



Parish *Bulletin*

Winter 2007



Communities unite against Blyth Estuary proposals

Suffolk County Council, Waveney District Council and Suffolk Coastal have joined up to challenge the latest Environment Agency (EA) proposals for the Blyth Estuary.

In its recently published Blyth Estuary strategy, the Environment Agency has said it will no longer fund local flood defences, leaving local communities to fend for themselves in the future.

The three councils have called on local people and businesses to tell the EA by January 4 what they think of its plans, pointing out the impact that 'planned flooding' will have not just on local homes but also on all aspects of local life, whether it be Walberswick or Southwold, the A12 and other roads, wildlife, jobs and tourism.

"Years of under-investment and inadequate funding by the Government in coastal defences is now leaving the EA with no choice but to abandon this as the first of doubtless many other estuaries," said Councillor Andy Smith, Suffolk Coastal's Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for the Built Environment.

"The local community should not and will not accept the destruction of their environment simply because funds are unavailable and nor will this Council. The Government needs to urgently increase the amount of national funding on offer, added Cllr Smith.



**Cllr Andy Smith
Deputy Leader**

For more information on the Environment Agencies strategy visit <http://www.suffolkestuaries.co.uk/projectnews.htm>

Views should be sent to Blyth Estuary, Environment Agency (Anglian Region), Kingfisher House, Goldhay Way, Orton Goldhay, Peterborough PE2 5ZR

Email: - blythestuary@environment-agency.gov.uk

Please also send a copy of your response to: Suffolk County Council, Countryside Services, Endeavour House, 8 Russell Road, Ipswich, IP1 2BX

Suffolk Coastal manages a close escape

The Council passed its test on dealing with an emergency with flying colours, after the recent flood alerts gave the district and the rest of the country a glimpse of the serious havoc that could occur as a result of flooding.

Suffolk Coastal staffed an emergency operations centre during the night of November 8, helping to co-ordinate support and actions locally, while teams of workers helped set up and managed the rest centre set up at Leiston Leisure Centre.

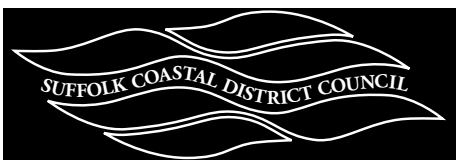
"This proved a successful partnership response, with this Council and other key local service providers working together to run things efficiently at a strategic level, supported by the vital input of people working locally on the ground," said Stephen Baker, Suffolk Coastal's Chief Executive.

"The early warning system of the Environment Agency proved invaluable. There have been many practice events, but this one was for real, but thankfully without all the dreadful consequences that were being predicted. I would like to thank our local partners, DC Leisure, Suffolk Coastal Services (SCS) and Norfolk Property Services (NPS) for their help," added Mr Baker.

SCS managed to successfully carry out all their scheduled refuse and recycling collections as well as street cleansing and helped transport sandbags to those community facilities that needed protecting. DC Leisure helped transform the Leiston Leisure Centre into a rest centre while NPS provided support to the round the clock operations team.

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Cabinet demands local say on any Sizewell C Plans

Suffolk Coastal's Cabinet has called on the Government to ensure that there is a commitment that local impacts should be fully considered as part of any future planning processes that deal with new nuclear power stations.

The Council responded as part of the consultation on the Government's Energy White Paper which sets out a possible key role for nuclear power to help reduce future carbon emissions in the country.

"This Council recognises the need to conserve energy and promote increased efficiency, and we have been making our own efforts locally. We can therefore support the general thrust of the Energy White Paper and endorse it as a positive response to the challenge of climate change," said Councillor Andrew Nunn, Cabinet Member for the Natural Environment.

"However, we strongly believe that local communities should have their say - with the right to reject plans for a Sizewell C if, after detailed local consideration, it is seen to be the correct decision for this district.

"What we want are guarantees that the views of local people, and this Council that represents them, will have a real influence on the decision. We do not want to lose the right to control the impact that any proposed development could have on what is a unique environment around Sizewell - this district's local knowledge and requirements must be taken into account," added Cllr Nunn.

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. The existing Sizewell site is within an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, the Heritage Coast and close to internationally important sites for wildlife.

There are concerns that any new nuclear plant should be restricted in output so that it can use the existing transmission lines at Sizewell, rather than needing new power lines and pylons to be erected in the surrounding countryside.

