

2007 news archive

How do you rate this information or service?



[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2007 news archive](#) >

Volunteers helping to make a greener future



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

02 Oct 2007

Archived press release.

Suffolk Coastal has its very own green army with over 150 people who regularly give up their time to be conservation volunteers, either as part of a village group or as one of the Council's network of parish tree wardens.

Many of them are meeting up on Saturday, October 20 at Staverton Thicks at a special training day that will look back the 1987 Great Storm, and how to produce local community biodiversity action plans.

"It is fantastic that so much great work is being carried out around the district by such dedicated people. The conservation volunteer groups in parishes such as Wenhaston, Westleton and Middleton and our 75 parish tree wardens are greatly appreciated. We know that the effectiveness of our work in the countryside would be much reduced without their support," said Cllr Kevin Keable, Cabinet Member for Community Well-Being.

A special guest speaker at the training day will be one of the country's leading tree experts, Dr Oliver Rackham, who will be talking about The 1987 Storm: A Disaster or Opportunity for Biodiversity?

Tree wardens have helped plant thousands of trees and miles of hedgerows across the district, while local conservation groups have taken on tasks such as tidying up an area, improving or even creating habitats such as ponds or sand martin cliffs for rare species and reintroduction of heather to heaths and commons.

Anyone interested in attending the training day, or joining a community conservation volunteer group or setting their own group up, or who would like to find out more about becoming a parish tree warden or one of new junior ones can email joanna.payne@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk or write to Joanna Payne, Suffolk Coastal District Council, Melton Hill, Woodbridge IP12 1AU, or call her on 01394 444553.

[2007 news archive](#)

How do you rate this information or service?



[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2007 news archive](#) >

Felixstowe woman admits benefits fraud



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

03 Oct 2007

Archived press release.

Magistrates at Ipswich heard a guilty plea on Monday from a Felixstowe woman who admitted falsely claiming over £2,100 of housing benefits from Suffolk Coastal.

Lucy Walne, aged 22, of High Road West, Felixstowe had repeatedly denied to the Council that she was in receipt of Tax Credit payments, instead saying that she had only applied for them.

“This case again shows that this Council is prepared to use the Courts to help us catch the small minority of people who are cheating the rest of society by falsely claiming benefits,” said Cllr Chris Slemmings, Cabinet Member for Housing.

“In this instance, the Courts took account of Ms Walne’s circumstances as a single-mother of one child, and gave her a 12-month conditional discharge, but she faces not only paying back all the money she wrongfully claimed and our £150 court costs but also a criminal record.

“Because this Council is working in partnership with Government agencies, anyone wrongly claiming benefits is more likely than ever to be caught. It really is not worth the risk and I would strongly warn people not to try and cheat the system,” added Cllr Slemmings.

The fraud came to light as a result of the vigilance of the Council’s Housing Benefits staff that referred the case to the Council’s Counter Fraud Investigators for investigation.

Suffolk Coastal’s benefits service regularly scores among the top 25 per cent of councils nationally for its speed in dealing with new claims or changes of circumstances. The service deals with 5,700 housing benefit cases and 7,600 Council Tax benefit claims, and pays out over £15 million of benefits a year.

Anyone receiving benefits should notify the Council on 01394 444838 if there is any change in their circumstances – this can sometimes mean that they receive more, rather than less, benefit.

The Council’s Fraud Hotline for residents to call confidentially and report suspected benefit frauds is 01394 444444, available 24-hours a day, or they can email fraud.investigation@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk

2007 news archive

How do you rate this information or service?



[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2007 news archive](#) >

Funding trees to help offset environmental footprints



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

03 Oct 2007

Archived press release.

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

Suffolk Coastal has 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 Cllr 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, and I hope that we can attract as many volunteers as possible to help with the projects.

“There is quite an impressive list of companies already signed up to Tree Appeal 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 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 is 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.

Anyone who would like to get involved in the planting at Hollesley and Rendlesham or would like to know about other tree planting events in the district can 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.

A considerable percentage of Britain's native broad-leaved trees are in their latter years of maturity which makes them very vulnerable to storm damage and natural decay. Over the last 50 years, 45% of our ancient, semi-natural woodland has been cleared or converted to commercial plantations.

This loss was further compounded by additional losses of approximately 19 million trees that were destroyed in the storms of 1987 and 1990. It is also estimated that more than 30 million trees have also been killed by Dutch Elm Disease. Such a huge loss of trees has contributed to the decline of many species of plants and animals that were once regarded as common in the English countryside.

2007 news archive

How do you rate this information or service?



[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2007 news archive](#) >

Aim for Saxmundham for arts and entertainment



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

09 Oct 2007

Archived press release.

This month sees Saxmundham's fifth annual arts and entertainments festival which promises to hit the target with something on offer for everyone, with everything from a chance to have lunch with Joanna Trollope through to indoor skateboarding.

With 24 different events, there are lots of things lined up, with the festival starting on Friday, October 19 with a literary lunch in the Market Hall when Joanna Trollope, author of *The Rector's Wife* and *A Village Affair* will be joined by Guy de Moubray of Buxlow Manor who recently published a compilation of recipes from his own kitchen.

"The organisers of this festival should be congratulated for their efforts in coming up with another programme that is packed full of events and activities and I wish them every success in attracting the numbers that they deserve," said Cllr Kevin Keable, Cabinet Member for Community Well-being.

"With brass bands, police and gospel choirs, clairvoyants, talent competitions and amateur dramatics, they really are offering something for everyone, and it is great that they have activities every day for children during the half-term break.

"Suffolk Coastal agreed to support the festival with a £1,000 grant and to me it looks like money well spent as it is serving up a treat of arts and entertainments that should attract people from not only the town itself," added Cllr Keable.

The morning treats aimed at children during the festival include story telling workshops on Monday, Punch and Judy on Tuesday, fun and games on Wednesday, the Pastell puppet show on Thursday, and a skateboard event on Friday. There is also the chance to learn circus skills on Saturday, October 20 and a poetry competition on Wednesday afternoon.

The festival runs from Friday, October 19 through to Sunday, October 28. For full details of all the events, visit www.saxart.co.uk or call 01728 603553 or 605637, or visit the box office at HG Crisp in the High Street.

[2007 news archive](#)

How do you rate this information or service?



[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2007 news archive](#) >

Communities asked for ideas on keeping post office services



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

09 Oct 2007

Archived press release.

The news that 15 of the district's 49 post offices are on an official list for closure has prompted Suffolk Coastal to call on local residents to make sure their voices are heard in the next few weeks.

Post Office Ltd has announced that people have six weeks from today (October 9) to respond to its proposals as part of what it has called a consultation period on its plans which have already been agreed with the Government.

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

"What I hope that people will do now is to come up with their own alternative suggestions to stave off the impact of closure and put these forward to the Post Office as I suspect these are more likely to be positively listened to.

"Officially, local communities have six weeks to give their views on the proposals. I fear that the stark reality is that the financial position facing the Post Office, and the fact that the Government has already approved these plans, means that any attempts to halt these closures are doomed to failure," added Cllr Neale.

The branches at Fairfield Road, Aldeburgh, Bramfield, Crettingham, Dennington, Great Bealings, Hacheston, Knodishall, Martlesham BT, and Hasketon Road, Woodbridge are 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 would 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 pre-ordered items are delivered direct to a customer or at a local drop-in session.

The Chairman of the Government's own Commission for Rural Communities, Dr Stuart Burgess, has criticised the six weeks limit for not being long enough. He has also urged rural communities to use the period to their best advantage.

"This Council will formally consider the proposals at its November Cabinet meeting and send its official views at that stage but I would completely echo the thoughts of Dr Burgess on this subject.

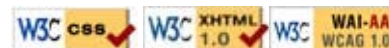
"This district and its communities have a good record of creating innovative partnerships that have helped maintain post office services. The challenge is now to ensure that in as many as possible of these 15 areas under threat that the services currently offered are kept going in one way or another," added Cllr Neale.

Suffolk Coastal supports local rural shops and businesses with rate relief and backed attempts by post offices at Ufford and Hollesley to successfully gain funding from the Suffolk Rural Services scheme which is part funded by the Suffolk Coastal Local Strategic Partnership. The Council is ready to offer help and advice to any community group in the affected areas that has a proposal which it wants to offer up to the Post Office to maintain some level of service. Groups should call the economic and regeneration manager on 01394 444472.

For more about the Post Office consultation visit www.postoffice.co.uk/networkchange
Responses should be sent by November 19 to Sheila McCann, Network Development Manager, C/o National Consultation Team, FREEPOST CONSULTATION TEAM or emailed to consultation@postoffice.co.uk. Customer Helpline: **08457 22 33 44**.

The press release from the Commission for Rural Communities can be seen on www.ruralcommunities.gov.uk/events/makeyourvoiceisheardinpostofficeconsultation

© Suffolk Coastal District Council. | [Legal & privacy](#) | [Site statistics](#)
Last updated: 14/01/2010 12:50:14



2007 news archive

How do you rate this information or service?



[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2007 news archive](#) >

Cabinet demands local say on any Sizewell C plans



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

11 Oct 2007

Archived press release.

Suffolk Coastal's Cabinet is calling 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 is responding 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 Cllr 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, that 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.

Four years ago, the Government said there would be the fullest public consultation before any decision to proceed with building of a new power station. Last week's Cabinet meeting was keen to stress that this commitment should not be ignored and there should be no rewriting of the rule book to allow plans to be fast-tracked in a way that would deny the chance for the local voice to be heard and acted on.

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.

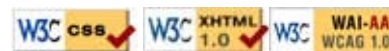
There are concerns that any new nuclear plant should be restricted in output so that it can use the existing transmission lines at Sizewell, rather than needing new power lines and pylons to be erected in the surrounding countryside.

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 Cllr 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.



2007 news archive

How do you rate this information or service?



[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2007 news archive](#) >

New recycling service rolls out to more homes



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

12 Oct 2007

Archived press release.

Residents of the next wave of 5,000 homes to link up to Suffolk Coastal's improved recycling service are being urged to start stocking up their new wheelie bin with all the items it will take.

The new service gives people the chance to have their cardboard, plastics, foil and cans collected every fortnight, with each home now having two additional wheeled bins. One of the bins is grey with a blue lid for the new recycling service, and the other is all grey and is for waste that cannot currently be recycled.

"This latest expansion will mean that 18,000 homes across the district will be linked up to our improved recycling service which has proved popular and well-used so far," said Cllr Andrew Nunn, Cabinet Member for the Natural Environment.

"The latest figures show that in those areas with the new service our recycling and composting rates are up to around 54 per cent, which is among the best in the country. All parts of the district will have the service over the next three years, and we would like to do it quicker but it does require significant investment so we have to do it gradually.

"The new service for the latest batch of 5,000 homes starts on Monday, October 22, with the first collection of recycling happening the following week. I hope that people have started using their blue-lidded bin to store the items ready to make it a bumper first collection," added Cllr Nunn.

A series of information roadshows was held last month giving people a chance to get any questions they needed answered about how the new service works.

"There was a good turnout and these roadshows have been a big help in sorting out in advance any possible hiccups with the start of the new service. People have been able to select what size bin they want, and check exactly what goes in what bin and when they will be collected. Anyone who wants more information can call the special helpline on 01394 444050 to find out how they can help save the earth by recycling more," added Cllr Nunn.

The grey-lidded bin will be emptied one week, and the following week the recycling teams will empty the blue-lidded bin and the brown bin for garden and food waste.

For those homes on the new improved recycling service, the green crates for paper will no longer be emptied as all waste paper, catalogues and other paper products should now go in the blue-lidded bin. However, as glass is not collected as part of the new recycling service, the green crates are a convenient way to store glass bottles and jars and taking them to local bottle banks.

It should be emphasised that the green crates are still being emptied of paper products from the 30,000 or so homes not yet receiving the new service.

Homes getting the new service will no longer be able to put out black sacks - their non-recyclable rubbish will go in the grey-lidded waste bins that will be emptied every fortnight. Householders who still want their food waste collected every week will be able to do this by

placing it in the grey-lidded bin one week and the brown bin the week after.

The latest areas to receive this new service are Aldringham-cum-Thorpe, Badingham, Bruisyard, Great Glemham, Middleton, Pettistree, Purdis Farm, Rendham, Sweffling, Theberton and parts of Kesgrave, Leiston, Melton and Rendlesham. Every home due to get this month's roll out of the new improved recycling service should have now received its two new wheelie bins.



2007 news archive

How do you rate this information or service?



[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2007 news archive](#) >

New website on view for Suffolk Coastal's young people



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

12 Oct 2007

Archived press release.

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.

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

"The website 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.

As well as launching their website and their DVD, SCTV also attended a Suffolk Coastal Full Council meeting when they did a presentation aimed at raising awareness of SCTV and the work they do, as well as explaining how they can get involved.

"The team spoke of the child rights convention of 1989, and how article 12 of the UN convention says that we as young people have the right to say what we want, and have the right to make decisions that affect us.

"The councillors seemed to enjoy the presentation and had lots of questions that the team answered to the best of their ability. SCTV asked the Council if they would like to send representatives to their meetings and vice-versa on a monthly or bi-monthly basis," added Alex.

