

COASTLINE

The Newsletter of Suffolk Coastal District Council

Issue 28, Summer 2006

Big Homes Boost

The drive for more affordable housing for local residents received a major boost with a trebling of national funding that will see 86 new homes in the next two years.

“It is very good news that we managed to get £3.477 million from the Housing Corporation for 18 different developments across our district over the coming two years. At Weir Place in Kirton, Suffolk Heritage Housing Association will get £481,000 to build 13 rented homes for local people. To enable this important project to proceed we will transfer land worth £300,000 at no cost to SHHA as providing more affordable housing is a key priority of this Council,” said Councillor Chris Slemmings, Cabinet Member for Housing.

The successful bids were drawn up in partnership with Hastoe, Suffolk Heritage and Orwell housing associations. The other successful proposals are at Trimley Road, Kirton for six homes, at Aldeburgh for 14 homes, and at Orford for three homes all under the New Build Homebuy initiative.

Six homes for rent are set for Trimley Road, Kirton, one at Church Lane, Felixstowe, three at Walton Community Centre, Felixstowe, three at the Close, Sudbourne, four at Adams Lane, Walberswick, four at Aldeburgh, two at Maidstone Road, Felixstowe, two at Waveney Road, Felixstowe, three at Glanville Place, Kesgrave, six at Ropes Drive, Kesgrave, three

at St Margaret's Crescent, Leiston, eight at Orford, four at Parham, and one at Mayflower Avenue, Saxmundham.

Planning Ahead

Suffolk Coastal's planning team gained national praise recently, with a report applauding the Council's support of local food producers and shops.

The Real Choice, by the Campaign to Protect Rural England, highlighted the failure of Tesco to get planning permission in 1997 from the Council for an out of town superstore at Saxmundham.

According to the report, local food producers and shops have flourished since then, and the policy has proved a strong defence against further developers.

Suffolk Coastal's commitment to deliver success has seen a major improvement in the performance of its planning service over the last year, and resulted in an increased grant from the Government of £302,000.

“The Government's top allocations go to those who have performed well and improved from last year. Over the last couple of years we have worked hard to move from being a Council that made good and well-considered decisions on planning applications to one that still provides that quality but is more in line with national targets for the time taken with dealing with each application,” said Councillor Rae Leighton, Cabinet Member for Community Well-being.

The vast majority of planning applications are now determined in less than eight weeks, largely thanks to changes introduced as part of an improvement plan, the use of new computer software, and additional staffing.

Growth Point?

The Government has announced it is ‘minded to’ give Growth Point status to the Haven Gateway, a decision that could give the area priority funding for vital infrastructure and development projects – including for roads, affordable housing and green infrastructure.

The application submitted by the Haven Gateway Partnership to be a Growth Point includes 14 key projects which could gain funding, including the development of Phase 1 of the Suffolk Innovation Park at Martlesham. Suffolk Coastal is a leading member of the partnership.

New Chairman

Sir Peter Batho was elected as Chairman of Suffolk Coastal District Council in May, three years after first becoming a district councillor for the Saxmundham ward.

Councillor Batho is married to Lucille, has three sons and three grandchildren, and after the death of his father in 1990 he succeeded to the baronetcy created in 1928 for his grandfather who was Lord Mayor of London 1927-1928.

The Chairman’s role is a politically neutral one of chairing meetings of the full Council and acting as the Council’s representative at about 200 formal and less formal public engagements a year. Suffolk Coastal’s Chairman wears a chain of office when carrying out most duties, but unlike a mayor does not have any formal robes.

Cllr Clifford Cocker of Woodbridge Riverside was elected Vice-Chairman and the outgoing Chairman, who served for one year, was Cllr Malcolm Minns.

Tips for a Healthier Life

Three special roadshows are being held this summer offering information and advice on where and how people can improve their quality of life.

Organised by Suffolk Coastal Local Strategic Partnership and the Suffolk Strategic Partnership, these events aim to put people in touch with the local organisations that can help them and also promote healthy living.

“Although this district is officially one of the healthiest in the country, we know that there are still many people who experience poor health or stress-related problems without knowing who they can turn to,” said Councillor Sherrie Green, Suffolk Coastal’s Cabinet Member for Community & Well-being.

These events will have lots of information on what our hardworking voluntary sector and organisations such as the Council can offer, and how a healthy lifestyle may contribute to a feeling of well-being.

Also available will be information on clubs and groups that offer physical activity and recreation and activities that young people can become involved in to keep them occupied in their spare time.

The Quality of Life information events will be from 10am to 3pm and will be held at:

- Kingston Fields, Woodbridge on Saturday, July 29
- Coronation Sports Ground, Felixstowe, on Sunday, August 20
- Victory Road Park, Leiston on Saturday, September, 2

For more information contact Sharon Jarrett at Suffolk Coastal on 01394 444697 or email sharon.jarrett@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk

Get Rid of Ants from Your Home for Half Price

Suffolk Coastal Services Ltd is offering a cut-price solution to those having problems with ants in their home, with a better than half-price offer of only £20 per house to get rid of them before August 31.

To find out more, call 01394 444000 or email scsltd@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk

These are also the contacts for homes or businesses who want help to deal with rats, mice, wasps, hornets, bed bugs, flies and fleas.

Don't Miss Out on Your Right to Vote

Electoral registration forms are being sent to every home in the district at the end of August and people are being asked to return them as soon as possible. Being listed on the electoral roll will not only guarantee the chance to vote at next May's Suffolk Coastal District Council elections, but are also a vital proof of identity used by many companies, including financial ones. For more information call the election team on 01394 444329 or visit www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourdistrict/elections/

Leiston Ready to Benefit

The latest benefits roadshow is being held in Leiston at the Methodist Church Hall on Thursday September 14 between 10am and 3pm giving local people a chance to get expert information on what they could be entitled to.

Suffolk Coastal will be encouraging people to find out if they are eligible for Housing and Council Tax benefits and help them claim what they are entitled to. On hand will also be representatives of the Pensions Service, the Citizens Advice Bureau, and Job Centre Plus – who will be advising single parents and those in receipt of incapacity benefit how they join a getting back to work programme. Similar events have been held in Felixstowe, Ipswich and Aldeburgh, and follows the recent news that the take-up campaign between the Council and the Pensions Service has seen the district’s pensioners gain an extra million pounds during the last year.

