop in the percentage of people who see anti-social behaviour as a problem, with Suffolk Coastal scoring only 9 per cent, compared to 16 in St Edmundsbury, 21 in Ipswich and 22 in Waveney.

Five more public drinking bans introduced

The police are set this summer for extra powers to tackle anti-social drinking after Suffolk Coastal's Cabinet gave the formal go-ahead to introduce alcohol designation orders in parts of Framlingham, Kesgrave, Martlesham, Martlesham Heath and Rushmere St Andrew. In the designated areas, the police could require someone whose behaviour is deemed to be anti-social to stop drinking their alcohol and hand over the drink. Full details on www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourdistrict/communitysafety/alcohol

Shaping the future of your district – the Local Development Framework

In the last Coastline we asked people for their views on an important new document that will help decide the way this district will develop over the next 15 years or so.

Thanks to everyone who responded to the article and took part in the consultation. On this page we report back on what you have told us. The Core Strategy (Draft Issues and Options) is the first of a series of documents that will eventually replace the current Local Plan and will guide development and investment in the area until 2021.

The Core Strategy is important as the approved version will allow anyone wanting or thinking about building in this district to tell ‘in principle’ if their development is likely to be acceptable or not.

The Issues and Options consultation offered everyone their first opportunity to give their thoughts on how the district and the main towns should look in 2021. This included saying, in broad terms, how much and where new housing and employment should take place and what they consider to be good about their area, what could be improved and what they think the priorities should be.

All comments will be considered by councillors at meetings during the summer, with the aim of publishing the Council’s Preferred Option, or way forward, in November. At this stage we will again ask everyone for their views.

So far you have told us

Housing

- New housing should be provided throughout the district, but concentrated into a small number of large sites around Felixstowe/Trimleys and the edge of Ipswich, with smaller

sites elsewhere at each of the market towns and the larger villages.

- The emphasis should be affordable homes for local people and developing/re-developing brownfield land that has already been used before turning to green field sites.
- Priorities for identifying and spending developer contributions should be agreed with the local community.

Settlements

- How communities define themselves is as important as looking at physical size, or services and facilities, when defining what level and scale of growth is appropriate to them.
- It is important for settlements to retain their own identity and character
- Wickham Market is maybe in a category of its own being larger than many villages but smaller than the market towns

Shopping

- It is the individual nature of the market towns which makes them attractive and it is important that development in our town centres is restricted to ensure they do not become just like every other town in the country.

Employment

- More land for employment use needs to be identified as existing sites will be fully taken up by 2010. Additional land is urgently needed to meet the needs of port related users.

Transport/Access

- Better integration required between bus and rail services
- Improved rail services on the east coast line
- Reinstate bus links across Felixstowe and the docks

- More footpaths, cycle paths and bridleways.
- Tackle the congestion problems on the A12; A14; A1214 and A1152.

Environment

- More emphasis should be given to climate change
- The high quality of our natural and historic environment should be protected and maintained
- Water storage needs to be included
- We should demand high quality design.
- Look at all forms of renewable energy, for example the considerable potential for growing biomass crops

Local Facilities

- Keep all existing open space and provide more
- Every effort should be made to retain existing services

Nearly 200 responses were received to the draft document. This included 53 town and parish councils, 52 residents, 21 private developers or agents, 20 interest groups and a number of public sector organisations. Before we consult again in November, we would welcome any ideas on how to get as many parts of our community involved.

Contact Hilary Hanslip 01394 444761 or email hilary.hanslip@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk and watch out for more information on the Council's website www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourdistrict/planning/review/

Blue Flag flying high over Felixstowe again

For the eighth year running, Felixstowe can proudly fly the Blue Flag for the quality of its beach and its resort management.

This achievement was celebrated by the Chairman of the Council, Cllr Cliff Cocker, who joined guests, including children from Langer Primary School, for an open top bus ride around the resort.

“The thousands of visitors who will flock to Felixstowe this summer can enjoy its South beach knowing it has met the tough requirements of cleanliness and good management set by ENCAMS,” said Councillor Colin Hart, Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Tourism.