The Council also wants the possible effects on coastal erosion at the site, and north and south of it, to be addressed, along with assurances that disruption caused by the construction process is kept to a minimum, and that generous compensation is available for the community.

"Housing and facilities for the workforce should also be very carefully designed and located in such a way that they can benefit local people long after the project is complete. Similarly, transport arrangements, whether by road, rail or sea, and controls on construction noise need local input," said Councillor Andy Smith, Cabinet Member for the Built Environment.

"There are also major concerns about the possible storage of spent nuclear waste on the site. These are all legitimate local issues that need to be positively addressed, and need to be seen to be done locally and openly.

"In recent years, national energy policy has been described as the dash for gas. I do not want to now see there being a sprint for nuclear that leaves local communities and their representatives without the chance to influence the result," added Cllr Smith.

The next issue of this Bulletin will be published in March 2008. This is your publication, if you have any items you would like included that would be of interest to other Towns and Parishes please contact the Communications Team on 01394 444741 or email communications@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk

New sports facilities and pavilion for Rendlesham



A new pavilion comprising of four changing rooms, a full sized football pitch, an all weather five-a-side football pitch, a junior pitch and a children's play area and open space, were officially handed over by Persimmon Homes to the Rendlesham Parish Council on Friday, October 26.

These facilities were provided as part of the planning permission for the development of the new village of Rendlesham.

Bob Chamberlain of Suffolk Coastal's Planning Services acted as co-ordinator and liaison between the developer and the parish council and Suffolk Coastal's Active Communities team will be on hand to help and support the parish council in the development of the sports and recreational facilities.

Village of the Year presentation



The Chairman of Suffolk Coastal, Cllr Cliff Cocker presented the Suffolk Coastal Village of the Year cup, a cheque for £200 and a certificate to the Chairman of Levington Parish Council David Long and Pat Pryke at an event held in the Village Hall on Tuesday, October 9.

Re-Generate

Young people of high school age in Felixstowe, interested in fashion, style, culture, identity and creativity were invited to join Re-generate, a project designed to build better understanding in relationships between the generations in Felixstowe through the creative process of putting on a fashion show from scratch.

The inspiration for the show, held on November 30, was the use of second-hand, recycled and charity shops materials and those taking part had the chance to join workshops on textile design, set design, styling, window dressing and photography led by professional artists with support from youth workers.

The project was a partnership between Suffolk Coastal Arts and Level 2.

New website on view for Suffolk Coastal's young people

The district's young people now have their own website run by Suffolk Coastal Teen Voices (SCTV) who aim to change the world for local youths forever.



Alex Stewart of SCTV

"The website www.sctv.org.uk offers everyone the chance to find out what we are about and what we are doing. We want to make sure young people get a voice in the local community and local government, as well as the national government. We are not saying we should be running the world, just that we want more opportunities for us to get our voices heard," said Alex Stewart of SCTV.

"We meet every month and invite people like the police, or local councillors or those who provide services for young people. Our job is to make sure that youths aren't just forgotten and told what to do all of the time.

"We want to stop the bad coverage by the media of youths who end up stereotyping all of us because of the actions of a small minority who misbehave. We are working to change these views for the better, and make sure that young people have a voice in the community. SCTV are the four letters that could change the world of youths in Suffolk Coastal forever," added Alex.

SCTV has produced their first DVD called Generation Jigsaw and their website has links to You Tube where the film can be seen in its entirety.

Parish Liaison meetings

The 2007 round of Parish Liaison meetings have recently taken place in three different locations covering parishes in the north, south-west and central parts of the district.

Each meeting was attended by local councillors, officers from Suffolk Coastal, a police representative and representatives from the town and parish councils.

Three main topics for discussion were on the agenda - Suffolk Pathfinder update, Suffolk Coastal's budget consultation and the Police Safer Neighbourhood Team update. There was also an opportunity for the town and parish representatives to raise issues of common interest for their area.

A copy of the relevant minutes has been sent to Town and Parish Clerks.

Although these annual meetings are now a permanent fixture, groups of towns and parishes are reminded that they still have the opportunity to request a special meeting with Suffolk Coastal if there is an issue of particular concern.

Maps to help with Parish Plans

Suffolk Coastal's Property Information team can provide maps of various sizes and print outs for town and parish councils to use in their Parish Plans.

There is a small charge for providing these maps and each town or parish council using them has to sign a contractors licence under the terms of the Council's mapping services agreement.