The Suffolk Coastal Local Strategic Partnership funded the youth co-ordinator post and made the goal of setting up the first districtwide youth forum, SCTV.

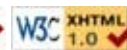
"The SCTV team are doing an excellent job and I have met them on several occasions and also attended the launch of the Generation Jigsaw DVD. I would recommend people to have a look at this piece of work – it is very good," said Cllr Doreen Savage of Suffolk Coastal LSP.

"Unfortunately I was not present at the Council meeting when SCTV made their presentation but the feedback from my colleagues was very supportive and encouraging and they were impressed with the forthright message and articulation of the members of SCTV. The team has also appeared before one of the Council's Scrutiny committees at which I was present and again their presentation and input evoked a huge response from the members present.

“We need to listen to and learn from the combined voice of SCTV. I am very proud to be associated in some small way with them”, added Cllr Savage.

Press release issued on behalf of the Suffolk Coastal Local Strategic Partnership

© Suffolk Coastal District Council. | [Legal & privacy](#) | [Site statistics](#)
Last updated: 14/01/2010 12:51:34



[2007 news archive](#)

How do you rate this information or service?



[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2007 news archive](#) >

Go online to pay your Council bills



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

16 Oct 2007

Archived press release.

With the recent uncertainties about the postal service, Suffolk Coastal is reminding its residents that they can pay bills around the clock by going online or using their phone.

Over £3.6 million has been paid to the Council since it launched its new automated payment system in May 2006. Since then over 28,000 payments have been received, with people able to pay for their Council Tax, Business Rates, planning applications, car park excess charge notices, housing benefit invoices, or other Council invoices at a time when it suits them, just by picking up a phone or visiting our website.

"It is all remarkably simple to use and you do not even have to have internet access as we have introduced an automated telephone system which you only need a push button phone to operate. The two things you need to have with you are your invoice or excess charge notice, and your debit or credit card – armed with those people can pay us any time any day," said Cllr Robert Whiting, Cabinet Member for Fiscal and Democratic Services.

"We recognised that not everyone has access to the internet which is why we have worked hard to introduce a new improved payment service which is available to as many people as possible throughout our largely rural district, in line with our Customer Access Strategy.

"At these times when the postal system is rather unreliable, we are offering people the chance to get their bills paid simply and quickly. For example, why wait to find out whether your next Council Tax payment is due when with your own pin number you can check your account details over the web, and also electronically receive your Council Tax bills in future," added Cllr Whiting.

Council Taxpayers can visit www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourhome/counciltax/online to find out how they can go online with their bills. This service could also deliver some significant postal and print savings if people sign up to having their bills delivered direct to their computer inbox, rather than their letterbox.

An automated telephone payment can be made by dialling 0845 880 1312 and calls are charged at local rates. The online payment service can be found on <http://www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourcouncil/contactus/payments/> where there is also full information on all the other ways of making payments to the Council.

The Council currently accepts Delta, Mastercard, Solo, Maestro, Visa and Visa Electron. Any payments made by debit card 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.

"For those people who make regular payments to us and do not have a debit card, I would recommend them switching to direct debit which remains the cheapest way to pay. It just requires a simple form to be filled out, which can either be downloaded from our website or can be obtained from our offices," added Cllr Whiting.

Any member of the public wanting more information about the new improved payment services

can email epayments@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk or call 01394 444541 during office hours (Monday to Thursday – 8.45am to 5.15pm, Friday 8.45am – 4.45pm).

© Suffolk Coastal District Council. | [Legal & privacy](#) | [Site statistics](#)
Last updated: 14/01/2010 12:51:53





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

2007 news archive

How do you rate this information or service?



[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2007 news archive](#) >

The chance to board, bike or blade this half term



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

16 Oct 2007

Archived press release.

Suffolk Coastal will be offering local young people in Rendlesham and Leiston the chance to perform their tricks on their doorstep when its mobile skate park visits them during the autumn half-term break.

The skate park will be at Rendlesham on the Monday and at Leiston on the Thursday, and for those who do not have their own equipment skateboards will be available to borrow.

“This is a chance for young people in the Rendlesham area who do not have easy access to a skate park to try out the three activities under supervision, or for the more experienced to practise their skills,” said Councillor Kevin Keable, Cabinet Member for Community Well-being.

The skate park will be at Jets Gym, at Rendlesham Sports Centre, Suffolk Drive on Monday, October 22 and at Leiston Leisure Centre on Thursday, October 25. The sessions, which are for young people aged 8 years and over will run from 10.30am to 12.30pm and 1pm to 3pm. The cost will be £3 per session. Helmets must be worn, but there will be some available to borrow.

For more information contact Active Communities on 01394 444652.

2007 news archive

How do you rate this information or service?



[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2007 news archive](#) >

Work underway to help groynes take the strain



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

16 Oct 2007

Archived press release.

Contractors called in by Suffolk Coastal are on the beach at Felixstowe carrying out work that will help some of the resort's groynes cope with the strength of the winter storms.

Over the next two to three weeks, the most important groynes around Undercliff Road East will be reinforced with concrete as part of precautionary works worth £70,000.

"This work was programmed to be done now to help these key groynes cope better with the work they will have to do during the winter months, and until we can get funds for the second phase of work on our defences, from the Town Hall to Cobbolds Point. One of them took quite a battering in the recent heavy tides but this reinforcement work should get them through the next 2 or 3 years, before funding is likely," said Cllr Andy Smith, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Coastal Protection.

"It is a shame that the sight of diggers and heavy plant on our beaches is becoming almost as regular as children with a bucket and spade, but this is the type of temporary emergency work we must do until the funding is available to carry out the much-needed permanent defence works," added Cllr Smith.

While the tide is out, the contractors will be fixing steel shuttering on to either side of the concrete groyne, filling in any gaps and levelling off the groynes at the top.

The Council is continuing to tidy up after the heavy waves at the end of last month which saw shingle being tossed onto the promenade, some temporary flooding of gardens, and some minor damage to the promenade at the Southern end of the town.

"The good news is that there was no structural damage to the sea wall in south Felixstowe last month, thanks to the tonnes of rocks that we have put down in front of it over the last year or so. Fortunately, we also saw the level of the beach go up by around half a metre a week or so after the storms.

"We have still got quite a bit of clearing up to do, with some of the prom's coping stones and surfacing having been lifted and cracked, and there is still a lot of shingle to be cleared up as well.

"The long-term answer for south Felixstowe is the £11 million scheme drawn up by ourselves and the Environment Agency to put in a whole series of new tee-shaped groynes. I remain hopeful that this will get the funding to proceed next year," added Cllr Smith. "And we are also at the earlier stages of the process for the Central part, which will probably be even harder to get funding for, although DEFRA have just approved the first document, called the 'Strategy', which is good news" he said.

2007 news archive

How do you rate this information or service?

[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2007 news archive](#) >

Big Draw will be stacks of fun at Easton Farm Park

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

19 Oct 2007

Archived press release.

It will be a case of the Big Draw meeting the Giant Haystack next weekend when there is a great chance for children to have some artistic fun down on the farm and play a part in creating a giant sculpture.

The ever-popular tourist attraction Easton Farm Park will be hosting the special event on Saturday, October 27, with help from Suffolk Coastal Arts and Arts Framlingham, as part of the annual Big Draw month.

“Easton Farm Park is the home to our monthly art farming workshops which for the last six months have been giving young artists the chance to grow their skills. Our third annual Big Farm Draw will see artists Bryony Graham and Suzy Berry giving participants of all ages the chance to grow their artistic talents,” said Cllr Kevin Keable, Cabinet Member for Community Well-being.

“There will be 50 big bales of straw especially wrapped so people can paint and draw on them, with help on hand from the two artists and our team of young art farmers, as well as paper so the children can go away and draw the things that inspire them around the farm.

“All the drawings will either be used as part of the giant haystack, or become part of a ‘web of art’ that will be attached to it. This promises to be another great fun day that will give people the chance to brush up their artistic skills while enjoying all the attractions that Easton Farm Park has to offer,” added Cllr Keable.

All the family can get involved, but children must be accompanied by an adult. Activities will take place between 10am and 12 noon and from 2pm to 4pm and entry to the Big Farm Draw is free, with entry to the Farm Park also being free before 1pm, with its monthly Farmers’ Market being held from 9am.

The Big Draw is an annual month-long event in October, a UK-wide celebration of drawing in museums, galleries, science and environmental centres, in heritage sites and in other cultural and community venues.

[2007 news archive](#)

How do you rate this information or service?



[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2007 news archive](#) >

Communities unite against Blyth Estuary proposals



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

19 Oct 2007

Archived press release.

Suffolk County Council, Waveney District Council and Suffolk Coastal District Council have joined up to challenge the latest Environment Agency 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.

Senior councillors and officers from the authorities have formed a group to help lead the community response to the proposals and are calling for local people and businesses to give their views as part of the Environment Agency's consultation exercise.

Suffolk County Councillor Guy McGregor, portfolio holder for roads and transport, who is also chairman of the group said; "The local authorities will challenge strongly the Environment Agency proposals for abandoning the flood defences. Vital links between Lowestoft and the rest of the country could be broken on a more frequent basis if flood defences are not maintained in the Blyth."

He added; "The Environment Agency must look properly at the full implications of their proposals to withdraw maintenance of sea defences which will have dire consequences, for example, flooding of the A12 and the A1095. The Agency cannot just expect local authorities to pick up the cost. We need to work together to find an acceptable long term strategy for managing the Blyth and other more loved Suffolk estuaries."

Cllr Ken Sale, portfolio holder for the built environment from Waveney District Council: "We are not prepared to simply stand by and let one of the most beautiful parts of Waveney and the Eastern region be left to the elements.. We have a duty to residents but also to the many thousands of people who visit every year and we will be working together to press the Environment Agency for a change of attitude."

Suffolk Coastal's Deputy Leader, Councillor Andy Smith said: "Years of under-investment and inadequate funding by the Government in coastal defences is now leaving the Environment Agency (EA) with no choice but to abandon this and doubtless many other estuaries. I am not convinced that the EA has really taken into account all the relevant facts regarding the Blyth estuary, but what is certain is that the Government needs to urgently increase the amount of national funding on offer. It may be that there are record funds on offer but it is certainly true that the risks facing our estuaries and coast are far worse than ever before.

"Suffolk Coastal is happy to work in partnership with the County Council, Waveney, local town and parish councils, and indeed the EA, to lobby the Government to make sure that the funding is there to fund important schemes like those to protect the Blyth estuary. The local community should not and will not accept the destruction of their environment simply because funds are unavailable and nor will this Council.

"We question many of the fundamental assumptions made by the Government and followed by the EA who have little option other than to follow the official lead. In particular, while the previous Minister has said when talking about floods in inland towns that to have your home flooded is traumatic, the fact is that this strategy would sound the death knell for the Blyth

estuary and 40 of its homes - it would be terminal for them.

" I would also call on our local communities to flood the EA with their responses to the draft strategy, pointing out the impact that this policy of planned flooding will have not just on local homes but also all aspects of local life, whether it be Walberswick or Southwold, the A12 and other roads, wildlife, jobs and tourism."

More information on the Environment Agencies strategy can be found at:

<http://www.suffolkestuaries.co.uk/projectnews.htm>

Should you have any queries related to the draft strategy, write to:

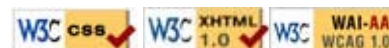
Blyth Estuary
Environment Agency (Anglian Region)
Kingfisher House
Goldhay Way
Orton Goldhay
Peterborough PE2 5ZR

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.

This is a joint press release issued by Suffolk County Council, Waveney Borough Council and Suffolk Coastal District Council

© Suffolk Coastal District Council. | [Legal & privacy](#) | [Site statistics](#)
Last updated: 14/01/2010 12:53:11



2007 news archive

How do you rate this information or service?



[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2007 news archive](#) >

Pledge to go green during energy saving week



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

19 Oct 2007

Archived press release.

The challenge has been laid down to individuals and communities across Suffolk Coastal to start thinking and acting greener during next week's Energy Saving Week.

This will be the 11th annual week organised by the Energy Saving Trust (EST), and supported locally by CRed Suffolk, with the chance to get helpful information and free energy efficient light bulbs at Leiston and Felixstowe.

"This is an important initiative as it is a chance for all of us across the district to focus our attentions on what we can all do as individuals or collectively to reduce our carbon dioxide emissions and so help tackle climate change," said Cllr Andrew Nunn, Cabinet Member for the Natural Environment.

"This Council is a member of CRed Suffolk and I am proud to support EST and the Energy Saving Week. We have been reviewing our carbon footprint and identifying what we can do to reduce unnecessary emissions, and we have been working with local community groups to help them go greener.

"There are still so many simple ways we can alter our everyday behaviours and make a significant impact on cutting CO2 emissions. Next week is another chance for people to find out more and join those who have already taken the green pledge to save energy," added Cllr Nunn.

The Energy Saving Week runs from Monday, October 22 through to Sunday, October 28 and there will be information stands at Leiston Sports Centre and Felixstowe Leisure Centre throughout the week.

