

# COASTLINE

The Newsletter of Suffolk Coastal District Council

Issue 34, Winter 2007

## **We are listening to young people**

Suffolk Coastal's increasing commitment to young people recently saw members of Suffolk Coastal Teen Voices (SCTV) attending Council meetings, and will see leading councillors and officers take part in a special webchat on Wednesday, December 12.

The Council's Leader, Councillor Ray Herring will be joined by Councillor Doreen Savage, the Chief Executive Stephen Baker and others between 4pm and 7pm when it will be your chance to quiz them about what the Council is doing for and with young people.

"We are putting young people increasingly at the centre of what we do, indeed in this edition they are in the centre pages of Coastline. I have met with SCTV on many occasions and they are doing an excellent job. They recently spoke at a Full meeting of our Council and at one of our committees," said Cllr Savage, Cabinet Member for Young People.

"My fellow councillors were impressed with the confidence and vision of the members of SCTV and 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, and I hope to hear from many more young people during our special webchat," added Cllr Savage.

The Suffolk Coastal Local Strategic Partnership funded the youth co-ordinator post that helped create the first district-wide youth forum, SCTV.

### **Want traffic news?**

The latest on motorways and major A roads can be found on [www.highways.gov.uk/trafficinfo](http://www.highways.gov.uk/trafficinfo) or on DAB digital radio on Traffic Radio or [www.trafficradio.org.uk](http://www.trafficradio.org.uk) You can also call the Highways Agency 24-hour voice activated phone service on 08700 660 115.

### **TIC here for tourism help**

The Council's three Tourist Information Centres (TICs) play an important role in encouraging tourists who are worth in excess of £211 million per year to the local economy.

The TICs are open between 9am – 5.30pm Monday to Friday and 9am-5pm on Saturdays until April, and have lots of helpful services for residents as well. The Aldeburgh TIC is located in the High Street, Felixstowe's can be found on the seafront by the Town Hall, and Woodbridge's is next to Woodbridge Station.

### **Helpful service with a smile**

Providing good customer service is one of the goals of Suffolk Coastal and it was given a fresh focus at the Council's Melton Hill offices in Woodbridge during National Customer Service Week in October.

### **e-billing and paying bills online**

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.

Council Taxpayers can visit [www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourhome/counciltax/online](http://www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourhome/counciltax/online) to find out how they can go online with their bills. You can help us make some significant postal and print savings by signing up to having your bill delivered direct to your computer inbox.

The Council's automated payment system has proved popular with over 28,000 payments totalling over £3.6 million paid online or on the phone.

People can 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.

## **Christmas Opening Times**

Suffolk Coastal's offices will be closed to the public from 4pm (cash office 3.15pm) on Monday, December 24 through to 8.45am (cash office 9am) on Wednesday, January 2. There will be the normal emergency cover provided across the holiday period – call 07771 816535 if it is urgent. Our Felixstowe sub-office will be open 2pm – 3.30pm on Christmas Eve, and re-open on January 2 as usual from 2pm to 4.30pm. Recycling and refuse collection services will continue throughout the Christmas period but there will again this year be collections on Saturdays. Full details can be found at the end of this publication. Many of our services are available online around the clock – visit [www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk](http://www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk).

## **Children get glimpse of the Alde and Ore's past**

Primary school students from Benhall, Coldfair Green and Snape have been having archaeological fun and finding out about the past.

Thanks to the Ebb and Flow project, supported by Suffolk Coastal, in September, children visited the site of a Roman salt-working near Snape where working with local archaeologist Richard Newman they uncovered some Roman pottery.

With help from County's Jez Meredith, they then compared the salt residues left from boiling tap water, sea water and estuary water so they could see why the Romans worked salt so far up the river.

Local author, Colin Fletcher, led the children as they became members of the Iceni tribe who lived besides the river and needed ways to cross it to trade with the Trinovantes tribe before both tribes were conquered by the Romans. The children also identified pits where Romans had kept their oysters fresh.

"I enjoyed scraping the red sand and finding the pottery. I liked holding the clay and the flint stones," said Lauren Hammersley of Snape Primary School, while Kyle of Coldfair Green PS said "I liked splitting the estuary water to a little bit of salt and splitting the sea water to a load of salt."

In October, children visited Decoy Farm, Friston when they dug a section alongside an ancient track from Aldeburgh to Snape.

They also dug a hole that was lined with clay and filled with water into which they put hot stones until the water got hot.

## **Communities unite against Blyth estuary proposals**

Suffolk Coastal, Waveney and Suffolk County Council have joined up to challenge proposals by the Environment Agency (EA) to no longer fund flood defences in the Blyth Estuary leaving local communities to fend for themselves in the future.

