

COASTLINE

The Newsletter of Suffolk Coastal District Council

Issue 33, Autumn 2007

You say we're the best in Suffolk

A survey of satisfaction among local residents has put Suffolk Coastal top in Suffolk for both its council and as an area in which to live, with 91 per cent saying they were satisfied with their area as a place to live. Suffolk's average was 81 per cent and nationally it was 77 per cent. The district, with 122,000 people is now the biggest in Suffolk.

“This Council scored top for satisfaction in Suffolk and was 12th highest among 59 comparable district councils. We had 61 per cent satisfied with the way things are run, and even more importantly only nine per cent were dissatisfied,” said Councillor Doreen Savage, Cabinet Member for Customers and Partners.

The Council also had the highest county rating for improving over the last three years. We also scored top in Suffolk and third out of 56 districts for cleanliness in its area, and top and 9th respectively for waste collection, with 77 per cent saying the Council was making the area a better place to live and was working to make the area cleaner and greener.

“This is an important thumbs-up for the way this Council works but there will be no complacency. We will continue to work hard to provide better services and even better value because we know that is what our residents both want and deserve,” added Cllr Savage.

The Government requires all councils to carry out a Best Value Satisfaction Survey every three years and Ipsos MORI received 1,757 responses from local residents.

The four key priorities according to residents are affordable decent housing, activities for teenagers, health services and level of crime.

Parents not taking responsibility for the behaviour of their children, and teenagers hanging around, are the district's two biggest anti-social behaviour problems, although less of a problem here than in the rest of Suffolk.

The Ipsos MORI survey of residents also shows a big drop in concerns about abandoned or burnt out cars, vandalism, and drugs use compared to 2003.

Kelsale aims for higher standards

Kelsale cum Carlton Parish Council is running a four week in-house training course to help it improve its standards and bring it up to the top 20 per cent of parish councils.

Led by Rosemary Cochrane of the Suffolk Association of Local Councils and Bruce Laws, the course will help Kelsale and Carlton's parish councillors be in a better position to provide local services and represent the needs of their residents.

Kelsale cum Carlton has also signed up to the new Code of Conduct for councillors which was recently adopted by Suffolk Coastal and 40 of the district's town and parish councils. The list of those who had signed up was included in the last edition of Coastline.

Home from Home by the sea

A beach hut along the Pier North End of Felixstowe recently won Suffolk Coastal's competition to find the hut with the best 'home from home' feeling.

The difficult task of judging was undertaken by Suffolk Coastal's Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Tourism, Councillor Colin Hart and the Mayor of Felixstowe, Councillor Joan Sennington.

Hilary Colson, owner of the winning beach hut received a voucher for a meal for two donated by the Waverley Hotel. The judges also awarded a runners-up prize to Mr and Mrs Robertson whose hut is sited at the Brackenbury Cliffs end of the resort. They received a beach hut shaped trinket box and a bottle of sparkling wine.

For details of beach huts for sale in Felixstowe please contact Jane Allitt on 01394 273870 or email jane.allitt@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk

Levington is best in the country

Levington has scooped the prestigious Village of the Year 2007 award after beating off competition from across the county.

The competition is organised by the Suffolk Association of Local Councils (SALC) in partnership with local councils, and Levington won a Calor Plaque and certificate, a cheque for £600, three ash trees donated by Notcutts and a firkin of beer (nine gallons) donated by Adnams.

Levington won the Suffolk Coastal round after being judged on a range of criteria including community spirit, its parish council, general appearance, special activities and how it was protecting the environment.

This year's competition was open to villages with less than 500 residents while next year's is aimed at those between 500 and 3,000.

Polling stations under review

Suffolk Coastal is reviewing its polling district, places and stations used for parliamentary election to ensure that all voters have reasonable and accessible facilities.

For full details visit

www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourcouncil/haveyoursay/pollingreview/

You should email your comments by November 2 to elections@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk or write to the democratic services manager, Suffolk Coastal District Council, Melton Hill, Woodbridge IP12 1AU.

Footpaths at Bentwaters

This month Suffolk Coastal will be consulting about revised proposals for changes to the rights of way network around Bentwaters.

Look for details in the press or on the Council's website, or call 01394 444639.

Volunteers help make a greener future

Did you know that over 150 people give up their time as conservation volunteers with Suffolk Coastal, either as part of a village group or as one of our network of parish tree wardens?

Tree wardens have helped plant thousands of trees and miles of hedgerows across our 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.

“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 and we know that the effectiveness of our work in the countryside would be much reduced without their support,” said Councillor Kevin Keable, Cabinet Member for Community Well-Being.

The next training day is being held on Saturday, October 20 at Staverton Thicks looking back at the 1987 Great Storm, and how to produce local community biodiversity action plans.

Interested in the training day, or joining a community conservation volunteer group or setting your own group up? How about becoming a parish tree warden or one of new junior wardens? 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.

Your county's children need you

If you care passionately about children's education and would like to make a real contribution to your local community, why not become a school governor? Suffolk County Council is looking to recruit governors from the community at large.

Dedicated to raising standards in schools, governors make key decisions with regard to curriculum, pupil targets, health and

safety, school improvement, budget, staffing and management of premises among others.

School governors are drawn from all walks of life and no specialist knowledge is required as there are lots of support and training on offer.