From 10am to 3pm on the Tuesday at Leiston and the Thursday at Felixstowe there will also be someone from the CRed Suffolk team on hand to answer any questions and give out free energy saving light bulbs. Also on display will be one of the new low energy bulb libraries to demonstrate some of the huge range of bulbs now available.

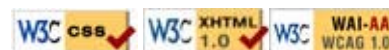
Wenhaston and Middleton are two villages in the district that have already carried out their own carbon footprint surveys to help identify how they could cut down their community's emissions. Both projects were supported by Suffolk Coastal, CRed Suffolk and EST.

Among the easy ways that people can save energy and money are:

- turning down thermostats – reducing room temperature by only 1 degree could cut heating bills by up to 10 per cent or £40 a year
- close curtains at night to keep in heat
- switch off lights when leaving a room and don't leave items on standby
- mend that dripping hot water tap – one week's worth of drips is equal to half a bathfull
- use energy saving light bulbs – they can save you £60 during their lifetime and they last around 10 times longer than ordinary bulbs.

For more helpful information visit www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourhome or go to <http://www.cred-uk.org> or call the Climate and Energy Helpline for Suffolk on 0800 02 88 938 or The Energy Saving Trust Advice Centre Anglia 0800 512 012.

© Suffolk Coastal District Council. | [Legal & privacy](#) | [Site statistics](#)
Last updated: 14/01/2010 12:52:50





2007 news archive

How do you rate this information or service?



[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2007 news archive](#) >

Children are finding that fishing is fun



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

22 Oct 2007

Archived press release.

Youngsters in Suffolk Coastal have been given a free chance to get hooked on a new pastime thanks to a series of Fishing for Fun sessions that are being held around the district.

The latest sessions are being held this week on Wednesday and Thursday at Melton's Breakaway Lakes, with two further Saturday sessions on November 3 at Newbourne Fisheries, and Manor Fishery in Swilland on November 10.

"These days it always seems that young people are looking for something to do. These special sessions giving local children the chance to try fishing for fun have proved very popular, with all the places fully booked," said Cllr Sherrie Green of Suffolk Coastal Local Strategic Partnership.

"I am pleased that the partners behind this project have been able to offer these activities for free, which I am sure will prove a particularly useful diversion during this week's half-term break.

"We hope that these sessions will turn out to be fun and help give the young people something to do, meet some new friends and perhaps get hooked on a new hobby, which has to be much better than hanging around, getting bored with nothing to do," added Cllr Green.

The six sessions have been organised by the Suffolk Coastal Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership, the Environment Agency, Time to Change, the Local Network Fund through Suffolk ACRE, Gipping Valley Angling Club, Eastern Angling and Ian Wood. The CDRP is part of the Suffolk Coastal Local Strategic Partnership.

This press release was issued by the Suffolk Coastal Local Strategic Partnership

2007 news archive

How do you rate this information or service?



[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2007 news archive](#) >

Regenerating the world of fashion in Felixstowe



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

24 Oct 2007

Archived press release.

This week sees the latest round of workshops that are attracting young people to play their part in ReGenerate, the Felixstowe Fashion Show that will take charity shop clothes out onto the catwalk.

High school students interested in fashion and style have been getting help in tailoring their creative skills to the arduous task of putting on from scratch a show at the end of November.

“This is a real partnership project, not just between this Council and Level Two, but also between the generations because the young people involved are working with and learning from others of all ages,” said Cllr Doreen Savage, Cabinet Member for Young People.

“Those involved are picking up a whole range of skills, with this week alone there being sessions on window dressing, set design and the make-up needed to appear under the hot lights of the cat walk.

“This is an artistically stimulating project that is helping to break down barriers between the generations in Felixstowe and is building up the town’s creative talents, while also being a fun experience for all those involved,” added Cllr Savage.

Today (Wednesday) morning, some of the ReGenerate team have been picking up tips from Jay Millar based on experience of dressing windows at Selfridges and Harrods on how to brighten up the displays of the town’s Age Concern and Red Cross.

On Thursday morning, a former make-up artist for the London fashion industry, Laura Kerr, will be giving expert advice to help the students prepare the right look for the big show on November 30.

“There are ongoing workshops where the young people are transforming old clothes from Age Concern and the Red Cross and using their imagination to come up with more abstract results,” said Ant Cartwright of Level Two.

“This is all helping them to get a better understanding of what fashion is and can be, how you end up with a final product having gone through all the branding, design and identity that helps create it, while building up their own skills and experiences.

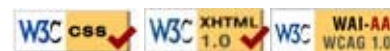
“The challenge is on to come up with striking redesigns that will make a big impact on the ReGenerate night. They are all doing really well, although there are still lots of chances for more people to get involved,” added Ant.

As well as the sessions on make-up, textiles, and window dressing, there are also other workshops with photography sessions on Saturday afternoons in November, along with set designing, while the call for models both male and female has also gone out. There is also a chance to design a t-shirt, the best of which will be made up and judged on the ReGenerate night.

The Re-generate project is a partnership between Suffolk Coastal Arts and Level 2 and for

further information contact Ant Cartwright, Level Two's Project Officer on 01394 272521.

© Suffolk Coastal District Council. | [Legal & privacy](#) | [Site statistics](#)
Last updated: 14/01/2010 12:54:03



[2007 news archive](#)

How do you rate this information or service?



[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2007 news archive](#) >

Three winners but all children could be



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

24 Oct 2007

Archived press release.

Three local youngsters were awarded prizes this week for their efforts in helping Suffolk Coastal draw up a play strategy that could result in better facilities and services across the district.

The prizes have gone to Hal Ottley, Rebecca Cox and Alysia Schuetzle as a thank-you for their contributions earlier this year.

“We called on anyone aged under 19 in our district to come up with the ideas on what type of play facilities they would like to see where they live and the best contributions in their age groups came from Hal, Rebecca and Alysia,” said Cllr Doreen Savage, Cabinet Member for Young People.

“Their valuable input has helped us draw up our play strategy. It is more important than ever that the value of play, in all its forms, is recognised for what it can add to children’s welfare and development and also the benefits it can bring to society as a whole.

“Our new strategy sets out how we and all our partners can work together to ensure that the importance of play is at the core of all future developments in our district and that the opportunities for imaginative and adventurous play are increased so that children can have the type of play experiences that many of us enjoyed when we were young,” added Councillor Savage.

In the wake of the new strategy, three exciting projects are now included in a bid for funding from the National Lottery. They are a double-decker bus that would tour rural areas in the north of the district, a cycle trail created through Rendlesham Forest, and a modern play area at Langer Park, Felixstowe.

By developing this strategy, and working with local organisations and the countywide group Partners in Play Suffolk, the Council aims to identify what the district needs, where resources ought to be targeted and hopefully attract the money to make them possible.

“We recognise the importance of providing new facilities for children and young people, and who better than them to identify the type of things they want. I would again like to thank all those who gave their views to help us draw up this strategy which will shape the playtime experience of future generations,” added Cllr Savage.

Hal Ottley, aged 4 of Purdis Farm, won a £25 voucher early learning centre, Rebecca Cox aged 9 of Felixstowe won a MP3 player, while Alysia Schuetzle aged 14 won a MP3 player.

2007 news archive

How do you rate this information or service?



[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2007 news archive](#) >

Become a green leader and boost composting in your community



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

25 Oct 2007

Archived press release.

If you have a keen interest in home composting and have a bit of time on your hands, you could next week join a group of like-minded individuals that make up Suffolk Master Composters.

Master Composters are community volunteers who, in return for training and support, act as composting ambassadors in their local neighbourhood.

"This countywide initiative is inviting gardeners, allotment holders, anyone with 'green fingers' or a 'green mind' to attend a free two-day training course that will lead to the Master Composter qualification," said Councillor Andrew Nunn, Cabinet Member for the Natural Environment.

"In return for the training, Master Composters are asked to give up about 30 hours a year of their time to promote home composting in their local community.

"They raise awareness amongst the wider public of the benefits of composting, encourage more people to compost at home and support those who already participate in home composting to ensure that they are successful in their efforts. The aim is to help the public successfully produce their own soil improvers, which will in turn help reduce the amount of organic waste going to landfill," added Councillor Nunn.

Master Composter is a "qualification", which in order to attain the volunteer needs to complete a series of training sessions in home composting and related environmental issues.

Once Master Composters have completed their qualification, their local authority and other local community groups are able to call upon this pool of talent to support home composting schemes by using them to educate and advise other members of the community.

The Master Composting two day course is being held at Thornham Field Centre at Thornham Magna near Eye on Wednesday, October 31, from 9am to 4.30pm and Thursday November 1, from 10am and 4.30pm

Among the subjects the course covers are the role and potential of home composting in waste minimisation, the role of the Master Composter, what can and cannot go into a compost bin, the composting process, types of compost bins, how to use compost and method and activities to promote home composting.

"I hope some of our keen composters will sign up to this course as it is recognised that people's attitudes and behaviour can be strongly influenced by other people around them such as family, friends, neighbours or work colleagues and it is for this reason that Master Composter volunteers can provide a unique role in educating the public.

"It is very important that we encourage more recycling in our district because although Suffolk Coastal's recycling rates hit 40 per cent last year, it is estimated that if the current amount of household waste continues to be taken to landfill sites, the cost to Council Taxpayers would rise by £9 million a year by 2017," continued Councillor Nunn.

The training will be provided by staff from Garden Organic, Waste & Resources Action Programme (WRAP) and Suffolk County Council and will include a site visit on Wednesday afternoon to a working landfill site and windrow composting facility.

Places are limited and are available on a first come first served basis. For more information on the course or to book a place phone 01473 264795 or visit the composting page on www.suffolkrecycling.org.uk

© Suffolk Coastal District Council. | [Legal & privacy](#) | [Site statistics](#)
Last updated: 14/01/2010 12:54:41



2007 news archive

How do you rate this information or service?



[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2007 news archive](#) >

Spa Pavilion theatre tickets now available from our TICs



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

26 Oct 2007

Archived press release.

The curtains have gone up on the latest new service now being offered by Suffolk Coastal's three Tourist Information Centres (TICs), with tickets now on sale for any show on at the Spa Pavilion Theatre.

Last year the TICs introduced London theatre and accommodation packages for most of the West End shows, but this new service now makes it easier for people to book a seat at their local Felixstowe theatre.

"Our TICs at Felixstowe, Woodbridge and Aldeburgh have always offered a wide range of services from booking holiday accommodation for visitors, either in person or in advance over the telephone, to providing information and knowledge on local events and places of interest," said Councillor Colin Hart, Cabinet Member for Economy and Tourism.

"Last year they extended the services they provide to include booking airport parking including overnight stay if required and airport lounges, London theatre and accommodation packages for most of the West End shows, theatre vouchers and entry and accommodation to some of Britain's major attractions. Now they are able to sell theatre tickets for our local theatre, the Spa Pavilion which is managed by our partners Openwide," continued Councillor Hart.

The TICs are also able to help with travel arrangements as they offer a National Express ticket booking service and at Woodbridge and Felixstowe people can buy rail tickets.

"Tourism contributes in excess of £211m per annum to the district's economy and our TIC staff are playing an important role in the generation of this income by promoting the district's attractions, helping people to book holiday accommodation in the area and providing information on local events. They also promote local businesses involved in the tourist industry and help to make people aware of beach safety by providing free literature from the Coastguard and Seasafe Campaign," added Councillor Hart.

Figures show that tourists are finding that a visit to one of Suffolk Coastal's TICs can help them get the most from their stay in the district and that they are also a very useful resource for residents. Last year saw the Centres deal with over 100,000 visitors, both local and tourists, and they answered 200,000 telephone and written enquiries.

The TICs are open Monday to Saturday during the winter season (October to March), between 9am – 5.30pm Monday to Friday and 9am-5pm on Saturdays. The Aldeburgh TIC is located in the High Street, Felixstowe's can be found on the seafront by the Town Hall, and Woodbridge is next to Woodbridge Station.

Spa Pavilion theatre tickets now available from our TICs

[2007 news archive](#)

How do you rate this information or service?



[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2007 news archive](#) >

TICs have charity Christmas cards for sale



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

26 Oct 2007

Archived press release.

For people who prefer to send charity cards to their friends and colleagues on their Christmas list, there are 40 different designs for 20 different charities available now from Suffolk Coastal's Tourist Information Centres (TICs).

The three TICs at Felixstowe, Woodbridge and Aldeburgh are getting into the Christmas spirit this year by once again selling cards from the "Cards for Good Causes" range which include charities such as the British Heart Foundation, Cancer Research, RNIB and Shelter.

The TIC in Aldeburgh is also selling the full "Cards for Good Causes" range which includes Advent calendars, Wrapping paper, Gift Tags, Advent Candles and much more.

"With 40 different designs to choose from, customers should be able to find something to suit their taste as well as being able to support their favourite national charity", said Councillor Colin Hart, Cabinet Member for Economy and Tourism.

"Christmas is a time for giving and I am pleased that our TICs are stocking these cards as the charities concerned will receive at least 81p in every £1," continued Councillor Hart.