The three councils have called on local people and businesses to tell the EA by January 4 what they think of its plans, pointing

out the impact that ‘planned flooding’ will have not just on local homes but also on all aspects of local life, whether it be Walberswick or Southwold, the A12 and other roads, wildlife, jobs and tourism.

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

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

For more on the EA strategy visit

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

Send your views to Blyth Estuary, Environment Agency (Anglian Region), Kingfisher House, Goldhay Way, Orton Goldhay, Peterborough PE2 5ZR or email [blythestuary@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:blythestuary@environment-agency.gov.uk)

## **Making connections for a better quality of life**

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

“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 Councillor 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 140 representatives from across our community, including councillors and officers from all three tiers of local councils, public and private service providers, business people, the voluntary sector, community representatives and young people from SCTV and local schools, we had a range of knowledge and ideas to share and build on,” 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 co-ordinate and shape the future action of public, private, voluntary and community organisations.

### **Looking to the future**

Four topics were discussed during workshop sessions at the forum:

#### **Supporting our vulnerable residents**

Although Suffolk Coastal is largely a safe and healthy place to live, some of our residents are vulnerable and may need additional support (for example individuals who misuse drugs or alcohol, or frail older people who live alone). Do we know who our vulnerable residents are? Can the LSP help to ensure that suitable services are available to meet their needs?

#### **Green issues**

What action should we all be taking to reduce our carbon footprint? How should we deliver locally on the global initiatives to reduce carbon emissions and also to mitigate against negative impacts of environmental change?

## **The generation gap?**

How big is the gulf between young people and older members of our community? What action is being taken to reassure our older residents and empower young people to play a more active role in our communities? And what can you do to help this happen?

## **Business Needs**

Based on the findings of the Business Needs Research Report, the workshop was an opportunity for business representatives to contribute to a discussion on practical ways to meet business needs.

## **Looking forward to the new challenges**

There are a number of key challenges facing the district and its LSP, the 2007 forum were advised by Stephen Baker.

Mr Baker, is Chairman of the LSP's Governance and Finance Group, and Chief Executive of Suffolk Coastal District Council. He warned that green issues and climate change maybe global problems but are very much a central issue for this district because of the impact of sea level rise, coastal erosion, the impact on our estuaries, and the way this will affect local residents, housing and jobs, as well as our environment.

“We also know we must do more to identify who are this district's vulnerable people, what support they need and how it can be provided, while we have to do more to encourage and foster better relations across all sections of our residents, what the Government tags as community cohesion.

“We also know that this district needs and will have significant growth in the near future, but this needs to be properly managed.

For all these issues there are ways forward in which the LSP can be and is involved.

“For example there is the Greenest County initiative, or long-term initiatives like the Greenprint Forum, while SCTV is already helping us get a fresh young perspective to the ‘generation gap’, and the LSP is putting its ideas into the Local Development Framework that will set out this district’s growth blueprint. We need to identify those issues that are most important in Suffolk Coastal and work together to address them,” added Mr Baker.

The LSP is not the only Strategic Partnership that affects Suffolk Coastal, with the Suffolk Strategic Partnership (SSP) working to improve the social, economic and environmental wellbeing of all of Suffolk. Recently the LSP gave its views on the future of Suffolk, and Suffolk Coastal in particular, as part of a SSP review. These views are reflected in the new County Community Strategy. The LSP will also play a part in the Suffolk Local Area Agreement which sets performance targets across the county.

At the heart of the LSP is the district’s own Community Strategy, now being refreshed and out to consultation in Spring 2008.

“The LSP has demonstrated that with a relatively small amount of resources, it can deliver real success in its priority areas, and it shows the potential that this Partnership has to improve the lives of all who live and work in Suffolk Coastal if partners are willing to commit time, effort or funding,” added Mr Baker.

## **Suffolk LSP**

The Suffolk Coastal LSP has agreed a vision for the future of our district where ‘building on the best of the present, it should

be a district where people want to live and to invest, to care for others and the environment’.

For more information about the work of Suffolk Coastal LSP visit its website [www.sclsp.org.uk](http://www.sclsp.org.uk), email [suffolkcoastallsp@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk](mailto:suffolkcoastallsp@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk) or call 01394 444252.