To find out more contact Roxanne Downes on 01473 584929 or email roxanne.downes@educ.suffolkcc.gov.uk or Kate Thomas on 01473 264454 or email kate.thomas@cyp.suffolkcc.gov.uk

Coffee and a chat on offer

The Rural Coffee Caravan Information Project visits the lovely village of Aldringham once a month from April to October. There is no village hall or shop actually in the village and the Project provides a welcome meeting place, a 'parish pump' where the full time residents can simply get together.

Aldringham folk turn out come rain or shine proving just how important the Coffee Caravan is in providing a point of social contact and fulfilling the need for access to information.

If your village would like a visit from the Project, or if you would simply like to know more about it, please contact Ann Osborn, the Project Manager on 01379 855338 or visit www.ruralcoffeecaravan.org.uk

Suffolk's pathfinder bid successful

The Government has given its go-ahead to the bid by seven Suffolk councils to create a Pathfinder Partnership to deliver more efficient services, while also backing Ipswich's bid for unitary status.

“The ability of the Pathfinder project to deliver success will now be reassessed while Ipswich and the County Council enter into the lengthy and inevitably messy ‘divorce’ arrangement that will now take place over services provided in the borough,” said Councillor Ray Herring, Leader of Suffolk Coastal.

Crime falling in district

Total crime in Suffolk Coastal fell by 198 to 3,784 in 2006/07 compared to the previous year, which continues to make this district one of the safest in the country.

A closer look shows that nearly half of these offences, 1,809, were criminal damage or vandalism. Some of the crimes that fill the national papers are still relatively rare in this district – for example, there were 16 incidents of robbery of personal property, 207 burglaries from homes, 130 cars stolen and 19 reports of graffiti.

Council’s planning service wins yet more praise

Suffolk Coastal’s planning service has won a good two star rating from the local government watchdog, the Audit Commission.

“This is yet further official recognition of what a good job we have done in improving our planning services, with changes that have made us more customer-friendly and quicker in reaching decisions,” said Councillor Andy Smith, Council Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for the Built Environment.

“The report recognises that we have a good range of planning advice on offer, that we are effective in most cases when consulting and engaging with customers, and that our speed of dealing with applications has improved - indeed the facts show that we are in the top quarter of councils in the country. I am

particularly pleased that it states that we are providing good value for money,” added Cllr Smith.

In 2006/07 Suffolk Coastal received 2,239 planning applications, 20 per cent more applications than the average council, as well as a total of 360 reports to its enforcement team.

Planning success wins Council more funding

The continuing improvements to its planning services have seen Suffolk Coastal provisionally gain a planning development grant (PDG) of nearly £220,000 from the Government.

“Our success has been recognised by the Government, which is why its PDG specifically for development control has seen us get more than any other district in Suffolk,” said Councillor Andy Smith, Cabinet Member for the Built Environment.

Suffolk Coastal is set to receive an allocation of £217,714 in PDG. This includes a bonus of £50,000 for meeting all three development control best value indicators, and £16,700 for being in a growth area or growth point.

Get advice before doing work on a listed building

Suffolk Coastal has warned owners of listed buildings that they should get official Council advice before doing any works that could affect its historic character.

Unauthorised works on listed buildings are a criminal offence which can result in fines of up to £20,000, or with no limit if the case goes to Crown Court, or even imprisonment.

A Government planning inspector recently backed Suffolk Coastal’s enforcement action against work carried out to a

Woodbridge house which could leave its owner, Maxwell Hembry, with a very large restoration bill. Tip-offs from vigilant residents, and town and parish councils, are backing up the Council's fight to preserve the best of the district's architectural heritage.

Anyone who wants free advice on listed buildings can contact the Council's design and conservation team on 01394 444470 and 444616 or email development.policy@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk or visit the Council's website www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourdistrict/devcontrol/listed/

If you think that planning laws have been ignored contact the enforcement team on 01394 444636 or email dc.enforcement@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk

New rules for Orwell Crossing

A Government planning inspector has ruled that passing motorists can now be served at the A14's Orwell Crossing lorry park, but that its owners cannot advertise their café or entertainments to attract the general public.

Pay online for all your plans

Anyone submitting a planning application can now pay online via the Council's website, which is much more convenient for customers and will speed up the decision time on applications.

Visit

www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourdistrict/devcontrol/planningonline/ where you can also do a quick search of the planning register to see all applications, decisions, appeals and appeals' decisions during the last 30 days or monitor the progress of individual planning application.

Children get top marks for recycling

Hollesley and Peasenhall Primary Schools took part in a special initiative to encourage recycling and to make sure that the right items are being put out for collection.

“The response from the children was excellent, and we had loads of potential winners, but the reality is that we are all going to be the winners if we can improve our recycling habits. It will save us the earth if we can both increase the amount we recycle and by making sure we do not mix up our materials with waste that cannot currently be recycled,” said Councillor Andrew Nunn, Cabinet Member for the Natural Environment.

Suffolk Coastal’s residents have got the best record in Suffolk for not mixing up their recycled waste.

Fly-tipping news

A new agreement between the Environment Agency and eight Suffolk councils, including Suffolk Coastal, should help all organisations tackle fly-tipping more effectively and efficiently.

Last year the Council’s partners SCS Ltd dealt with 460 reported incidents which cost us £22,842. The new protocol (launched on September 24) will mean that fly-tipping is cleared up quicker with a better chance of identifying who was responsible for the offence which can carry fines of up to £50,000 and /or jail.