Felixstowe’s open-top bus is running from July 22 to September 2 every Wednesday, Sunday and Bank Holiday Monday.

Walks for all

Suffolk Coastal wants to know which footpaths, bridleways, and rights of way across the district are suitable for people using a wheelchair or children in a pushchair so a list of accessible walks can be produced.

Call Sharon Jarrett on 01394 444697 or email sharon.jarrett@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk if you know of any in our towns, villages or countryside.

Virtually Felixstowe

A new website, www.visitfelixstowe.co.uk, has been launched by the Felixstowe Chamber of Trade and Commerce to increase awareness of the resort and is aimed to visitors and locals alike.

Local say demanded on Sizewell C

Suffolk Coastal’s Deputy Leader, Councillor Andy Smith, has called on the Government to ensure that local communities will

still have their say if plans are submitted for a third nuclear power station at Sizewell.

The Council has already identified a number of local issues that it feels must be taken into account and satisfactorily resolved before any permission is granted.

Grand and green design

We can all make a difference by just changing our habits – one Coastline reader has gone a lot further and built her own house in her own green way. Eveline Hastings tells you how.

Both my stepfather and brother were architects and I had always had the dream of building my own house so when I took early retirement I bought this building plot in Walberswick. I wanted a low tech, high Eco specification house but also a low maintenance building. I ruled out some technologies, such as composting toilets and underfloor heating with ground floor heat pumps for this reason.

I soon realised my budget would not stretch to an architect so I employed an architectural technician and did a lot myself. I project managed the whole build and employed direct labour rather than have a main contractor to organise things. The only problems were the windows that came from Finland, were late and all the wrong size!

I sourced as many products and materials as I could from local sources, but not everything can be local. The house is timber framed. It is oak clad in green English oak (which I chose from the sawmill!) with Warmcell insulation made from recycled newspaper. The whole house is breathable including the paint. I have used recycled doors and timbers inside where I can. There is brick cladding on some south facing walls to hold and reflect back heat. This is particularly effective in the two-storey conservatory which provides a lot of passive solar warmth for upstairs and down. The living area downstairs is open plan. I

have a high tech dual burn wood stove (the gases produced by the first burns of wood are burnt too).

I have an electric boiler for radiators partially powered by the solar photovoltaic cells on the studio roof, which were quite an investment as they cost £16,000 but I did receive a 50% grant towards them. I sell the electricity I do not use immediately back to the National Grid. I still have electricity bills but far less than they would have been. I also have solar water heating for hot water.

I use the whole house as I envisaged it is a lovely space to live in and it can evolve further. I feel good about my free heat and energy and enjoy being an ambassador for these technologies. The world's resources are limited and anything we can do to help protect them is worthwhile.

Inspired by Eveline's story? For more information about how to turn your home green phone the Energy Saving Trust Advice Centre Anglia who are organising a renewables showcase in Woodbridge in August. For more details phone 0800 512012.

Grant help to cut your home's carbon footprint

If you want to make your home more energy self-sufficient a grant could be available from the £11.9 million Low Carbon Buildings Programme (LCBP).

This is for solar, wind and water powered systems, or for wood pellets or wood-fuelled boiler systems. This includes mini wind turbines, solar PV panels and solar water heating systems.

The Government's LCBP grants can be worth up to £2,500 or 50 per cent of the cost of installation, or £400 off an average solar energy installation cost of about £3,500- £4,000.

Get a quote from Suffolk Energy Action Link for solar water heating by calling the Climate Change and Energy Helpline on 0800 0288 938. More information is available from the website www.lowcarbonbuildings.org.uk/home/ or from the Helpline above.

The LCBP also provides grants to community organisations, schools, and to not for profit sector and private businesses.

If you just want advice on how to make your home warmer or what grants are available call the Energy Saving Trust advice centre on 0800 512012.

Get on board suffolkcarshare.com

Suffolk ACRE has launched a county-wide car sharing scheme giving people the chance to seek or offer lifts online via the web.

