



Parish *Bulletin*

Autumn 2007



Residents are highly satisfied with Suffolk Coastal

A survey of satisfaction among its local residents has put Suffolk Coastal top in Suffolk for both its council and as an area in which to live. The latest population statistics has also made us the county's biggest district with 122,000 people.

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.

"According to the survey, Suffolk Coastal 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 Cllr Doreen Savage, Cabinet Member for Customers and Partners.

"We also had the highest rating in Suffolk when people were asked whether we had improved over the last three years. Indeed, despite all the savings and efficiencies we have had to make in recent years, only 11 per cent thought we had deteriorated, compared to a Suffolk average of 19 per cent.

"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.

Suffolk Coastal also scored top in Suffolk and third out of 56 districts for cleanliness in its area, and top and 9th respectively for waste collection. It also scored 77 per cent on questions that asked if the Council was making the area a better place to live and if it was working to make the area cleaner and greener.

A massive 91 per cent of residents said they were satisfied with their area as a place to live, compared to a Suffolk average of



Councillor Doreen Savage
Cabinet Member
Customers & Partners

81 per cent and a national one of 77 per cent.

According to Ipsos MORI, 'on the whole, the findings from the Best Value Performance Indicators general survey are positive for Suffolk Coastal. The Council records a high level of satisfaction among residents with the way it runs things overall, above the average for other district councils studied. The key message from this survey is one of consolidation in some areas and improvements in others since 2003/4.'

Based on its questions on what most needs improving locally and what is important generally, Ipsos MORI concludes that there are four key priorities according to residents - affordable decent housing, activities for

teenagers, health services and level of crime.

When asked about anti-social behaviour, parents not taking responsibility for the behaviour of their children and teenagers hanging around were identified as the two biggest problems, although these were less of a problem in this district than in the rest of Suffolk.

Dealing or using of drugs is also seen as a far smaller problem in this district than in the rest of Suffolk, while the survey reports a big drop in concerns about abandoned or burnt out cars, vandalism, and drugs use compared to 2003.

More than half said they feel well informed by Suffolk Coastal about its services, which ranked it 11th best out of 56, although there was a drop from 2003.

Although Suffolk Coastal did not score well when residents were asked whether it appeared remote and impersonal, its score was still better than average. The district also reflected the national figures that residents feel that they would like to be more involved in decision making but feel they do not have enough opportunities, with 22 per cent saying they would like to be more involved - although for most it would depend on the issue.

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Conservation Volunteers Training Day

In July, 30 Suffolk Coastal Community Conservation Volunteers and Parish Tree Wardens met in Wenhaston to share their experiences and views on managing their local environment.

This Conservation Volunteers Training Day was the first of a series of bi-annual events to bring together people that give their free time to work with Suffolk Coastal's Countryside and Open Space team carrying out conservation management including tree and hedge planting and protection.

In the morning David Mason from the Suffolk Wildlife Trust told the audience about the pressures facing the remnants of the 'Suffolk Sandlings' heaths, and current heathland management techniques, including grazing by Dartmoor ponies. Presentations followed from the Wenhaston and Westleton Conservation Groups giving a more local perspective.


An afternoon walk around Blackheath Common gave the participants an opportunity to appreciate the achievements of the Wenhaston Conservation Group in restoring heather to areas previously overgrown with gorse and bracken. This work has resulted in the added benefit of increasing the population of the rare 'silver studded blue' butterfly.

The next Conservation Volunteer Training Day is planned for Saturday, October 20 at Staverton Thicks, near Butley and is entitled 'The '87 Storm. Disaster or Opportunity for biodiversity?' It is hoped the keynote speaker will be Britain's leading authority on the history of trees in our landscape, Dr Oliver Rackham. Other presentations will look at the changes in Sandlings Forest management since the '87 storm and what is happening nationally to improve biodiversity and how local communities can improve their own environment by producing Community Biodiversity Action Plans.

After lunch there will be presentations by Wenhaston & Parham parishes, who have already produced their own plans, followed by a guided tour of Staverton Thicks, one of Britain's finest ancient woodlands.

Numbers for this free training day are limited and will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

To book contact Joanne Payne at Suffolk Coastal on 01394 444553, email joanna.payne@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk or write to her at Suffolk Coastal District Council, Melton Hill, Woodbridge IP12 1AU.