The TICs are open Monday to Saturday during the winter season (October to March), between 9am – 5.30pm Monday to Friday and 9am-5pm on Saturdays. The Aldeburgh TIC is located in the High Street, Felixstowe's can be found on the seafront by the Town Hall, and Woodbridge is next to Woodbridge Station.



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

2007 news archive

How do you rate this information or service?



[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2007 news archive](#) >

The newsletter that keeps local businesses informed



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

07 Nov 2007

Archived press release.

Over 4,000 businesses in the Suffolk Coastal district are seeing the latest edition of Business Bulletin drop through their letterbox, a newsletter packed with useful information.

The bumper 28-page newsletter includes details about new legislation such as the proposed changes to business rates, the latest food, health and safety news, and some of the training and advice opportunities on offer.

"I can appreciate that those in business are busy people but I hope that they will find the time to have a look at the latest Business Bulletin as I am sure they will find some articles that are both useful and interesting," said Councillor Colin Hart, Cabinet Member for Economy and Tourism.

Among the other subjects covered are changes to the licensing rules, BT's vision for the future of Adastral Park, company car share scheme and the Suffolk Coastal Business Forum's business needs research study.

The Business Bulletin has been produced by Suffolk Coastal's regeneration team, and anyone who would like a copy of it can download one off the Council's website on www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourbusiness/bulletin or contact the team on 01394 444451 or email development@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk to be added to the mailing list.



2007 news archive

How do you rate this information or service?



[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2007 news archive](#) >

Suffolk Coastal delivering more successes



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

07 Nov 2007

Archived press release.

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.

Last month 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 another prestigious event.

"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 Cllr 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.

"Our annual report reflects on what this Council has been achieving with its many partners in delivering better services and even better value. I would offer warm congratulations to our legal and property information teams for delivering even more success for our district," added Cllr Herring.

The property information team were runners-up in the National Land Property Gazetteer best business process transformation exemplar awards. The team's efforts to improve their service to users by exploiting the opportunities of new computer systems will now be included as best practice for other councils to follow.

The Council's legal team were part of the DBB partnership that won the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy annual award for best shared services.

The DBB project has linked the county, district and borough councils' legal services and introduced new ways of working, many of which take advantage of the latest technologies to share expertise. It has helped deliver £200,000 of savings across Suffolk.

Delivering Success, the Council's annual report for 2006/07, can be seen on

www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk and comments on it can be sent to communications@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk

2007 news archive

How do you rate this information or service?



[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2007 news archive](#) >

Town centres largely untouched by car park review



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

07 Nov 2007

Archived press release.

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.

Last night's (Tuesday) Cabinet meeting agreed to consult 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 will 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 Cllr Andy Smith, Council Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for the Built Environment.

"However, the continuing failure of central Government to properly fund its share of the cost of our local services means that we have once again had to review all aspects of our services to identify yet more income and efficiencies.

"Our review of all our car parks has identified some inconsistencies that we have tried to iron out. In looking for relatively painless ways of increasing the revenue we identified that some of the rates in our tourist or seaside car parks are very low by modern standards and we are looking to increase them to levels which remain good value for money. 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 is now writing to those of the district's town and parish councils affected by the proposals, asking for their views on the suggested changes that would come into effect in April 2008.

Among the changes are the abolition of charges at the Riverside car park in Melton, and not charging at Woodbridge's Station Road car park until 9am in order to help early morning swimmers at the nearby pool.

Charges would be introduced for The Hill at Wickham Market, which would also see restrictions on the maximum length of stay at its Chapel Lane car park, while it would no longer be possible to park for free during the winter months in the four car parks in Aldeburgh.

"Wickham Market has a limited amount of parking so it is important that a continued turnover of cars is maintained so there are more available spaces for shoppers. The low charges we are proposing will not be a significant disincentive. It will also be fairer as it will mean that our other towns are no longer subsidising its free parking.

"While not increasing any of the existing town centre car parking prices, we do want to bring in reasonable rises in those that are predominantly used by tourists, and increase some of our season ticket and long-stay charges.

"I wish that we did not have to introduce many of these changes but we have been left with no

choice. I would however emphasise that our parking remains excellent value, and that rather than impose a flat rate increase across all our car parks we have considered how we can increase our income in the fairest way for all our customers," added Cllr Smith.

To help encourage users of the Council's car parks to take more care about parking correctly and to keep a closer eye on their watches, the cost of an excess charge notice will rise by £10 to £40 (or £80 if not paid within seven days) for cars, and £100 (£200) for HGVs and PSVs. To avoid such charges, motorists need just to park in a marked bay, buy a ticket to cover their intended stay, and display it in their windscreen.



2007 news archive

How do you rate this information or service?



[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2007 news archive](#) >

Suffolk Coastal manages a close escape



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

09 Nov 2007

Archived press release.

The Council has passed its test on dealing with an emergency with flying colours, after the flood alerts of the last 24 hours gave the district and the rest of the country a glimpse of the serious havoc that could occur as a result of flooding.

Chairman of the Council, Cllr Cliff Cocker, has paid tribute to all those at Suffolk Coastal who were involved in the emergency planning of services to deal with the flood risks.

"I would pass on my thanks to all those involved in the emergency planning team for all their sterling work that they have carried out during the period of the flood emergency. The way that they controlled the available facilities and helped assure the local affected population is another shining example of why Suffolk Coastal is considered a good place to live," said Cllr Cocker.

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

"We have now been able to stand everyone down, now that the all clear has been given for this district. I think our staff responded magnificently, working throughout the night without question and without any regard to personal inconvenience or cost," said Stephen Baker, the Council's Chief Executive and lead representative on the Gold command centre at Martlesham police headquarters.

"This has been 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.

"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 also 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 today, and helped transport sandbags to those community facilities that needed protecting. DC Leisure helped transform the Leiston Leisure Centre into a rest centre for those at risk in the north of the district, while NPS provided support to the round the clock operations team.

2007 news archive

How do you rate this information or service?



[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2007 news archive](#) >

New year will see wind farm underway at Parham



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

19 Nov 2007

Archived press release.

Construction will start next year on the district's first wind farm at Parham airfield after the developers were given the final go-ahead by Suffolk Coastal.

Planning permission was originally granted in July 2006 to Saxon Windpower's proposals for six wind turbines to be erected, following the original backing being given unanimously by councillors in October 2005.

"This is welcome news that the uncertainty about this development has now ended and that the company behind the scheme are pressing ahead with their original plans," said Cllr Gordon Laing, Vice-Chairman of the Development Control Committee.

"This has been a lengthy process with, for example, extensive site visits and five hours discussion of all the issues at the 2005 meeting itself when our Committee gave its conditional approval. With all the expensive legal twists and turns I am pleased that the company has been both so committed and patient.

"When we gave permission it was clear under national planning guidance that this district should be playing its part in encouraging renewable energy schemes. We also insisted on a number of conditions to minimise as much as possible the impact on the community and these will have to be met during its construction," added Cllr Laing.

The application site is on part of a 310 hectare farm in the parishes of Parham, Great Glemham and Marlesford. PAWF, the subsidiary company set up by Saxon Windpower, say that the wind farm would generate enough energy to meet the average needs of around 3,000 homes, without producing the emissions that are blamed for global warming.

There were over 700 responses to the original application. More recently, the developers had sought the go-ahead for a modification of the original permission. This would have seen six turbines at the same height but with longer blades. A further site visit and more discussions were undertaken, and subsequently this plan was dropped.

The development will now proceed with the approved turbines that will be just under 100 metres high to the tip but with shorter 26.5 metre long blades on a 73.25 metre high tower. These meet all the conditions originally imposed by the Council, and indeed there will be less shadow flicker.

"The relevant parish councils were being advised by the Council this afternoon (Monday) and I hope that today's announcement will bring to an end all the uncertainty about the scheme. It is hoped that the first green wind-generated power will be coming from Parham by Christmas 2008," added Cllr Laing.

New year will see wind farm underway at Parham

2007 news archive

How do you rate this information or service?



[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2007 news archive](#) >

Darsham to get green holiday lodges



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

20 Nov 2007

Archived press release.

The district's tourism industry was given a boost last week when an eco-friendly development of Scandinavian-style holiday lodges in Darsham was granted planning permission by councillors.

The environment will be at the heart of the development of 23 holiday lodges. State-of-the-art eco technology such as rainwater recycling, grey water flushing toilets and solar panels will be featured, and the use of natural materials such as 'living' sedum roofs and sheep wool insulation will add to its green credentials. Much of the existing planting will be kept, with the cabins sitting in small glades, surrounded by larger areas of managed woodland.

"The tourist industry forms a large and important part of the local economy and needs to be supported. It is important, however, that the needs of tourists do not impact adversely on the natural beauty or environment of our district," said Cllr Trevor Hawkins, Vice-Chairman of the North Area Development Control Sub-Committee.

"These holiday lodges are to be welcomed because they will provide much needed accommodation for visitors in a way that respects their lovely location. The developers have put much thought into creating an environmentally sustainable scheme which will help protect the environment for future generations," added Cllr Hawkins.

Planning permission for the original scheme, for 48 separate lodges on the 3.6 hectares of recently planted woodland, was refused by the Council earlier this year. The latest proposal for 23 lodges is considered a vast improvement, better preserving the natural beauty of the surrounding area.

The lodges will be situated east of the A12 in Darsham. Access to the site will be via the existing petrol station, where a new internal access road will be built.



2007 news archive

How do you rate this information or service?



[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2007 news archive](#) >

Saxmundham scheme includes affordable homes and open space



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

20 Nov 2007

Archived press release.

A major development of 145 homes in Saxmundham, which include 49 much-needed affordable homes and a large new public open space alongside the River Fromus, was agreed by councillors at the North Area Development Control Sub-Committee last week.

The development will cover an area of land east of Saxmundham's town centre and conservation area, on the north side of Church Hill, which has already been allocated for housing by the Council in the district's Local Plan.

"Saxmundham is one of our most popular towns and we are facing a shortage of homes of all types in this area which is why this land has been allocated for housing for sometime. We do, however, recognise that any development in this particular location, bordering the conservation area and the countryside, needs very careful planning," said Cllr Trevor Hawkins, Vice-Chairman of the North Area Development Control Sub-Committee.

"We are pleased that the development will include such a large public open space that will protect and enhance wildlife along the river, as well as providing a good leisure facility for residents, and a significant boost for those seeking affordable housing.

"The Council has worked closely with the developers on this housing scheme, and will continue to do so, to achieve the best possible solution that meets the need for more housing in this sensitive location," added Cllr Hawkins.

The creation of a public open space was one of the Council's key aims for the development, with an area of land measuring around 1.6 hectares being kept for this purpose. The open space will safeguard the wildlife and ecology along the bank of the River Fromus with measures such as an otter "buffer zone" and a wet woodland area. There are also plans for kick-about and picnic areas.

Conditional planning permission was granted by councillors subject to the satisfactory completion of current negotiations with the developer which will include issues like the design, landscape management, energy efficiency measure, and contributions towards local health and education services. The total area of land in the development is 5.4 hectares, of which 1.6 hectares will be public open space.

2007 news archive

How do you rate this information or service?



[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2007 news archive](#) >

Helicopter club has a year to pass its planning tests



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

21 Nov 2007

Archived press release.

A model helicopter flying club that has been using land in Waldringfield without planning permission for two years has been allowed to carry on for a further 12 months, so the impact of its activities can be properly monitored.

Temporary planning permission was granted last week at the South Area Development Control Sub-Committee, but with strict conditions designed to both limit the potential noise levels and to enable monitoring and assessment of the club's flying activities.

"The site currently being used as an airfield for the model helicopters is situated in a part of the countryside that is particularly attractive, near to a designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and a Site of Special Scientific Interest. We recognise there are some significant concerns about using the land for flying these model aircraft and the resulting potential for disturbing the peace and quiet of the surrounding area," said Cllr Gordon Laing, Vice-Chairman of the South Area Development Control Sub-Committee.

"We do, however, have to balance this concern with the interests of members of the model helicopter club, who clearly cannot pursue their chosen hobby in residential areas.

"The club's resubmitted application offered some improvements. We feel that placing conditions limiting the hours and extent of flying and allowing a trial period of one year, during which time a proper assessment can be made, is a fair and reasonable solution," added Cllr Laing.

A previous application was turned down last year by councillors, on the grounds that the club's activities were detrimental to the character of its rural location and that the proximity of the site to a number of public rights of way may cause disturbance to other users of the surrounding countryside.

Conditions imposed on the club include a limit on the number of aircraft that can fly at any one time, a restriction preventing flying outside certain hours, and on the type of model aircraft that may be flown. The club will also be obliged to keep a flight log to be kept available for Council officers to see at any time.

2007 news archive

How do you rate this information or service?



[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2007 news archive](#) >

Making connections for a better quality of life



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

21 Nov 2007

Archived press release.

Suffolk Coastal was rated last month as the 17th best place to live in Britain, and quality of life in the district was at the centre of discussions at the fifth annual forum of the Suffolk Coastal Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) recently held at Trinity Park.