## **Improving the district’s quality of life**

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

- SCTV, the forum for young people and its Generation Jigsaw DVD
- work under way on 15 parish plans
- the attraction of over £70,000 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 skatepark visiting 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

## **Who is in the LSP**

The Board of the LSP includes representatives from the following organisations Suffolk Coastal District Council, the Army (Woodbridge Garrison), BT Exact, the Coastal Homeless Action Group, the Environment Agency, Felixstowe & District Council for Sport & Recreation, Greenprint Forum, Job Centre Plus, the Learning & Skills Council for Suffolk, Orwell Housing Association, Suffolk ACRE, Suffolk Association of Voluntary Organisations, Suffolk Association of Local Councils, Suffolk

Coastal Business Forum, Suffolk Primary Care Trust, Suffolk Constabulary, Suffolk County Council, Suffolk Development Agency, and Suffolk Police Authority.

## **Let the sun turn your hot water green**

Have you wondered about trying solar panels as a way of cutting your energy bills? Well, here's the first-hand experience of a home-owner in the Woodbridge area who has used thermal solar powers to provide his family's hot water.

Since the panels were installed in August 2006 they had produced in their first 13 months 1432kW hours of energy to heat the hot water, or 72% of the household's hot water needs.

There is a £400 Government grant on offer until the end of December towards the installation costs, which are typically £3,500 - £4,000, and which usually will provide up to 60% of a household's hot water needs.

Supported by Suffolk Coastal, the SEAL Solar scheme offers a high quality product, competitively priced and installed by a qualified and approved company.

To request a free, no obligation survey and quotation, call the Climate Change and Energy Helpline on 0800 02 88 938 or email [seal@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk](mailto:seal@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk)

## **Helping you take local action on a global challenge**

CRed is the Community Carbon Reduction Project, an ambitious and positive scheme instigated by the University of East Anglia to help people meet the 60% challenge of reducing carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions by 2025.

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

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

CRed Suffolk has set up the Climate & Energy Helpline 0800 02 88 938 for people and businesses to get independent information and advice on reducing CO2 emissions, carbon footprinting, energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies.

A new toolkit helps local communities shrink their carbon footprint and tackle climate change. If you join forces with your neighbours, you can also make the most of discounts available on buying carbon saving measures in bulk.

CRed will calculate your community's footprint, advise on measures you can take and return a year later to check your progress. Wenhaston and Middleton were the first villages in Suffolk to have their footprint measured.

For more information call the helpline on 0800 028 8938 or visit

[www.cred-uk.org/suffolk](http://www.cred-uk.org/suffolk)

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

### **A warm home is a healthy home**

Cold homes have a significant impact on people's health and wellbeing, with a direct link between cold weather and heart and respiratory problems, serious illness, discomfort and depression.

Grants are available for help with insulation and heating systems, and the Warm Front team are ready to help qualifying householders stay warm and well this winter with grants of up to £2,700 to help pay for energy saving measures such as loft insulation, cavity wall insulation, draught proofing, central heating and heating repairs. Some homes that need oil central heating may receive a grant of up to £4,000.

Between April to September, 539 homes in this district got cash help worth £202,077 but there are still many missing out on the chance of help. Those likely to be eligible for a grant are householders aged over 60, people who suffer from a long-term illness, are disabled, have a child under 16, or are pregnant. To qualify for a grant householders should be in receipt of an income or disability benefit and live in their own home or rent it from a private landlord.

To find out more, call the Warm Front helpline free on 0800 316 2814, Monday to Friday 8am-6pm and 9am to 5pm on Saturdays, or call Suffolk Coastal's private sector housing team for free advice on what other grants are available on 01394 444506.

## **Flowers growing greener with straw energy**

In recent Coastlines we have looked at how individuals, villages and this Council are working to become more energy efficient, and now the focus is on how a local company is a blooming good example for others.

Members of Suffolk Coastal's Green Issues Task Group and the Greenprint Forum recently visited Geater's West End Nurseries in Leiston which has invested in a straw burner to provide energy to heat its greenhouses.

Flowers like lisianthus and chrysanthemums are grown and sold nationally from this business which employs 24 people but which needs heat for its greenhouses.

The increasing cost of gas encouraged its owner, Ron Geater, to look at alternative technologies, before deciding to opt for straw because of its lower cost, local supply and it is a resource that is rapidly renewed, unlike coal, peat, and oil.

The system is based on an impressive 15 bale conveyor belt and a self cleaning mega shredder which loosens the straw before it is fed into a cyclone, through a rotary air lock and stoker screw conveyor into the boiler.

The boiler is controlled by a programmable logic control, so straw is only pulled in when it is needed. The heat is used to warm water which is stored in an insulated tank and then passed into the greenhouses. The ash produced also makes a good fertilizer for local farms.

Mr Geater did stress that there had been some hurdles to overcome, with strict planning rules, and European waste regulations forcing him to have an annual licence to handle straw. However, he expected to recover the cost within 10 years.