Car sharing can save you money on transport, whether you give a lift or receive one, and it is good for the planet too, reducing the number of cars on the road and reducing the county's carbon tyre-print.

Car sharing can be particularly helpful for people in rural areas with limited public transport or community transport services. Registration is free and all you need to provide is a valid email address, your required journey and whether you are a driver or seeking a lift.

No personal information is released and there is no compulsion as all sharing arrangements are voluntary - and you decide how to share out the costs of the journey.

The scheme is a partnership between Suffolk ACRE, Suffolk County Council, Suffolk Chamber of Commerce and www.liftshare.org

Some tips on how to save pounds of cash and CO2

- Cover your pans when you cook. This can reduce the energy needed by up to 90%!
- Boil only the amount of water you need.
- Use the right size pan for the food and cooker ring.
- Unplug all televisions, videos, DVDs, stereos, cordless phones, mobile phone chargers and computers when you are not using them and you could save up to 8% off your electricity bill.
- Avoid using a dishwasher. This could save you up to £35 over the year, or £4 a year if you just use one less time a week.
- Use the lowest temperature setting appropriate on your washing machine and always wash a full load.
- Cut down or stop using a tumble dryer and you could save up to £16 a year.
- Fridges and freezers: Defrost your freezer regularly to keep it running efficiently and cheaply.
- Switch your lights off when you leave a room, and close your curtains at night to keep your heat in and the cold out, and if they are above a radiator tuck them in.
- On cold winter nights reach for jumper first not your thermostat. Every degree over 18°C will increase your heating bills by about 8%, or about £30 a year.
- If you can, set your hot water cylinder thermostat to 60°C/140°F. This can save up to £10 a year.
- If you can, have a shower rather than a bath, but not a power shower!
- If you're buying a new fridge or washing machine get an A rated energy efficient one, which can save you up to £18 a year.
- Fit low energy light bulbs where you can each bulb can save you £10 a year and they last longer.
- An ultra efficient condensing boiler can be 20 per cent more efficient than your central heating boiler.

Turn your walls green and warm

Here's an offer you really can't refuse – Suffolk Coastal has linked up with British Gas to offer you cavity wall insulation at substantially reduced prices and a £50 credit to your Council Tax account with this scheme only.

The average cost of cavity wall insulation for a three-bed detached home is £275 under this scheme, with annual savings of around £110 - £180 you will soon be in profit, and playing your part in tackling climate change.

You don't need to be a British Gas customer to join in – all you need to do is arrange for a free no obligation home energy survey. If you get the work done via this scheme, you will also get a £50 credit direct to your Council Tax account. All the subsidies and the rebates are wholly funded by British Gas.

To find out more call 0845 971 7731 and quote reference SCCT between 8am and 8pm Mondays to Fridays, or 8am to 1pm on Saturdays

On the agenda

Below is a list of upcoming meetings of Council committees, all of which are being held at its Melton Hill, Woodbridge offices. If you would like to see the agenda for these meetings visit www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourcouncil/meetings/

These dates can be subject to change so check our website or call 01394 444510.

Thursday, July 19 7pm Corporate Management (Overview & Scrutiny)

Tuesday, July 24 9am South Area Development Control

Tuesday July 24 7pm Licensing and Health

Wednesday July 25 9am North Area Development Control

Thursday July 26 7.30pm Council

Wednesday August 22 9am North Area Development Control

Thursday August 23 9am South Area Development Control
Monday, September 3 7pm Corporate Management Overview
and Scrutiny
Tuesday, September 4 7pm Cabinet
Thursday September 6 7pm Standards Committee
Thursday, September 13 7pm Community Well-being and Rural
Issues Overview and Scrutiny
Wednesday, September 19 9am North Area Development
Control
Thursday, September 20 9am South Area Development Control
Sub-Committee

New offices have green foundations

A new £8 million head office for China Shipping was recently opened at Felixstowe with a real flourish with a dragon leading the celebrations for a development which has really green credentials.