Anyone who spots someone fly-tipping, or comes across rubbish where it should not be, can report it to SCS Ltd on 01394 444000. Most items can be disposed of at no cost at the waste management sites at Felixstowe, Leiston and Foxhall, while SCS also offers a collection service from any home in the district.

5000 more to get twin bins

This October another 5,000 homes will be getting Suffolk Coastal's improved recycling service, meaning that around 19,000 homes will be able to recycle cans, tins, foil, plastic containers, cardboard, and paper every fortnight in their special blue-lidded bins.

The areas in this latest expansion are Aldringhamcum-Thorpe, Badingham, Bruisyard, Great Glemham, Middleton, Pettistree, Purdis Farm, Rendham, Sweffling, Theberton and parts of Kesgrave, Leiston, Melton and Rendlesham. The helpline is 01394 444050.

Otley wins green medal at sports day with a difference

Otley Primary School recently won this year's Schools Recycling Sports Day, organised by the County Council and local recycling teams. The teams took part in a recycling relay race, a recycling slalom race and a compost race to test the children's knowledge of what can be recycled and how.

Turn your Yellow Pages green

Want to know how to recycle your Yellow Pages and other catalogues? It is easy thanks to Suffolk Coastal as they can be put in the brown bin for garden waste, shredded paper, and cardboard and turned into compost.

Any homes with a blue-lidded recycling bin can also put it in there where it will be sorted and recycled, while those with the green crate service can put in there. Alternatively, they can go in any of the Boltons paper banks in the district, or be put in one of skips for cardboard at the household recycling centres at Foxhall, Felixstowe or Leiston.

Any home without a green crate or blue-lidded recycling bin can put their paper recycling out once a fortnight in an open carrier bag or box.

Last year 3,722 tonnes of paper was collected separately from the district's kerbside and 1,098 tonnes was collected from the local blue Boltons' paper banks.

Anyone who wants more information about recycling can call 01394 444000 or email scs.ltd@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk or visit www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourhome/waste/recycling

Help us bridge our £850,000 budget gap

Suffolk Coastal is busy drawing up its budget for the coming financial year 2008/2009. Once again Suffolk Coastal is facing up to a significant gap between its expected spending and its income.

Over these two pages Coastline explains some of the challenges facing the Council and the background to the decisions it will have to make over the coming months. On this page the Leader of the Council, Councillor Ray Herring, outlines why he would welcome your views and ideas to help draw up the final budget.

Working more efficiently and differently is the key to Suffolk Coastal being able to bridge the £850,000 gap in next year's budget between our expected income and the cost of providing all our current services.

Despite saving over £7 million since 2001, and being officially recognised as good for providing value for money by the Government's own official watchdogs, this Council is once again facing an uphill struggle to balance its budget.

We know that we will need £14.9 million to fund our services next year but this year we only got £7.7 million of Government grants. Our grant for next year will not be revealed until December but past experience tells us not to expect much more.

As you would expect, we have been reviewing all areas of our work. We have already identified over £600,000 of increased efficiencies and additional income thanks to new initiatives or our success being recognised by the Government. But, even after this, our budget gap is still £850,000.

We have been working with other councils and organisations to form partnerships to make every pound of your money go further and to get even better value for money for you.

Our successes include working with SCS Ltd to provide your rubbish and recycling collections and so much more, DC Leisure having day to day control of our leisure centres and pools, our pioneering building control partnership with Ipswich which Babergh are now set to join, and the countywide legal services knowledge sharing partnership.

We are redoubling our efforts to find how we can share expertise and assets with our partners, whether they are the County Council, other district or borough councils, our town and parish councils, voluntary organisations or private businesses. We are still committed to providing better services at even better value

The Government recently gave the go-ahead to this Council and others in Suffolk working closer together in the Pathfinder project which is all about finding better, different and more efficient ways to provide your services. But the ability of this partnership to immediately deliver the efficiencies we all want will be made more difficult by the Government's willingness to make Ipswich a unitary council.

I have said that partnerships are the key to our future and the way we deliver services, and they can and must deliver success in finding more efficient ways of providing services. Our most important partnership is of course with you, our residents and customers. If you have any ideas on how we can be more effective in providing our services, or how we can reorganise them then please let us know.

In the last few years councillors and staff have helped identify often small changes but lasting changes that have helped us become more efficient. You as a receiver of our services may be able to spot something which we do not need to do any more or that can be done better.

This is your chance to make us even more responsive and efficient, and I would like to hear your ideas.

Councillor Ray Herring

Better services and even better value

Since 2001 Suffolk Coastal has delivered over £7 million of efficiencies, savings and additional income, while investing over £4 million in improved services.

We also have kept our Council Tax rises below the national average and in single figures for each of the last 11 years, despite Government and other factors forcing up our costs by roughly £7 million.

What are our priorities?

Our financial goal is to manage our resources better, and work effectively with our partners, so we can fulfill the Council's vision and deliver our 7 priorities for the medium term:

- Increasing access to housing to meet local needs.
- Improved waste management (greater recycling and reduced proportions of waste going to landfill).
- Coast & estuary management that will enable key assets to be retained.
- Strengthening the economy through facilitating key investments.
- Feeling safe and being safe from crime.
- Develop and promote green policies and improved environmental management in the district.
- Deliver well performing, efficient and accessible services to all.