Although this system is helping to cut carbon dioxide emissions, it is itself being affected by climate change. This year's poor weather meant there was a poor crop of straw. However, the burner can be tweaked to run on other materials such as wood chipping or chicken manure, although these are currently more expensive than straw.

## **Our offices are going greener**

Suffolk Coastal residents are now recycling and composting around 44% of all their household waste. Coastline readers may be pleased to learn about the progress that the Council itself has been making recently with regards to making sure that its staff recycle as much as they can while at work.

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

Green Champions from all service areas have taken on the role of encouraging their colleagues to reduce their waste and make use of improved recycling facilities at Melton Hill.

To back up this new emphasis, over half of the litter bins in offices were removed, and a compost bin installed for compostable food waste.

## **Buying greener electrical products**

Buying the most energy efficient products will cut your fuel bills so look out for the Energy Saving Recommended logo when you next buy something – it is your guarantee that the product is a top energy saver.

Over 2,000 products, including the latest digital TVs, boilers, heating controls, lighting, fridge freezers, tumble dryers and washing machines, have earned the logo – to see the full list visit [www.est.org.uk/recommended](http://www.est.org.uk/recommended)

## **Want more information on saving energy?**

For free, impartial expert advice on energy saving, contact your local Energy Saving Trust Advice Centre on 0800 512 012, or visit [www.energysavingtrust.org.uk](http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk)

The EST experts are the only advice service that can provide free, impartial information on home and community energy efficiency due to its status as an independent, not for profit organisation. It has a good knowledge of your area and understands the local housing stock, for example, it can help you find out whether or not your house has cavity walls.

EST can also advise you on any grants and offers that may be available to help towards the costs of installing measures, knows your local market and so can recommend suitably qualified trades people, and has been established since 1992.

## **Soundwaves – ten of the best**

After a year-long search, Soundwaves - Suffolk Coastal's own music project for young people - is offering up something special in time for Christmas, a CD featuring the best 10 young bands in the district.

After an interesting and fun journey of discovery, Soundwaves found the 10 bands that had talent, commitment, enthusiasm, and above all a passion for music.

Each band was given a day in Leiston's Summerhill Studios, with sound engineer Henry Readhead, to record three tracks, one of which would feature on this very special album.

“We hope that people will enjoy listening to the Soundwaves album as much as we have enjoyed helping to create it. It's home-grown 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.

“As well as the bands and studio being coastal-based, the mastering - which adds a final polish to recordings - took place at URM Audio in Sibton. As far as possible, we have aimed to create an album using the fabulous facilities that we are lucky enough to have on our doorstep in Suffolk Coastal,” added Sophie.

Soundwaves is backed by Suffolk Coastal ARTS, Awards for All and the Local Network fund. You can hear a preview of the music at the Soundwaves myspace page - [www.myspace.com/suffolksoundwaves](http://www.myspace.com/suffolksoundwaves), and if you like what you hear why not buy the album!

Further details are available from the myspace page, or by emailing [suffolksoundwaves@hotmail.com](mailto:suffolksoundwaves@hotmail.com)

## **Regenerating the world of fashion in Felixstowe**

Young people have spent the last few months taking part in ReGenerate, the Felixstowe Fashion Show that is transforming charity shop clothes for 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.

Those involved are picking up a whole range of skills, including sessions on window dressing, set design, photography and the make-up needed to appear under the hot lights of the catwalk.

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 shops.

A former make-up artist for the London fashion industry, Laura Kerr, has given expert advice to help the students prepare the right look for the big show on November 30, (after this edition went to print).

“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.

## **Young people can tune into SCTV online**

The district’s young people now have their own website run by Suffolk Coastal Teen

Voices (SCTV) some of whom are pictured right who aim to change the world for local youths forever.

SCTV this autumn produced their first DVD called Generation Jigsaw and their website [www.sctv.org.uk](http://www.sctv.org.uk) has links to YouTube 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 in September when they did a presentation aimed at raising awareness of SCTV and 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. 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.

### **Three winners, but all children could be**

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

Hal Ottley (above right), aged 4 of Purdis Farm, won a £25 early learning centre voucher, Rebecca Cox aged 9 of Felixstowe, (above with Simon Tappenden of DC Leisure), won a MP3 player, while Alysia Schuetzle aged 14 won a MP3 player.

### **Wilford police on the base**

A new Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) office on the MOD Woodbridge site officially opened in October and is now home to the Wilford Peninsula SNT.

It has made police officers serving Hollesley, Eyke, Tunstall, Orford and Sutton more accessible to local people, with the office available for meetings and ‘surgery’ sessions. It also means they do not have to go to Woodbridge Police Station to do their paperwork or computer inputting, and so can spend more time on the beat.