Channel 4's Location, Location, Location gave its glowing review of the district after taking into account factors such as the environment, housing, education, crime and transport. The 140 representatives at the LSP forum were all interested in playing their part in maintaining and improving the district's quality of life.

"This forum was called 'making connections' because our goal was to update everyone on our achievements, share information about current projects, and give the chance to guide our partnership work in the future," said Cllr Ray Herring, Chairman of the Suffolk Coastal LSP Board.

"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 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 had a range of knowledge and ideas to share and build on," added Cllr Herring.

Four topics were discussed during workshop sessions at the forum, focussing in on green issues, support for vulnerable residents, business needs, and the generation gap.

Among the successes of the last year that the LSP has helped have been

- SCTV, the new districtwide forum for young people and its Generation Jigsaw DVD,
- work under way on 15 parish plans,
- the attraction of over £45,000 of funding for local organisations
- Publicity about the bus services on offer in Leiston/Aldeburgh/Saxmundham
- 14 rural businesses gained advice and support,
- the award-winning Let's Get a Life project tackling anti-social behaviour
- a mobile skate park that has visited venues across the district
- the Active Life programme offering gentle exercise,
- the Health Walks programme,
- projects to reduce obesity in children, identify and treat Chlamydia, and generally raise health awareness in schools

"Our annual forums help promote a shared commitment to the ambitions of our LSP. By bringing together representatives of such a wide range of community, voluntary, statutory and business interests in Suffolk Coastal I hope that all the 140 who attended would agree that we are truly a community-wide organisation.

"For us to succeed, we need to support each other to develop projects that deliver our ambitions.

I hope that everyone left the Forum with a better understanding of where we are heading as a Partnership and what role each of us can play in its success,” added Cllr Herring.

Each district is required by the Government to have its own LSP working to enhance the local quality of life, and helping coordinate and shape the future action of public, private, voluntary and community organisations. For more information about the Suffolk Coastal LPS visit its website www.sclsp.org.uk

Press release issued by the Suffolk Coastal Local Strategic Partnership

© Suffolk Coastal District Council. | [Legal & privacy](#) | [Site statistics](#)
Last updated: 14/01/2010 12:58:45



2007 news archive

How do you rate this information or service?



[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2007 news archive](#) >

Safer Food Better Business- further guidance on using the pack



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

21 Nov 2007

Archived press release.

A half-day training course is being offered to managers of food catering businesses who would like further help with the Safer Food Better Business (SFBB) catering pack and how to get a system in place.

Suffolk Coastal is running a series of low-cost workshops for food managers in the district with the first taking place in January 2008.

“When the new legislation came into force last year, we offered a free package of support under the banner of SFBB and many businesses across the county benefited from this initiative,” said Councillor Sherrie Green, Cabinet Member for Community Well-being.

“Since January 2006 over 260,000 SFBB packs have been distributed nationally by the Food Standards Agency and, although designed to be an easy to use tool, we are offering these follow-up workshops for managers who would find further guidance in using the catering pack helpful, or who would like to pick up some tips on the easiest way to get a system in place.

“The workshops will be run by an independent tutor who is highly experienced at coaching businesses in the use of the SFBB and they are open to small catering businesses such as restaurants, pubs, cafes, takeaways, hotels and wine bars,” continued Councillor Green.

The first of the workshops will be held on Tuesday, January 29 at Suffolk Coastal's Melton Hill offices from 9.30am – 12.30pm and the cost is £35 per person which includes tuition, supporting materials and light refreshments. A certificate of attendance will be issued to each delegate.

Pre-booking is essential as the number of places on the workshop is limited. To book a place call Suffolk Coastal's food safety team on 01394 444357 or email foodsafetyteam@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk

To order a hard copy of the Safer Food Better Business pack call 0845 606 0667 or email foodstandards@ecgroup.uk.com or download a copy from www.food.gov.uk/catering

Full details of the Safer Food, Better Business initiative is available on Suffolk Coastal's website www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourbusiness/foodsafety/saferfood



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

2007 news archive

How do you rate this information or service?



[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2007 news archive](#) >

Site visit to help decide if trees will make way for new home

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

21 Nov 2007

Archived press release.

Councillors will make a site visit to see first-hand where 27 trees, including some with official protection, are under threat from a proposal to build a four bedroom house in part of a garden in Martlesham.

The application had originally been refused in August because it would have a serious negative impact on the visual amenity and character of the area and would mean the removal of a significant number of trees protected by a tree preservation order. At last week's meeting councillors agreed to visit the site in Main Road and see the threatened trees before making a decision on the new application.

"We agreed that we need to visit the site to see for ourselves what is being proposed and its potential impact on the local environment. We will then be in an even better position to make our final decision on this application at our next meeting in December," said Cllr Gordon Laing, Vice-Chairman of the South Area Development Control Sub-Committee.

The Council's countryside and open spaces team have raised serious concerns about the proposed development, saying that the tree preservation order had been made specifically to prevent inappropriate development on this site of great importance for the character of the area. They also raised concerns that the development may result in the loss of more trees in the future because of their proximity to the proposed new house.

Planning officers have suggested that a house with a smaller footprint that did not have such a devastating impact on the trees, may prove more acceptable for this site.



2007 news archive

How do you rate this information or service?



[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2007 news archive](#) >

Support for waste transfer facility at Foxhall



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

21 Nov 2007

Archived press release.

Efforts to reduce the amount of rubbish going into landfill were given a boost by councillors at the South Area Development Control Sub-Committee last week when they gave their backing to plans for a new waste facility at Foxhall Landfill Site.

The waste transfer station will act as a base from which waste collected by refuse trucks could be reloaded onto lorries and taken elsewhere for processing. The facility will divert around 65,000 tonnes of waste away from landfill each year, at least 15,000 tonnes of which will be recyclables such as paper, cans, plastic and glass.

“Waste management has become a big issue for us all, with landfill sites filling up fast and the growing need to achieve higher levels of recycling. In this district we are now diverting 44 per cent of household waste away from landfill, thanks to our residents’ recycling and composting efforts, but the latest estimates are that landfill sites across Suffolk could be full in six years or so,” said Cllr Gordon Laing, Vice-Chairman of the South Area Development Control Sub-Committee.

“The Council has been working hard together with residents to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill and this transfer facility is important to support those efforts and help reduce the pressure on Foxhall Landfill Site by diverting large amounts of waste away from it,” added Cllr Laing.

Plans for the new facility were submitted by Viridor Waste Management Ltd and the final decision on the facility will be made by Suffolk County Council, which is the waste planning authority, but Suffolk Coastal was officially consulted for its views on the proposals.



2007 news archive

How do you rate this information or service?



[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2007 news archive](#) >

Magistrates back partnership's clampdown on Woodbridge pub



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

29 Nov 2007

Archived press release.

Press release issued on behalf of the Suffolk Coastal Licensing Partnership

A decision by Suffolk Coastal to introduce tougher licensing laws on The Cross public house in Woodbridge has been backed by Ipswich Magistrates who rejected an appeal to overturn two of the new conditions that were imposed after a special inspection last May.

After hearing evidence from the Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service, Suffolk Police and the licensee, the Magistrates agreed yesterday (Wednesday) that the Council was right to have imposed new conditions on The Cross, which is on the corner of The Thoroughfare and Church Street.

Suffolk Coastal's Licensing Panel had set three new conditions in August after it had been told about the concerns regarding public safety at the pub, which had been highlighted after a visit by the members of the Suffolk Coastal Licensing Partnership on May 25.

Gary Phillips, deputy fire officer said: "Our inspection found that there was almost 70 per cent more people in the pub than allowed, which meant that everyone was put at real risk of harm if there had been a fire. This was a serious breach of the rules and I am pleased that the Magistrates have backed the steps taken by Suffolk Coastal to stop it happening again.

"When we inspected there were around 100 people in The Cross when there should have been no more than 60 including staff. It is now up to the licensee to ensure he complies with the new conditions of his licence," added DCFO Phillips of Suffolk Fire and Rescue.

Collin Dagnall, the licensee of The Cross, had originally been instructed that he must have from October 19th two officially trained door supervisors to control the numbers entering the pub on Friday and Saturday nights, Christmas Eve, New Year's Eve, or when there is a pre-planned event.

Mr Dagnall appealed to Magistrates against two of the new conditions imposed by the Council but failed to have them overturned, and was ordered to pay £500 towards the costs of the Council and its partners.

The Council had said that the door supervisors should be on duty from 8pm but the Magistrates changed this to 9.30pm, but they should now be in place from December 21 in time for the busy Christmas period.

The police had reported a series of incident in and around The Cross, and the Council had met their request that no new customers are allowed in after 11pm on Friday and Saturday nights. Mr Dagnall had not challenged the demand by the Council's food safety team that a series of monthly checks be carried out and recorded to monitor health and safety issues.

The Cross was the first pub to be inspected by the Suffolk Coastal Licensing Partnership (SCLP), which has been formed to make sure that all pubs, clubs and other licensed premises in

Suffolk Coastal are providing a safe and legal service to their customers.

The new partnership has been prompted by the recent new licensing laws, which passed much of the responsibilities on controlling licensed premises onto local councils.

The SCLP includes representatives of the licensing team, fire service, trading standards, the police, environmental protection, and food safety, and is the first of its type in the county. The Partnership is considering when and where to carry out its next joint inspection.

Suffolk Coastal is pleased that the Magistrates recognised the strength of the evidence that had been considered by the Council in reaching its decision, and on hearing first-hand the case against the licensee has rejected his request to overturn the Council's carefully considered new conditions.

The Council hopes that it will serve as a warning to other premises in the district that they should follow the rules of their licence and public safety regulations to ensure that their premises continue to be safe and legal. If they do not, the Council and its partners are ready to take action to protect their communities.



2007 news archive

How do you rate this information or service?



[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2007 news archive](#) >

New York, Milan, Paris - now it is Felixstowe's turn



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

29 Nov 2007

Archived press release.

Tomorrow night (Friday, November 30) sees the models take to the catwalk in Felixstowe as the culmination of the ReGenerate project that has over the last few months seen local young people putting the glitz on charity shop clothes.

The Felixstowe Fashion Show is being held between 7.30pm and 9pm at the Salvation Army Hall in Cobbold Road and will be a celebration of the work put in by all the 11-16 year olds that have taken part. As well as the catwalk collection, the night will also feature visual art and design, street dancers, and MCs.

High school students interested in fashion and style have been getting help in tailoring their creative skills, and those involved have picked up a whole range of skills, including textile art and design, window dressing, set design, photography, and make-up.

Among those who have helped give tips has been Jay Millar, who has previously been a window dresser at Selfridges and Harrods, and who helped the young people plan displays for the town's Age Concern and Red Cross shops. A former make-up artist for the London fashion industry, Laura Kerr, also helped the students get the right look for the big night.

"Young people have been transforming old clothes from Age Concern and the Red Cross and using their imagination to come up with more abstract results. This is all helping them to get a better understanding of what fashion is and can be, how you end up with a final product having gone through all the branding, design and identity that helps create it, while building up their own skills and experiences," said Ant Cartwright of Level Two.

ReGenerate is a partnership project between the Level Two youth project and Suffolk Coastal, with support from the Local Network Fund, Suffolk ACRE, the Suffolk Coastal Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership, and Suffolk Police. For more information about ReGenerate contact Ant at Level Two on 01394 272521.

2007 news archive

How do you rate this information or service?



[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2007 news archive](#) >

Young bands take centre stage



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

29 Nov 2007

Archived press release.

There's a real musical treat this Saturday in Woodbridge when nine local bands from Suffolk Coastal will be supporting fast-rising national band We Start Fires at a special gig to launch the release of the Sounds of the East Coast CD.

Soundwaves, Suffolk Coastal's own music project for young people, has spent the last year finding and recording the best 10 young bands in the district for the new CD, and nine of them are performing this Saturday (December 1) at Seckford Theatre, Burkitt Road, Woodbridge (in the grounds of Woodbridge School) between 7 and 11pm.

"We hope that people will enjoy listening to the Soundwaves album as much as we have enjoyed helping to create it. It's homegrown talent at its very best, and an ideal Christmas present for the family, and fans of up and coming talent from the Coastal area," said Sophie Tott, Soundwaves project manager.

"Every track has been written by the young bands themselves. Their creativity, individuality and unique style was encouraged and supported, so listeners can expect a broad range of musical styles on the CD," added Sophie.

Bands performing include Non-Stop-Movement (Alderburgh), Clay (Woodbridge), Dag (Leiston), Kids of the night (Leiston), Dontdanceonglass (Ipswich), Wildbluenuwemexico (Felixstowe), Containz Nutz (Woodbridge), Dreams within nightmares (Woodbridge), and White Water (Framlingham).

Throughout the summer each of the 10 bands were given a day in Leiston's Summerhill Studios, with sound engineer Henry Readhead, to record three original tracks, one of which would feature on this very special album.