The next issue of this Bulletin will be published in December 2007.

This is your publication, if you have any items you would like included that would be of interest to other Towns and Parishes please contact the Communications Team on 01394 444741 or email communications@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk



Wenhaston Training Day

Anyone interested in joining a Community Conservation Volunteer Group or becoming a Parish Tree Warden, should contact Joanne

The views of the district caught on DVD

A film crew with a difference was out and about across the district during August, canvassing the views of young and old about their district and the things that mattered to them.

SCTV (Suffolk Coastal Teen Voices) filmed in seven towns across the district in its efforts to produce a Generation Jigsaw DVD that was premiered on September 12.

“We called it the Generation Jigsaw because we wanted to put the spotlight on what matters to young and older people in our district, and then put the pieces together to get an accurate picture of what they are thinking,” said Alex Stewart of SCTV.

“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. 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



SCTV Film Crew

nothing to do, which is what causes them to behave inappropriately,” added 14 year old Alex.

SCTV is the first districtwide forum for young people and aims to promote the reputation of young people in Suffolk Coastal and raise awareness of their needs for local services.

The formation of the group has been assisted by the district’s youth coordinator, Keri Mohan, who is funded by the Suffolk Coastal Local Strategic Partnership (LSP).

“SCTV is an exciting initiative. If this DVD can successfully identify some of the myths and perhaps prejudices that are held, then ideally both sides of the ‘generation gap’ can start to

challenge and change them. I would like a situation where both sides recognise they are all part of the big picture that makes up this district and can work together better to improve the quality of life of all who live here,” said Councillor Doreen Savage of the Suffolk Coastal LSP.

For more information about SCTV 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.



Views expressed at Leiston

Working together to make it easier to play

Three exciting projects are set to be included in a bid for funding from the National Lottery, following work by Suffolk Coastal to draw up the district’s first play strategy.

Following consultation with organisations involving local children and young people the Council is set to put its backing behind projects for 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.

“It is more important than ever that the value of play, in all its forms, is recognised for what it can add to children’s welfare and development and also the benefits it can bring to society as a whole,” said Councillor Doreen Savage, Cabinet Member for Young People.

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

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.

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“The recent changes in lifestyle have at least partly contributed to increases in anti-social behaviour, mental health problems, and the related health problems that this brings in later life,” said Councillor Kevin Keable, Cabinet Member for Community Well-being.

“By developing this strategy, and working with local organisations and countywide group Partners in Play Suffolk, we aim to identify what the district needs, where resources ought to be targeted and attract the money to make it possible,” added Councillor Keable.

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

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



Suffolk Coastal owns 35 play areas in the district, and all play equipment is regularly inspected to ensure it is safe. This year a survey of the 13 play areas most in need of improvements to make them accessible to all children is being carried out, with further planned for future years.

To help with the provision of new or improved play facilities, the Council adopted a special planning rule in 2003 that requires housing developers to contribute to a play scheme fund which has so far received over £460,000. This has helped 75 schemes across the district. The money raised is designated to the areas where the housing development takes place.

The Rural Coffee Caravan

The Rural Coffee Caravan Information Project visits the lovely village of Aldringham once a month from April to October. This is their fourth year of regular visits and we always receive a warm welcome. 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. We have also, on occasion, been joined there by agencies such as Age Concern, The Suffolk Regeneration



Trust or Suffolk Carers and on a few visits we have managed to coincide with the Suffolk Coastal Mobile Police Unit and turned the little village green into a real community resource.

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 me, Ann

Osborn, (Project Manager) on 01379 855338 or visit www.ruralcoffeecaravan.org.uk

Levington is Village of the Year 2007

The criterion for this year's Suffolk Coastal's entries was a village population of between 1 and 500 and five villages entered.

Judging by a panel of three District Councillors (Cllr Cocker, Cllr Dangerfield and Cllr Sennington) took place on Monday, June 25.

Judging was based on five criteria:

- Community spirit
- The Parish Council
- Protecting the environment
- General appearance of the village
- Special activities that impress the judges
- Bonus

The results, out of a possible 300 points, were as follows: -

1st Levington	258
2nd Brandeston	242
3rd Friston	240
4th Westerfield	231
5th Pettistree	202

Levington, receives the Suffolk Coastal District Council prize of £200 plus an engraved silver cup. Brandeston will receive £125 and Friston £75.