For further information phone Sheila Manning on 01394 444607.

Funding trees to help offset environmental footprints

Donations by companies to a national initiative will see hundreds of trees and hedges being planted by volunteers in late November at Hollesley and early December in Rendlesham as part of a long-term contribution to reducing their environmental footprints.

Suffolk Coastal linked up with Tree Appeal to identify the first two sites in Suffolk to benefit from the fund which aims to make the world a greener place by planting broad-leaved trees and providing woodland habitats.

"This is an excellent initiative which encourages companies to take a green stand and make an on-going long-term contribution to the environment by making a donation to Tree Appeal who then plant trees both in this country and elsewhere in the world," said Councillor Andrew Nunn, Cabinet Member for the Natural Environment.

"I am delighted that we appear to be the first in East Anglia to have linked up with Tree Appeal to get some planting in our district.

"There is quite an impressive list of companies already signed up and I hope that local ones will look at joining in as a way of showing their commitment to being green and supporting the local environment," added Cllr Nunn.

Tree Appeal (www.treeappeal.com) is based in Durham and aims to plant and conserve trees within the UK and globally in recognition and appreciation of the environmental and humanitarian benefits that trees deliver to the wellbeing of the planet.

The organisation wants to give environmentally responsible companies the opportunity to make a significant environmental contribution within their own area as well as assisting them in offsetting their carbon dioxide emissions. Among the list of partners to Tree Appeal are Sainsbury's, Basildon's Eastgate Shopping Centre, and the University of Essex.

Most of the planting by Tree Appeal will be in low-profile surroundings where they are most needed, such as supplementing hedgerows, woodlands and nature reserves, or alongside highways, rivers or farmland.

"Suffolk Coastal's role was to help attract volunteers and identify where future projects could occur. We have been running our own Parish Tree scheme for over 20 years where we have worked with local communities to plant tens of thousands of trees, so we already have a lot of experience and knowledge.

"One of our priorities is to develop and promote green policies and improved environmental management across our district so this is a really exciting initiative. The more local partners that come forward to join Tree Appeal, the better chance we have of getting more supported planting in the future," added Cllr Nunn.

To find out more about tree planting events in the district contact Suffolk Coastal's Joanna Payne by emailing joanna.payne@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk or writing to her at Suffolk Coastal District Council, Melton Hill, Woodbridge IP12 1AU.

Suffolk Coastal's Online Services

Go online to pay Council bills

Suffolk Coastal is reminding its residents that they can pay bills around the clock by going online or using their phone.

Council Tax bills, Business Rates, planning applications, car park excess charge notices, housing benefit invoices and other Council invoices can be paid by visiting www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourhome/counciltax/online or for those who do not have access to a computer phone the Council's automated telephone on 0845 880 1312



The Council currently accepts Delta, Mastercard, Solo, Maestro, Visa and Visa Electron. Any payments made by debit cards are free, but the Council does charge an additional fee of two per cent of the total transaction value on all payments made by credit card, except for car parking excess charge notices and housing benefits overpayments. This is to cover the costs that the banks charge the Council for dealing with these payments

Council Tax

Two services are available on Suffolk Coastal's website so Council Taxpayers can keep track of their accounts at any time of the day.

Anyone visiting www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourhome/online/ is able to view their own personal account details over the web, and also electronically receive their Council Tax bills. In addition anyone can search for the bands of all properties within the district and the associated gross charges.

For people to view their own account details, all they need to do is visit the website and register for the service by using their personal account number which can be found on their bill. They will then be sent a PIN number that must be used the first time they log in which will allow them to see the details of how their bill is calculated, payments that have been made and how much is due. It also includes details of any bills or notices that the Council has previously sent.

People can also have their Council Tax bills issued electronically which will help us save everyone money on paper and postage. Each time a new or amended bill is generated an email is sent advising that a new bill is available to view online - just follow the link in the email to go to the new bill. People can subscribe to this service once registered to use the online service. The e-billing option can be found on the account summary page.

Suffolk Coastal Christmas Opening Hours

Suffolk Coastal's Melton Hill offices will close at 4pm (Cash office 3.15pm) on Christmas Eve, Monday, December 24 and will re-open at 8.45am (Cash office 9am) on Wednesday, January 2, 2008.