Tickets can be purchased from the box office by calling 01394 615 015, and are priced at £5 or £4 to Soundwaves members, under 18's / students. The CD will also be on sale for £5, and a sneak preview can be found on www.myspace.com/suffolksoundwaves

Soundwaves is backed by Suffolk Coastal's arts team, Awards for All and the Local Network fund. For more information about Soundwaves, the gig or the new CD, call Sophie Tott on 07005 981838, or email suffolksoundwaves@hotmail.com

We Start Fires hail from Darlington, released their debut eponymous album last month, were feted by legendary broadcaster John Peel and aimed to be a female fronted band with the effortless glamour of Debbie Harry and the raw edge of The Stooges.



2007 news archive

How do you rate this information or service?



[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2007 news archive](#) >

Suffolk Coastal is listening to young people



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

30 Nov 2007

Archived press release.

Suffolk Coastal's increasing commitment to young people will see leading councillors and officers taking part in a special webchat aimed at under 25 year olds on Wednesday, December 12 between 4pm and 7pm.

The Council's Leader, Cllr Ray Herring, will be joined by Cllr Doreen Savage, Chief Executive Stephen Baker, and others to respond to whatever issues local young people want to raise.

"We are putting young people increasingly at the centre of what this Council does, and this webchat is a great chance for them to quiz us about what the Council is doing for and with young people," said Cllr Doreen Savage, Cabinet Member for Young People.

"Members of SCTV (Suffolk Coastal Teen Voices) have made a big impression with councillors after their appearances at Full Council and a committee meeting recently. It was also very encouraging to have SCTV and so many young people taking an active part in the recent Local Strategic Partnership forum.

"I believe that we need to listen and learn from the combined voice of SCTV and I am very proud to be associated in some small way with them. I hope to hear from many more young people during our special webchat," added Cllr Savage.

Anyone aged under 25 that wants to take part in the webchat can find out more details by visiting the Council's website.

The webchat is featured on the front page of the Winter edition of the Council's magazine, Coastline, which is being delivered to homes across the district next week and also includes features on some of Suffolk Coastal's other youth related initiatives.

The Suffolk Coastal Local Strategic Partnership funded the creation of a youth co-ordinator post at the Council currently held by Keri Mohan who has helped set up SCTV, the first districtwide youth forum. For more on SCTV visit their website www.sctv.org.uk

2007 news archive

How do you rate this information or service?



[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2007 news archive](#) >

Make it a green Christmas this year with a real tree



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

05 Dec 2007

Archived press release.

The build-up to Christmas has begun and Suffolk Coastal is asking its residents to think green this year and buy a real tree that can either be planted out or re-potted for next year, or composted after the festive season.

Although artificial trees may last for a number of years, at the end of their useful life they can only be recycled by placing them in the metals skip at the Household Waste Recycling Centres, whereas a real tree can be recycled and turned into soil improver or planted in the garden and used in future years.

“There is something very exciting about choosing your own tree and taking it home for decorating, but the bonus is you will be helping the environment as well,” said Councillor Andrew Nunn, Cabinet Member for the Environment.

“The advantage of a real tree is that, if it is not rooted, it can be cut up after Christmas and put in the brown bin for all compostable waste (if under one and a half inches in diameter) or, alternatively, it can be taken to one of the three Household Waste Recycling Centres at Foxhall, Felixstowe and Leiston. Any trunks or branches of the tree that are greater than one and a half inches in diameter will need to go to the Household Waste Recycling Centres as they cannot be taken in the brown bin.

“Trees with roots can be planted in the garden to grow to enhance the garden scene or re-planted in a larger pot and re-used next year.

“People are often put off buying a real tree because of falling needles, but this is now a thing of the past with new varieties of trees being grown that hardly shed any. Needles that do fall can be swept up and put on the compost heap or in a composter or in the brown compostable waste bin for recycling,” continued Councillor Nunn.

Residents are reminded that they should remove any decorations and stands before recycling their trees.



2007 news archive

How do you rate this information or service?



[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2007 news archive](#) >

Review of councils could plunge Suffolk into confusion



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

06 Dec 2007

Archived press release.

Yesterday's unexpected announcement by the Government that it wants the Boundary Committee to examine the structure of local government across Suffolk, including the options for introducing unitary council, has been slammed by Suffolk Coastal's Leader.

Local Government Minister John Healey announced on Wednesday that Ipswich had not yet demonstrated conclusively a sound financial case that its bid for a unitary status would work. However, rather than rejecting their bid, he has referred their proposal to the Boundary Committee.

"It was made clear months ago that Ipswich's case did not add up on financial terms, and I cannot understand why it has taken this long for that fact to be recognised. However, rather than rejecting the bid the Government has moved the goal posts without asking anyone," said Cllr Ray Herring, Leader of Suffolk Coastal.

"At no stage in their bid did Ipswich ever say that they wanted to extend their boundaries, and the communities of this district also made it very clear that they did not want to be swallowed up by Ipswich.

"However, we now have the threat of a costly and lengthy review of councils in our area, less than 15 years since the last one, and all because the Government will not make a decision. This is meant to be a listening Government but it is time it listened to the facts – this Council has the highest satisfaction rating of any in Suffolk, and 91 per cent of its residents are happy with their district.

"What they want and what we are working hard to deliver are better services and even better value for money. Yesterday's announcement will not help that goal and in fact will just divert all our time and resources on yet another Government review," added Cllr Herring.

The Government did announce that five new unitary councils would be set up elsewhere in the country after their councils met the necessary criteria.

Other results from the recent satisfaction survey of residents, also showed that Suffolk Coastal scored highest in Suffolk for delivering value for money, with excellent scores of 77 per cent for making the place a better place to live and making the area cleaner and greener. It was also recently reported that Suffolk Coastal had scored top out of 350 councils for measured improvements to its services.

"This Council is scoring highly on all the factors that other councils have used to gain unitary status, despite our severe financial pressure largely caused by under-funding from the Government. Why should the proven success of this Council now be threatened by a change that no-one wants or has called for?" added Cllr Herring.

As well as the Suffolk review, the Boundary Committee has also been asked by the Government to look at Devon, as well as its previously planned review of Norfolk.





2007 news archive

How do you rate this information or service?



[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2007 news archive](#) >

Coastal Potato forum aims to fill the gaps for young people



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

10 Dec 2007

Archived press release.

A special forum is being held next month which aims to bring together all those groups offering leisure activities to young people during the holidays so they can be better planned, organised and publicised in the future.

Representatives from the public, private, community and voluntary sectors have been invited by Suffolk Coastal's Active Communities team to meet up for one morning on Friday, January 18 at the Coastal Potato forum.

"We know there are lots of different activities provided across our district during the school holidays but we suspect there are far more than we, or indeed our local young people, are aware of," said Councillor Doreen Savage, Cabinet Member for young people.

"This forum should help us find out what is on offer, but also bring those providing the activities together so we can all learn from their experiences of what works and what does not.

"Our goal is to have an even better range of activities on offer for our district's young people. Bringing everyone together can help us all avoid duplication, and spot the gaps in what is being planned. It will also give us a head start in being able to publicise the events, particularly through the Coastal Potato website," added Cllr Savage.

The Coastal Potato website was set up by Suffolk Coastal working in partnership with the extended schools officers in the district and has been backed with funding from Cllr Savage's youth locality budget and Felixstowe Leisure Centre. Originally set up for last year's summer holidays, the website is on offer across the year, and young people and parents can find out what is going on by visiting www.coastalpotato.co.uk

"The Winter edition of Coastline, the Council's magazine for residents, has just been delivered to homes across our district, and I would urge anyone with children to turn to page 12 where there is a survey about holiday activities for young people," said Cllr Kevin Keable, Cabinet Member for Community Well-being.

"We want to know about any organised activities that children took part in during the summer holidays, and what their parents or guardians thought of them. The answers will be reported back to the forum in January and will help this Council and the other organisations putting on such activities to have a better idea of what people want in the future," added Cllr Keable.

The forum is being held on Friday, January 18 from 9.30am to 12.30pm at the Riverside Centre, Stratford St Andrew. Places can be booked (closing date Friday, December 21) by contacting the Council's Active Communities Officer, Sarah Shinnie on 01394 444652 or emailing Sarah at active.communities@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk

Any clubs, groups or organisations that are unable to attend the event, but who have activities planned for 2008, can send their details to the above email address so they can be promoted on the website, free of charge.





2007 news archive

How do you rate this information or service?



[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2007 news archive](#) >

Christmas recycling and refuse collections in Suffolk Coastal



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

13 Dec 2007

Archived press release.

Watch out for changes to the recycling and refuse collection services during this year's Christmas and New Year period is the message to Suffolk Coastal residents as there will be no collections on any of the bank holidays.

Those due a collection on Christmas Eve are asked to put it out two days earlier, on Saturday, December 22, and those due a collection on Christmas Day should put it out on Christmas Eve, Monday, December 24. Collections after the Boxing Day bank holiday will be one day later than normal.

Collections will be as normal on Monday, December 31, but there will be none on Tuesday, January 1, with all collections due for the remainder of that week being made one day later.

Full details of these arrangements have been included in an information card delivered to every home in the district and on page 13 of the winter edition of Coastline, as well as being available on the Suffolk Coastal website www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk

"We have had to make changes to our normal rounds because of the bank holidays, but have tried our best to minimise the disruption. I hope everyone will play their part by trying to recycle as much as possible, cut down the amount of waste, and put their rubbish and recycling out for collection on the right day by 7.30am," said Councillor Andrew Nunn, Cabinet Member for the Environment natural and built.

"At this time of year, more rubbish than ever is put out for collection, but a lot can be recycled. Unwanted food can now go in the brown waste bin, together with cut up Christmas trees, if the trunks and branches are under one and half inches in diameter. Residents who are on the new improved recycling service can recycle their cans, foil, plastics, cardboard and paper in their blue-lidded bins.

"Those not yet 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 we would appreciate it 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," continued Councillor Nunn.

Shop and restaurant owners and other businesses are being urged to plan ahead to ensure that they have made arrangements for the disposal of all the extra waste produced at this time of year.

The public can find out more information about recycling and refuse collection days by calling

01394 444000, or visit www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourhome/waste/

© Suffolk Coastal District Council. | [Legal & privacy](#) | [Site statistics](#)
Last updated: 14/01/2010 13:01:54





2007 news archive

How do you rate this information or service?



[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2007 news archive](#) >

Government happy with Council decision on East Lane



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

13 Dec 2007

Archived press release.

The Government has decided that the plans for three sets of homes to be built to help fund vital coastal protection works at East Lane, Bawdsey can go ahead as there were no grounds for it to interfere in the decision.

Suffolk Coastal's councillors recently backed proposals submitted by the East Lane Trust for homes to be built at Bawdsey, Alderton and Hollesley but had to refer their decisions to the Government as they were contrary to local planning policy.

"In special circumstances this Council will occasionally make a decision which is contrary to its Local Plan which sets out its overall planning policies for the district. Whenever we make such an exceptional decision we have to officially refer it to the Government so it can decide whether to 'call in' and review our decision," said Cllr Ivan Jowers, Chairman of the Development Control Committee.

"I am pleased that the Communities Secretary has looked at these three applications and recognised that there is no reason for them to be reviewed by her planning inspectors.

"These really are exceptional decisions, where a unique local solution has been found to the lack of national funding for coastal protection that could have proved disastrous for both East Lane and beyond. This announcement gives the final green light for this much-needed and innovative project," added Cllr Jowers.

A letter received by Suffolk Coastal from GO-East (the Government Office for the East of England) confirms the considered opinion of the Communities Secretary, Hazel Blears. The letter states that Ms Blears 'is very selective about calling in planning applications ... (and) will in general, only take this step if planning issues of more than local importance are involved.'

It also lists some of the issues that the Communities Secretary has taken into account in her decision, including the design and quality of the 26 homes, accessibility, and coastal flooding.

In conclusion, the letter states that Ms Blears 'is satisfied that the issues raised do not relate to matters of more than local importance, which would be more appropriately decided by her rather than the local planning authority. She has therefore concluded that the applications should be decided by Suffolk Coastal District Council.'

The applications were for 12 homes on land east of 13 East Lane, Bawdsey, 10 homes on land to the north of 24 Hollesley Road, Alderton, and four homes in Bushy Lane, Hollesley.

The East Lane Trust want to use the proceeds of the sale of the homes to fund a £2m project to provide permanent coastal defence protection around Bawdsey, so immediately safeguarding the East Lane cliffs and their Martello Tower and preventing the threat of flooding further inland.





2007 news archive

How do you rate this information or service?



[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2007 news archive](#) >

Suffolk Coastal's Christmas 2007 opening times



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

13 Dec 2007

Archived press release.

Despite the Christmas break, many of Suffolk Coastal's services, including online payments for Council Tax, Business Rates, car park excess charge notices, housing benefit invoices and other general invoices will be available around the clock by visiting www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk. Anyone wanting to make a payment to the Council who does not have access to the web can use the automated telephone payment system on 0845 880 1312.

The Council's website has averaged a million hits a month recently, and is packed with useful information, with its online planning service proving particularly popular.

Suffolk Coastal's Melton Hill offices will be closed to the public from 4pm (cash office 3.15pm) on Monday, December 24 until 8.45am (cash office 9am) on Wednesday, January 2. Its Felixstowe office will close at 3.30pm on Monday, December 24 until Wednesday, January 2 at 9am.