Levington was nominated as the District Council's representative in the Countywide Village of the Year competition organised by the Suffolk Association of Local Councils.

Judging took place on July 10 & 11 with Levington coming first, Whepstead second and Herringswell third.

For winning this round of the competition Levington will receive 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.

The village will also receive £100 from Suffolk County Council and £100 from Suffolk Association of Local Councils for the celebration refreshments.

The Suffolk Coastal District Council Village of the Year awards presentation will take place in the Autumn together with the Countywide Village of the Year award presentation.

Levington will be entered into the National Calor Gas Village of the Year 2007.

Suffolk Coastal would like to offer its congratulations to Levington and to thank all the villages that took part.



It is hoped that the success of this year will encourage more villages to enter the competition next year. The criterion for 2008 is villages with a population between 501 and 3000.

The Calor Village of the Year competition is organised by the Suffolk Association of Local Councils in partnership with the County and District Councils and is sponsored by Notcutts and Adnams and supported by the East Anglian Daily Times.

Can you help catch the ebb and flow of the Alde and the 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 help record the oral history of the area, and in the coming weeks a series of workshops will be held with school children.

The project promises to be a voyage

of discovery about life along the two rivers and Suffolk Coastal is looking for people to come forward to either share their memories or help record them.

There are 2,000 years of history and changes to capture and relate to a modern audience. Over the coming months a range of projects will get underway that will involve people of all ages.

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 co-ordinator on 07092 894919 or email theo@ebb-and-flow.org.uk

Suffolk Coastal and Suffolk Coast and Heaths are behind the project 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 & District Local History Society.

Working together to tackle fly-tipping

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

The new protocol, which is launched on September 24, will mean that fly-tipping is cleared up as quickly as possible.

Fly-tipping is the unauthorised dumping of waste on land and can vary from a bin bag of rubbish to a truck load of items such as mattresses, fridges or building rubble. The normal maximum penalty for fly-tipping is up to £50,000 and/or jail for up to 12 months. For the larger or more environmentally damaging incidents the penalty is an unlimited fine or up to five years in jail.

“The Government monitors the performance of all local authorities for dealing with fly-tipping and currently this Council’s performance is rated as good,” said Councillor Andrew Nunn, Cabinet Member for the Natural Environment.

“Last year we were notified of 460 incidents which was estimated to cost nearly £23,000 to deal with. There are



Fly-tipping at Levington lay-by

now plans to utilise state of the art surveillance equipment to tackle this sort of environmental crime across the district.

“While we have no duty to clear up fly-tipping on privately owned land, our partners Suffolk Coastal Services Ltd (SCS) can provide advice and assistance to private landowners,” added Councillor Nunn.

Anyone who spots someone fly-tipping, or comes across rubbish where it should not be, can report it to the Council’s partners SCS on 01394 444000.

Most household items can be disposed of at no cost at one of Suffolk County Council’s Household Waste & Recycling Centres sited at Felixstowe, Leiston and Foxhall, while SCS also offers a collection service from any home in the district.

Views sought on changes to licensing rules

Suffolk Coastal is asking for views on proposed changes to the 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.

The Government has suggested changes to improve its Licensing Act 2003 to take account of lessons learnt

since the new powers were given to local councils and also of recent laws.

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.

Other News

Grants to help local community groups

Grants totalling over £45,000 were recently agreed to support 17 local voluntary organisations that are providing social, artistic or sporting facilities and services to local residents.

For full details of the grants visit www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk

Any local groups or organisations that would like to apply for a grant can contact Christine Brain at Suffolk Coastal on 01394 444626 or email christine.brain@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk

Pay online for plans

The latest improvement to Suffolk Coastal’s planning services means that anyone submitting a planning application can now pay online via the Council’s website www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourdistrict/devcontrol/planningonline

It is hoped that people will use this new secure online payment facility as it will be more convenient for them and will enable Suffolk Coastal to officially register applications earlier.

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/annualreport and we would like to hear your views on it.

Any suggestions for improvement can be emailed to accountancy@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk

Other News

Directory puts Arts in the Spotlight

Suffolk Coastal's first arts directory has been published and has nearly 160 different entries, offering an A-Z of people and places in the district who are involved in the arts.