The Felixstowe office will close at 3.30pm on Christmas Eve and will re-open at 9am on Wednesday, January 2, 2008.

Tourist Information Centres' Christmas Opening Hours

The district's three Tourist Information Centres at Woodbridge, Felixstowe and Aldeburgh will close at 3pm on Christmas Eve, Monday December 24 and re-open at 9am on Thursday, December 27. They will also close at 3pm on New Year's Eve, Monday, December 31 and re-open at 9am on Wednesday, January 2.

Their normal winter opening hours are 9am to 5.30pm Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm Saturday.



Printing for the Community

The Council's print room at its Melton Hill offices is available to local community and voluntary groups across the district.

If you are a registered charity, club, town or parish council, or a church organisation, and you need some printing done at a competitive price, why not join those who are already using the Print Room team.

They can offer colour or black and white photocopying, or litho printing which is better value for money if you want lots of copies - but you will need to provide your own artwork on a disk or hard copy format.

Currently they are doing a range of jobs, including annual reports, newsletters and leaflets. If you would like a quotation call Steve Siggers on 01394 444534 or email print.room@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk



Play your part for cleaner safer neighbourhoods

Many people are actively doing their bit for the global environment by recycling, saving energy and buying local produce. But what are we doing about anti-social behaviour that can affect our immediate surroundings such as litter, graffiti, fly-tipping, dog fouling and abandoned cars?

These are some of the most common complaints from local residents yet many are reluctant to challenge irresponsible dog owners or report people for dropping litter. Young people often get the blame, but some adults can be just as bad; not realising that all littering is a criminal offence carrying fines of up to £2,500.

Keeping our communities clean, safe and litter-free is a challenge for council services, which costs tax payers more than half a billion pounds a year nationally. Cleansing teams work hard to remove graffiti and rubbish promptly to reduce the risk of repeat offending, but they rely on the public to keep them informed.

Suffolk Coastal spends £600,000 on clearing litter from our streets, parks, beaches and roadsides each year - money which could be put to much better use.

Parish and Town Councils have also responded to the problem by providing extra litter and dog mess bins, volunteer litter picks and removing graffiti, however they too need the support of the community to succeed.

People are asked to play their part for a cleaner, safer environment by reporting any anti-social behaviour as soon as they see it.

The new Safer Neighbourhood Teams made up of police, councils, organisations and volunteers are working together to listen to people's concerns and tackle local issues promptly. Problems can be reported to parish/ward teams by visiting www.safersuffolk.org.uk or telephoning Suffolk Constabulary on 01473 613500.

Suffolk Coastal's environmental services department can be contacted on 01394 444000 or email scsltd@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk and problems such as fly-tipping and abandoned cars can also be reported online at www.onesfulk.co.uk

New Safer Neighbourhood Team office opened

A new Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) office on the MOD Woodbridge site was officially opened in October.

The new office will give police a more local office to work from meaning officers serving Hollesley, Eyke, Tunstall, Orford and Sutton do not have to keep returning to Woodbridge Police Station to do paperwork or input details onto a computer and can, therefore, spend more time on the beat.

It also means officers can be more accessible to local people by using the office for meetings and 'surgery' sessions.

Other News

Groynes to take the strain

Groynes around Undercliff Road East, Felixstowe have recently been reinforced as part of precautionary works costing £70,000.

Tickets for the Spa Theatre, Felixstowe available from the Tourist Information Centres

Tickets for the Spa Theatre, Felixstowe, can now be purchased from the district's three Tourist Information Centres (TIC) at Felixstowe, Woodbridge and Aldeburgh.

The TICs can also book London theatre and accommodation packages for most of the West End shows and they offer a National Express ticket booking service. At Woodbridge and Felixstowe people can also buy rail tickets.

Police Direct

If you would like to receive information about local policing issues in Suffolk, directly from Suffolk Constabulary then log on to the Police Direct service at <http://policedirect.suffolk.police.uk/> or telephone Police Direct on 01473 613997.

Learn and Live

'Learn and Live' is a road safety initiative developed and delivered by operational firefighters in Suffolk.

The 40minute presentation has been designed to give mainstream youths aged between 16-24 years an insight into the dangers of irresponsible vehicle use and the devastating consequences that accompany it.

Seven 'Learn and Live' packages have been funded by local Crime & Disorder Partnerships and are with Fire Stations across the county. The Fire Service is happy to take this package to any venue to show young people.