As well as the online services, the normal emergency out of hours service provided by Suffolk Coastal will be available throughout the festive period and can be contacted by telephoning 07771 816535.

Recycling and refuse collection teams will be working every day except Christmas Day, Boxing Day or New Year's Day, but there are significant changes which have been publicised in the latest edition of the Council's Coastline magazine, and in an information card delivered to every home in the district. (These are covered in a separate press release.)

Suffolk Coastal Services Ltd provides the Council's recycling and collection service and will be open for enquiries from 8.45am until 3pm on Saturday, December 22 and on Monday, December 24. They will be open again between 8.45am and 3pm on Thursday, December 27 to Saturday, December 29, and on Monday, December 31.

SCS also returns to normal opening hours from Wednesday, January 2, which is 8.45am to 5.15pm Mondays to Thursdays, and a half-hour earlier on Fridays). SCS can be contacted on 01394 444000.

Suffolk Coastal's Tourist Information Centres will close at 3pm on Monday, December 24 and will re-open at 9am on Thursday, December 27. They will also close at 3pm on New Year's Eve, Monday, December 31 and will re-open at 9am on Wednesday, January 2.

2007 news archive

How do you rate this information or service?



[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2007 news archive](#) >

Learn how to get hot water from the sun



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

17 Dec 2007

Archived press release.

Suffolk Coastal, in association with the award winning BroadSol self-build solar water heating project, is offering residents the opportunity to spend a weekend learning how to assemble and install their own system.

BroadSol has been running in Norfolk for six years and is now offering its first Suffolk course. Their courses take place over a weekend and are led by Centre for Alternative Technology (CAT, Wales) lecturer Lee Rose of Norfolk Solar.

“During the two days, people on the course will be taught how solar thermal systems work, how to assemble the component parts of a system and more importantly how to go away and confidently, competently and safely install their own system,” said Cllr Andrew Nunn, Cabinet Member for the Natural Environment.

“To take part you do not even need any previous solar or DIY experience as there will be full, expert tuition and people will only be expected to do what they feel comfortable with.

“The last five courses in Norfolk yielded over 60 installed systems with a broad range of people from 16 to 60 with most attendees going from trepidation to absolute self-belief. This is a great chance for people to find out first hand how they can make their homes greener and get lots of hot water from the sun,” added Cllr Nunn.

Courses usually involve about 10 people to ensure the learning experience and there are plenty of opportunities for one to ones. The training is provided free of charge when people sign up and buy a self-build solar water heating system.

Prices start from £1,795 which includes two panels, new twin coil hot water cylinder, pump set, control panel and all the parts that are needed. It is planned to hold the course at Lowestoft College or a North Suffolk location, early in the New Year.

Anyone wanting to book a place or get more information can email SEAL @suffolkcoastal.gov.uk or call 0800 028 8938. The less adventurous can also contact SEAL for details of solar power systems that they do not have to fit themselves.

[2007 news archive](#)

How do you rate this information or service?



[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2007 news archive](#) >

Stud farm in Easton set to expand



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

17 Dec 2007

Archived press release.

A large local stud business is set for planning permission to build a new indoor equestrian building that will help ensure the financial viability of the nationally-important stud business.

The Easton Park Stud Ltd in Easton want to build an indoor exercise yard building so that horses can be exercised, trained and broken in throughout the year.

Discussions between the Council and the applicants have resolved most of the potential problems that it was feared that the new building could have on the local environment.

“The location of the proposed site is highly sensitive, being within historic parkland, a County Wildlife Site, and an area included within the Biodiversity Action Plan. However, the stud business has national importance within the equine industry and is a local employer. It is recognised by the Government that horse-related businesses form an important part of the rural economy,” said Cllr Ivan Jowers, Chairman of the North Area Development Control Sub-Committee.

“The company has demonstrated its willingness to undertake appropriate measures to limit the impact of the development on the surrounding area and we think that there are many benefits for the local economy in allowing this proposal to go ahead.

“Planning permission will now be granted with some important conditions on the development that the applicant will have to meet, but I expect that these too can be successfully met,” added Cllr Jowers.

The conditions with the planning permission will include appropriate compensatory planting and environmental management schemes. A survey commissioned by the applicant was recently conducted and showed that there were no local bats that were going to be affected by the proposals.

2007 news archive

How do you rate this information or service?



[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2007 news archive](#) >

Villages set for affordable homes boost



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

17 Dec 2007

Archived press release.

Three local villages are set to see 18 more much-needed affordable homes built thanks to a successful partnership of Suffolk Coastal, parish councils and Hastoe Housing Association.

Suffolk Coastal's councillors last week backed plans for six new affordable homes to be built in the villages of Swilland, Ufford and Wenhaston, with all three areas having a proven need for more affordable homes.

It has taken nearly five years for Swilland and Witnesham Parish Council, Hastoe Housing Association and Suffolk Coastal to find a suitable site. The proposed one is on farm land on the north side of Swilland and is not within the 'village envelope'. As such it is an exception to the official planning policy for the area, but it is close to Witnesham Primary School, on a bus route and is walking distance from a village pub.

"It is clear that there is a need for affordable housing in and around Witnesham and Swilland. We have all been working tirelessly since 2003 to try to identify a suitable location, with 15 different sites considered and rejected. The site eventually chosen has been generously donated by a local landowner to allow the project to proceed," said Cllr Ivan Jowers, Chairman of the South Area Development Control Sub-Committee.

"It is one of this Council's top priorities to help provide more affordable housing as we know there are many local families who wish to remain in the area but who find themselves unable to afford appropriate homes on the open market.

"Surveys undertaken have shown there are 21 households in housing need in Wenhaston and 16 in Ufford. The provision of a number of new homes in each village will go some way towards meeting the needs of these local families.

"All three schemes are part of a bid to the Housing Corporation by our partner housing associations for funding for 169 new affordable homes to be built. The funding decision will not be known until next March," added Cllr Jowers.

The three sets of semi-detached three-bedroom homes at Swilland would be constructed in the corner of an arable field, with a deep hedge screen planted to integrate the development into the landscape. This planting, and the provision of bird, bat and insect boxes, will help to protect and enhance the biodiversity of the site.

Planning consent was also granted last week for six, two and three bedroom homes in Ufford on Council-owned land at the junction of Yarmouth Road and Parklands, and a conditional go-ahead was given by councillors to six two and three bedroom homes in Wenhaston, subject to further negotiations about appropriate planting and screening measures to better integrate the new homes with the surrounding area. At both these developments, the homes on offer will be a mix of rented and shared ownership.

"These three schemes are an important boost for affordable housing in our district and I would thank the four parish councils and Hastoe for their hard work and support. The Council will continue to seek and welcome schemes like these that help local people find an affordable home

in their area, and in 2007 we have approved 117 more affordable homes in 13 parts of the district,” added Cllr Jowers.

© Suffolk Coastal District Council. | [Legal & privacy](#) | [Site statistics](#)
Last updated: 14/01/2010 13:02:31



2007 news archive

How do you rate this information or service?



[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2007 news archive](#) >

BIG news for three local projects for young people



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

18 Dec 2007

Archived press release.

Three exciting projects that will give new opportunities for fun to local children and teenagers have won over £200,000 funding from the BIG Lottery Fund after a successful application by Suffolk Coastal.

The Council submitted its bid on behalf of a double-decker bus to tour rural areas in the north of the district, a cycle trail created through Rendlesham Forest, and a modern play area at Langer Park, Felixstowe after consulting with organisations involving local children and young people.

“This is great news as these exciting projects will now be able to get underway and provide fun and stimulating activities thanks to the BIG Lottery Fund recognising the potential of these projects,” said Cllr Kevin Keable, Cabinet Member for Community Well-being.

“This Council bid for £209,312 to support the development of these initiatives and we have got every penny we asked for. I would like to thank all those in the Council’s community and economic services team who drew up the bid, and the Forestry Commission and Extended Schools who were our partners behind these schemes, for their efforts that have gained this recognition,” added Cllr Keable.

The three projects are expected to benefit around 4,000 children and teenagers across the district, most of who are thought to have the greatest lack of play opportunities available in their areas.

The money will help fit out and equip a bus to visit rural sites across Suffolk Coastal where older children and teenagers currently have few things on offer. It will also help build an off-road cycle trail and play area in Rendlesham Forest, and a new play area in Felixstowe’s Langer Park.

“Our success in attracting this funding is largely because of our recently approved Play Strategy. It is more important than ever that the value of play, in all its forms, is recognised for what it can add to children’s welfare and development and also the benefits it can bring to society as a whole,” said Councillor Doreen Savage, Cabinet Member for Young People.

“Young people helped us draw up the strategy, which sets out how we and all our partners can work together to ensure that the importance of play is at the core of all future developments in our district. Our goal was to increase the opportunities for imaginative and adventurous play and this excellent lottery fund news shows that we are already being successful,” added Councillor Savage.

By developing the strategy, and working with local organisations and the countywide group Partners in Play Suffolk, Suffolk Coastal aims to identify what the district needs, where resources ought to be targeted and attract the money to make them possible.

Earlier this year the Council consulted with children and young people and local organisations working with them. Among the results was that one of the most popular activities for children was cycling, and that outdoor adventure activities were also popular. Over half of year nine young people wanted somewhere they could sit and chat as well as take part in an activity.

The strategy recognises that throughout the district there are numerous opportunities for free play in areas such as the beach, countryside and forests, with many organisations helping to provide or supervise such activities.

Suffolk Coastal is holding a special Coastal Potato forum on January 18 when organisers of activities for young people have been invited to help shape, plan and publicise future events. To find out more or book a place call 01394 444652 or email active.communities@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk



2007 news archive

How do you rate this information or service?



[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2007 news archive](#) >

Council blessing for vicarage conversion



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

18 Dec 2007

Archived press release.

A prominent former vicarage in the conservation area of Felixstowe is set to be renovated and converted into seven new homes, two of which will be affordable.

Councillors at the South Area Development Control Sub-Committee gave planning officers the authority to approve the plans submitted by developer Briarley Homes and the Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich for the conversion of the vicarage into five two-bedroom flats and two one-bedroom flats. Two of the flats will be offered as affordable housing and managed by the Diocese.

“These plans are a good example of helping to meet the pressure for new homes in Felixstowe while protecting and preserving the history and character of the conservation area,” said Cllr Ivan Jowers, Chairman of the South Area Development Control Sub-Committee.

“The developer and the Diocese should be congratulated for coming up with a scheme that provides the town with seven new homes, two of which will be affordable for those unable to buy on the open market, but which also safeguards the future of this beautiful Victorian building and its surrounding trees,” added Cllr Jowers.

The vacant former vicarage on Princes Road used to serve neighbouring St John's Church, for which a new vicarage has been built. It is a three-storey, double-fronted Victorian red brick building and its grounds contain a significant number of mature trees. One of the conditions that now need to be concluded before final planning permission is granted is that the trees are protected and retained as they are an important feature within the conservation area.



2007 news archive

How do you rate this information or service?



[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2007 news archive](#) >

Councillors veto big homes on little Melton site



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

18 Dec 2007

Archived press release.

A planning application to demolish a house in Bredfield Road, Melton and replace it with five detached four and five-bed homes has been refused by councillors at the South Area Development Control Sub-Committee.

Councillors agreed that the development was poorly designed and laid out, would harm the character of the surrounding area and have serious impacts on neighbouring residents.

The plans were criticised for giving little consideration to neighbouring properties, which are largely bungalows, for not being the most efficient use of land, and for failing to reflect the need for smaller houses that was identified in a recent housing survey.

“The plans submitted for this scheme contravene a number of local planning policies designed to protect against inappropriate developments that do not meet the identified needs of the local area,” said Cllr Ivan Jowers, Chairman of the South Area Development Control Sub-Committee.

“I am particularly concerned that these proposals do not take into account the impact of these large houses on the surrounding properties and would have an adverse impact on the character of the area.

“We do not believe that this housing development will make the best use of the available land on the site, and we feel that it does not cater for the local need for houses on a smaller scale than those proposed,” added Cllr Jowers.



2007 news archive

How do you rate this information or service?



[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2007 news archive](#) >

Go local for a great sounding Christmas present



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

18 Dec 2007

Archived press release.

Anyone who missed out on this month's musical extravaganza in Woodbridge organized by Soundwaves can still discover the best of the district's young local talent by buying a copy of the Sounds of the East Coast CD.

Soundwaves, Suffolk Coastal's own music project for young people, has spent the last year finding and recording the best 10 young bands in the district for the new CD and copies can now be bought for only £5 from any of the district's three Tourist Information Centres.

"We hope that people will enjoy listening to the Soundwaves album as much as we have enjoyed helping to create it. It's homegrown talent at its very best, and an ideal Christmas present for the family, and fans of up and coming talent from the Coastal area," said Sophie Tott, Soundwaves project manager.

"Every track has been written by the young bands themselves. Their creativity, individuality and unique style was encouraged and supported, so listeners can expect a broad range of musical styles on the CD," added Sophie.