The directory is divided into crafts, dance, drama and musical theatre, film, music, professional agencies and services, spoken and written word, visual arts, as well as sections on concert halls, theatres, cinemas, practice spaces, galleries, art studios, museums and heritage. Each entry contains brief details and contact information.

Available from TICs and libraries in the district and on the Council's website www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourfreetime/arts/directory or people can ask for a copy by emailing arts@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk or call 01394 444538.

Any group that would like a free entry in the next edition can use the same email or phone number.

Kesale aims for high 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 to 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.

Home from Home

Hilary Colson's beach hut in Felixstowe has recently been judged the winner of Suffolk Coastal's best "home from home" beach hut competition.

The emphasis of the competition was on home comforts, cosiness and the general welcoming feeling inside the hut.

Ten huts were entered into the competition and Councillor Colin Hart, Cabinet Member with responsibility for Tourism and the Mayor of Felixstowe, Joan Sennington undertook the difficult task of judging.

Hilary Colson received a voucher for a meal for two donated by the Waverley Hotel and as the standard was so high, the judges decided to award a runners-up prize to Mr & Mrs Robertson who received a beach hut shaped trinket box and a bottle of sparkling wine.



Hilary Colson receiving her prize from Councillor Colin Hart and the Mayor of Felixstowe, Joan Sennington

How can you find a beach hut for sale?

Suffolk Coastal has set up a new service to help would-be sellers and would-be buyers to get in touch with each other.

Owners who want to sell their beach huts are invited to register their huts with the Council who will then pass on their details to people who have expressed an interest in purchasing one.

The Council also offers a service to owners who want to hire out their beach huts and will act as their agent if required.

For further information contact Jane Allitt, Suffolk Coastal's Visitor Services Administrator on 01394 273870 or email jane.allitt@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk

Two council owned beach huts at Pier South, Felixstowe are available for hire during the season (April to the end of September). Details of these are available from the Tourist Information Centre at Felixstowe on 01394 276770 .

The Council also has chalets at Cliff House and Bath Tap which have electricity and are let out on a 12 month licence. Jane Allitt can provide further information.

New plates 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 will be 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.

"It will now be much easier for the public to identify one of our officially licensed vehicles, and they can enjoy

their journey in the knowledge that it and the driver has had to pass strenuous tests.

"It also will make it easier for the public to identify which car they can legally hail for a lift and which they need to pre-book by telephone. Each plate also has this Council's logo clearly on it, so it will make it even easier to keep up the high standards of our licensed trade as the public will clearly know who to report any comments to," added Councillor Binns.

Suffolk Coastal has 45 licensed hackney carriages and 102 private hire vehicles. From October 1, all of them will have



the new plate, but the first of them are being issued now as the licence of individual drivers comes up for renewal.

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.

Business Rates (NNDR)

Small Business Rate Relief (SBRR)

If there are any ratepayers who have not applied for SBRR for the financial year 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007 please either ring the Business Rate team on 01394 444546 or 444544 or email businessrates@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk now.

Applications forms must be received by September 30, 2007 otherwise you will be too late to apply for relief for that financial year.

Important

To qualify for SBRR you do not have to be running a business from

the property or letting it out, the scheme is actually based on the rateable value of the property held in the valuation list. The property must be occupied/in use.

Have you got an empty business property?

Commercial property owners are being warned of a significant Government change being introduced from April 1 next year that may leave them with a new/bigger rates bill.

At present any empty commercial property is not liable for business

rates for the first three months and after that only pays half of what is due while there is no charge at all on empty factories or warehouses.

From next year, empty commercial property will be liable for the full business rate after three months, or six months for factories and warehouses.

For further information on business rates visit www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourbusiness/businessrates or email businessrates@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk or call 01394 444546 or 444544.

Bans on anti-social public drinking

Kesgrave, Martlesham, Framlingham and Rushmere St Andrew now have parts of their towns covered by alcohol designation orders to help the police control anti-social behaviour.

Each area covered by the order is clearly indicated by a series of special signs.

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

Orders are already in place covering parts of Felixstowe, Leiston and Woodbridge.

Planning success wins Council more funding

The continuing improvements to its planning services has seen Suffolk Coastal provisionally gain a planning development grant (PDG) from the Government.