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
Brackenburg 01394 270278
Leiston 01728 830364
Deben Pool 01394 384763

Twin Bins Begin Rolling Out Across the District

The next batch of 5,000 homes across the district will in September join up to Suffolk Coastal's even better recycling service as part of the Council's commitment to make it easier to get into the recycling habit.

The first part of the scheme was launched to 5,000 in June to homes who now have two additional wheelie bins – one with a blue lid for recycling paper, foil, cans, cardboard and plastics, and one with a grey lid for domestic waste that cannot be recycled.

The recycling bins are emptied one week, and the domestic rubbish one the other. The new service was introduced at the same time that residents could start using their brown bins to recycle their food. Homes that have been given special blue-lidded bins can for the first time have cans, cardboard and plastics recycled from their own kerbside.

“This is a major investment by the Council at a time when our resources are very limited, which is why it will take us a further four years to achieve our goal of offering this deluxe service to every home. I know there will be many out there wishing they were part of the first 10,000, but sadly they will have to wait their turn,” said Councillor Andrew Nunn, Cabinet Member for the environment, natural and built.

Full information on the new service was delivered to every home with the new twin bins but any of those residents who still need more helpful advice can call a special hotline on 01394 444050. There is also more detailed information on www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourhome/waste

You Can Now Turn Your Food Green

Since June every Suffolk Coastal resident with a brown recycling bin has seen it turn into a super green disposal unit that will turn the food that they normally throw away into compost that will help refresh our soil.

Thanks to the recent opening of a special composting facility at Parham by Bioganix, as well as being home to grass cuttings, weeds, dead flowers, leaves and light shrub cuttings, the brown bins can also take fruit and vegetables, meat and fish, eggs and dairy products, bread, rice and pasta, tea bags and coffee grounds. The brown bin will gobble up all of these whether they are cooked or raw, with the suggestion that any food is wrapped

in newspaper first. It is also okay to put in cardboard boxes, paper or cardboard-based food packaging, paper towels, and shredded paper.

“This is already proving a big hit with residents across the district and will help us increase our current recycling rates. It is more important than ever to recycle as it will literally cost us the earth if we don’t with not only the environmental impacts but also the soaring financial cost of disposing of rubbish into landfill sites,” said Cllr Andrew Nunn, Cabinet Member for the Environment, natural and built.

“This new service is unique to the residents of our district, and is one of the first of its kind in the whole country. It shows how committed this Council is to making it easier than ever for residents to recycle.

“Although we are currently well above the national average, with 34 per cent of our rubbish being recycled, the cost of dealing with domestic waste will rise to £9 million a year if we do not increase our recycling rate. We all need to make a bigger effort to get into the recycling habit and use the fortnightly collection services that we offer, or one of the hundreds of mini-recycling centres across the district,” added Cllr Nunn.

Any resident who would like more information or an additional brown bin can call the recycling team on 01394 444000, or visit www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk

Ben's Perfect Pitch is Top of the League

Once again, Suffolk Coastal has netted the county division Local Authority Groundsman of the Year award, with Ben Connell carrying off the trophy run by the Institute of Groundmanship and the Football Association. Ben, who is Head Groundsman at Suffolk Coastal Services Ltd., also came second in the Eastern region finals. Judging took place at the Award

winning Ben (right) is pictured with Thomas Mayes football pitch at Dellwood Avenue in Felixstowe, maintained by Ben and his apprentice Thomas Mayes. “This is the fourth year we have won this award which aims to put the spotlight on councils who are premiership class when it comes to providing football pitches for their local teams,” said Councillor Rae Leighton, Cabinet Member with responsibility for leisure.

Council Reviews its Green Targets

Councillors are taking a fresh look at how Suffolk Coastal is tackling environmental issues and will help set some new additional green targets for the organisation.

The new Green Issues Task Group includes nine councillors, two of whom are Cabinet members, and strengthen the importance given to the environment by the Council.

“One of this Council’s six key corporate objectives is to protect, improve and make sustainable use of our environment for the people who live, work and visit the area, leaving a rich and diverse legacy for future generations,” said Councillor Joan Sennington, Chairman of the Green Issues Task Group.

“We signed up to the LA21 Charter which was the international initiative that grew out of the Rio Earth Summit in 1992 but it is probably time to review that strategy and update it with perhaps some more challenging targets for this organisation to meet.

“The Council’s role has also fundamentally changed in recent years with us now having clear community leadership responsibilities. We need to check if there is more we can be doing to help protect our environment that could act as an example for other local organisations to follow,” added Cllr Sennington.

The first two areas that the group will be investigating are energy and water. With the increasing impact of climate change, the impact of coastal erosion, the ever-rising cost of fuel, and queues of traffic on our roads, we are all becoming more concerned about our environment and protecting it and our quality of life.

Performance Report Shows Council is Delivering Success

The newly published Best Value Performance Plan (BVPP) for Suffolk Coastal shows that the Council has been successful in its aim of improving its performance while delivering value for money for its residents.

The document explains how the Council performed across a wide range of services last year and includes targets for its performance in the current and future years.

“This is probably our best ever year as measured by the performance statistics that make up this report, and that is despite us achieving another £1 million worth of efficiencies and additional income,” said Councillor Ray Herring, Council Leader.

“Praise is due to the hard efforts of staff backed by councillors over the last few years to put an increased emphasis on quality, to set new and clear targets and priorities, and also deliver major real budgetary savings.

“We are still faced with a tough financial situation thanks to the way the Government funds rural councils like us, but we remain committed to providing even better services and delivering value for money for all our residents,” added Cllr Herring.

Among the achievements in 2005/06 highlighted

in the BVPP are:

- Planning applications were decided quicker than ever before, with more than eight out of 10 householder applications determined within eight weeks
- A halving in the amount of time taken to deal with a change in housing benefit circumstances compared with four years ago
- Invoices are being paid more promptly than ever, which is good news for local small businesses and suppliers who do essential work for the Council
- Staff sickness rates are among the very lowest in the country
- Helped in the completion of 85 new affordable homes for local people, the second highest total achieved in the last 10 years
- New initiatives to prevent people becoming homeless meant that fewer homeless families had to be found temporary accommodation
- Over a third of household waste in the district was recycled
- Beat the Government target for putting new homes on land that had already been developed, rather than on new Greenfield locations
- An improved website was launched with more helpful information and interactive services to help residents get a round the clock service
- There was an ongoing crackdown on possible benefit cheats thanks to better partnership working with Government agencies and targeted home visits

- Maintained our status as one of the safest districts in the country, with domestic burglaries and vehicle crimes at less than half the national average

Visit www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourcouncil/performance/bvpp or your local library to see the full report

Council Helps Spice Up Local Economy

The ongoing activities of Suffolk Coastal's economic regeneration and development team have helped attract investment into the district and retained and created local jobs.