For further information phone Assistant Divisional Officer, Ken Williamson on 01473 260588.

Suffolk Coastal delivering more success

In the wake of publishing its first-ever annual report, Delivering Success, Suffolk Coastal has been in the spotlight recently with a trio of plaudits for the district and its services.

October saw the Channel 4 series Location, Location, Location, rating the district as the 17th best in the UK in which to live. At the same time the Council's legal services team were part of the countywide Doing Better Business (DBB) partnership that scooped a national award, and its property information team were runners-up in the National Land Property Gazetteer best business process transformation exemplar awards.

"The fact that our district was rated so highly is very gratifying and reflects what our residents have been saying. They know what a superb natural environment we have and that it is backed up by a quality of life across a range of issues like housing, health, cleanliness and safety," said Councillor Ray Herring, Leader of the Council.

"A recent survey gave this district a 91 per cent level of satisfaction from its residents which was the highest in Suffolk, and they also scored this Council as being the best in the county," added Cllr Herring.

Council works to minimise impact of Post Office closures

The recent news that 15 of the district's 49 post offices were on an official list for closure saw Suffolk Coastal working with local residents to make sure their voices were heard.

"I can fully understand the angry reaction that these proposals have provoked across our district, with nearly a third of our local post offices under threat," said Councillor Mary Neale, Cabinet Member for Rural Issues and Community Development.

"We have called on the Post Office to minimise the impact of these closures. I fear that the stark reality is that, as the Government has already approved these plans, any attempts to halt these closures are doomed to failure.

"What we have been encouraging people to do is come up with their own alternative suggestions to stave off the impact of closure and put these forward to the Post Office," added Cllr Neale.

The local Post Office branches in our district at Fairfield Road, Aldeburgh, Bramfield, Crettingham, Dennington, Great Bealings, Hacheston, Knodishall, Martlesham BT, and Hasketon Road, Woodbridge have been earmarked for closure from January 1, 2008 onwards.

A further six branches will be closed, at Nacton, Sutton, Ufford, Walberswick, Waldringfield and Witnesham, but outreach services will be provided, meaning that either a mobile post office will visit every week, or that services might be offered at a shop or community centre for a few hours, or a reduced range of services could be offered from a community facility like a pub.

There is also the option of a home service where preordered items are delivered direct to a customer or at a local drop-in session.

Get on board for free national travel

People over the age of 60 and qualifying disabled Suffolk Coastal residents will be entitled to free bus travel right across England from April 2008.

The National Concessionary Travel scheme, which is anticipated to cost the authority a minimum of £900,000 per annum, will provide free unlimited off peak bus travel.

Suffolk Coastal residents who already hold a concessionary bus pass, along with people who apply before 21 December, 2007 will not need to apply for the new national pass. The new style national pass will automatically be sent to them during the last two weeks of March 2008.

Applications for the new card will continue to be accepted after the 21 December and the Customer Services Team will do their best to ensure the new pass arrives before 1 April, 2008.

Due to the large number of passes which will be issued (Suffolk Coastal has over 19,500 pass holders) the data has to be issued to the card producers well in advance. Pass holders are asked to let the Customer Services team know as soon as possible of any changes which may affect their entitlement. The Customer Services Team can be contacted on 01394 444647.

Saxmundham gains Quality Status

Saxmundham Town Council has been awarded Quality Status and has received their framed Certificate from Shona Bendix, Chief Executive Officer of Suffolk Association of Local Councils (SALC) at a presentation during their Council meeting on Monday, November 12.

Shona Bendix said that the Accreditation Panel had been impressed by the standard of Saxmundham's Quality Town Council Portfolio and singled out the newsletter as a model of good communications with residents.

The Community BAP - a way forward

by John Harrold (Wenhaston Commons Group, Suffolk)

The national framework of Biodiversity Action Plans for endangered species and habitats is now well established and has recently been extended to cover even more of our vanishing wildlife. Most of these BAPs are implemented by government. At the end of the day however, wildlife depends on actions taken locally, at site and community level and there is indeed a national tradition for local action, particularly in wildlife issues.