The proposed grant includes a £50,000 'bonus' payment for meeting all the Government's three performance measures for speed of development control decisions, and a further £16,700 for being in the Haven Gateway growth point area.

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

"All the evidence shows that while we are making decisions more quickly, there has been no drop in the quality of those decisions, as measured by our continuing high success rate in appeals, which means we are continuing to successfully protect the quality of life in our district.

"Our success has once again been recognised by the Government, which is why its PDG specifically for development control has seen Suffolk Coastal get more than any other district in Suffolk," added Cllr Smith.

According to the Government's Department for Communities and Local Government, Suffolk Coastal will provisionally receive an allocation of £217,714 in PDG. The provisional allocation includes £36,050 for plan making and sustainable development indicators and of the total £156,902 is for development control. This includes a bonus of £50,000 for meeting all three development control best value



Some members of Suffolk Coastal's planning team

indicators. A sum of £16,700 for being in a growth area or growth point and £8,062 is included for e-planning.

Recent annual statistics showed that 78 per cent of major planning applications at Suffolk Coastal are determined within 13 weeks, compared to a national target of 60 per cent and a national average of 70 per cent. Suffolk Coastal is also exceeding the target for minor applications by 14 per cent by scoring 79 per cent, and its 'other applications' figure of 89 per cent is also nine per cent above target.

It has also been recognised that Suffolk Coastal deals with 20 per cent more applications than the average council, while its internationally recognised countryside makes it officially 20 per cent more complex. At the same time, comparisons with other councils have shown that Suffolk Coastal's planning service is provided at lower cost to Council Taxpayers than the average of other councils.

Planning service awarded two stars

The continuing improvements to its planning service has seen Suffolk Coastal gain a good two star rating from the independent local government watchdog, the Audit Commission.

The Audit Commission has rated the Council's planning service as good, with promising prospects for improvement, after a thorough inspection of all aspects of the service was carried out.

According to the Commission's Edwina Childs, the service 'is now serving local people well' and is 'helping to maintain the character of the area whilst at the same time promoting new housing and employment opportunities.'



Recycling News

Children get top marks for recycling

Two local 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 Perfect Bin Scheme was organised by Suffolk County Council and Viridor Waste Management Ltd, with local help from Suffolk Coastal, and children from Hollesley and Peasenhall Primary Schools joined seven other schools from across the county.

The scheme showed the children what materials can be recycled from their own homes and how important it is to make sure that they are putting out perfect bins, those which only have those items that can be collected.

The competition was held as a way to get the children involved in taking responsibility for the waste from their house.

To enter the competition, the children needed to present their home recycling bins as “perfect” and attach a bin hanger with their details on it. Suffolk Coastal Services collection crews checked the bins and if they met the “perfect” test, the entry was included in the prize draw, with eight children winning prizes from Peasenhall and Hollesley.



Amber Symonds, one of the winners from Peasenhall’s juniors class, receiving her prize from Cllr Andrew Nunn and Daniel Wareing of Suffolk Coastal Services

Otley wins green medal at Sports Day with a difference



The slalom race

Otley Primary School was declared the winner of this year’s ‘Schools Recycling Sports Day’ organised by the County Council and the recycling teams from each of the district councils.

This was the third year that a primary school from each district was invited to take part in an event that not only tested the children’s fitness but also their knowledge of recycling.

This was a fun way for children to learn about recycling and the event

demonstrated that children are becoming aware of the importance of recycling and know what can be recycled and where.

Each school was allocated a day, and early in July the four teams at Otley took part in a recycling relay race, a recycling slalom race and a compost race.

The activities were designed to test the children’s knowledge of what can be recycled and how, and the compost race also required the children to know what is needed and the correct way to make compost.

Points were awarded to each team for speed and deducted for errors and the school with the most points was deemed to be the winner.

The school has received, as their prize, a new bench made from recycled plastics.

Improved Recycling Service

The next phase of the improved recycling service which will see a further 5,000 homes able to recycle cans, tins, foil, plastic containers, cardboard and paper every fortnight in their special blue-lidded bins starts in October.



The areas in this latest expansion are Aldringham-cum-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.



Recycling News

Do not recycle Japanese Knotweed

Suffolk Coastal has called on its residents not to put any Japanese Knotweed in their garden waste recycling bins as it cannot take the risk of contaminating the resulting compost produced from its brown bins.