"Our economic regeneration and development team has a new three-pronged focus, concentrating on the development of the business, community and tourism sectors. These are vital areas to the future of our district with tourism alone last year generating an estimated £170 million of expenditure in our area," said Councillor John Perry, Cabinet Member for the Economy and Tourism.

Felixstowe Curries Favour

The Indian-owned company, Satnam Overseas has invested £5 million in Felixstowe to set up Indo European Foods to produce genuinely authentic flavourings similar to those in India.

"There is a huge market potential for our products in the UK and Europe and having a manufacturing base here means we are in an excellent position to service these markets," said Dave Roberts, Chief Operating Office of Indo European Foods.

"We currently employ around 25 people here, a figure that will rise to 50 over the next 12 months. In setting up here, we were very well supported by East of England International, the

Suffolk Development Agency, and Suffolk Coastal District Council working together," added Mr Roberts.

Business Forum News

Having been successfully relaunched in February, The Business Forum held its second Breakfast Meeting at Otley College in May, when the speaker was Edward Huggins from Business Link, who gave a detailed overview of the history of the work of Business Link and how it can support local businesses. Most importantly, Edward was able to inform Forum members about its future following re-organisation under the aegis of the East of England Development Agency.

The Forum not only exists to support and represent the views of its members, but to provide a means for local businesses to talk directly to the local authority about their concerns. The next meeting with Suffolk Coastal is in September. The Forum is therefore still looking for new members, to ensure that it is fully representative of the Suffolk Coastal Business Community. Anyone interested in hearing more about the Forum and its future meetings, should contact David Edwards, Chair, c/o Snape Maltings Concert Hall, Snape, Saxmundham, Suffolk, e-mail dedwards@aldeburgh.co.uk or tel. 01728 687100.

GAH is Going Places

The growth of home shopping via the internet and the need for more efficient home heating are two of the factors making this an exciting time for GAH, which has moved to a new expanded headquarters.

It specialises in producing transport refrigeration units, which you can see on many of the vans delivering food shopping ordered online, and oil fired boilers for domestic use.

GAH began in 1993, moved to Melton in 1995 but was in danger of being a victim of its own success, with every inch of space at its current site fully used. As John Reader, chief executive of GAH explains, things improved after a meeting with Councillor John Perry, Suffolk Coastal's Cabinet Member for the Economy and Tourism.

"After explaining our problems, Cllr Perry arranged a meeting with planning officers which confirmed that we could not expand any further at Melton. This focussed us on the need to find a new local site which is how we happened upon Bentwaters Parks," said Mr Reader.

Expanding and modernising one of the old airfield storage building, GAH has created a 40,000 square foot that will be the base for all its operations.

"We can now comfortably house all parts of our operation, with the manufacturing, research and design, sales, admin and service teams all under one roof. Without all the Council support and the help of Bentwaters Parks Ltd this would not have happened and GAH would not have been able to grow and continue to innovate," added Mr Reader.

Since its move earlier this year, another 20 jobs have already been created, and GAH now employs 140 people, with 90 locally based. With an annual turnover of £12.5 million, an established national reputation and a commitment to innovation such as its electric boiler to power central heating systems, it seems a company that is really going places.

GAH still has some vacancies on its shopfloor and its customer contact centre. If you are handy with a spanner, or can help a customer on the phone get the service that they want, then call 01394 421140 and you could be the latest to benefit from GAH's expansion.

Playtime for All at Melton

Local school children joined invited guests to celebrate the recent official opening of Melton Playing Field's new playground after a successful campaign that raised £75,000 for the new equipment.

Reverend Michael Hatchett, new rector of the parish church of St Andrews, Melton, led the opening which was also a public thank you from Melton Parish Council to all those who had contributed to its new-look playground.

Bentwaters Public Rights of Way

A package of applications has been received by Suffolk Coastal from Bentwaters Parks Ltd for the proposed revision of public access routes in and around the former World War II airfield.

The proposals seek to connect existing truncated routes, to upgrade some routes and make other changes in Rendlesham, Wantisden and Chillesford, linking to routes to Rendlesham and Tunstall Forests. Local residents, and relevant community organisations and landowners are being consulted about the proposals which can be seen in full on www.suffolkcoastal/yourdistrict/rightsofway/bentwaters where there is also the chance to comment. All comments should be received by September 8, 2006 and the applications will be considered by the Council's Rights of Way Committee and its North Area Development Control Sub-Committee.

Sax's Days of Celebration

Saxmundham Town Council organised a weekend of events in April to mark both the Queen's 80th birthday and St George's

Day, with many local retailers and businesses helping make it a big success.

A cinema evening, a food festival, a charity market, a roast beef dinner, a story telling event for children, a family ramble, a parade of vintage cars, plus a parade and church service, saw people of all ages involved.

Giving Towns and Parishes an Even Stronger Role

A package of measures to build better working relationships between Suffolk Coastal and the town and parish councils that make up its district has been given the go-ahead.

Suffolk Coastal's Cabinet backed proposals drawn up after a survey of more than 100 town and parish councils in the district and which will build on the existing positive foundations.

“We recognise that as the tier of government nearest to local communities, our town and parishes have an important role to play in improving quality of life in our district, a goal which I am sure we all share,” said Councillor Ray Herring, Council Leader.

“These local councils are well placed to give their communities a chance to become directly involved in the decisions that affect them and to help shape the future developments in their areas.

“There is an increasing opportunity for towns and parishes to take over responsibility for delivering services at a local level tailored to their specific needs. We are ready to respond positively to those who are looking at a fresh or partnership approach to delivering quality services,” added Cllr Herring.

Suffolk Coastal is set to formalise its liaison meetings with town and parishes, introducing an annual meeting with the larger

towns of Felixstowe, Kesgrave, Woodbridge, Leiston, Aldeburgh, Saxmundham and Framlingham to look at the issues facing the district's main urban centres. Suffolk Coastal's Chief Executive has also begun holding quarterly meetings with the clerks of town councils.

There will also be three additional annual meetings on a geographical basis of all parishes on a north, central and south west basis with two representatives from each council being invited to a meeting with relevant Suffolk Coastal councillors.