A plan is simply a record of where you are, where you want to be, and how you intend to get there. It need not be elaborate or lengthy. The BAP ought to contain a summary of your current knowledge of local biodiversity i.e. what important habitats and species you have, their distribution and rarity, and how it may be possible for the community to help them. It

So why have a Community BAP? Having a written plan first of all gives ownership of the issues and proposals to the writer/s. It is your statement of your situation and how you would like it to be changed. It can also in this instance make the link between the larger scale plans and the needs of local wildlife, the commitment of individuals, and the interests of the community. It will help to focus activities and sustain them into the longer term. Having a documented plan will facilitate applications for funding and other help, and a BAP will also contribute to Parish Plans and the Local Development Framework, the local council's planning for your area. Most importantly, it should of course benefit wildlife.

Where do you start? You will need to know what important wildlife habitats and/or endangered plants and animals are found locally - a sort of biodiversity audit - and how it is faring. Local knowledge can be supplemented by enquiring at the Suffolk Biological Records Centre at Ipswich Museum, Suffolk Wildlife Trust, Suffolk Coastal or the Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB Unit. There may not be very many such priority areas or species in your community, in which case your efforts can be concentrated on animals or features that are of particular local interest e.g. nightingales, frogs, hedges or public open spaces. However, if you do find that your patch is important for something then you will need to find out a little about the larger scale BAPs and consider what, if anything the community can do to help. There are of course other schemes afoot to help biodiversity, particularly the DEFRA Environmental Stewardship project, which affects mainly those in the farming industry, and of which you will need to be aware to avoid any duplication of effort. The worst case scenario is that you will need to undertake some surveys to find out what you have, and for this you will probably need specialist help, most likely from the Wildlife Trust. Having found out all this information, you can then prepare your BAP.

should also have some general aims or objectives, for example to support the larger scale schemes, to encourage local wildlife, and to involve as many people as possible. An overall objective could be to safeguard and where possible improve your area for wildlife. These aims should encourage ideas from residents and you will need to evaluate these as to what are possible within your resources. There is an enormous range of activities that can be organised; the best source of suggestions is the local Wildlife Trust.

Specific projects will require Action Plans. These more detailed aspects of a BAP will require some specialist input, from perhaps the making and siting of bird nestboxes to management plans for areas of lowland heath, woodland or churchyards. Putting these plans into action will need energy and equipment but more importantly people, in the form of work parties, youth groups, schools, or just dedicated individuals. It is vital of course to conserve this commitment by supporting them e.g. with refreshments, social events, and/or displays of their achievements, and each community will have to find its own ways of showing its appreciation - the wildlife benefits won't always be obvious! Records of target species e.g. the extent of regrowth of heather, numbers of singing male nightingales, sightings of rare insects, will give some idea of progress, but be prepared for this to have to be long-term. The natural world operates over a longer time-scale than a season, and other factors e.g. climate may intervene.

There is a huge range of opportunity for successful local action to encourage biodiversity. Different approaches may suit different communities, but the Community Biodiversity Action Plan can significantly help to deliver results for our endangered wildlife.

For more information contact:

Mary Nordern
Suffolk Biodiversity Development Officer
Telephone: 01473 400251
Email: Mary.Norden@et.suffolkcc.gov.uk

Suffolk Coastal LSP's Fifth Annual Forum



Quality of life in the district was at the centre of discussions when the fifth annual forum of the Suffolk Coastal Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) was held on November 2 at Trinity Park.



In his opening remarks to the forum, Councillor Ray Herring, Chairman of the Suffolk Coastal LSP Board said,

“This forum is called ‘making connections’ because our goal is to update everyone on our achievements, share information about current projects, and give the chance to guide our partnership work in the future.”

“We have achieved a great deal through the partnership during the last year but we also recognise that we need to discuss and address some of the new and emerging issues facing this district and therefore the LSP.

“With 140 representatives from across our community, including councillors and officers from all three tiers of local councils, public and private service providers, business people, the voluntary sector, community representatives and young people from SCTV and local schools, we have a range of knowledge and ideas to share and build on,” added Cllr Herring.

Four topics were discussed during workshop sessions at the forum:

- Supporting our vulnerable residents
- Green issues
- The generation gap
- Business Needs

Each district is required by the Government to have its own LSP working to enhance the local quality of life, and help co-ordinate and shape the future action of public, private, voluntary and community organisations.



One of the workshops

Progress update with the new LDF

Work has been continuing on consideration of all the comments received in response to the Core Strategy Issues and Options Document put out for consultation earlier this year.