The designers worked closely with Suffolk Coastal's development control officers and the offices in Walton Avenue include a range of environmentally-friendly features to cut down energy use. They have also adopted a green transport policy as well with facilities to encourage workers to use their bike rather than their car.

Groups get grants

Grants totalling over £37,000 have been agreed by Suffolk Coastal to support 32 groups working in the district to provide social or sporting facilities and services to residents, meaning over £65,000 of revenue grants were paid in the last year.

Council's cash boost

Suffolk Coastal has received £284,000 from the Government Local Authority Business Growth Incentive Scheme in recognition of how successful the district has been in attracting additional economic investment.

New for home buyers

Suffolk Searches is the new one-stop virtual shop for land searches and means that any potential homebuyer, or anyone acting on their behalf, can visit www.suffolksearches.co.uk and order a detailed electronic search.

Working together for carbon reduction

Our commitment to green issues has seen the Council sign up to the CRed Suffolk Partnership Climate Change Partnership that is working to encourage behaviour changes across the county.

“We have been working with our CRed partners to encourage all sectors of our community to take action now to reduce their own greenhouse gas emissions. Our green pledge day in June proved popular with the public and we will step up our efforts to make this both a greener Council and a greener district,” said Councillor Andrew Nunn, Cabinet Member for the Natural Environment.

Eighty-eight residents visiting our offices signed the green pledge to take some simple actions to cut down their personal carbon footprint, receiving a free low-energy light bulb to help them. Members of the Council’s Cabinet have also taken the green pledge, and over 130 of our staff also joined in.

“We will be working to get the message across that differences can be made whether on a personal, local or organisational level. Last year we worked with others to help Middleton turn green and July saw the start of a similar initiative at Wenhaston,” added Cllr Nunn.

The CRed helpline on 0800 0288 938 and people visiting its website www.creduk.org/suffolk can register and make a pledge to take action.

Don't forget – your brown bin eats food!

Suffolk Coastal is reminding residents that their brown recycling bin is for far much more than just garden waste.

As well as garden cuttings, residents can also use their brown bins for all food waste, cooked or uncooked, as well as cardboard, and shredded paper, which is all taken away and turned into compost.

“I hope that people will that extra second before throwing something away to think whether they can put it in their brown bin and have it turned into compost. Taking that extra step will benefit us all,” said Cllr Andrew Nunn, Cabinet Member for the Natural Environment.

Turn your garden green this summer!

- set up a new compost bin,
- breathe life into your borders with home-made compost,
- use peat-free compost containing recycled materials

Home composting is easy - a third of the average household bin can be composted. This includes

- fruit and vegetable peelings,
- teabags,
- even cardboard and newspaper,
- along with your garden waste

You can get a composting bin from only £8 by visiting www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourhome/waste/composting/ or calling 0845 077 0757

Greener water

- Fit a nozzle on your hosepipe so you can control how much you use

- Grey water (such as dishwater or water from washing vegetables) can be used to water plants as long as it's allowed to cool, contains no chemicals and isn't used on plants you intend to eat!
- Collect rainwater in a water butt
- Using a soil conditioner or home made compost aids moisture retention
- Choose plants which like dry conditions, such as grasses, herbs and succulents

Greener gardening

- Empty plastic drinks bottles cut in half make great planters or bird feeders
- Seedlings can be planted in empty yoghurt pots, small aluminium cans and paper egg cartons
- String old CDs or milk bottle tops together to scare the birds away
- To fill in gaps in your lawn, fill them with grass seeds sowed on used tea-bags

What's on

One of the new regular features in Coastline will be our What's on column. Here are events coming up in the next few weeks.