“This Council is also directly backing initiatives that will help town and parishes draw up their own local plans that will identify their development needs and the potential for delivering them. These plans will be important documents that feed into the district's new Local Development Framework and influence the work of the Local Strategic Partnership,” said Cllr Stephen Burroughes, Cabinet Member for Rural Issues.

“We have been directly supporting the work at this local level by supplying surplus IT equipment to the clerks, with 46 computers issued this way. We are now looking to give a one-off grant to those councils not yet linked to broadband to help them meet the cost of becoming better connected with us and other organisations.

“I would like to thank the town and parish councils who have helped us shape these proposals, plus our district councillors who carried out useful research identifying how others have approached these same issues. I look forward to a closer, more successful working relationship between this Council and our town and parish partners,” added Cllr Burroughes.

For more information about town and parish councils, and also the support offered by Suffolk Coastal, visit the new expanded section on our website

www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourcouncil/parishcouncils/

Middleton Leading the Way to be Green

The mantra of think global, act local took on an extra meaning in June when Middleton Village Hall hosted a special Energy Information Day.

This free event gave local residents the opportunity to find out about how they can take positive green steps to change the way they use power, and so cut down the amount of damaging carbon emissions, in a pioneering local project.

“This excellent event was organised by the Energy Saving Trust Advice Centre Anglia, CRed and Middleton Parish Council, and Suffolk Coastal was pleased to offer its support,” said Councillor Andrew Nunn, Cabinet Member for the Environment, natural and built.

“Our own energy efficiency team backed the work of Middleton’s ambitious carbon footprint project, the first of its type in the county, by offering energy saving advice and information to those attending the day.

“Everyone is becoming more aware of the importance of green issues and climate change in particular. This event gave residents of Middleton the chance to learn how they can make a few changes in their daily lives that can make a real difference to the environment. I hope their example, and this event, will be repeated both across this district and beyond because working together we can make a real green impact on our futures,” added Cllr Nunn.

There was feedback at the event on the Middleton carbon footprint project that is aiming to firstly identify how much carbon the parish is responsible for and then look at how it can reduce it. This initiative, sparked by the village’s parish plan

action group, is unique in Suffolk and could be a trailblazer for others to follow.

The event included exhibitions and presentations on climate change, solar water heating, ground source heat pumps, and home and community wind power.

Blythburgh Power Lines

The go-ahead has been given to move underground overhead power lines in the Blyth Valley with EDF Energy spending £250,000 to remove a section north of Blythburgh in the Suffolk Coast and Heaths Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

With the support of Blythburgh Parish Council and local landowners, up to two kilometres of overhead high voltage lines could be put underground, and 45 supporting poles removed as part of an initiative to remove electricity lines from open countryside.

Find Out More About Home Renewable Energy

A special event in July is aimed at local residents who want to find out how they can plug into their own renewable energy supply at home.

Suffolk Coastal has linked up with the Energy Saving Trust Advice Centre Anglia to bring independent home energy experts along at 7pm on Wednesday, July 26 at the Council Chamber, Melton Hill, Woodbridge.

The main focus of the evening will be solar powered water heating, with information on self-build projects, plus the Council- supported heating projects. There will be details about other renewables such as wind and ground source heat pumps.

To register interest phone the ESTACA on 0800 512 012. To get ahead of the game and receive information now or register for a quote from SEAL, the Council supported solar water heating scheme, call 0800 0288 938. Prices start from £3,000 subject to survey and grants of £400 may be available for the Low Carbon Buildings Programme.

Keep Your Home Warm

As many as 7,000 homes in the district are eligible for grants worth up to £2,700 to help pay for insulation and heating improvements through the Warm Front scheme.

The grants on offer cover a range of energy saving measures such as loft insulation, cavity wall insulation, draught proofing, central heating and heating repairs.

Those likely to be eligible for the scheme are householders who are over the age of 60, people who suffer from a long-term illness or disability, have a child under 16, or are pregnant. To qualify for a grant, householders should be in receipt of an income or disability benefit and live in their own home or rent it from a private landlord.

To apply for a grant, call the Warm Front helpline free on 0800 316 2814 (quoting reference MK547) and a trained advisor will guide you through the process. Lines are open Monday to Friday 8am-6pm and 9am to 5pm on Saturdays.

Over 450 residents took the chance in the spring CoastLine to sign up for a cavity wall insulation survey, an initiative which saw British Gas offering a £50 rebate off Council Tax bills, and

well over 200 now have warmer homes as a result. This was the best take-up of any area in this national campaign.

A LOCAL STRATEGY FOR FELIXSTOWE PENINSULA

Report shows how and why Felixstowe needs improving

The detailed report from consultants setting out their vision for the future of the Felixstowe Peninsula has been welcomed as an exciting step forward by the partnership that commissioned the study.

Last year David Lock Associates were asked to draw up a long-term vision for the regeneration and future of Felixstowe with funding from the East of England Development Agency, English Partnerships, Felixstowe Town Council, Haven Gateway and Suffolk Coastal.

The town planning and urban design consultancy sought the views of the public at exhibitions and through questionnaires, and held a number of meetings with town and parish councillors, local community and other groups.

The consultants point out the major challenges facing the town as average households are becoming smaller, so that over 20 years some 1,700 new homes would be needed just to accommodate the same population. The current demand for new homes from the local community, as well as those wanting to move to the town, is not being met. Without new homes, the population will decrease, becoming older on average. As a result, there is more traffic on the roads as people have to commute into the town, and if this population trend continues, some schools are likely to close, and shops lose trade.

Four scenarios for future development have been outlined, each with a range of approaches for addressing the negative trends

that the consultants have identified in relation to housing, employment, leisure, the town centre, and community development.

The report recognises that around half of the jobs in Felixstowe are dependent on the Port and suggests that there may be a need to diversify to offer alternative job prospects so that the town is not so reliant on one activity.

The report suggests the best locations for future development that include previously used land in Felixstowe and also parcels of land around the Trimleys. It also proposes some radical and innovative ideas for improvements to ‘the public realm’ – in Hamilton Road, the seafront and elsewhere.

Any proposals for the future development of land and property in Felixstowe and its peninsula would still be subject to full and formal public consultation as they would have to be incorporated into the Local Development Framework being drawn up by Suffolk Coastal – a process which has already started.

The next stage for the consultants’ report is that it will be considered by the partner organisations, including Suffolk Coastal as part of its discussions on the content of a new Local Development Framework for the district. The report can be viewed www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourdistrict/planning/felixstowe/ in full on while hard copies can be read at the Council’s Melton Hill offices and Felixstowe Town Council, and at Trimley Post Office and Felixstowe library.