The Council has agreed that central to its financial management it will set a necessary, affordable and acceptable level of Council Tax, and will review the way services are delivered and by whom (eg ourselves, parishes, or other partners).

Core to the Council's budget management is that it is working towards a stable long-term position - we will not take action for short-term gains that cause long term pain.

Here are some of the ways that we are delivering better services and even better value this year

- Another 9,000 homes will get an even better recycling service which will roll out to every home over the next three years so everyone can recycle cardboard, plastics, foil and cans from their own doorstep.
- Agreed to changes in our computer management which will save in excess of £200,000 next year.

- Our planning services were rated good by the Audit Commission and we gained nearly £220,000 from the Government in recognition of the improvements it has made.
- Gained a £284,000 Government grant in recognition of the district's success in attracting additional economic investment.
- Taken steps to help the Council, residents and businesses cut their carbon footprint and joined Suffolk's carbon reduction partnership.
- Working with partners to carry out emergency works to protect the district from coastal flooding, and drawing up the plans for long-term protection works.
- Helping to reduce crime and the fear of crime by extending public drinking ban in parts of Kesgrave, Martlesham, Rushmere and Framlingham and issuing ASBOs across the district.
- Helped fund the £250,000 improvements around Woodbridge's railway station.

How to give us your views

What are your ideas on where the Council can be more efficient?
What do you think we can do better or do not need to do anymore?

Please send your views by November 1 to Budget 2008 at Suffolk Coastal District Council, Melton Hill, Woodbridge IP12 1AU, or email budget2008@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk

More background information on the Council's spending and the budget position facing this Council can be found on our website www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourcouncil/budget

How Middleton became a green guinea pig

Middleton was the first village to have a carbon footprint survey in Suffolk when from March to April 2006 its Parish Council worked with the Energy Saving Trust, CRed and Suffolk Coastal together on a project which measured energy use and carbon emissions.

“We are all energy users and we all emit carbon dioxide as a direct result of our lifestyles. The aim of the carbon footprint process is to help us all to identify where we use most energy and to set us on the path of trying to find ways to reduce this usage – if we can. Energy saving enables us to save money and help the environment,” said Councillor Andrew Nunn, Cabinet Member for the Natural Environment.

The project sent questionnaires to every home in Middleton and the results suggest that the carbon footprint for Middleton was much larger than the national average, with Middleton producing an estimated 14 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions (or 7.5 hot air balloons) per household per year. This figure is 80% above the national average – which is an average 9 tonnes of carbon dioxide per year.

Although these results may highlight some areas where energy use could be reduced – the study has more value for individual lifestyles than for the community of Middleton. As an incentive to get involved, three lucky houses won prizes, with one getting solar insulation, one loft insulation and the other cavity wall insulation.

There is now a ‘toolkit’ produced by CRed Suffolk to help other communities concerned about climate changes and wanting to go through the same process.

For more information contact the Climate and Energy Helpline on 0800 0288 938.

Helping our villages turn green

The village of Wenhaston had its own special Energy Day this summer.

The event in the village hall offered free advice and help on how to conserve and save energy, with information on solar panels, wind turbines, and other alternative home energy sources.

Organised by the Wenhaston Energy Support Committee with help from Suffolk Coastal and the Energy Saving Trust Advice Centre Anglia, there was also a fun element to the day, with a concert by Wenhaston School using instruments made of recycled material, a fancy dress competition made from recycled items, and a barbecue with locally sourced foods.

The aim of the day was to help people discover more about making the most of our energy and reducing carbon dioxide emissions, including ideas for working together as a community such as car-sharing and bulk-buying.

People were encouraged to fill in a carbon footprint form giving details of their lifestyle and homes, and the results are being collated to give a community carbon footprint which will be revealed at the village hall on September 28.

It will be used as the basis of a future action plan to help the village cut down its carbon emissions.

The facts are that 27 per cent of all carbon emissions in this country come from our homes, and a further 25 per cent from our use of transport. Making small changes to our use of energy at home or the way we get around can all add up and help reduce this country's total.

We are finding out how to cut our carbon footprint

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

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

“I would recommend the Carbon Trust to any organisation that spends £50,000 or more on energy a year as they will then carry out a review for free. They are now helping us to identify energy saving opportunities and draw up an action plan,” said Councillor Andrew Nunn, Cabinet Member for the Natural Environment.

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

“This review has helped compare how well we are doing comparatively and will help us identify where we need to concentrate our efforts. For example, we now know that our use of gas at Melton Hill is relatively okay but that our electricity usage is higher than it could be.

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

“I am confident that we will agree an action plan that will both help save this Council money in the long-term and help reduce our carbon footprint,” added Cllr Nunn.

Any business interested in finding out how the Carbon Trust delivers on its promise to deliver practical solutions to help business and the public sector cut carbon can visit their website www.carbontrust.co.uk for more information or call 0800 085 2005.

The bright green library will help save you the earth

Plug into the easy way to save money and cut carbon emissions.

Energy saving lightbulbs, not only last longer than normal ones but can save up to £10 worth of electricity a year.

A new initiative will make it even easier to make the green switch thanks to a light bulb library, a suitcase of many of the different types on offer that you can borrow and try out at home.