The tracks on the CD are Youth by Non-Stop-Movement from Aldeburgh, What Tomorrow Holds by Clay from Woodbridge, Creepy Obsession by Dag from Leiston, Stomping on Elephants by Kids of the Night also from Leiston, Beauty and the Flow by Dontdanceonglass from Ipswich, Erased by Wildbluenewmexico from Felixstowe, In League with Hell by Containz Nutz from Woodbridge, Metal Vintage by Dreams within Nightmares also from Woodbridge, Summer Song by the Legomen, and Breathe by White Water from Framlingham.

"Soundwaves has proved to be a really exciting project that has helped many local young people develop their musical talents, and I would thoroughly recommend the CD that puts the spotlight on 10 of our best young bands," said Cllr Kevin Keeble, Cabinet Member for Community Well-being.

Throughout the summer each of the 10 bands were given a day in Leiston's Summerhill Studios, with sound engineer Henry Readhead, to record three original tracks, one of which would feature on this very special album.

To hear a preview of the songs on the CD visit www.myspace.com/suffolksoundwaves Soundwaves is backed by Suffolk Coastal's arts team, Awards for All and the Local Network fund. For more information about Soundwaves, or the new CD, call Sophie Tott on 07005 981838, or email suffolksoundwaves@hotmail.com



2007 news archive

How do you rate this information or service?



[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2007 news archive](#) >

Chance for Landlords to find out all about LHA



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

19 Dec 2007

Archived press release.

From next April, the Government is introducing a new type of housing benefit, the Local Housing Allowance, which all councils will be paying to people eligible for assistance to help pay their rent to private landlords.

Local councils have joined together to hold two special sessions in January aimed at private landlords with three experts on hand to explain how the new system will work.

“This is an important change, which the Government claims will be fairer, simpler and give tenants more choice and responsibility. Time will doubtless be the judge if that is true or not, but private landlords need to get a head-start on how the new LHA could affect them,” said Cllr Chris Slemmings, Cabinet Member for Housing.

“I would urge local private landlords to attend these free seminars when they can meet property owners, landlords and letting agents and hear from the experts on what LHA will mean.

“The Local Housing Allowance is a change to Housing Benefit for private tenants and affects how the benefit is worked out and how it is paid. It does not replace it. Local authority, Housing Association and some other tenants will continue to get ‘normal’ Housing Benefit,” added Cllr Slemmings.

The two briefings are being held at 6.30pm on Tuesday 22nd January at the Town Hall, Ipswich and Wednesday, January 23 at the Atheneum. Bury St Edmunds.

The guest speakers are John Zebedee, a national benefits consultant, David Parr, Suffolk’s Rent Officer, and Brandon Taylor, Chairman of the Eastern Landlords Association.

To book a free place at one of the sessions, landlords are asked to contact Matt Drouet on 01473 433806 or email matthew.drouet@ipswich.gov.uk for the Ipswich night or Jan McLardy on 01440 765109 or email jan.mclardy@stedsbc.gov.uk for the Bury St Edmunds night.



2007 news archive

How do you rate this information or service?



[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2007 news archive](#) >

Get set for GreenThumb Suffolk Coastal sports awards



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

20 Dec 2007

Archived press release.

With the winner of the BBC Sports Personality of the Year award having been announced, it is high time to put the focus on local talent again, with nomination now open for the 2008 GreenThumb Suffolk Coastal Sports Awards.

This year has seen some fine sporting achievements across the district and this second annual scheme promoted by the Coastal Sports Alliance will recognise the sporting success and contribution of many different individuals within the district.

“The GreenThumb Suffolk Coastal Sports Awards is a way of recognising our local sports people and organisations for their achievements and contribution to sport during 2007. There is a wealth of talent in our district and this is an excellent chance for them to be put in the spotlight, along with those individuals or organisations who are helping to develop and promote sport,” said Cllr Kevin Keable, Cabinet Member for Community Development.

“Those involved in sports are spread across all parts of the district so the Coastal Sports Alliance has been bringing them together to share their knowledge and expertise. The Seckford Theatre, at Woodbridge School will be the host of the awards ceremony on Sunday, February 24 when we will all come together to celebrate a year of sporting effort.

“I would like to thank all the sponsors who are supporting this second year of the awards, with particular thanks to GreenThumb East Suffolk who are a local company proud to support sport at grass roots level where it can strengthen and enhance physical and mental health in our communities,” added Cllr Keable.

The award categories are:

- The Morson Group Sports Personality of the Year
- The DC Leisure Young Sports Personality of the Year
- Mannings Amusement Park Disabled Sports Personality of the Year
- The King Pin Club of the Year
- The Suffolk Sport Coach of the Year
- The School Sports Partnership Sport School of the Year
- The Wolsey Ipswich Volunteer of the Year
- The Waverley Hotel Lifetime Achievement.

Last year's winners included Will Meadows, who won Young Sports Personality for an exception year in Triathlon, and Jeremy and Alex Hinton for their superb efforts in the 2006 Polar Challenge, an endurance race to the North Pole.

The closing date for nominations is Monday, January 14. Nomination forms can be found at leisure centres, Tourist Information Centres, libraries and some shops across the district, or can also be found on www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk.





2007 news archive

How do you rate this information or service?



[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2007 news archive](#) >

Holiday guide is essential reading for all tourists



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

20 Dec 2007

Archived press release.

With one of the country's main attractions on its front cover, the 2008 edition of the Suffolk Coast Holiday Guide is about to start dropping through letterboxes across the country.

Sutton Hoo's legendary helmet grabs the spotlight but the Guide is once again packed with details of places to stay and visit in Suffolk Coastal.

"We have once again produced the Guide in time for the Christmas rush to start planning next year's holidays and we have taken the opportunity to give a fresh new look with much more useful information for potential visitors," said Cllr Colin Hart, Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Tourism.

"All our accommodation entries now have photographs, and they are now listed alphabetically by place name to make it easier for people to find their place to stay in the area that they want to visit. Among the information pages there are also now section on sports and leisure and food and drink.

"With a print run of 65,000, we will be sending copies far and wide, both nationally and internationally. It means that since 1974 this Council is well on the way to distributing nearly two million copies and the growth of the internet means it is being seen by more people than ever. We know this year that over 20,000 different people visited the tourism pages on www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk," added Cllr Hart.

The Guide is an extremely useful way to find out where to stay and what to do in the district and can be picked up from the Council's three tourist information centres, or by post, from tourism centres across the country and via the Council's website.

At Sutton Hoo in January, the Guide will be officially launched, along with its special new-look website. The most recent annual estimate of how much money was brought into the district as a result of tourism is £211 million, with 4,665 full time equivalent jobs linked to this fast growing employment sector.

Anyone wanting to see a copy of the new guide straightaway can see all of it on the Council's website www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/tourism

[2007 news archive](#)

How do you rate this information or service?



[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2007 news archive](#) >

Can you step out and lead Health Walks in Framlingham?



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

21 Dec 2007

Archived press release.

People who love walking and who would like to use their enthusiasm to encourage others to take up the exercise are being sought to help set up local health walks.

Volunteers of all ages are needed to help plan or lead 'Stepping Out' guided walks in the Framlingham and neighbouring areas and an event being held in January will provide more information on what is required.

"Suffolk Coastal District Council, Suffolk Primary Care Trust and members from the voluntary and community sector have developed these health walks across the district ranging from ones on easy flat good surfaces to more challenging ones which may include steeper slopes and rough ground," said Councillor Sherrie Green, Cabinet Member for Community Well-being.

"They are led by trained volunteers who will talk with each walker before starting to check that it is within their capabilities and there is a volunteer who walks at the back of the group to make sure that slower members do not get lost or neglected.

"They are currently available in and around Woodbridge, Felixstowe and Aldeburgh and we are now looking to introduce them in the Framlingham area, but we need volunteers who enjoy walking and know the local area to help us," continued Councillor Green.

Anyone interested in finding out more is invited to St John's The Westbury Centre, Fairfield Road, Framlingham on Tuesday, January 15, from 11am to 12 noon. Refreshments will be provided.

The circular 'Stepping Out' walks have been designed for people who are recovering from an illness, have arthritis or joint pain, want to get fit or just as a means of making new friends and are graded, last about an hour, cover a distance of approximately two miles and finish at a café or public house for those who would like to extend the social aspect of the exercise. Some are suitable for wheelchairs or pushchairs.

In addition to the organised walks there are three way-marked health walks created for people who wish to walk independently in Woodbridge, Aldeburgh and Felixstowe. These are marked at half mile intervals with plaques bearing the 'Stepping Out' symbol.

For more information on the 'Stepping Out' walks, health walks in general or becoming a volunteer walk leader contact Sharon Jarrett, Suffolk Coastal's Health Improvement Manager, on 01394 444697, Zeta Wright or Althea Unthank, Health Walk Co-ordinators on 01394 444501 or email walks@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk

The programme of health walks in the district can be viewed on Suffolk Coastal's website www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourfreetime/steppingout

Can you step out and lead Health Walks in Framlingham?

2007 news archive

How do you rate this information or service?



[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2007 news archive](#) >

Economic success sparks investment in future



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

21 Dec 2007

Archived press release.

Suffolk Coastal's recent success in attracting additional economic investment has seen it gain an additional £385,000 grant from the Government, the bulk of which the Council will now use to help regenerate Felixstowe's town centre and seafront.

The Local Authority Business Growth Incentive (LABGI) Scheme offers a financial incentive to all councils to promote enterprise, employment and growth among the local businesses in their area. The money comes from the national pot of business rates which councils collect from local companies and pass onto the Government for it to distribute as it sees fit.

"We are going to use over £300,000 of this additional Government funding to help kick-start the Felixstowe Futures regeneration programme for the resort's town centre and seafront," said Cllr Colin Hart, Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Tourism.

"The Felixstowe Futures group has been busy drawing up and consulting on proposals that would help breath new life into the seafront and town centre. This ambitious but important regeneration programme can only occur if all the relevant private and public sector partners get involved.

"One of the most important immediate tasks will be to attract major funding from bodies like the Haven Gateway Partnership, the East of England Development Agency and the European Union," added Cllr Hart.

Most of the money will be set aside to use as seed corn funding to attract external investment into the projects that will help regenerate Felixstowe.

"None of this is going to happen overnight but the foundations need to be put in place now. This investment by Suffolk Coastal is a clear statement of our commitment to the regeneration of Felixstowe," added Cllr Hart.

The Council has already begun advertising for a Felixstowe Regeneration Officer to manage the Felixstowe Futures multi-million pound regeneration programme with a closing date of January 4 for any applicants. Full details can be found on www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/jobs

There will also be a detailed report on the work of the Felixstowe Futures group and some of its potential regeneration projects that will be taken by Cllr Hart to the January 8 meeting of Suffolk Coastal's Cabinet.

Among the actions taken by Suffolk Coastal's economic regeneration team over the last year has been helping attract new jobs and investment at Rendlesham and Felixstowe, offering specialist advice and grants to rural businesses, working with the Business Forum to compile a detailed data base of companies in the district, and supporting the work of the Felixstowe and Trimleys Peninsula Futures Group.

The LABGI scheme measures how much each district's rateable value for businesses has grown over the previous year, and how each council has performed above a basic target set by the Government.

The remainder of the LABGI funds will be used to help safeguard the district's coastal assets by funding a new post to help support the new integrated coastal zone management (ICZM) project for the next three years.

The ICZM would be produced by the Council and partners, including the Environment Agency, and should give the district a co-ordinated approach to coastal protection and so improve the likelihood of gaining the necessary national finances for the works.



2007 news archive

How do you rate this information or service?



[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2007 news archive](#) >

Working together co-operatively pays dividends



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

31 Dec 2007

Archived press release.

The latest example of Suffolk councils working together has seen a saving of £76,000 generated in the costs that four of them have to pay their bankers.

Suffolk Coastal led a consortium with Waveney, Ipswich and Babergh Councils to see if they could get better value for money for their Council Taxpayers on the cost of banking services.

“The result has been that by forming a consortium to negotiate with the banks, we have been able to achieve total savings of £76,000 over the next five years across the four councils. This is another excellent example of how working together has helped deliver more efficient services,” said Cllr Ray Herring, Leader of Suffolk Coastal.

“Over the last few years Suffolk Coastal has been working closer with other councils to share knowledge and expertise so we can offer better services and even better value, an approach which was formalised into the Suffolk Pathfinder project.

“While the recent Government announcement about reviewing local government in Suffolk may well have sounded the death knell for Pathfinder the commitment here and with other councils remains firm to identify better ways of working. We will continue to review all parts of our activities to make them even more efficient, and indeed we have already saved over £7 million in the last six years,” added Cllr Herring.

The tender for the banking services was won by the Co-operative Bank, who is already used by Ipswich and Babergh. The new contract will come into effect on April 1 next year and staff at Suffolk Coastal are working to ensure that the changeover from its current bankers runs as smoothly as possible. Suffolk Coastal is now leading another partnership approach to see if they can reduce their insurance bills.

Among the other services that Suffolk Coastal is working with other councils to provide more efficiencies are building control, audit, and legal, while among its other partners are Suffolk Coastal Services, DC Leisure, Norfolk Property Services, and Openwide International.