A number of issues have already been considered by the Local Development Framework (LDF) Task Group at their meetings in July, September and October. Copies of the reports and minutes can be seen on

<https://apps3.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/committeeminutes/>

The Task Group is due to meet on December 3 before it is all considered by Cabinet on January 8. The result of these meetings will be a new document, the ‘Core Strategy Preferred Options’. Comments on it will be sought during an eight week period starting around end of January. At the same time, comments will be sought on the sites submitted as possible development sites, or for potential changes to the current physical limits boundaries of the district’s towns and villages.

The opportunity to comment on these new documents will be widely publicised through local newspapers nearer the time.

Town Centres largely untouched by car park review

A thorough review of all Suffolk Coastal’s car parking charges could see prices frozen for a second successive year at nearly all the district’s town centre car parks, despite the Council’s severe financial pressures.

Consultation is now underway about a package of measures that would help deliver a further £259,000 of income to the Council which is still facing a £850,000 budget gap next year.

“Our recommendations mean that there will be no price change for users of the vast majority of our town centre car parks. We recognise the importance of supporting the vitality and viability of our district’s shops and are freezing those

tariffs at their 2006 levels,” said Councillor Andy Smith, Council Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for the Built Environment.

“Our review of all our car parks had identified some inconsistencies that we have tried to iron out. I hope the overall result will be to improve the effectiveness of our car parks in supporting the district’s commercial, tourist, residential and environmental life,” added Cllr Smith.

Suffolk Coastal has written to those town and parish councils affected by the proposals, asking for their views on the suggested changes that would come into effect in April 2008.



Recycling News

What can be recycled this Christmas and where

Unwanted food can now go in the brown waste bin, together with cut up Christmas trees (if under one and a half inches in diameter) without buckets or decorations. Alternatively trees or any trunks or branches greater than one and a half inches in diameter, can be taken to one of the Household Waste Centres in the district at Foxhall, Felixstowe or Leiston. Cardboard, plastics and batteries can also be recycled at these centres.

Residents receiving the new recycling service can recycle their cans, foil, plastics, cardboard and paper in their blue-lidded bins. Those not receiving this service can recycle their Christmas cards, envelopes, newspapers, magazines, catalogues, television guides and wrapping paper, if not of the foil type, in the green recycling crate. To enable the vehicles' collection pods to cope with the extra paper at this time of the year, it would help if it was folded and flattened.

Items such as cans, bottles and jars can be recycled at one of over 230 recycling sites across the district, but it would be appreciated if people did not leave these on the ground if the banks are full.

Please report full banks and wait until they are emptied or use an alternative site. Metal jar and bottle tops, as well as foil can go in the can banks, but these need to be put into a small plastic bag first.

Christmas trees with roots can be planted in the garden or re-planted into a pot for use next year.

Residents can help the Council by making sure they put out all their rubbish by 7.30am as the refuse collection crews may call earlier than normal over this busy period.

For more information about recycling and refuse collection days call 01394 444000 or visit the Council's website www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourhome/waste

Our offices are going greener

With our residents being urged to recycle and compost more at home, Suffolk Coastal is making sure that its staff recycle as much as they can at work.

Between April 2005 and March 2006, nearly 19 tonnes of paper and two tonnes of cardboard were recycled from the Council's Melton Hill offices, but now the pressure has been renewed to minimise waste and recycle even more.

Green Champions from all service areas have taken on the role of encouraging their colleagues to reduce their waste and make use of improved recycling facilities at Melton Hill. To back up this new emphasis, over half of the litter bins in offices were removed, and a compost bin installed that composts food waste.

Christmas and New Year Refuse and Recycling Collections

Christmas week collections December 2007

If normal collection would be on	Monday 24th	Tuesday 25th	Wednesday 26th	Thursday 27th	Friday 28th
Then it will be made on	Saturday 22nd	Monday 24th	Thursday 27th	Friday 28th	Saturday 29th

New Year Collections December /January 2008

If normal collection would be on	Monday 31st	Tuesday 1st Jan	Wednesday 2nd	Thursday 3rd	Friday 4th
Then it will be made on	Monday 31st	Wednesday 2nd	Thursday 3rd	Friday 4th	Saturday 5th

Green Matters



Helping you take local action on a global challenge

CRed is the Community Carbon Reduction Project, an ambitious and positive scheme instigated by the

University of East Anglia to help people meet the 60% challenge of reducing carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions by 2025.