“This wonderfully bright green idea is being trialled in Wenhaston as part of its energy efficiency campaign.

“Residents of Wenhaston can borrow the suitcase for the night and try out the different bulbs, finding out which ones best suit their needs and their light fittings. There are even ‘greener’ spot lights on offer,” said Councillor Andrew Nunn, Cabinet Member for the Natural Environment.

Suffolk Coastal has negotiated a discount on prices and hopes to offer this bulb library to other areas, and is encouraging local businesses to stock the unusual low energy bulbs.

The available bulbs are on www.efficientlight.co.uk

Minimum orders are £100, but the SEAL team at Suffolk Coastal are ready to pool orders on behalf of a number of residents. Call SEAL on 0800 0288 938 or email seal@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk

On the agenda

Below is a list of upcoming Council meetings, all held at our Melton Hill, Woodbridge offices. The agenda for the meetings can be seen on www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourcouncil/meetings

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

Wednesday, September 19 9am
North Area Development Control

Thursday, September 20 9am
South Area Development Control

Monday, September 24 7pm
Shared Services Task Group

Tuesday, September 25 7pm
Licensing and Health

Thursday, September 27 7.30pm
Council

Tuesday, October 2 7pm
Cabinet

Tuesday, October 9 7pm
Policy Development Task Group

Thursday, October 11 7pm

Community, Customers and Partners Scrutiny Committee

Wednesday, October 17 9am

North Area Development Control

Thursday, October 18 9am

South Area Development Control

Thursday, October 25 7.30pm

Council

Thursday, November 1 7pm

Standards Committee

Tuesday, November 6 7pm

Cabinet

Thursday, November 8 7pm

Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee

Tuesday, November 13 7pm

Policy Development Task Group

Wednesday, November 14 9am

South Area Development Control

Thursday, November 15 9am

North Area Development Control

Thursday, November 22 7.30pm

Council

Tuesday, November 27 7pm

Licensing and Health

Young adults have their say in Leiston

Seven young adults from around Saxmundham, Leiston and Aldeburgh were interviewed by Suffolk Speaks in May.

These are some of the main points that they raised about what matters to them in their daily lives.

- Finding work is difficult, but some thought opportunities are there for people who want them enough.
- There are few leisure time opportunities for young people and young adults in the area.
- For night clubs, the young people have to go to Ipswich, Norwich or Lowestoft.
- Public transport was a big issue for them, with buses irregular, unreliable and expensive. Timetables should be easier to read as the print is too small and confusing.
- They were concerned about litter and the lack of use of bins.
- They resented the attitude of tourists towards them, and the number of holiday homes, particularly in Aldeburgh.
- They complained that the crime rate has worsened over the past two years, fuelled mainly by drink and drugs, and also migrant workers.
- The police were criticised for being heavy handed with young people, and less than helpful in genuine emergencies.

- They were proud of Leiston's skatepark and said that young people need somewhere to meet in the open to get out of the rain.
- Others complained that the number of services from the hospital has decreased, with many now only available in Ipswich.

Suffolk Speaks is a partnership between public service providers county to find out what are the key issues facing people living in Suffolk.

In tune with our customers

What tune should be played on the Council's switchboard while you are waiting for an answer? Ideas to customer services at Suffolk Coastal District Council, Melton Hill, Woodbridge IP12 1AU or email customerservices@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk

Grants to help local community groups

Grants from Suffolk Coastal totalling over £45,000 are set to be shared among 17 local voluntary organisations that are providing social, artistic or sporting facilities and services to local residents.

“These grants are targeted at projects that are available to the general public as a whole, and can often be vital in helping these groups successfully attract much larger sums of funding from the various branches of the National Lottery,” said Councillor Mary Neale, Cabinet Member for Community Development/Rural Issues.

Any local group or organisation that would like to apply for a grant can contact Christine Brain on 01394 444626 or email christine.brain@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk

The recommended grants were:

£7,500 to the Blaxhall Village Hall Management Committee,
£1,000 to Butley Village Hall Committee,
£5,000 to Felixstowe Old Peoples Welfare Association,
£4,000 to Leiston St Margaret Football Club,
£400 to Martlesham Bowls Club,
£3,000 to Martlesham Youth Football Club,
£2,000 to Martlesham Heath Pavilion,
£3,000 to Monewden Village Hall,
£548 to the WI Trust Hall, Shottisham,
£800 to Thorpeness Sports and Social,
£3,000 to Trimley Memorial Hall Management Committee,
£3,000 to Trimley St Mary Welcome Hall,
and £2,000 to Woodbridge Community Hall.

Conditional grants were awarded -
£2,000 to Grundisburgh Tennis Club,
£1,000 to the Knodishall Village Hall Trustees,
£4,000 to the Red Rose Chain Theatre Co,
£996 to Yoxford Arts Festival Ltd, and
£2,000 to Melton Parish Council.

Do not try to recycle Japanese Knotweed

Suffolk Coastal has called on its residents not to put any Japanese Knotweed in their brown garden waste recycling bins.

Bioganix, the company that turns all our garden and food waste into compost, will not take the risk about whether its high-tech treatment facility at Parham will kill off Japanese Knotweed.

If anyone wants any advice they can call Suffolk Coastal Services on 01394 44400.

New plates are on the menu for district's licensed cars

It will be easier than ever to spot a taxi or private hire vehicle in Suffolk Coastal as over the next few weeks all of them will be getting new identification plates from the Council.