SNTs bring together police officers, police community support officers and police staff with volunteers and representatives from other agencies, such as councils, to tackle crime, disorder and other community and environmental issues. The new office is a result of a partnership of the police and the Ministry of

Defence who re-opened the site to accommodate 23 Engineer Regiment (Air Assault) and their families.

## **Detections up as crime falls**

Crime rates are falling across the district, according to the latest figures issued by the police for April to September this year which show significant drops compared to the same six months in 2006.

The total number of reported offences fell by 10.1 per cent in the district, down to 3,473 with a 9.7 per cent drop in Felixstowe, 9.2 per cent in Woodbridge, and 12.3 per cent in Leiston.

There was a 6.1 per cent drop in violent crime across the district, an 8.8 per cent drop in vehicle crime, a 49.3 per cent drop in fraud and forgery, a 15.7 per cent fall in domestic burglaries and a 17.4 per cent fall in other burglaries, and a 12.7 per cent drop in criminal damage. There was an increase from 9 to 15 on the number of serious drug offences, and a rise of five to 94 on other drug offences. The overall detection rate rose by nearly two per cent to 29.5 per cent.

Suffolk's new Deputy Chief Constable Jacqui Cheer said: "This is an extremely encouraging set of figures, which shows that we have built on our strong performance last year.

"The only main crime category to show an increase is drug offences. But this actually reflects police proactivity in targeting drug dealers, rather than an increase in drug dealing on the streets. Our officers and staff have shown their quality with these latest performance figures, which underline their commitment to keeping Suffolk safe."

## **Don't suffer in silence**

Across Suffolk, domestic violence accounts for more than a third of all violent crime and affects people of all ages from all backgrounds.

In an emergency, do not hesitate – call the Police on 999. They will respond, investigate and assist you. For non-emergencies and advice ring 01473 613500. There is also a National Domestic Violence Helpline on 0808 2000 247 for 24 hour confidential help for women, children and their supporters and the Suffolk Domestic Violence and Abuse Helpline is 0800 783 5121. The Ipswich Women's Aid 24 hour helpline is 01473 745111. Also visit [www.breakthepattern.org.uk](http://www.breakthepattern.org.uk)

## **Play your part for cleaner, safer neighbourhoods**

Keeping our communities clean, safe and litter-free is a challenge with cleansing teams working hard to remove graffiti and rubbish promptly to reduce the risk of repeat offending, but they rely on the public to keep them informed.

Suffolk Coastal spends £600,000 on clearing litter from our streets, parks, beaches and roadsides each year - money which could be put to much better use, while parish and town councils have also responded to the problem by providing extra litter and dog mess bins, or volunteer litter picks.

Play your part for a cleaner, safer environment by reporting any anti-social behaviour as soon as you see it.

The new Safer Neighbourhood Teams made up of police, councils, organisations and volunteers are working together to listen to people's concerns and tackle local issues promptly. You can contact your parish/ward team and report problems by visiting [www.safersuffolk.org.uk](http://www.safersuffolk.org.uk) or telephoning Suffolk Constabulary on 01473 613500.

You can contact Suffolk Coastal Services Ltd department on 01394 444000 or email [scsltd@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk](mailto:scsltd@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk). Problems such as fly-tipping and abandoned cars can also be reported online at [www.onesuffolk.co.uk](http://www.onesuffolk.co.uk)

## **Town Centres largely untouched by car park review**

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

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

“Our recommendations mean 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 want to freeze those tariffs at their 2006 levels,” said Councillor Andy Smith, Council Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for the Built Environment.

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

## **Leiston receives its awards**

Council Chairman Councillor Cliff Cocker and Radio Suffolk's Rachel Sloane visited Levington recently to hand over the trophies and certificates that the village won for being both this district's and the county's village of the year 2007.

## **Printing for the community**

If you are a registered charity, club, town or parish council, or a church organisation, and need some printing at a competitive price, try the Council's Melton Hill print team.

They can offer colour or black and white photocopies, or litho printing as well which is more value for money if you want a lot of copies – but you will need to provide your artwork on a disk or hard copy format.

Currently they are doing a range of jobs, including annual reports, newsletters, and even print runs of 50,000 leaflets. The old adage of no job is too big or too small could not be truer!

For a quotation or more information call Steve Siggers on 01394 444534 or email [print.room@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk](mailto:print.room@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk)

## **Delivering more success**

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

October saw the Channel 4 series *Location, Location, Location* rating the district as the 17th best in the UK in which to live. At the same time the Council's legal services team were part of the countywide *Doing Better Business (DBB)* partnership that scooped a national award, and its property information team (pictured above) 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 Councillor Ray Herring, Leader of the Council.