- Hachfest Live Music Festival, Hacheston, near Woodbridge Saturday July 21
- Aldeburgh Summer Theatre July 30 to September 1
- Snape Proms August 1-31
- The British Open Crabbing Championship, Walberswick August 5
- Felixstowe Carnival August 10-12
- Aldeburgh Carnival Weekend August 17-20
- Woodbridge Regatta August 19
- Thorpeness Regatta and fireworks August 23 & 24
- Hot Rod and Classic Vehicle Rally, Felixstowe Prom August 25
- Art on the Prom, Felixstowe September 2
- Maritime Woodbridge September 8 & 9

- Heritage Open Days September 8 & 9
- Suffolk Festival of Performing Arts October 6-7, 9-21
- Apple Day, Woodbridge October 21

For more information visit www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/whatson or call one of our TICs.

If you have an event that you would like listed here email coastline@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk or write to Coastline, Melton Hill, Woodbridge IP12 1AU.

Open-top Woodbridge

A new open-top bus service in Woodbridge is running this summer linking up the railway and bus station, town centre shops and also the National Trust Sutton Hoo site.

Starting Thursday, July 19 the bus will run every Thursday and Saturday until September 8 on an hourly circular route from 10.30am to 4pm. All-day tickets (Adult £5, child/concession £3, family of up to two adults and three children £12) will allow passengers to hop on and off the service throughout the day. For a one-trip ticket or for a trip between two stops on a single journey, the price is adult £2 and child £1. It is free to Suffolk concessionary pass holders

The bus is sponsored by Woodbridge Town Centre Management Group, East Suffolk Travellers Association and Woodbridge Community Council. For more information contact Woodbridge TIC on 01394 382240.

Make a date for Art on the prom

Felixstowe's fourth annual Art on the Prom is on Sunday, September 2 and aims to be even bigger and better than last year's event which attracted 20,000 people.

Stretching along the promenade between the pier and the Spa Gardens, the day will showcase 75 of the region's best artists. There is also a special workshop for children when they can pick up tips from professional artists.

For more information visit www.artontheprom.org or call 07957 835 793.

Summer fun on offer

Grab a copy of the Summer Activities in Suffolk Coastal booklet or surf the web to tap into the bumper programme of fun things for children and young people.

Among the attractions are the Coastal Playscheme which will be visiting 10 different locations every week during the holidays, the mobile skatepark's daily tour of six towns, and the chance to pick up new skills in football or angling.

Full details can be found in the booklet which can be seen on www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourfreetime/summer/

For an even more up to date list of events, the Council has also launched a special website www.coastalpotato.co.uk

Anyone wanting more information can contact the Active Communities team on 01394 444652 or email active.communities@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk

Sit down and keep fit

Suffolk Coastal is launching special new exercise classes for those people in the district who want to keep fit but whose age, disability or lack of mobility means that a visit to the gym is out of the question.

The new Active Life Programme classes are chairbased, and have been trialled over the last two years at sheltered housing schemes across the district. The sessions have been put together

by the Council's health improvement officer, Sharon Jarrett, and its active communities officer Richard Baldwin, with funding from the Suffolk Coastal Local Strategic Partnership.

“Chair-based exercise brings together a range of movements that increase your flexibility, balance, muscle and bone strength. These special classes will be great for making people fitter and better able to carry out everyday tasks. Our Active Life Programme is a gentle way to help people be healthier,” said Cllr Kevin Keable, Cabinet Member for Community Well-being.

The first sessions are being held every Friday at 3.30pm at the Avenue Evangelical Church Hall, 42 Warwick Avenue, Woodbridge. The ALP sessions will this summer spread to venues across the district and will last about an hour, cost £1.50, and usually give time for a chat and a cup of tea afterwards.

Anyone interesting in joining one of the sessions can find out more by calling Sharon on 01394 444697 or Richard on 01394 444318 or email active.communities@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk

Arts A-Z

Suffolk Coastal first arts directory has just been published, a one-stop shop information goldmine that aims to put the spotlight firmly on the district's cultural activities with a who's who list of contacts.

The booklet is crammed with nearly 160 different entries, offering an A-Z of people and places in the district who are involved in the arts.

See the Arts Directory on www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourtime/arts/directory or email arts@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk or call 01394 444538.