CRed Suffolk is backed by all the local authorities in Suffolk including Suffolk Coastal, the Energy Saving Trust, the Environment Agency, Suffolk ACRE and the Groundwork Trust.

It is working to establish carbon footprints for local communities and organisations, so a Suffolk wide one can be made and a climate change action plan established.

CRed Suffolk has set up the Climate & Energy Helpline **0800 028 8938** for people and businesses to get independent information and advice on reducing CO2 emissions, carbon footprinting, energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies.

A new toolkit has been produced to help local communities shrink their carbon footprint and play their part in tackling climate change by identifying and reducing carbon dioxide. If neighbours join forces, they can make the most of discounts available on buying carbon saving measures in bulk.

CRed will calculate a community's footprint, advise on measures that can be taken and will return a year later to check

on progress. Wenhaston and Middleton were the first villages in Suffolk to have their footprint measured.

For more information call the helpline on 0800 028 8938 or visit www.cred-uk.org/suffolk.

CRed also offers small to medium size businesses free advice and an experienced Environmental Business Advisor can visit and help companies work out their carbon footprint and reduce it.

Individuals are also encouraged to join the CRed Community and make pledges on actions they can take personally to reduce their carbon footprint by going to the website www.cred-uk.org/suffolk



Wenhaston Energy Day



Middleton Energy Day

Buying greener electrical products

Buying the most energy efficient products will cut fuel bills and the Energy Saving Recommended logo is a guarantee that the product is a top energy saver.

Over 20,000 products including the latest digital TVs, boilers, heating controls, lighting, fridge freezers, tumble dryers and washing machines, have earned the logo.

For the full list visit www.est.org.uk/recommended

Green Matters

Top 10 carbon saving tips

- 1 Buy locally grown, in season, food where possible. Buying locally grown, seasonal produce reduces the miles the food travels and is good for the local economy. Even better why not grow your own.
- 2 Buy electricity from a renewable energy source - ask your energy provider for more information about their 'green' tariff.
- 3 Take a low carbon holiday. Explore East Anglia and the UK and let the train take the strain. Reducing your air travel can have a huge impact on your carbon footprint. A flight from London to Manchester emits over six times the amount of carbon per passenger than the train.
- 4 Hang your washing on the line to dry and wash at lower temperatures. In the UK, using washing machines, tumble dryers and dishwashers produces 5 million tonnes (32 million double-decker buses) of carbon dioxide (CO₂) each year.
- 5 Insulate your home, 25% of the heat lost from your home is through the roof and a further 35% through the walls. Keep the heat in. Cavity wall insulation is quick and easy and it could save you £130 - £160 a year on your fuel bills. Fitting loft insulation could save around £200 and 1.5 tonnes of CO₂ a year.
- 6 Invest in radiator panels. These panels are placed behind your radiators to improve efficiency. A saving of up to 11% off your heating bills and fuel usage can be achieved.
- 7 Open your curtains and have light coloured walls; this will reduce the level of lighting needed and save on electricity. Make sure that you draw curtains at dusk to stop heat leaving your home through the window.
- 8 Get on the path to energy independence. Fitting a solar hot water heating system to your home can heat up to 70% of your hot water needs.
- 9 Replace your old boiler with an 'A' rated condensing boiler and heating controls. It could save you up to £180 a year off fuel bills.
- 10 Plan your journey well; combining journeys if possible. Lift share with friends and avoid using the car unless it really is necessary. Road transport is responsible for a quarter of all the UK's CO₂ emissions.

Council is finding out how it measures up on energy

As part of its commitment to helping to reduce the district's carbon footprint, Suffolk Coastal has had a free energy audit carried out on its main buildings by the Carbon Trust.

Set up by the Government in response to the threat of climate change, the Carbon Trust is a private company which helps businesses and the public sector cut their carbon emissions.

The Carbon Trust visited the Council's main Melton Hill offices, which alone has an energy bill of nearly £45,000, as well as the Spa Pavilion Theatre, Felixstowe Leisure Centre, and Ufford Depot which are all managed by some of the Council's partners.

This review has helped compare how well the Council is doing comparatively and will help identify where it should concentrate its efforts. For example, use of gas at Melton Hill is relatively okay but electricity usage is higher than it could be.

Ideas have been suggested that could reduce the office bill by over five per cent, while over a third could be saved at Felixstowe Leisure Centre. What the Council now has to do is measure the costs and calculate whether the savings would be worth the investment that would be required.