What the consultants reported about Felixstowe

- A set of negative trends has been identified in relation to housing; employment; leisure; town centre and community development.

- A number of the issues revealed cause for concern, including not enough houses to meet local demand, increasing commuting and traffic congestion, limited economic diversity, local facilities such as schools under threat, and a declining leisure industry. Without intervention these trends threaten many aspects of life that are currently taken for granted.
- Of course, intervention requires change. This may seem unpalatable to some members of the existing community but it is important to remember that towns and cities never stay the same. They evolve over time, grow or shrink, in line with the demands placed upon them.
- In fact, Felixstowe grew steadily, almost without pause, for nearly the whole of the 20th century. The last decade is the first where there has been no significant growth available – creating the negative trends we have identified.
- Addressing these negative trends is central to securing a prosperous future for the Felixstowe Peninsula. Four scenarios for the future development on the Peninsula have been outlined in the Local Strategy. Each scenario demonstrates a range of approaches for addressing the issues, minor and major opportunities.
- These proposals include things that could be done over a short time period, such as environmental improvements to Hamilton Road, to much more ambitious projects which could include the development of a winter-garden attraction on the seafront.
- At a more strategic level, sites have been identified which the consultant team believes are the best locations for necessary future development. These concentrate on previously developed land within Felixstowe, sites which can aid the regeneration and enhancement of Felixstowe South and Walton. Together these locations can provide a significant amount of development.

Beyond these locations the consultant team believes that certain parcels of land around the Trimley villages should be developed.

Lawrence Revill, Director of David Lock Associates said: “While the consultant team has developed the scenarios, it is the communities of the Felixstowe Peninsula, and their elected representatives, who have the responsibility to identify, adopt and implement a preferred strategy through Suffolk Coastal’s Local Development Framework process.”

What the partners say:

“After widespread engagement with local residents, businesses and the wider community, David Lock Associates have now produced a vision for how Felixstowe and its peninsula could develop in the future. It is a detailed look at the issues facing the area and presents some of the possible solutions that could assist its regeneration,” said Mark White, Regeneration Manager at English Partnerships.

“There is a great deal here to weigh up and discuss and I hope as many people as possible take the chance to read and debate the recommendations that have been made. I am sure that it will stimulate a great deal of thought at this Council and any other organisation that is committed to building a better future for Felixstowe,” said Cllr Cyril Webb, Mayor of Felixstowe Town Council.

“The Port is a valued and welcome source of employment, but the consultants are right to highlight that our local labour market is highly dependent on it. The report points to the need for strategies to be adopted that can attract new inward investment that will help create new jobs and fuel the regeneration of Felixstowe,” said Cllr John Perry, Suffolk Coastal Cabinet Member for the Economy and Tourism.

“As the consultants emphasise, this report should be seen as ‘independent recommendations’. We called in outside experts because we wanted someone with proven experience, skills and creative solutions to come up with proposals for the way forward for Felixstowe. A key aspect of the report is that it identifies that doing nothing is not an option. Without any positive intervention issues, such as an ageing population, the trend for young people to leave and the need for more homes, will result in a lower quality of life for everyone living around the town,” said Samantha Togher, Senior Executive of the East of England Development Agency.

“Their ideas for a new look for the town are exciting – but a real challenge to us all to bring about. This report is a valuable and exciting analysis of ways that we could progress – but these are not cast in stone, they are only proposals and are therefore open to challenge, debate and improvement. What is clear is that we cannot afford to do nothing and this report sets the foundation for us all to start working together to help provide the planned and carefully managed changes that will help build a better Felixstowe. The report is the end of the consultants’ work – but the beginning of the whole community’s chance to debate and shape a better future for us all,” said Cllr Andy Smith, Suffolk Coastal’s Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Planning.

“Felixstowe is a key part of one of the areas for investment that the Haven Gateway Partnership has identified in its bid to Government for the sub-region to be designated a ‘Growth Point’. The master plan will support that submission as well as being one of the key documents we will use to attract funding for the town. The Partnership helped initiate this project and is very keen to work with the other agencies to help realise the aspirations that have been identified,” said Mike Bateson, the Haven Gateway Partnership Secretary.

Wheelchair Will Open Up Access to Felixstowe Beaches

People with mobility problems can enjoy the seafront at Felixstowe, thanks to a new ‘all-terrain’ wheelchair that will help them access the beach provided by the BASIC Life Charity, who are based in Felixstowe who kindly donated nearly £3,000.

Suffolk Coastal with the help of Optua (formerly Rethink Disability) found and tested out an American-made wheelchair which can offer suitable access for disabled people on shingle or sandy beaches. Last year a chair for Aldeburgh beach was purchased from public contributions for the Scallop.

“Thanks to the BASIC Life Charity, a similar chair is available for use by residents and visitors in Felixstowe who have mobility problems and who wish to access the beaches in this popular resort,” said Cllr Doreen Savage, Cabinet Member for Community and Partners.

The chair is stored at the Felixstowe Tourist Information Centre at Undercliff Road West, and is available free for up to two hours per user between 9am and 5pm Monday – Sunday (April – October), 9am –5pm Monday – Friday (9.30am Saturday) (November – March) on deposit of a Blue Badge, driving licence or similar document. The chair at Aldeburgh is also available through its TIC.

New Powers Will Help Make Bedsits Safer

New laws came into effect in April that require many houses in multiple occupation (HMOs) to be officially licensed to ensure they meet national standards, with the threat of fines up to £20,000 on landlords if their properties do not come up to scratch.

“We think the new rules will affect 20 or so properties in our district as they apply to any landlord letting out large HMOs that are on three storeys or more, and have five or more unrelated people living in them. They must now apply to us for a mandatory licence,” said Councillor Chris Slemmings, Cabinet Member for Housing.

The Government has specified minimum amenity standards, setting out the requirements for kitchens, bathrooms and toilets in these types of HMO.

There is a range of enforcement action the Council can take if it thinks there are serious breaches. There is also the ability for tenants to claim back rent that they have paid from the landlord while the property was unlicensed.

“Nationally, the most common problems associated with multiple occupancy relate to poor fire safety standards, overcrowding, inadequate facilities and poor or unscrupulous management. These new powers will help us ensure that these are not issues in our district,” added Cllr Slemmings.

Licensed landlords also have a responsibility to take reasonable steps to ensure that tenants are not causing problems within the boundaries of the property through anti-social behaviour.