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

## **Landlords and LHA**

Landlords can find out all about Local Housing Allowance, which starts in April 2008, on Tuesday, January 22 at 6.30pm at Ipswich Town Hall. Our next edition will explain how LHA affects tenants.

## **Go-ahead for wind farm at Parham**

The final formal approval has been granted for the plans to build six wind turbines at Parham airfield, proposals for which were originally given the go-ahead by Suffolk Coastal in July 2006.

The applicants, Saxon Windpower Ltd and its local subsidiary PAWF Ltd, then asked to use turbines with bigger blades but have now dropped that scheme and construction will get underway in 2008.

## **Help us plan holiday activities for young people**

This questionnaire is for parent or guardians to help us find out what you think of the activities that were provided for young people during the summer holidays 2007 by Suffolk Coastal and its partners. We want to know about any activities your child/ren took part in during the summer holidays which may have included such things as going to the park, visiting an attraction and doing sports, arts or crafts. This information will help the organisations that provide the activities to have a better idea of what you would like in the future.

Q1 Did your child/ren take part in any activities during the summer holidays 2007?

Yes - Go to Q2  No - Go to Q4

Q2 How did you find out what activities were going on?

- From the school  By using the Internet  
 Newspapers  Direct mail  
 Radio/TV  Radio adverts  
 Picked up a leaflet at a Leisure Centre, Tourist Information Centre, Library etc  
 Saw a poster at a Leisure Centre, Library, Tourist Information Centre etc  
 From friends  Other (please specify)

Q3 How easy was it to find out what was going on for your child/ren?

Very easy  Easy  Ok

Q4 Did you receive any holiday activity brochures or leaflets for activities in the summer 2007?

Yes - Go to Q5  No - Go to Q6

Q5 If Yes, who provided the activities and who produced the leaflet/ brochure?

Q6 Did you use the Coastal Potato website ?

Yes  No

Q7 What activities did your child/ren attend over the summer?

Q8 What influenced your choice of activity?

- Location  Quality of the instructors
- Cost  Length of session
- Frequency  Source of childcare
- Date of the activities  Other (please specify)

Q9 If your child/ren were to attend an activity, how long would you prefer it to last?

- 0 - 2 hours  2 - 4 hours
- 4 - 6 hours  6 - 8 hours

Q10 How much would you be prepared to pay for an activity session lasting....?

Free £1-£3 £3-£5 £5-£7 £7-£10 £10+

- |             |                          |                          |                          |                          |                          |                          |
|-------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 0 - 2 hours | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2 - 4 hours | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4 - 6 hours | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6 - 8 hours | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

*For your chance to win a free activity session provided by Suffolk Coastal District Council please fill in your details below*

Q11 What is your name?

Q12 What is your address, including postcode?

*We are keen to ensure that our services are available to all sections of our large and varied community, so could you also please fill out the following section.*

Your gender  Male  Female

Your age  under 18  18-24  25-34  35-44  
 45-54  55-64  65+  Rather not say

Your working status

employed  self-employed  
 unemployed  retired  student  rather not say

Do you consider yourself to be disabled?

Yes  No

Which of these groups do you belong to?

White British  White other  
 Black – British  Black – Caribbean  Black - African  
 Black - other  Indian  Pakistani  
 Bangladeshi  Chinese  
 Any other ethnic group  Don't want to say

*Thank you very much for completing this questionnaire.  
Please return by January 3 to:*

*Active Communities, Suffolk Coastal District Council,  
Melton Hill, Woodbridge, IP12 1AU*

## **Progress update with the new LDF**

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

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

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

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

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

## **Sports pavilion unveiled in Rendlesham**

People living in Rendlesham now have some leisure facilities to be proud of, after they were officially handed over by Persimmon Homes Anglia to Rendlesham Parish Council.

There is now a pavilion, four impressive changing rooms, a full sized football pitch, an all weather five-a-side football pitch, a junior pitch plus a play area and open space.