Although Japanese Knotweed is not toxic to humans, animals or other plants, it is very invasive and may cause structural damage to buildings, paving or roads. Because it is not a native plant it does not compete fairly with British species.

“Biogonix, 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 and I cannot blame them for that decision. We therefore have to insist that people do not put any of this

offending plant in our brown bins,” said Councillor Andrew Nunn, Cabinet Member for the Natural Environment.

The best advice on how to deal with the plant is to use herbicides or to dig it out, but to be very careful to ensure that all its roots are removed. These roots may go to a depth of three metres once the plant is established so it is best tackled as soon as it is seen. Disposing of the remains are itself a problem as the NetRegs website advises that any bags/skips containing Japanese Knotweed or polluted soil should be covered to avoid spread along public highways, and that the disposal site should be warned in advance that it is being delivered there.

If anyone wants advice they can call Suffolk Coastal Services on 01394 444000.

Turn the Yellow Pages green

Old copies of the yellow pages directory can be recycled in the brown wheelie bin, the green paper recycling crate, the blue-lidded recycling wheelie bin, at Boltons' paper banks or at one of the three Household Recycling Centres at Leiston, Foxhall and Felixstowe

Green Matters

Wenhaston Energy Day

The village of Wenhaston had its own special Energy Day this summer, although it was another one of those Saturdays when climate change seemed to have made it more like autumn.

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



Pupils of Wenhaston School

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.

Green Matters

Turn your walls green and warm

Suffolk Coastal is making its residents an offer they really cannot refuse - the chance to get their cavity walls insulated at substantially reduced prices and get a £50 credit to their Council Tax account at the same time.

The Council has linked up with British Gas again to encourage more people to cut their heating bills and help the environment by getting their home properly insulated.

A similar scheme was run last year, and had one of the best responses in the country with over 450 residents expressing an interest and over 200 taking up the offer of having their walls insulated.

Residents do not have to be a British Gas customer to join in - all they need to do is arrange for a free, no-obligation home energy survey. If work is done via this scheme then they will also qualify for a £50 credit to their Council Tax account paid for by British Gas.

The average cost of cavity wall insulation thanks to the subsidies on offer is £275, which with annual savings of between £110-£180 will mean that people will soon be in profit, and be playing their part in helping to tackle climate change.

Any resident wanting to find out more can call 0845 971 7731 and quote the reference SCCT between 8am and 8pm Mondays to Fridays, or 8am to 1pm on Saturdays.

The bright green library

One of the easiest ways to start saving money and cutting carbon emissions is to switch to energy saving lightbulbs, which not only last longer than normal ones, but can save up to £10 worth of electricity a year.

A new initiative has been launched to make it even easier to make the green switch with the setting up of a light bulb library, a suitcase of all the different types of bulb on offer that can be borrowed and tried out at home.

This bright green idea is being trialled in Wenhaston as part of its energy efficiency campaign, and is a result of a partnership between Suffolk Coastal and Efficient Light, the country's leading specialist in lighting.

Residents of Wenhaston can now borrow the suitcase for the night and try out all the different bulbs on offer, finding out which ones best suit their needs and their light fittings. The recent DIY boom has seen many homes switch



to LED style lighting, but there is now even a green version of these bulbs.

It is hoped that this bulb library will be offered to other areas after Wenhaston and ideally town and parish councils will get involved in promoting it.

The Council has negotiated a discount for people who buy their bulbs through this scheme, but they do not have to wait for the library to visit them. People can visit www.efficientlight.co.uk to see what bulbs are available.

“Power to the People”

An event was held recently for local Woodbridge residents who were interested to find out how they could plug into their own energy supply at home.

The Energy Saving Trust Advice Centre Anglia, in partnership with Suffolk Coastal, linked up with manufacturers and accredited installers of solar panels, wind turbines, heat pumps and biomass burners for the event.

The main focus of the evening was on how and when to install renewables

such as solar, wind and ground source heat pumps and people were able to get free advice from exhibitors energy advisors and other experts.

Anyone with queries about climate change or energy issues can call the Suffolk Climate and Energy Helpline on 0800 0288 938. Information is also available from this number on the Council supported SEAL solar water heating scheme with approved installers and access to Government grants.