Any landlord wanting more information can contact Suffolk Coastal’s private sector housing team on 01394 444273 or visit <http://www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourhome/housing/privatesector/licensable/> where applications forms can also be downloaded.

Please Consider Your Neighbours This Summer

With the arrival of warm sunny days and evenings and the chance to be outside more and have the windows open, Suffolk

Coastal is asking local residents to be considerate of their neighbours.

The summer months traditionally always lead to more neighbourly disputes caused by noise or smoke because more people are outside enjoying their gardens at a time when doors and windows are open because of the heat.

“After the long winter months the chance to light the barbecue and have a drink in the garden with friends is very appealing, but I would ask residents to think of their neighbours when planning an outdoor party or get-together,” said Councillor Andrew Nunn, Cabinet Member for the Environment.

“Another potential for annoyance is the sound of a loud radio or music, so turning the volume down could keep the peace and perhaps prevent people getting hot under the collar this summer,” continued Councillor Nunn.

Noise can travel large distances, especially at night. Another problem can be bonfires, but with the fortnightly green kerbside waste collection there is less justification to have one these days.

If you do have a bonfire tell your neighbours when you intend to light up and do not start one if your neighbours have their washing out or on Bank Holidays or other times when they might be enjoying their own gardens. Be prepared to alter the time you light your fire to suit those who will be affected by it. Also try to position your barbecue so surrounding homes do not have to share the smell and the smoke

Kesgrave's Safer Neighbourhood Team

Residents in the Kesgrave area now have their own Safer Neighbourhood Team office at Ropes Drive, next to the Tesco supermarket, which is helping to put police officers into the heart of local communities.

The aim is to provide a high profile presence and to provide reassurance as well as giving improved access to local services. The Kesgrave office is a base for local neighbourhood, patrol and community support officers to work from 24 hours a day, seven days a week. It is open to the public at selected times for surgery sessions.

Representatives from Suffolk Coastal District Council are also making use of the new office for information and advice sessions and police are keen to encourage more organisations to join them in providing services from the building.

“Through neighbourhood policing we will work closely with partner agencies and members of the public to identify the issues which affect the community’s sense of security and then work together to tackle those issues. This involves a collective approach at a local level by partner agencies, as well as members of the public themselves,” said Woodbridge commander Inspector Ian Farthing.

Thanks to sponsorship from the Desira garage at Kesgrave, the new Safer Neighbourhood Team will also have a new Fiat Panda 4 X 4 that can be used by officers for community work.

Police are also asking anyone who could spare a few hours to consider volunteering at the office providing support to allow officers to spend more time on the streets. Community volunteers are trained to deal with a range of enquiries, including general reception queries, and this is your chance to get involved in making your neighbourhood safer.

Anyone interested in volunteering should contact their local police station via the main switchboard - 01473 613500.

If You Are Planning an Event, Get It Licensed!

Suffolk Coastal District Council and Suffolk Police are advising anyone considering organising a music event in Aldeburgh around the carnival festivities this year to ensure the event is fully licensed.

Chief Inspector Terry Byford, of Suffolk Police, said; “We realise that the event started for all the right reasons. However because the numbers have grown, there are now real concerns for the safety of those attending. That's why we are asking anyone who is thinking of organising an event to get in touch with the relevant authorities now so that a formal application can be made and consideration given to the issues around licensing it. “We have, above all, to think about public safety and police and council representatives have already been in talks with landowners and one of those involved with last year’s event to see if there was support for a licensed event. Our message is if you want to have an event it has to be run properly,” added CI Byford.

For information on the licensing laws and how they could affect any event that you are planning, or that you are aware is being organised, contact Suffolk Coastal’s licensing team on 01394 444802, or visit the Council’s website for more details on <http://www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourbusiness/licensing/>

Public Drinking Ban for Felixstowe

The police now have extra powers to tackle anti-social drinking in parts of Felixstowe that are clearly indicated by specially erected signs.

Suffolk Coastal’s Cabinet and Felixstowe North’s Suffolk County Councillor John Goodwin have backed a Felixstowe

Town Council-led initiative to bring in designation orders to tackle the problem of alcohol-related incidents in its town.

“I would emphasise that this is not a ban on everyone drinking in these places, but it gives the police the authority to take action against those who are acting in an antisocial manner. This is something which those people living in Felixstowe have wanted, and I hope it will improve the quality of life of those who live there and also those who visit the town,” said Councillor Sherrie Green, Cabinet Member for Community Well-being.

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

We Are Committed to Even Better Customer Services

Putting the customer first will remain at the heart of Suffolk Coastal's services following an in-depth review of the way we provide our services and how these can be made even more accessible to its residents.

The future focus will be to ensure an even better service is provided to those calling the Council, with the introduction of a customer contact centre to deal fully with more of the calls, plus the chance to serve yourself via the Council's website.

“Councillors are committed to keeping the human touch we think is so important to a satisfied customer. There will be no push button options with our new system, even if on paper that is more efficient, because we would rather keep that all-important human contact make,” said Councillor Doreen Savage, Cabinet Member for Customers and Partners.

“Instead, we aim to have a committed team armed with as much information as possible so they can deal with the vast majority of our calls received in a speedy but effective way. This should mean an even better service for customers and deliver more efficiencies and savings,” added Cllr Savage.

The Council will encourage the use of self-service channels such as the website, while still delivering as many of its services as possible over the phone or email.

It recognises that face-to-face contact with customers is still the most effective way of helping those with complex issues or particular needs.

Get Ready to Pay Online

A new enhanced online payment service was being tested as CoastLine went to press that will allow residents to make payments to Suffolk Coastal 24 hours a day.

The new secure payment service will be available via the Council’s website and also to all residents via an automated telephony system that will accept both credit and debit cards for payments on all Suffolk Coastal’s services.

The Council is also reluctantly passing on to its customers the cost that banks impose on Suffolk Coastal for credit card payments. There is now a two per cent charge on any credit card payment made to the Council, except for those paying off car park tickets or housing benefit arrears. The Council will not, and legally cannot, make any profit from this move, and it will end the situation whereby the vast majority of Council Taxpayers are subsidising those who pay by credit card.

"As well as bringing us into line with other councils, this move is also similar to many businesses who routinely levy charges

for using a credit card. Like them we would encourage the use of debit cards as we will not charge if people use a debit card rather than a credit card," added Cllr Whiting.

For more information on these new services and the other payment methods available visit www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk or call 01394 444541.