The Parish Council is now interested in talking to any sports clubs wishing to either use the facility or better still make it their home. Call 01394 420207 or email [rendlesham.parishcouncil@virgin.net](mailto:rendlesham.parishcouncil@virgin.net)

## **Providing better activities for young people**

If you provide activities during the holidays, and would like to be involved in a sharing of ideas day on Friday, January 18 then please contact Sarah Shinnie of Suffolk Coastal's Active Communities team on 01394 444652 or email [active.communities@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk](mailto:active.communities@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk)

## **Sports coach?**

Contact us as we are compiling a list of all the coaches in and around Suffolk Coastal to help schools, clubs and leisure centres. To find out more call Active Communities on 01394 444652 or email [active.communities@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk](mailto:active.communities@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk)

## **Coastal Potato**

Remember to keep checking [www.coastalpotato.co.uk](http://www.coastalpotato.co.uk) for things to do for young people and if you would like to promote an activity on the website contact [active.communities@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk](mailto:active.communities@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk) or call 01394 444652.

## **What's on this Christmas in Woodbridge**

### **Christmas Street Fair**

Sunday, December 2

100+ stalls, two bands, a Punch and Judy in The Thoroughfare and Cumberland St.

### **Children's Xmas Evening**

Friday, December 7

Santa with a sleigh full of gifts, plus a roundabout and a Punch and Judy show. Children's Fancy Dress Competition at 5 pm outside the Red Lion. Procession to the Christmas Tree (outside Costa Coffee) with its lights switched on at 5.15pm.

### **A feast of Christmas music**

Saturday, December 8

A Christmas concert by the Trinity Consort in St Mary's Church at 7.30pm.

### **Open air Carol service**

Thursday, December 20

Market Hill at 6.30pm, with Santa on hand.

### **Be prepared for flooding**

Climate change and nationally under-funded coastal defences means more threats of flooding. Here is some helpful advice so you can be better prepared.

### **Keep informed**

If you are in a flood risk area you can call the Environment Agency's Floodline on 0845 988 1188 to arrange to get a telephone message if a flood is pending. Floodline is available 24 hours a day.

Flood warning information is also available on the Environment Agency website and is updated every 15 minutes. You can also see flood warnings on ITV Teletext (page 154) and on BBC Ceefax (page 419).

### **Protect your home**

If you know that you live in an area that is liable to flood, do not wait for it to happen. Prepare, take steps to make your house safer, make plans and discuss with your family what you will do and where to go, before a flood happens.

The Environment Agency has a range of free practical guides on how to protect your home from flooding. The guides contain everything you need to know about flood proofing your property, including simple measures for minimising floodwater entry and damage, and advice on incorporating flood-proofing measures into home improvement projects. The guides, as well as information and advice, are available from Floodline on 0845 988 1188, or from <http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/subjects/flood/floodwarning/>

### **Be prepared**

- Compile a list of useful phone numbers, including friends and family, the Council, and emergency services.
- Make sure you know where to turn off your gas, water and electricity supplies, and that your home is fully insured.
- Make up a flood box including a torch, blankets, battery or wind-up radio, bottled water, flasks for hot water, food and snacks, first aid kit, some warm clothing, rubber gloves, and wet or antiseptic wipes.
- If you have children or babies, keep a store of nappies, food, bottle and clothes, and do not forget that favourite toy.
- Charge up your mobile phone.

### **What to do during a flood**

- Do not leave your home unless you have to or are advised to
- Do not try to walk or drive through floodwater
- Avoid contact with floodwater – it may be contaminated
- Tune into local radio and TV for the latest updates

- Look out for neighbours who may be old or vulnerable and who may need help
- Store valuable and sentimental items upstairs including important documents
- Do not forget your pets
- Do not eat any food that has been touched by floodwater and always wash your hands before preparing food.
- Do not use toilets – these should be blocked with towels or sandbags to prevent sewage coming up into the house. Use a bucket instead, with a bin liner.

### **What about sandbags?**

Sandbags are really a last resort. If you know that your home is in an area likely to flood you are advised to make your home safer - see above for helpful advice.

Sandbags are effective in diverting shallow flowing water that has somewhere else to go, or deflecting waves caused in shallow water by passing vehicles. However, sandbags are not waterproof and do not keep floods out of buildings where the water level outside is higher than the doorstep or any airbricks. Removable flood boards are the best solution.

Suffolk Coastal offers empty sandbags for purchase by residents at cost price from its Melton Hill office. These bags are light and easy to store for future use. You can buy sand to fill them from builders' merchants, who normally stock sandbags as well, or garden soil can be used in an emergency.

Councils are not required to provide materials for flood protection, but Suffolk Coastal will use filled sandbags

as an emergency measure in an effort to protect those communities (not individuals) who are known to be at risk.

These will be used at key points during an emergency to protect communities from the effects of flooding, but this will depend on the demand on resources at the time. The Council will not be able to supply sandbags to individual householders, who will need to make their own arrangements to protect their homes.

### **Fishing is child's play**

Local youngsters have been given a free chance to get hooked on a new pastime thanks to a series of Fishing for Fun sessions held around the district.