The new plates are colour coded, with green for hackney carriages and blue for private hire, and they will include details of the type of car and how many passengers it can take.

“I am sure that these new look plates will be welcomed by drivers and customers alike as they are clearly visible and appear much more professional. I look forward to them appearing on our roads over the next few weeks,” said Councillor Les Binns, Chairman of the Licensing and Health Committee.

Suffolk Coastal has 45 licensed hackney carriages and 102 private hire vehicles. Vehicles with hackney carriage plates are allowed to pick up passengers and their fares by being hailed on the road or from taxi ranks, as well as being pre-booked. However, private hire cars can only be booked in advance, normally by telephone to the mini-cab's office.

Bus timetables are now mobile

To receive a text with the times of the next three buses from a particular stop, type in the eight letter code for the bus stop and send it to 84268.

For times of a particular bus service, put the SMS code for the stop followed by the bus service number. Normal text sending rates apply, but the return message will be free. All the codes can be found on www.travelineeastanglia.co.uk/smslookup.html

Port health busy

Suffolk Coastal's port health team last year dealt with 75,269 consignments, carried out 19,004 identify checks on products of animal and 5,799 physical checks. 2,361 samples were taken, and 327 unsatisfactory food consignments were removed from the food chain.

Suffolk Coastal's Crime and Disorder reduction partnership targets for 2007/08

Alcohol related violence and disorder, particularly in all town centres

- initiatives to reduce irresponsible drinking and behaviour
- measures to reduce alcohol-related crime and disorder
- make visiting town centres safer and more welcoming

Anti-social behaviour, arson, criminal damage and youth nuisance, especially in residential areas

- encourage prevention
- improve responses

Drug and alcohol-related crime and substance misuse.

- to reduce the supply of illegal drugs
- to reduce substance misuse
- to reduce the harm that alcohol causes.

Domestic violence

- to raise awareness
- improve the support provided to victims.
- to widen support services available to victims

Racial harassment

- to challenge racism among young people and the wider community

Burglary in homes, vehicle crime and cycle crime
- use crime reduction and prevention initiatives.

Prolific offenders

- to stop people turning into prolific offenders
- to actively target active prolific offenders.

CCTV camera in place at Woodbridge's Elmhurst Park

Thanks to a partnership between Suffolk Coastal, Woodbridge Town Council, and Woodbridge police another new tool in the campaign against anti-social behaviour is now in place.

“Suffolk Coastal has provided a CCTV camera for use specifically in the district’s hot-spot areas for anti-social behaviour, and this should assist the police to resolve the vandalism problems that Elmhurst Park has been suffering,” said Councillor Ray Herring, Leader of Suffolk Coastal.

“I expect this to be an important extra tool in deterring future anti-social behaviour in our park, and giving the police potentially vital evidence to identify anyone who is foolish and selfish enough to cause problems,” said Councillor Nigel Barratt, Mayor of Woodbridge Town Council.

Drinking? Don't take your car

Young men are more likely to be involved in a drink-drive accident than any other age group, and statistics show that weekends are the most likely time for someone to be killed or injured by a drink-driver.

In Suffolk there were 107 casualties in 2005 from road accidents where at least one driver/rider failed a breath test compared to 145 in 2003. The latest Government campaign focuses on the shameful

reality of being caught drink-driving and compellingly demonstrates how it will ruin your life.

The consequences will be a criminal conviction, minimum 12-month ban and stiff fine - and these will affect both your career prospects and social life. The simple advice is if you are planning a night out this weekend, or in the future, have a good time but if you are drinking leave the car keys at home.

No-drinking orders in place

Seven parts of the district are now officially covered by alcohol designation orders that help the police to control anti-social behaviour in parts of the district.

The orders are now in place again covering areas of Felixstowe, Leiston and Woodbridge, and also in parts of Kesgrave, Martlesham, Framlingham and Rushmere St Andrew.

Court deals with fraudsters

Two local women are counting the cost of defrauding Suffolk Coastal after pleading guilty to wrongly claiming Housing and Council Tax benefits.

Kim Williams, of Heath View, Kesgrave defrauded Suffolk Coastal of over £1,500 after starting work, while Anita Paternoster, of Tennyson Close, Woodbridge, falsely claimed over £21,000 despite having savings of over £20,000. Both frauds were revealed after co-operation between the Council and the Department for Work and Pensions.

Miss Williams was sentenced to 60 hours of unpaid community work, while Ms Paternoster was sentenced to 12 week's imprisonment, suspended for one year, and ordered to undertake

180 hours of unpaid community work. Both women also have to repay the Council.

Anyone receiving benefits should call 01394 444838 if there is any change in their circumstances. The confidential Fraud Hotline is 01394 444444.

Woodbridge pub must keep its numbers down

Following a special inspection by a new partnership, The Cross pub in Woodbridge has been ordered to control the number of people in its pub.

Suffolk Coastal's Licensing Panel heard evidence from the Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service among others about their concerns after a visit in May to the pub.

Gary Phillips, deputy chief fire officer said: "With almost 70 per cent more people in the pub than allowed, everyone was put at real risk of harm if there had been a fire."