Government Funding Decision Left Felixstowe Defenceless

Council Deputy Leader, Councillor Andy Smith, has explained in full why its planned £5 million coastal defence work has been delayed and how a Government decision is at the heart of its problems.

The Government announced last December that there would be no funding this year for new schemes and was immediately warned by Suffolk Coastal that South Felixstowe's sea defences would be at risk because the Council's scheme, drawn up with the Environment Agency and regional officers of the Department of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, could not proceed.

"Government press officers have been quoted as saying they had not rejected or received any scheme from the Council. Of course we did not submit a formal application for funding as their Minister announced that there were no funds to apply for!

“We worked closely for years with the EA and regional DEFRA staff to draw up a permanent replacement plan for the current defences which in April 2002 were expected to survive until 2007. However, in the last 12 months particularly, the beach in this part of Felixstowe has experienced an unexpected and severe drop in level that has exposed and undermined the sea wall.

Normally the beach levels increase during the summer after dropping in the winter but this has not happened over the last two years.

“These are the factors which have turned our scheme into a top priority. Our scheme for permanent protection of South Felixstowe should have begun in May but this was stopped dead in its tracks by the Minister’s announcement last December that there was no funding for any new schemes in 2006/07,” added Cllr Smith.

Funding for the Southern Felixstowe groyne replacement scheme was listed on DEFRA’s own forward capital programme in November 2004 as can still be seen on its website, and DEFRA has been aware of the planned work led by the Council since at least 2002.

“The works planned for Felixstowe have gone through every possible Government hoop, and have been adapted for the many rule changes that have occurred during that time. It also met or beat the priority scoring that DEFRA was using to determine what schemes would be funded, as its own documents show.

“Everything was in place for work to begin this May on a partnership scheme that would have meant permanent protection for 1,600 existing homes, countless businesses and the Port of Felixstowe.

“All we are asking is that the Government accepts that Felixstowe is a special emergency case and gives the financial go-ahead for our scheme, rather than try and spin its way out of a mess caused by its failure to provide any funding for new schemes this year,” added Cllr Smith.

DEFRA Visit Raises Hopes on Felixstowe's Sea Wall

A leading engineer from the Department of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) inspected Felixstowe's battered sea wall in June in a special visit with Suffolk Coastal.

The decision by John Horne, DEFRA's Governance and Delivery Programme Manager, to visit Felixstowe follows May's partial collapse of the sea wall and Suffolk Coastal's frustration that there was no Government funding available for new schemes this year.

"We had a very constructive site visit and discussion with Mr Horne. I am sure he is now much better informed about the exact scale of the problems facing the town and about our plans to safeguard over 1,600 homes and countless businesses from the very real threat of flooding," said Councillor Andy Smith, Council Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for coast protection.

"We understand that DEFRA's funds are fully committed for 2006/07 but it is clear that the Government needs to allocate a larger budget to coastal defence. The Government may well be spending a 'record amount' on coast defence this year, but at £74.4 million in the context of overall Government expenditure of £552,000,000,000 it is still a small sum in relation to the scale of the problem. Worse still, none of it is for new projects which like ours had been ready after a great deal of detailed planning.

"We are ready to work with and support DEFRA to try and find the funding for our vital project. The cost of our scheme is minuscule in the context of overall Government expenditure, but huge in relation to Suffolk Coastal's finances, and critical for South Felixstowe," added Cllr Smith.

The Council has now submitted to DEFRA an updated version of its scheme that had been drawn up in partnership with the

Environment Agency to provide permanent protection for South Felixstowe. This work could get underway this September, if funding can be found.

“Our original scheme was planned to start last month but the final document was not submitted to DEFRA because of the Government’s announcement that there was no cash available for this financial year. We hope that Felixstowe will now be recognised as a special case, and that the £6 million needed for the project will be found,” added Cllr Smith.

By using special powers, the Council has been able to carry out emergency work to shore up 400 metres of the sea wall with nearly 3,000 tonnes of rock being used as a temporary measure. The cost of this can be claimed back from the Government.

Contractors were called out when heavy seas caused parts of the sea wall to collapse in May. Parts of the promenade had to be fenced off after cracks appeared after the materials underneath it had seeped out through the broken sea wall. An immediate casualty of the tides was the landmark Shore Break café which was closed for safety reasons and then had to be removed to allow the sea wall to be protected underneath it.

“More work would be needed to provide even a basic level of confidence in the defences for the forthcoming winter, but what we really want is the funding go-ahead for the full scheme that will provide permanent protection for South Felixstowe, which would mean that defences are in place for the forthcoming storms of autumn and winter and avoid wasting public money on stop-gap measures. I hope that this visit and the submission of our updated scheme will help us and DEFRA find a way forward,” added Cllr Smith.

Our Young People Are Real Jewels

The decorative efforts of nearly 100 local young people are on show this summer as part of a Festival of Craft Design which has seen them gain expert advice on how to make eye-catching jewellery and body adornment.

The exhibition can be seen free until August 11th at the Britten-Pears Library of the Red House, Aldeburgh every day except Sunday between 10am and 1pm.

Students from Leiston Middle School, Middleton with Peasenhall, Coldfair Green, Earl Soham and Charsfield Primary Schools have been given helpful tips by Society members Valerie Armstrong, Jenny Nutbeem and Sarah Tate.

"Some of the work is based on ideas drawn from the Anglo-Saxon jewellery and weaponry at Sutton Hoo and the industrial artefacts at the Long Shop Museum at Leiston," said Cllr Rae Leighton, Cabinet Member for Community Well-being.

"The student designers have used a variety of materials such as silver wire, beads and stones. Recycling has also plays a major part with sweet papers, crisp packets and drinks cans all coming in handy.

"I would thank the Society for initiating such an innovative programme which has inspired local young people to produce some exciting work and may have unearthed some real jewels of talent," added Cllr Leighton.

The John Jacobs Young Makers' Programme 2006 has been run by the Suffolk Craft Society and is named after its first chairman whose sons have contributed generously to the scheme. It has also been supported by the Society, its Friends, Suffolk Coastal, Suffolk Extended Schools, and Awards for All.

Do You Want More? Oliver's at the Spa

This summer sees the fourth annual Summer Youth Project when the Spa Pavilion at Felixstowe will be staging Oliver. Young actors aged between 9 and 25 will be taking part having gone through strenuous auditions, all building up to another great show which takes to the boards from Wednesday August 9 through to Saturday, August 12.