Tracking the Alde and the Ore

Suffolk Coastal and Suffolk Coast and Heaths have linked up to form Ebb and Flow, a landscape heritage project that has gained a £48,300 grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

“We expect that over 1,000 local people of all ages will get involved with Ebb and Flow, which will include community workshops looking at the oral history, archaeology and topography of the Alde and the Ore. We also plan to create a heritage trail, a touring exhibition and an educational DVD,” said Cllr Kevin Keable, Cabinet Member for Community Wellbeing and the Arts.

The Council is keen to hear from anyone who could help in the recording of the oral history, either as a member of the team carrying out the interviews or as someone who has their own memories, whether as a fisherman, farmer, leisure user or a resident.

Anyone who is interested in this new project can contact Suffolk Coastal’s arts officer, Rachel Nightingale for more information on 01394 444294 or email arts@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk

SCTV on for young people

Suffolk Coastal Teen Voices (SCTV) is the first districtwide forum for young people and aims to put everyone in the picture about what young people really want.

“Our targets are to promote the reputation of youths in Suffolk Coastal, proving that the majority of us are not the assaulting, vandalising ‘yobs’ that sections of the media so often likes to describe us as,” said SCTV’s Alex Stewart who comes from Felixstowe.

“We want to raise the awareness of young people’s need to local services, such as transport. SCTV is calling on any young

person in our area to give us their ideas or complaints.” added Alex.

Members of SCTV were involved in recent spending decisions on the Youth Opportunity Fund and the Youth Capital Fund which saw £100,000 invested in 15 different local projects.

For more information email keri.mohan@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk or text 07795 092255 or write to Keri or SCTV at Suffolk Coastal District Council, Melton Hill, Woodbridge IP12 1AU. Keri Mohan is Suffolk Coastal’s youth co-ordinator and is funded by the Suffolk Coastal Local Strategic Partnership.

“I am delighted with the formation of SCTV and have already attended one of its meetings. I hope to discuss various ideas and issues with them to bring before the LSP Board as well to Suffolk Coastal’s Cabinet and Councillors,” said Councillor Doreen Savage, LSP Board Member.

Cash boost for youth projects

SCTV has helped 15 local groups and projects working with or for young people to get some much-needed funding from the Youth Opportunity Fund or the Youth Capital Fund.

Grants have been agreed for:

- £1,250 YOF and £13,750 YCF for Felixstowe Swimming Club
- £7,749 YOF to Felixstowe Guides
- £1,000 YOF to Sanctuary Supported Housing Project to help young people apply for jobs
- £2,310 YOF to Team Spirit Self Develop
- £3,782 YOF to Tru Soldiers to set up a dance project for young people
- £4,976 YOF to run summer activities at Hasketon & Grundisburgh
- £3,000 YCF for a basketball court at Leiston Youth Club
- £1,845 YOF for Peasenhall Youth Club
- £5,520 YOF to Clay Time Play Time project

- £5,000 YOF to Lazy Maniac a weekly youth club at Wickham Market
- £4,960 YOF, £20,000 YCF for a minibus to help young people undertake community work
- £5,000 YOF for safe, alcohol-free Woodbridge Club Nights
- £1,160 YOF to Woodbridge Youth Council
- £2,875 YOF to Yoxford Arts Festival

Soundwaves for Sk8 aid

Soundwaves, the Suffolk Coastal music project aimed at young people, joins forces with Sk8 Aid for a special fundraising gig on Friday, August 24 at Woodbridge Community Centre.

With a scorching line-up including Hooked on Tap, Steel Rhino, The Kabeedies, Legomen and Pikey Esquire, Sk8 aid aim to get closer to their £50,000 goal. It's just £4 to get in, and the gig starts at 8pm-11pm. All proceeds from the gig will go to the Woodbridge Skate Park fund.

Young music lovers should keep their eyes peeled for more fundraising gigs supported by Soundwaves, in September/October. For more info and to stay up to date with what's going on in your area, visit www.suffolksoundwaves.co.uk, email suffolksoundwaves@hotmail.com or call Sophie McAdam on 07005 98 18 38. Got any gigs planned? Email coastline@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk and we will try to list them.