When visited there were around 100 people in The Cross when there should have been no more than 60 including staff. The licensee, Collin Dagnall, was instructed to have from October 19th two officially trained door supervisors to control numbers on Friday and Saturday nights, Christmas Eve, New Year's Eve, or when there is a pre-planned event.

The Panel also agreed to no new customers being allowed in after 11pm on Friday and Saturday nights, and a series of recorded monthly checks to monitor health and safety issues.

The Cross was the first pub to be inspected by the Suffolk Coastal Licensing Partnership which includes representatives of the

licensing team, fire service, trading standards, the police, environmental protection, and food safety.

“This decision follows our recent one to reduce the entertainment hours at Leiston’s White Horse and I hope that this will act as a warning to everyone else that they should make sure their premises are safe and legal,” said Councillor Les Binns, Chairman of the Licensing and Health Committee.

Food safety results to go public?

Suffolk Coastal’s food safety team carry out over 500 inspections a year and by next spring these results could be available for all to see, both at the premises that has been visited and also on the Council’s website.

The inspected premises are currently scored on the basis of food hygiene and safety, structure and cleaning, and confidence in management.

“Our food safety team is doing an excellent job in driving up standards and I think it is fair that the results of its inspections should be shared with the public so they can know how their local food premises is rated,” said Councillor Sherrie Green, Cabinet Member for Community Well-being.

As well as benefiting good food businesses by promoting their achievement, the scheme should drive up standards in those performing less well, with each premise being given a window sticker that would show how they are rated by the Council.

Licensing policy gets a tonic

Suffolk Coastal is asking for views on proposed changes to its licensing rules which control not just the sale of alcohol in shops,

pubs or clubs, but also entertainment events including plays, films, indoor sporting events, indoor or outdoor boxing and wrestling, live and recorded music, dance, plus the provision of late night food or drink.

A copy of the draft statement can be read at Suffolk Coastal's Melton Hill offices, or on www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourbusiness/licensing/alcohol/policyreview The website also includes an online questionnaire. Comments on the draft policy can be sent to the Licensing Team at Suffolk Coastal District Council, Melton Hill, Woodbridge IP12 1AU by November 13.

Views on Felixstowe's future

A special event in July attracted over 350 people who shared their thoughts and views on a range of proposed projects to create a brighter future for Felixstowe.

Once the results of the public exhibition have been produced, the Felixstowe Futures Steering Group will be able to share more information with the Felixstowe community. All the material can be viewed on www.felixstowefuture.com and comments can be emailed to felixstowe@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk or by post to Felixstowe Futures, Suffolk Coastal District Council, Melton Hill, Woodbridge, IP12 1AU.

Any views on our annual report?

Suffolk Coastal is producing its first-ever Annual Report which in one document tells you about the Council's financial and service performance for 2006/07.

The copy should be available on the Council's website by the end of September

www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourcouncil/performance/ and we would like to hear your views on it. Any suggestions for improvement can be emailed to accountancy@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk

Keeping food safe

The food safety team carried out 504 inspections of all the most important food premises in the district last year, and helped win £116,000 of national funding to explain the new food regulations to food businesses across the county.

What's on?

Farmers' markets 9am -1pm

Easton Farm Park every 4th Saturday of the month

Woodbridge Community Centre every 2nd and 4th Saturday

Felixstowe, Trinity Methodist Hall, Orwell Road, every 1st Saturday

Felixstowe French Market

Saturday, October 6 9am-5pm Hamilton Road

Sunday, October 7 9am – 5pm, Felixstowe Leisure Centre car park

Big Draw at Easton Farm Park,

Saturday, October 27

see this page

Art Farming Workshops

every fourth Saturday at Easton Farm Park

– see page 16

Health Walks

Sunday September 30 and October 28 2.30pm **Hasketon** Village Hall

Saturday October 13 2pm Common Lane Car Park, **Bromeswell**

Tuesday November 6 11am public car park Maybush Pub, **Waldringfield**

Tuesday November 13 11am car park behind **Woodbridge** Community Centre.

Saturday November 17 2pm top of Elmstead Park, **Woodbridge**

Wednesday November 21 Douglas Fir Walk 10.30am **Rendlesham Forest** Centre Car Park.

For more information visit www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/whatson or call one of TICs – see page 2 for details.

To get an event listed email coastline@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk or write to Coastline, Melton Hill, Woodbridge IP12 1AU.

Working to make it playtime for all

Three projects could be recommended for funding from the National Lottery, following work by Suffolk Coastal to draw up the district's first play strategy.

Following consultation with local children and young people, the Council is set to put its backing behind a touring double-decker bus for rural areas in the north of the district, a cycle trail created through Rendlesham Forest, and a modern play area at Langer Park, Felixstowe.

The strategy recognises that modern living has thrown up a wide range of barriers to children's play, with factors such as more traffic, less open space, real and perceived fears of crime, changes in family and work all contributing to deny children the chance or freedom to play.

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 attract the money to make them possible.

The Council consultation showed 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.

Kasai Masai playing soon

The latest Peppery night at The Shed at Easton Farm Park comes with an African flavour. Kasai Masai are bringing their infectious rhythms consisting of the traditional sound of remote equatorial villages with an urban twist to this most rural venue on Friday, October 12.