This event is supported by Suffolk Coastal and Felixstowe Town Council.

Dramatic Chance for Training

Fame, new skills, or personal satisfaction could be the dramatic conclusion from a series of six training sessions on offer to local residents who want to develop their talents in the performing arts.

On offer between September and May are sessions covering playwriting, directing, stage craft, improvisation, forum theatre and becoming a local promoter, thanks to a partnership between Suffolk Coastal and Mid Suffolk.

"The aim of these sessions is to provide participants with inspiration, develop their skills and offer opportunities to make new contacts, with the first one being 'So You want to be a Playwright' which follows on from a successful day held four years ago by local playwrights Peppy Barlow and Sally Wilden," said Cllr Rae Leighton, Cabinet Member for Community Well-being.

"The day will be an introduction for anyone who wants to try their hand at writing for the stage, with the course going through aspects of how the space works, creating character, writing

dialogue and developing dramatic action. The day will be very practical and will offer the opportunity to try out ideas in a relaxed and supportive atmosphere," added Cllr Leighton.

The Playwright event is on September 9, at the Seckford Theatre, Woodbridge School from 9.30 - 4.30.

The cost of attending the event is £15 and places can be booked by calling Nicky Corbett on 01394 444538 Or email nicky.corbett@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk or look on www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourfreetime/arts

The full programme will be available from September.

Look to the Past for Summer Fun

Looking for something to do in the summer holidays? How about going down to your local museum or heritage attraction where there are lots of exciting activities on offer.

The Suffolk Punch Heavy Horse Museum, based on the first floor of the Shire Hall in Woodbridge, tells the story of the Suffolk Punch through a wonderful collection of photographs, farm and family mementoes, paintings and silverware.

On Saturday, July 29 from 10am - 4pm, there will be a special free exhibition and event downstairs in the Shire Hall, with easy access to the collections, and archive photographs of working Suffolk Punch horses. Ray Hubbard will entertain with country songs accompanied by the melodeon, and there will be a Suffolk Punch somewhere on Market Hill for part of the day!

If you have old photos of relatives working with Suffolk Punches bring them along and experts will try and identify the type of work or the characters in your family album. If you can't make the exhibition but want to know more about a family photo, email Chris Miller at crmdairy@btinternet.com with a copy of the photo before 29 July or telephone 01394 380643.

If this has whetted your appetite, you may consider a group visit to the Hollesley Bay Colony Stud of Suffolk horses which boasts 28 of these rare horses and six foals. Tours are for groups of 12 or more and include a guided tour of the stables with its wonderful harness rooms and display of farm carts, as well as horse and cart rides. They are very popular with adult and school groups and a full day joint tour of the Woodbridge museum and the Stud can be arranged. The Centre also organises educational visits, with tuition on conservation, the environment, bio-diversity, agricultural history and heritage.

This Stud has been at Hollesley for over 100 years and makes an important contribution to the survival of this rare breed which, with less than 400 horses, is in danger of extinction. Having recently acquired nearly 200 acres of land, the animals and stables, the Trust now plans to create an education and heritage centre plus visitor facilities. The Trust is looking for volunteers to be tour guides and to help out at special events and local shows. No special skills are required, just a love of the countryside and the heritage of this area.

For further information or to book a tour telephone 01953 714123/01728 746534 or email johnr.marsh@btopenworld.com or look on the website at www.suffolkpunchtrust.org

And finally, there's lots to do at Sutton Hoo in the summer holidays, especially for children. On selected dates throughout the holidays there are children's activities on Anglo-Saxon themes including felt-making and spinning and in August, there will also be children's burial mound tours. August 6 sees a fantastic Family Funday, only £1 per person plus estate admission, with Suffolk Punch horses on display and a chance to meet King Raedwald. On August 26 is Wind in the Willows, an outdoor theatre spectacular. Call 01394 389700/389737 for more details.

All the museums above are supported by Suffolk Coastal through the Suffolk Coastal Heritage Network, a group that meets to share information and receive training.

Help Us Draw Up an Arts Directory

Suffolk Coastal is set to get its first arts directory, a one-stop shop information goldmine that hopes to put the spotlight firmly on the district's cultural activities with a who's who list of contacts.

Suffolk Coastal arts service is producing a directory of cultural activities, groups, facilities and services for the district which will be available on line and in booklet format from January 2007.

"Suffolk Coastal is bustling with cultural activity; camera clubs, choral societies, rock schools, recording studios, theatres and international festivals of music and poetry, to name a few. However there is no central source of information to tell you who is doing what, how to get involved or who offers venues and specialist services," said Councillor Rae Leighton, Cabinet Member for Community Well-being.

"That is why we want people to put their details in the directory which will become a 'one stop shop' of information on cultural activity. If you are part of an arts group, run regular workshops or one off events, provide an arts service or run a venue, we would like to hear from you," said Cllr Leighton.

The directory will be divided into categories; crafts, dance, drama, film, heritage, music, written and spoken word and visual arts (including photography). There will be information on arts groups, workshops and activities, professional arts organisations, venues and facilities for hire and professional services available.

A questionnaire is available for those who want to sign up for a free listing in the directory on the Council's website www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourfreetime/arts/directory or email nicky.corbett@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk or by calling 01394 444538.

Suffolk Coastal's ACTIVE LEISURE SUMMER PROGRAMME 2006

With Support from Suffolk Heritage Housing Association

If you are aged between 6 and 16 and find yourself at a loose end during the summer holidays then come try an activity near you and make new friends...

Mobile Skate Park

Open to skateboard, BMX bikes and roller blades. If you're a regular or a beginner everyone is welcome to try out the park. Basic coaching is available. For 8 year olds +

Coastal Angling

Open to everyone, from people with no experience to regular anglers. These taster sessions and camps will improve your fishing and you can learn new skills. For 8 years old +

Coastal Playscheme

This is a mixture of Sports and Arts. Try your hand at some puppet making, drawing, face painting or some sports; volleyball, golf, team game to name a few! For 6-12year olds

Coastal Tennis

Open to everyone, from people with no experience to regular players of the game. These fun camps and taster sessions will help improve your tennis skills. For 8-16 year olds

Coastal Roadshow

For all abilities, come along and show us your skills. There will be coaching, tricks and tips from the FA coaches and small-sided games. For 6-13 year olds

Get your Active Leisure Brochure for full details

Contact: Sarah Shinnie, Active Communities Officer 01394 444652 or visit

www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourfreetime/leisure/leisuredev/