“I am pleased that the partners behind this project have been able to offer these activities for free, giving 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,” said Councillor Sherrie Green of Suffolk Coastal Local Strategic Partnership.

The six sessions were all 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.

### **Big draw was stacks of fun**

The Big Draw met the Giant Haystack recently when children had some artistic fun down on the farm playing a part in creating a giant sculpture.

Easton Farm Park hosted the special event, with help from Suffolk Coastal Arts and Arts Framlingham, as part of the annual Big Draw month.

There were 50 big bales of straw especially wrapped so people could paint and draw on them.

## **Websites for all the community**

The 2007 onesuffolk community website awards were held in October at Kesgrave War Memorial Community Centre with Rachel Sloane compering the event, and the awards presented by Councillor Cliff Cocker, Chairman of Suffolk Coastal.

Locally, a young people award went to Woodbridge's Rochford Trust ([www.onesuffolk.co.uk/rochfordtrust](http://www.onesuffolk.co.uk/rochfordtrust)) and an outstanding achievement award went to Grundisburgh and Culpho Parish Council ([www.onesuffolk.co.uk/grundisburghpc](http://www.onesuffolk.co.uk/grundisburghpc)).

If you are a community group, you too can have a free website on onesuffolk, which is part-funded by Suffolk Coastal. Email [info@onesuffolk.co.uk](mailto:info@onesuffolk.co.uk) or call 01473 583 891.

## **Business news**

The latest edition of Suffolk Coastal's Business Bulletin has just been delivered to companies but is also on [www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourbusiness/econdev/bulletin](http://www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourbusiness/econdev/bulletin) or call the team on 01394 444451 or email [development@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk](mailto:development@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk)

## **Is your business property empty?**

New Government rules on empty property relief could be a big new bill for some. Basically, on April 1, 2008, most business property that has been empty for three months, or six months if industrial, will no longer receive relief from business rates. There are a few exceptions but for full details see either the latest edition of Business Bulletin or visit

[www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourbusiness/businessrates/reliefs/emptyproperty/](http://www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourbusiness/businessrates/reliefs/emptyproperty/) or contact the business rate team by phone on 01394 444546 or 444544, by fax on 01394 444247 or email [businessrates@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk](mailto:businessrates@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk)

## **Get on board for free national travel**

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

The National Concessionary Travel scheme, which is anticipated to cost the Council a minimum of £900,000 per annum, will provide free unlimited off peak bus travel. Suffolk Coastal residents who already hold a concessionary bus pass, along with people who apply before 21 December 2007 will not need to apply for the new national pass. The new style national bus pass (example pictured above) will automatically be sent to them during the last two weeks of March 2008.

Applications for the new card will continue to be accepted after the 21 December and the customer services team will do their best to ensure the new pass arrives before 1 April 2008

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

## **Keep fit whatever your age**

The Active Life Programme gives people of predominantly retirement age an opportunity to become physically active.

A series of Chair Based Exercise classes have been established across the district with exercises specially designed to

strengthen muscles and bone, improve balance and flexibility and generally make you feel stronger and more able to do what you want to do. There are also exercises which improve circulation which in turn will help to lessen cramp and help to keep you warmer.

Sessions have started in Felixstowe, Woodbridge, Friston, Darsham and Wenhaston. For further details call Richard Baldwin, Active Communities Officer on 01394 444318 or Sharon Jarrett, Health Improvement Manager on 01394 444697.

### **Council works to minimise impact of Post Office closures**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **Your refuse and recycling collection dates for Christmas and the New Year**

No refuse or recycling collections will be made on Christmas Day, Boxing Day or New Year's Day.

Over the Christmas and New Year period collections will be made as follows

#### **Christmas week collections December 2007**

<b>If your normal collection would be on</b>	<b>Mon 24<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Tues 25<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Wed 26<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Thurs 27<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Friday 28<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>Then it will be made on</b>	<b>Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>Mon 24<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Thurs 27<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Friday 28<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Saturday 29<sup>th</sup></b>

## New year collections December 2007/January 2008

<b>If your normal collection would be on</b>	<b>Mon 31<sup>st</sup> Dec</b>	<b>Tues 1<sup>st</sup> Jan</b>	<b>Wed 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>Thurs 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>Friday 4<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>Then it will be made on</b>	<b>Mon 31<sup>st</sup> Dec</b>	<b>Wed 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>Thurs 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>Friday 4<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Saturday 5<sup>th</sup></b>

Your collections may take place at a different time from normal during the Christmas and New Year period, so please ensure that your refuse and recycling is out by 7.30am. From January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2008 normal collection days will apply.