Another big draw

Make a date for Saturday, October 27 when Easton Farm Park will be hosting Suffolk Coastal's Big Draw day which last year attracted over 200 people. Artists Bryony Graham and Suzanne Berry will be using the theme of Late Harvest to encourage youngsters to create drawings inspired by the animals, crops and the land. The day will co-incide with a farmers' market so there is a chance for all the family to have a great day out. Visit www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourfreetime/arts or call 01394 444538 for more details.

Extremely fun for all

The recent Bank Holiday at Felixstowe saw all types of sporting fun at the Xtremefest with windsurfing, skateboarding and a climbing wall to test all-comers.

British windsurfing champion, Keith Atkinson was in action at the event and helped organise the event with Suffolk Coastal's Active Communities team and the Eastern Windsurfing Association, which had the police and SCTV on hand to join in the fun.

A postcard with Latitude

Laura Bishop of Hollesley won Coastline's competition for two free tickets to July's Latitude Festival, thanks to its organisers, the Mean Fidler. This is her report on the weekend.

Latitude Festival - what can I say? It was amazing!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

We arrived, just two girls and a tent, not really knowing what to expect, and had the best time ever.

The bands were awesome - Arcade Fire and CSS being two of my personal favourites. Wherever you went something was going on, from rock music to poetry, comedy or art. Really all I want to say is thank you for giving me the tickets and bring on next year.

Help us catch the ebb and flow of the Alde and Ore

Work has now begun to tap into the rich history and heritage of life along the rivers Alde and Ore with an innovative new project asking for people to come forward and play their part.

On Monday, September 24 a training session at Snape Maltings is on offer for anyone who wants to join Ebb and Flow help record

the oral history of the area, and in the coming weeks a series of workshops will be held with school children.

“This project promises to be voyage of discovery about life along the Alde and Ore and we are looking for people to come forward to either share their memories or help record them,” said Cllr Kevin Keable, Cabinet Member for Community Well-being and the Arts.

Anyone interested in becoming an oral historian, or who wants to share their own memories, whether as a fisherman, farmer, leisure user or a resident of the area, can contact Theo Clarke, the project’s coordinator, on 07092 894919 or email theo@ebb-and-flow.org.uk

Suffolk Coastal and Suffolk Coast and Heaths are behind Ebb and Flow, which is backed with £48,300 from the Heritage Lottery Fund, £13,000 from the AONB sustainable development fund, and £1,000 from the Aldeburgh and District Local History Society.

FX Dance

A group of 12 talented young people in the Felixstowe area have formed FX Dance under the guidance of Kelly Ludgrove following a series of taster sessions held at local high schools last year.

The sessions were set up by a partnership of Dance East and the Suffolk Coastal arts team, and after a series of auditions the group members of FX Dance were selected.

Further auditions are being held for those who want to join this exciting project with one on Monday, September 17 at Deben High School at 5pm – for more details call 01473 295234 or visit www.danceeast.co.uk

Grow your artistic talents

Over the last six months, young artists have been growing at Easton Farm Park thanks to a Suffolk Coastal arts project involving Bryony Graham and it is not too late to join in.

The fruits of their labour go on show next spring. There are still vacancies for the monthly Saturday afternoon sessions for young people aged 11 and over.

To find out more call 01394 444538 or email nicky.corbett@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk or visit www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourfreetime/arts/farmart/

SCTV film views of the district

SCTV (Suffolk Coastal Teen Voices) recently visited six towns to produce a Generation Jigsaw DVD to put the spotlight on what matters to young and older people in our district.

“The aim of the DVD is to make the reputation of young people better among the older generations. Every week in the media, you see stories of how "YOBS" are destroying communities when in actual fact these young people have done nothing wrong,” said Alex Stewart of SCTV.

“Even if they have, it’s usually because services are not available for young people to access - services like health nurses, counsellors and even youth clubs. Youths are being left with nothing to do, which is what causes them to behave inappropriately,” added 14 year-old Alex.

The group filmed in Felixstowe, Kesgrave, Woodbridge, Wickham Market, Framlingham, and Leiston, and they were editing the DVD ready for its first showing on September 12. Members of SCTV

have also been invited to speak at Suffolk Coastal's full Council meeting in September.

SCTV is the district's forum for young people. For more information about visit www.sctv.org.uk or email keri.mohan@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk or text 07795 092255, or write to Keri or SCTV at Suffolk Coastal District Council, Melton Hill, Woodbridge IP12 1AU.

Plug into Soundwaves

Fresh from its funding raising gig for Woodbridge Skate Park, Soundwaves is getting really busy over the coming months with more big nights and workshops planned, and two CDs in the pipeline.

Soundwaves is a music project for young people aged 13-26 in this district, backed by Suffolk Coastal. Its latest series of workshops to help develop young bands are being held at the music room in Woodbridge's Farlingaye School on Monday nights between 6.30-8.30pm.

For just £4 a session, young bands can grow and develop with the guidance of professional musicians, and have the chance of being chosen to perform at future Soundwaves gigs.

A CD album is almost finished, after a summer of recording for some of the district's young bands and will be released in time for Christmas, with launch party in early December.

Soundwaves live nights give the bands the chance to play with a professional lighting and PA system, and the recent Woodbridge gig was recorded for a live CD. More gigs are planned soon, with one in Felixstowe around the October half term. Keep an eye on suffolksoundwaves.co.uk for more details. For more info about

Soundwaves, email suffolksoundwaves@hotmail.com or call Sophie Tott on 07005 98 18 38.

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